EAST OF LON

Cockney Ancestor

Spring 2024



The East of London Family History Society

http://www.eolfhs.org.uk *Registered Charity No. 1094419* Vice Presidents: Sarah Wise, David Filby, Vera Bangs

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Front Cover Illustration

The Front cover illustration shows from left to right Charles Detnon, Henry Freeman and James Ellis and was sent in by Alan Freeman (13528). Alan would like to hear from anyone with connections to the Detnon family. *Image courtesy of Alan Freeman*.

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Editorial

t last Spring is on the horizon and hopefully some better weather will be coming our way. Our committee lost a valuable member recently when Tom Cannon, our proof-reader, died suddenly from a stroke. He will be sorely missed and our thoughts and best wishes go to his wife Irene and the family at this sad time.

I had the pleasure of attending the AGM at Upminster on 6 April. I haven't been able to get to many branch meetings lately so it was lovely to catch up with everyone. I managed to survive the journey there as the traffic was horrendous and the main road into Upminster was closed with a very convoluting diversion in place and just got there in time for the AGM.

The two speakers were very good. Dr Sarah Read talked about *Midwifery from the 1600s to the early 20th century*. I particularly enjoyed John Harris's *History of Undertaking in the East End*. He certainly kept us entertained–I never knew undertaking could be such fun! If you didn't attend the AGM then look on the website and see if you can download the talks.

All the Executive Committee were voted in again, although I think Janet and Gary would like to step down from their respective posts next year. So any of you who fancy stepping in as Chair or General Secretary next year please get in touch with the Executive for details of what it entails.

Details and minutes of the AGM will be in the Summer edition of *Cockney Ancestor*.

It was lovely to meet up with some of our authors at the AGM too. Many of you are working away on your next articles so keep them coming!

Peter Holford, one of our more prolific authors has kindly offered to step in and fill the gap left by Tom Cannon. The position of proof reader is a very important one and without a proof reader many more errors would creep in. We all read and re-read the copy before it goes to print but it is easy to be word blind. So thank you Peter and welcome to the team.

The Editorial Committee is a Sub-committee set up by the Executive Committee.

Members are:

Vera Bangs (layout and editor), Audrey Neal (article preparation), Brian McDonald (grammar and Postbox editor), Peter Holford (proof-reading) and Graham Keeler (photo editor).

WWII Defences along the River Lea from Old Ford to Canning Town, Part I

Alan Homes No. 206

or the United Kingdom, WWII began 3 September 1939, after Germany invaded Poland.

There then followed a spell known as *The Phoney War* an eight-month period when (apart from some naval action at sea) there was little in the way of fighting. However, this came, to an abrupt end when, in May 1940, the German army suddenly launched its *Blitzkrieg* offensive against France and the Low Countries. The UK government then realised that Britain was now at dire risk of invasion too.

Late in May 1940, the Chiefs of Staff Committee decided that vulnerable places in Britain such as beaches, roads and bridges needed to be fortified with anti-tank obstacles and blockhouses (more commonly called *pillboxes*).

Therefore, the *Directorate of Fortifications and Works* (FW3) was set up at the War Office. Its purpose was to provide a number of basic, but effective, pillbox designs that could be constructed quickly by soldiers and local labour at appropriate defensive locations.

Pillboxes were first used during WWI. The term *pillbox* probably derived from soldiers humorously comparing them to the small boxes used to store medical pills, which were popular at the time. Alternatively, but less likely, might be because of the pillbox's resemblance to a post box, or pillar box, what with the gun holes looking like the letter box hole

In June 1940 under the direction of General Edmund **IRONSIDE** (1880–1959), *C-in-C Home Forces*, concentric rings of anti-tank defences and pillboxes were constructed in and around London.

Construction of these defences commenced immediately and continued throughout the rest of 1940. They comprised: The London Inner Keep, London Stop Line Inner (Line C), London Stop Line Central (Line B) and London Stop Line Outer (Line A). The Outer London Ring was the strongest and best developed of these, mainly because it could be constructed in open countryside. The ring used a mixture of natural rivers and artificial ditches up to 20-feetwide and 12-feet-deep, encircling London completely. North of London the ring followed a path similar to the route taken by the M25 motorway. Many pillboxes and anti-tank traps are still visible at points along the route, but in the majority of places the ditch is no more.

In late July 1940, Ironside was replaced by Sir Alan BROOKE (1883-1963), who

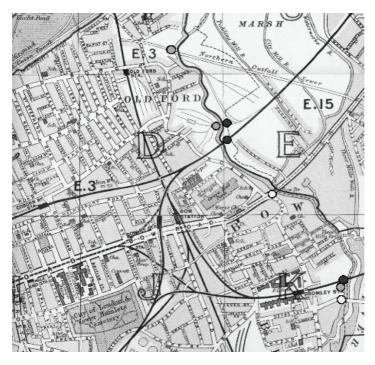


Figure 1 1940s map Image courtesy of Alan Homes

favoured mobile warfare above static defence. However, for the time being, construction of static defences continued.

For the Germans to have successful а invasion of Britain they needed complete mastery of both the air and sea, but neither of these were achieved. ever especially after Luftwaffe's the defeat in the Battle of Britain (July to October 1940). Even more

so once the Germans launched *Operation Barbarossa*, the invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941.

If the threat of invasion had been taken more seriously earlier than May 1940, then it seems likely that more pillboxes and anti-tank obstacles would have been constructed at other key points along the River Lea.

Figure 1: This 1940 map shows the location of known pillboxes and anti-tank obstacles and roadblocks along the Old Ford, Bow, and Bromley-by-Bow stretch of the River Lea.

As it was, with the threat of invasion now diminished, and Brooke's aversion to static defences anyway, in February 1941 the British General Headquarters issued an order that no more pillboxes were to be built. By then, some 28,000 pillboxes had been constructed, a quarter of which have survived. One of these surviving pillboxes is in Old Ford, a stone's throw from the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

There were six basic designs of FW3 pillboxes (the Type 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27). Another pillbox, the Type 28, was the largest of the FW3 designs and the only one with a specific anti-tank capability, being suitable for either the Ordnance



Figure 2 The FW3 Type 22 pillbox at Old Ford Image courtesy of Alan Homes

Note that the Northern Outfall Sewer was always known locally as *The Prom*, short for Promenade, but since the 1980s has been called Greenway.

Unfortunately, over the past 20 years the pillbox has been repeatedly vandalised with unsightly graffiti. As soon as it is cleaned off, the site is vandalised again. It is also regularly used as a bolthole for vagrants. Very sad, considering its historic importance as the only pillbox left in the East End.

Figure 2: The FW3 Type 22 pillbox at Old Ford (August 2023). About a quarter of a mile to the north-east was a Barrage Balloon site, situated at the centre of what was to become the former 2012 Olympic Stadium. There were other barrage balloon sites nearby, especially in Victoria Park.

The Old Ford Pillbox is a standard hexagonal design, 7ft high with each of the six sides measuring 7ft in length. The walls are about ten inches thick and it has a flat roof. In the QF two pounder or the Hotchkiss six pounder gun.

However, the defence structure at Old Ford is a FW3 Type 22 Pillbox, the second most common pillbox design. This is situated on the west bank of the River Lea. right on top of Joseph BAZELGETTE'S wellconstructed Northern Outfall Sewer, where it crosses the Lea just to the south of Old Ford Lock.

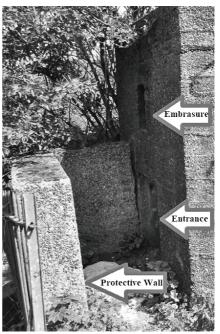


Figure 3: The entrance to the pillbox showing the embrasure and protective wall Image courtesy of Alan Homes



Figure 4 The FW3 Type 22 pillbox and two of the anti-tank obstacles at Old Ford (August 2023) Image courtesy of Alan Homes

centre of each of the six sides of the pillbox is a rectangular embrasure (i.e. gun hole) measuring 10 inches x 12 inches. These are situated about 4ft from the ground making them suitable for firing rifles or light machine guns at shoulder height.

On the side of the pillbox furthest from the River Lea is a low entrance protected by an 'L' shaped concrete wall attached to the outside of the pillbox. Soldiers would have to crawl on their hands and knees to enter the pillbox. Whether there was ever a door is unclear.

Obviously, the siting of the entrance was chosen so that it was not visible to approaching enemy troops. But if the enemy did manage to outflank the structure, there is an embrasure above the entrance, presumably for a last-ditch defence of the



Figure 5 One of the Anti-tank obstacles at Old Ford Image courtesy of Alan Homes



Figure 6 One of the Anti-tank obstacles at Old Ford Image courtesy of Alan Homes

pillbox. Internally there is what looks like a 'T' shaped anti-ricochet wall, which also helps support the roof.

Just to the east of the pillbox (i.e. slightly closer to the River Lea) are four Anti-Tank Obstacles (sometimes called *Tank Traps*). As the name suggests, they were intended to stop/trap enemy tanks – the need to prevent tanks from breaking through being of key importance.

Figure 4: The FW3 Type 22 Pillbox and two of the Anti-Tank Obstacles at Old Ford (August 2023) These 'wedged-shaped' obstacles measure 5ft high. The base is 5ft x 3ft reducing to 3ft x 3ft at the top. They are 13ft apart.

Figure 5: One of the Anti-Tank Obstacles at Old Ford (August 2023). The great majority of Britain's static defences have been destroyed, a process that started even before the end of the war, making the one at Old Ford quite unique for the East End.

In each of the anti-tank obstacles are four holes.

In some of the obstacles the holes are all the same size (14 in x 6in) and in others there are two holes measuring 6 in x 6 in and two holes measuring 14 in x 6 in.

Figure 6: One of the Anti-Tank Obstacles at Old Ford. Note the holes are different sizes (August 2023). *To be continued*

Sources: The Pillbox Study Group (http://www.pillbox-study-group.org.uk).

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Some Thoughts About the DNA Test

Peter Holford No. 14539

hy do people take a DNA test? For me it was the hope of breaking down those brick walls that exist in every tree. Where did my 3 x greatgrandparents, George and Jane **STAFFORD**, come from before rolling up in St. Pancras in the 1841 census? Who were the parents of my 2 x greatgrandmother, Elizabeth **CAIN**, who was living in Shoreditch in 1841?

Well, after three years neither of those questions has been answered. So, was it a waste of time? The answer has to be an emphatic NO! Like many jumps into the unknown, other things turn up that were unexpected.

For example, I found out who the father of Elizabeth Cain (the daughter of the one mentioned above) was, even though she was illegitimate (*CA 168*). That was a complete surprise. But another bonus has become evident; DNA matches have confirmed the family tree I have constructed from researching all those paper documents, admittedly by clicking a mouse rather than trawling from church to church and record to record office as my mum's cousin did back in the 1970s.

I first drew a tree from what my mum and dad were able to remember. When I came to retirement, I set about confirming what I had on paper. The tree was remarkably accurate but limited to just three generations. Over the years the tree has grown and expanded with online research and a lot of information from previously unknown distant cousins.

The family trees on *Ancestry* and *familysearch.com* also provided help but I only used them as guidelines to be confirmed by my own research. The game changer was DNA and the *Ancestry* tool called *Thrulines*. This tool takes DNA matches and then looks at the trees published on the *Ancestry* website to try to establish a match. If it is successful, it shows who the common ancestors of two DNA matches might be. At a stroke it validates the research that built both trees and confirms their accuracy back to the common ancestors.

So, for example I had researched my male line back to my 2 x greatgrandparents, George and Amelia **HOLFORD**, in Bethnal Green and Shoreditch. Over the last year, ten other people have also traced them as ancestors AND they have DNA matches to me. It is safe to say that George and Amelia are proven to be our ancestors. The screenshot here shows part of the *Thrulines* results. George Holford is at the apex (unfortunately his wife Amelia isn't shown in this image). Below, via four of George's children, are the links to those people whose DNA is a match to me-three descendants of Henry Holford, five of James Holford (my great-grandfather) and one each for Amelia and John. Their relationships to me are shown and the amount of DNA shared. This screenshot also shows the vagaries of DNA inheritance. John Holford's descendant is my third cousin once removed and shares just 10cM of DNA in one segment whereas the descendant of Amelia (daughter of George and Amelia) is one step further removed yet shares 42cM of DNA in these segments. This is a typical case that shows there is no exact correlation between amount of DNA matched and closeness of the relationship.

There are some remarkable variations in DNA inheritance and matches with



Part of the Thrulines results Image courtesy of Peter Holford

other researchers in my results.

I was delighted to find that I had a DNA link to a fifth cousin called Dean **MURLEY** which proves that we are both descended from Amelia's grandfather, Roger Murley, who lived in Dorset in the 18th century.

In the era before compulsory registration of births, deaths and marriage (1837) and the first useful census (1841), research tends to depend on parish records which can be very sparing in their detail and riddled with errors. The priests in Hull used to record the baptism mentioning just the father's name-obviously the mother was irrelevant. But a priest in the village of Thorganby near York recorded both parents and the four grandparents. A name like William Smith may be replicated even in a small area and with sparse details it may be hard to identify the correct person. Yes, William Smith was the name of one of my 3 x great-grandfathers. So, the tree may be compiled on probability but with a nagging doubt that it could be wrong. DNA allayed my fears in this case. William married Mary **JIPSON** in 1819.

There are six matches to the Smith family but the Jipson family has given me FIFTEEN matches so far, easily the biggest of any in my tree. Why? Here we come to another insight that I didn't have beforehand. The majority of those who take the DNA test are the descendants of emigrants. My DNA matches span the USA, Canada, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, etc. Often multiple members of a family take the DNA test in tandem. But the Jipson family take it to another level because they are Mormons in the state of Utah, the home of genealogy and *Ancestry*. It seems they emigrated from the Vale of York and became Mormons and farmers in Utah in the 19th century.

There is a limit to how far back DNA can prove a branch of a family tree. Most people will have some DNA link to all their 4 x great-grandparents but, considering that each person has 64 of them, the average DNA inherited from each of them is less than 2%. One generation more and it is less than 0.8%. It could be that you have inherited no DNA from some of them and your fifth cousins are likely to have inherited different DNA. But a significant strand of DNA might continue down two lines.

In my case I have a piece of DNA that measures 7cM (centi-morgans) that has also been inherited by an American national, Robert **COGGER**. What makes this worth mentioning is that he is my EIGHTH cousin. We share 6 x great-grandparents, John **TOPHAM**, and his wife, Ann **NORTON**. John was born in 1703 and worked as a shoemaker in a village near Wakefield. At a stroke it confirms all those possibilities and probabilities gleaned from ancient documents back through eight generations.

But there can be setbacks. I know that Isaac **IFE** is my 3 x great-grandfather. His son, Nathan, and wife, Eliza **WATLING**, arrived in London from Suffolk in 1863. Their daughter Alice, was born the same year and is my great-grandmother. Her daughter, my grandmother, Alice May Stafford, told me this many years ago. The birth certificates and the marriage certificates confirm it. The DNA evidence is there for the Watlings and their ancestors but there is only one match for Nathan. For Isaac and all of his ancestors there is none. Those ancestors include Emerson **JORDAN** who was transported to Australia in 1828 for persistently falling foul of the magistrates in Ipswich. The Jordan descendants are very proud of that heritage and very active. It is inconceivable that they haven't taken DNA tests.

So why is there no DNA link?

Three possibilities come to mind. Firstly, some of those cousins are now quite remote-typically fifth or sixth cousins. It is just possible that the DNA I have inherited is not from the Ife line and those cousins may have also inherited other DNA.

Secondly, although there are closer Ife cousins, it could be that none of them has taken a test yet especially as there doesn't seem to have been any moves further than the Nottinghamshire coalfield.

The last possibility is that Isaac isn't Nathan's biological father.

Perhaps all those cousins that I can't place are connected through families that aren't on my tree. If that is the case it poses a dilemma. If it turns out to be the case, do I scrap all the ancestors in that line-the Ifes, the Jordans, the **DARBYS**, the **WOOLNOUGHS**? But they would have been considered as family by my

ancestors; is kinship more important than biology, or perhaps should I have two trees. Are previously unknown biological cousins my family, usurping the known ones?

In the meantime, I will wait and see if other matches allay my concerns-it's the easier option anyway to do nothing.

Footnote: This article was written before Peter found his Cain ancestry and numerous DNA matches which he wrote about recently (*CA177, 178, and 179*)

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Who was Hannah Sarah Wing?

Marion Turner No.15302

hen I was recently researching my ancestor Emily **de GRUCHY** nee **BUTTIVANT** I thought that her maternal grandmother had died in a mental asylum. I have since learned that this was another Emily de Gruchy's grandmother but it didn't alter the fact that I knew nothing of my Emily's maternal line, so I wanted to find out exactly who her mother and grandmother were.

I knew her mother was Hannah Sarah **WING** and my 2 x great-grandmother but finding her has proved far more difficult than I had imagined. Who exactly was Hannah Sarah?

I know from census returns that she was born in London in the area of St. Martin in the Fields in 1824. Although this was before civil registration began, it shouldn't be too difficult to find her parents, should it? Her father would be shown on her marriage certificate but that's where the first problem occurs-she never got married, not to Charles Buttivant or anyone else.

There was a good reason for this–Charles was already married to Mary Ann **FRAMPTON** from the Isle of Wight who he had married in Putney district in 1830. Several children later he and Mary Ann separated and he began to live with Hannah Sarah.

OK, no marriage certificate to locate her father but surely there must be a baptism. I didn't think Wing was a particularly common name–until I started looking. As I knew nothing about her parents I had trouble narrowing things down to any particular branch of Wings. I wondered if I might get some help from public member trees on *Ancestry*. I thought my luck was in as she was shown in a large number of trees, so I began to look through them. Putative parents varied a bit but mostly she was shown as one of four children of John Wing and Sarah **FREREY** or **TREREY**.

However, although I could find baptisms for the other three children I was

unable to categorically fit Hannah Sarah into this family. I decided that the lack of corroborative evidence meant I needed to start again.

I found a likely record for a Hannah Sarah Wing born 6 October 1824 and baptised the following year 7 December, daughter of Joseph Wing, a lighterman, and Martha. Their *abode* was given as Bedfordbury which, on investigation, seemed to cover the right area behind the Strand and around St. Martin in the Fields.

I found Joseph Wing and Martha **JOHNSON** had married on Christmas Eve 1821. Interestingly one set of banns, in Westminster, gives Joseph as a widower. They actually married, in St. Saviours, Southwark, and the marriage certificate itself states he is a bachelor!

If Joseph was indeed a widower when he married Martha Johnson, then there was obviously a previous marriage and a death of that wife.

I found a Joseph Wing married Elizabeth **TIPTON** 20 July 1812 in St. Mary's, Newington, Lambeth. Interestingly, both are described as minors. This would give a d.o.b. for Joseph of c1792.

I found a death for an Elizabeth Wing in Lambeth in 1819 aged 23. There was also a baptism of a daughter, Elizabeth Charlotte, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth in Lambeth in 1815. Elizabeth's death, aged 23, would fit with her being a minor in 1812. It would also fit nicely with Joseph remarrying in 1821. A nice fit isn't proof, however. So, back to Hannah Sarah.

The only likelihood of finding Hannah in a census under her maiden name is in 1841 as, by the mid-1840s, she is involved with Charles and using the surname Buttivant.

I found only one likely candidate—in St. Margarets, Westminster, the same place I found the baptism but she is not living with her parents. Sixteen-year-old Hannah is with James and Mary Johnson and a younger Mary, aged 20. James's occupation seems to be flax dresser. This census seems to add weight to the theory that Hannah Sarah was the daughter of Joseph and Martha nee Johnson but it also begs the question: where are they?

I found a death for a Joseph Wing in 1839 with a burial in St. Paul's, Covent Garden. He was aged 47 which would give a birth year of c1792 which ties in with the marriage I found. Has Martha also died, which is why Hannah is living with James and Mary who are presumably relatives of her mother, possibly grandparents?

Whilst looking for Joseph's previous marriage I had also found one for a Joseph Wing to a Hannah **TUCKER** in 1811 in St. James, Piccadilly. I did wonder if Joseph had been married three times but I could find no death for that Hannah and neither are described as minors on that marriage entry, so that question remains unanswered.

If I have the right Hannah Sarah Wing, her mother was Martha nee Johnson.

However, if Joseph had died in 1837 it's possible that Hannah has remarried. It seems she did, as I found a marriage for Hannah Wing, a widow, and William **TONG**, a widower, in 1840.

William was a lighterman, like Joseph. Both give their address as 34 Bedfordbury, Covent Garden, the same area as Hannah Sarah was baptized in. On this marriage certificate the fathers' details are given and Martha's father is James, and his occupation is a little indistinct but it could be flax dresser, the same as the James in the 1841 census, but I wasn't totally convinced.

However, I had enough information now to look for a baptism for Martha. I found her baptized along with her sister, Mary, 13 November 1803. The register showed Mary was actually born 23 March 1801 and Martha 21 February 1803. However, finally there was a legible occupation for James. He was a hair dresser! Looking back at the 1841 census and Hannah's marriage certificate I could now see that that was what it was! Because it was written as two distinct words on each occasion, that had thrown me but I imagine he was not a barber but someone who dressed hair for wigs or hair extensions. Finally, though, I could say that Hannah Sarah Wing's parents were Martha Johnson and Joseph Wing and James and Mary were her grandparents.

I knew that Hannah Sarah and Charles Buttivant were involved from at least the mid-1840s and in 1847 they had had a daughter, called Hannah Martha– after her mother and grandmother?

The 1851 census shows that Hannah, calling herself Buttivant, and her daughter are lodgers in Whitechapel. Also, there is a nine-year-old boy shown as her son. Charles is recorded at home with his wife and family!

Who is this nine-year-old boy? Many years ago, I was told by a descendant of Hannah Sarah's daughter, Emily, who contacted me via East of London FHS, that Charles Buttivant, as well as his wife and long-term live-in 'wife' had had at least one other child by a woman named Matilda **HAWN**.

Whilst looking into Hannah Sarah's story more closely I found a birth registration for Henry William Buttivant and sent for the certificate. He turned out

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Birth registration for Henry William Buttivant Image courtesy of Marion Turner

to be the son of Charles and Matilda formerly **FLAWN** and was born at 4 Edward Street, Lambeth, 17 March 1840. This would seem to solve the mystery as Flawn could easily be mistranscribed as Hawn. Obviously, a little white lie had been told when registering the birth because Matilda never married Charles for the same reason that Hannah Sarah didn't-he was already married.

In the 1841 census, one year old Henry, surname Flawn, is living with William and Mary Flawn, presumably his grandparents, at the same address as he was born, 4 Edward Street! By 1851 Charles is not only still shown living with his wife but he has somehow persuaded his *mistress* to accept his son by a third woman into her household and call him her son.

It's interesting, though, that both Matilda's surname Flawn was at one time mistranscribed as Hawn which meant that for many years I was looking for the wrong person, and also I had made the same mistake with James Johnson's occupation, misreading the F and H and seeing flax dresser instead of hair dresser.

By the time of the 1881 census Charles has been dead for 16 years and Hannah Sarah is shown with their three youngest children, Joseph, Walter and Louisa BUT also another two sons, Edward and Thomas aged 13 and 11. So, whose

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Banns for Hannah Sarah Wing and James George King Image courtesy of Marion Turner

children are these?

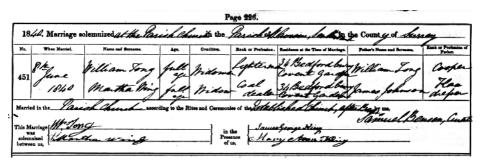
I've found a baptism for an Edward George Buttivant, b 14 February 1866 and baptized 7 March 1866, parents William and Hannah. William is a shoemaker and the address is 78 Berwick Street, St. Luke's. Is this him? Whether or not these two boys had the same father, I don't know, and William doesn't seem to have been a permanent fixture in Hannah's life as she is not shown as living as anyone's wife in any subsequent census. Whether William, the shoemaker, actually existed or not, I don't know. If he did, he wasn't a Buttivant. These two boys are not with her in 1891 and I've found no further trace of them.

Hannah Sarah continued to use the name Buttivant for the

rest of her life. After Charles's death she worked as a laundress and seems to have run her own business, at one time with her daughter and they are shown in the London Post Office directory for 1890 as *Ruffell & Buttivant* (her daughter Louisa had married Samuel **RUFFELL** in 1884), at 233 Goswell Road, EC.

In 1908 Hannah Sarah was admitted to the St. Johns Road workhouse. She died the following year and was buried 15 May 1909 in Islington aged 85. Her death was registered by her daughter, Emily de Gruchy, whose story started this search off.

There is one final story I have found. In 1843 a Hannah Sarah Wing was planning to marry James George **KING** in Southwark. The banns register shows him to be a bachelor and Hannah to be a minor. If this is the same Hannah Sarah she would have been 19. However, the marriage did not go ahead as there is a note written across the top of the entry to the effect that the mother and brother of the groom, Charlotte and Joseph Charles King forbade the banns on the grounds that James was already married with six children and further was of unsound mind! Whether or not this is my Hannah Sarah, I don't know but James must have been quite a bit older than she was, and only four years later my Hannah Sarah had had her first child with Charles Buttivant, another man many years her senior.



Marriage of Martha King and William Tong Image courtesy of Marion Turner

Is there such a thing as a coincidence? When her mother, the widowed Martha Wing, married William Tong in Southwark in 1840 one of the witnesses was James George King. Could this be the same James who tried to marry Hannah three years later? This story just gets more convoluted!

Sources Ancestry.co.uk Findmypast.co.uk Findagrave.com

Email: mturner9849@gmail.com



The Editor reserves the right to edit letters due to space considerations.

Marshal SKELTON'S grandmother was born in and lived in West Ham before travelling to North Yorkshire, near Scarborough, in 1917. There she met Marshal's grandfather, a farmer's son, who was three years younger. She became pregnant and Marshal's aunt was born back in West Ham in 1918. A couple of weeks later, Marshal's grandfather travelled down to West Ham so that they could marry before all returned north.

There has never been any explanation as to why Marshal's grandmother should end up in a small village near Scarborough, Cloughton. Marshal has considered a land girl, a munitions worker, recuperation or a victim of the Silvertown explosion. All could be possible except perhaps a land girl as Marshal's gran was never a farming type!

Marshal wonders if any members have any information as to why this movement up north could have occurred and would be grateful for any help (*skeltonmarshal@gmail.com*).

Frank WESTON (13214) makes a comment on the article in *CA181* on Piano Makers.

He says that Old Ford is not in Hackney Wick but in Bow in the borough of Poplar, now Tower Hamlets. Hackney Wick is in the borough of Hackney. Frank says that Hackney Wick is north of Old Ford, across the Hertford & Union Canal and Victoria Park.

He says that his father walked here every Sunday morning to see his sister and sink a pint or two with his brother-in-law in either *The Elephant & Castle, The Tiger* or the *Red Lion*. He also says that the song mentioned at the top of page 37 is 'On Mother Kelly's Doorstep'.



 Findmypast have celebrated International Women's Day by releasing a new collection of Women's Land Army Service cards 1939–1950. They have also added over 13,000 records to their militia lists for Northamptonshire 1762–1819, over 29,000 workhouse records for Sheffield 1700–1915.

They have also issued records of British Home Children sent from Liverpool to Canada 1883–1925 and correspondence about the Home Children to Canada 'initiative'.

- ✤ Ancestry have added over 27,000 Royal Mail pension and gratuity records for former employees from 1860-1970.
- Essex Rcord Office Bookshop online. In November they announced a partnership with Museumshops.uk to make their publications available to purchase online for the very first time. Many of these publications have been printed in limited numbers and were previously only available from the Essex Record Office Searchroom.

In a blog post, they took a look at three of their most popular publications! Take a look here: *https://www.essexrecordofficeblog.co.uk/essex-recordoffice-publications-now-available-online/*

- The Genealogist's Map Explorer allows you to see exactly where your ancestors lived in the 1861 census. Having found an ancestor's address in a record such as the census and seeing it located on the map, researchers can then view pictures of the neighbourhood as it had once looked when our ancestors lived there. They have also added 142,000 new individuals to their War Memorial records.
- The Family History Show, York! Saturday 22 June 2024,10:00-16:00 (GMT).Put your research questions to an expert, watch a talk, speak to a local society, archive or genealogical supplier. Free talks all day, held in a large lecture hall. Free Experts on hand to help with your queries.Many family history societies, archives and companies will be attending from all over the country. Special Offer! Buy tickets for £8.00 (£12.00 on the day). Buy your tickets early and get two for the price of one!

My Dad Knew a Man Who Knew Lawrence of Arabia

Tom French No. 12537



Sir Wyndham Deedes at the Paris Peace Conference Image courtesy of Tom French

hile searching for war-time Bethnal Green records on another matter, I found details of its Council Members for 1944 and was surprised to find the name of Sir Wyndham **DEEDES** among them.

During WWII my dad served as the Air Raid Warden in charge of a single storey air raid shelter in Vallance Road. Bethnal Green, which was also the road in which the Kray twins lived. Dad sometimes spoke in vague terms about someone called Sir Wyndham and he occasionally gave the impression that he knew

him. A knight of the realm meant far more in those days than it does now, and surely no one in our situation could possibly know someone like that.

Sir Wyndham's military career began after he left school, when he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the King's Royal Rifles. In the following year he saw action in the Second Boer War.

In 1906, while still a serving army officer, he was seconded to the Colonial Office and, after learning the Turkish language, he was posted to Constantinople. This dual employment arrangement was to last for the rest of his military career.

In 1910 he was seconded again, this time by the Foreign Office to the Ottoman Interior Ministry, into which he became an influential figure. While there he took responsibility for reforming part of the Ottoman gendarmerie force. At the outbreak of war in 1914 he joined the British War Office Intelligence Department. He was drafted as a staff captain for the Gallipoli Campaign and then to Cairo, where he worked with those planning the First Arab Revolt. In 1916 he was promoted to the rank of major and awarded the D.S.O. Further promotion followed when, in 1917, he was promoted to the rank of Brevet Colonel for distinguished service in the field.

After the war he was posted to Istanbul as a military attaché and then to the British protectorate of Egypt as public security director. In this role he helped to set up the Palestine Police Force.

From 1920 to 1922 Sir Wyndham served as chief secretary to the then British High Commissioner in Palestine, and as chief secretary he became second in command of the Commission. In 1921 he also received his knighthood.

In the same year he attended the Paris Peace Conference, where the attached photograph shows him out of uniform, with a group which includes T.E. **LAWRENCE** (Lawrence of Arabia) on the far left. In his administrative role in Palestine, he would have also met Lawrence on various other occasions during his tenure.

Sir Wyndham belonged to a wealthy landowning family which had owned extensive land in Kent for several centuries. He retired from the army in 1923 with the honorary rank of brigadier general and, having had such an illustrious and influential career, the natural assumption was that he would retire to his property in Kent. But most surprisingly, this was not the path that his career then took.

In complete contrast to his military career, he chose to live in the East End where he carried out unpaid social work in Bethnal Green. During his time there he lived for a number of years at 18 Victoria Park Square.

As well as his involvement as a borough councillor, Sir Wyndham also served on the *Education Committee* and was chairman of an organization called the *London Council of Social Service*, which is now known as the *London Voluntary Service Council*. Last but not least, he also became *the Chief Air Raid Warden of Bethnal Green*.

This explains how dad knew the man who was nominally his part-time boss. So, I am very glad to have found that my dad was not telling porkies!

David LEAN'S monumental but highly dramatized film *Lawrence of Arabia* fairly accurately details the events of the first Arab Revolt in 1916/1917. *The St. Paul's Cathedral Memorial Service* for Lawrence shown at the start of the film was attended by countless numbers of the great and the good, and its portrayal of this event emphasizes the high esteem in which he was held.

Acknowledgements. Metropolitan Borough of Bethnal Green (Records). St. Antony's College, Oxford. Wikipedia.

19 Manford Court, Manford Way, Chigwell IG7 4DP

THE UMBRELLA MAKERS

Ann Hunter No.14773

Toodle–luma luma Toodle–luma luma Toodle–oh lay Any umbrellas, any umbrellas to mend today? Bring your parasol, it may be small. It may be big He will fix them all on what you call a thing-a-ma-jig Pitter patter patter! Pitter patter patter! It looks like rain. Let it pitter patter. Let it pitter patter. Who cares for rain? He'll mend your umbrellas, then go on his way Singing toodle luma luma. Toodle luma luma Toodle luma luma

Any umbrellas to mend today.

Song written by James Cavanaugh, Larry Stock and Vincent Rose. First published 1924. First performed live in 1939 by Flanagan and Allen, a well-known Music Hall comedy and music duo.

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This song was heard on the radio in every home that possessed one during the 1930s and 1940s and seemed appropriate as an opening for the story of my husband's umbrella-making ancestors.

The COLEMAN Family, direct line

Samuel 1824–1906 and Mary Ann SOUL 1822–1866

William 1847-1931 and Sarah BLOOM 1853-1915

Florence Emma 1899-1980 and William Edward HUNTER 1897-1963

Her father made umbrellas was a statement my husband often made when his paternal grandmother was mentioned, and there is plenty of evidence in census records to confirm that this was indeed the case. His grandmother was Florence Emma Hunter, formerly Coleman, born in 1899 and her father, uncle and grandfather all worked in the umbrella trade in the East End of London during the nineteenth century.

She herself was listed on the 1939 eve of war register as an umbrella machinist. She had then been married nineteen years and her only son was about to go to war. Records from this register and the 1921 census show other descendants of the Coleman family worked in the same trade well into the twentieth century.

The word *umbrella* derives from the Latin *umbra* meaning shade. In France their word for umbrella is *parapluie* which uses the prefix para, or protection, with the French word for rain, pluie from the latin *pluvia*. An umbrella is described as *a device consisting of a circular canopy of cloth on a folding metal frame supported by a central rod, used as protection against rain.*

The first umbrellas were probably made in China as long ago as 3,500 BC, using bamboo sticks with animal skins stretched across.

Ancient Egyptians used palm fronds, feathers, and papyrus. Servants held them over the heads of royalty and divine figures as they took part in processions under the hot African sun. It is said that even King Tutankhamen and his family used this ingenious creation. Sent via previously established trade routes from Africa and the Middle East to Europe, parasols reached southern European countries and eventually the rainy climes of northern Europe, but it was not until the latter half of the eighteenth century that manufacture began on a commercial scale.

The first company to embark on full-scale production in England was James **INCE** & Sons, who still produce weather-protective items today. The business began in Spitalfields in 1805, and their present-day logo includes the words: *constant shelter for over 200 years*.

Spitalfields was the ideal place for James to begin his business, being the centre of the expanding silk weaving trade making material readily available. Working conditions for Ince's employees were not ideal, but then neither were the circumstances of most industrial workers at that time. Matthew **ARNOLD**^{II} wrote in the middle of the nineteenth century,

... the fierce sun overhead Smote on the squalid streets of Bethnal Green And the pale weaver, through his windows seen In Spitalfields, looked thrice dispirited.

Much has been written about the squalid streets of London, for example by Charles **DICKENS**, who himself experienced the slum-like conditions. Despite the prevailing conditions, though, Spitalfields and later Bethnal Green became home to this fast-developing industry of covers and canopies.

Textiles changed as silk became expensive and scarce while cotton was becoming more affordable and, as machinery took over from hand-stitching, the finished article was less exclusive. Conversion to mass-production could now be achieved for less outlay.

In 1847, the year that William Coleman, John's great grandfather, was born, a company founded by Samuel **FOX** was making fish-hooks and needles with fine wire. This coincided with other innovations, including the sewing machines being produced by Isaac M **SINGER**, an American businessman, which could be used to stitch the umbrella's cloth panels together.

Samuel devised a steel rib that would make the finished article much lighter than hitherto, changing the manufacture process forever. By the end of the

century Samuel's lightweight design was in use everywhere. During the Victorian and Edwardian eras silk umbrellas and sunshades were in demand. Production diversified further during the two worldwide conflicts as military umbrellas were produced for soldiers to use in the trenches in 1914–1918 and canvas gun covers protected modern weaponry in the 1940s. Whatever changes have taken place in materials and manufacturing procedures however the basic umbrella structure remains the same, with triangles of fabric stitched onto metal ribs and a tie added to furl the device when not in use. Modern umbrellas have just eight ribs while earlier ones had more.

James Ince Umbrellas still maintains a workshop in Vyner Street, Bethnal Green in the East End of London. The variety of goods produced continues to expand with the differing needs of the twenty-first century. Goods can now be ordered from all over the world: a prime example of the mighty oaks which can spring from little acorns.

Samuel Coleman and Mary Ann SOUL

Samuel Coleman, Florence's grandfather, was born in the second decade of the nineteenth century and is the earliest member of the Coleman family known to work in the London umbrella trade. His father William Coleman was probably born in Brede in Sussex in 1796, marrying in London in 1820. Samuel was his second son.

In 1847 Samuel married Mary Ann Soul. They already had two sons when they married. The younger of the two, William, was just nine-months-old. He later married Sarah **BLOOM** with whom he had fifteen children between 1872 and the end of the century. Florence, John's grandmother, and the direct family link to the Coleman umbrella makers, was the youngest of these. By 1871 Samuel was living at 4 Albion Place in Bethnal Green with his second wife Emma, Mary Ann having met an untimely death from cancer five years earlier. He continued to work in the umbrella trade for more than twenty years, eventually dying in the *City of London Union Workhouse* at the age of eighty. Various documents confirm

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Death certificate of Samuel Coleman Image courtesy of Ann Hunter

that sons Samuel, William, Joseph, Charles, and James, all went into the trade. With so many of them working from home, their cramped living quarters often contained more umbrellas than furniture. Even daughter Eliza, eight-years-old in 1861, was working as a parasol frame maker.

William Coleman and Sarah Bloom

By the time the 1871 census was recorded William, Samuel and Mary Ann's second son, had married Sarah Bloom on 4th September the previous year, in St. James' Parish Church in Shoreditch. He was now twenty-three and had been making umbrella frames for at least a decade

Twenty years later their son, William, had joined the family occupation and by the turn of the century the family had moved to 2 Norman Street, in Finsbury.

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Marriage of William Coleman and Sarah Bloom 1870 Image courtesy of Ann Hunter

two more children had been born: George, who was now eight and Florence Emma, two. Ten years later the family had moved to 37 Westmoreland Place in Shoreditch where we believe they set up an umbrella workshop with so many of their family undertaking the work. They remained at that address for at least another twenty years.

On a cold Wednesday in January 1915 Sarah's life ended. Her death from a malignant brain tumour was unexpected. William lived a further fifteen years and passed away at the beginning of March 1931. Not all their children had worked in the family trade, although son, Arthur Walter, born in 1889, was listed on the 1939 register as an umbrella cutter, together with his son, who had moved away from manufacture and was employed as an umbrella salesman. Other, members of the wider family have been found on the 1921 census and 1939 register, working at the James Ince Company. A recent article in *Spitalfields Life* described one Terry Coleman, still working at James Ince. Research shows he is probably a second cousin. Terry retired a few years ago after many years' service. Has this ended the Coleman connection to James Ince, umbrella makers? Only further research will tell...

Beyton, Suffolk (full address withheld)

The Nichols of Leytonstone

Peter Cope No. 14117

We forget all too easily just how difficult it was to research your family before the advent of online databases. When I started my family research, over 20-years-ago, I was fortunate to live with relatively easy access to the *Family Record Centre* near the *Angel* in London. I tried to get there on Saturdays at least monthly, ordering as many as a dozen certificates each time before they closed. Then I had to wait until they arrived some days later, fingers crossed that I had the right ones to add more relatives to my ever-growing tree and take it further back on my next visit! Sometimes if a BMD event took place near the census year I would spend (waste?) hours trawling through the microfilms searching for my newly discovered ancestors. I don't think I ever found one but I do recall the lucky day when I was searching for the death of David **SMITH** between about 1910 and 1925 (there are many hundreds) and using the microfiche probate record copies found it straight away! A lucky guess on the year and executors who had distinctive names that I recognised immediately. Try doing that with the modern online probate website. That's progress for you!

Anyway, I was fortunate that the I.G.I. records were available on CD and that amongst them were the baptism records for my **NICHOLS** ancestors, who I now know from the *tithe maps*, lived just by the Church in Leytonstone. The family consisted of my 4 x great-grandparents, Edward and Sarah Nichols, and their children, James baptised 9 February 1804, Catherine (my 3 x great-grandmother) 6 April 1806, Sarah 5 June 1808 and Francis 2 September 1810.

I am not sure about Sarah snr's maiden name but suspect that it was **ROOT** (or **ROOTT**) because I have traced the marriage of an Edward Nichols to a Sarah Root at St. Leonard's Shoreditch, 12 January 1803, and then when their daughter, Catherine, married my 2 x great-grandfather, William DENNISON, in Leyton in 1831, the witnesses were Sarah Nichols and a person with the surname Root. I can't be sure of the two letters in front but they don't look like a name but could be St. maybe short for sergeant, as I have found the baptism in 1782 in Romford of a Sarah Root whose father, Daniel Root, may have been in the Essex militia or even the army. Sarah Nicholls (sic) aged 59, the wife of E'd Nicholls (sic) tinker, died of paralysis 23 January 1843. The informant was Edward Nicholls (sic) by his mark. Then, 15 July 1845, again in Leytonstone, Edward Nichols, a tinker aged 71 died, also of paralysis. Fortunately the death was registered by his daughter Catherine Dennison. So I know that I have the right Edward and his description as a tinker confirmed that that for Sarah was also the correct one. Both Edward and Sarah were buried at St. John the Baptist, Leytonstone. However, although the 1841 census clearly shows that they were both born in Essex and I

have the aforementioned possible baptism for Sarah, I have never been able to find a baptism for Edward who, according to the 1841 census and his death, would have been born about 1773. Turning to the children, I have found no further trace of James. As I mentioned, Catherine was my 3 x great-grandmother and, with William, lived in the High Street, Chigwell, at *Gorgys*, a cottage that is still there. They had five children before Catherine's death in 1847. Sarah Nichols appears to have not married and, I think, died in West Ham in 1889.

Francis, the youngest child, proved to have a more varied life. He firstly married Sarah **BEETON** at St. Paul's, Shadwell in November 1837. At that time he was living in Love Lane, Shadwell and described himself as a painter. By 1841 the couple had moved to Cheapside where Francis was still a painter. Knowing Cheapside today I find it difficult to picture it as a major residential area. Sadly Sarah, who was possibly ten-years-older than Francis, died before 1851 and without any children being born. I have yet to trace any more about her, even her death.

Widowed Francis, a house painter, secondly married Mary **CLIFFORD**, a 21-year-old spinster born in Beaconsfield, both of Brook Street, at St. Paul's, Shadwell, 16 March 1851. Oddly in the census taken later in the month and now living at 24 Dunstan Road, Ratcliff, Mary was listed with her maiden name and as unmarried. They went on to have four daughters; Laura Jane in 1856, Margaret Mary in 1858, Frances Emily in 1860 and Sarah Kate in 1861. Now came a significant change in Francis's life. When Laura was baptised, they were still living to the east of London, but Francis had become a grocer! I remain puzzled as to how or why a house painter would become a grocer but grocer Francis most definitely now was. Furthermore, by the time of Margaret's birth the family had moved to Dulwich where the three younger children were all born. I can't think of any obvious reason for this significant change and move although Mary's father James Clifford was a baker.

Francis appeared in the *Suburban Street Directory* for 1860 as a grocer in Dulwich and likewise in the 1861 census. The family had now been joined by his mother-in-law, also Mary Clifford, whose birthplace was given as Brook Street Ratcliff which explains perhaps why Francis and Mary were living there at the date of his marriage. The family were still in Dulwich in the 1871 census but this was to be Francis's last appearance as he died in late 1872. Touchingly though, he was buried back in Leytonstone at St. John the Baptist. It's a fair way from Dulwich to Leytonstone and even with the availability of the railway must have been quite a journey for the coffin and mourners to make across London. Now for a moment of serendipity. I often go to Dulwich to visit the splendid Art Gallery and always walk into the village for lunch in *Rocca* an Italian Pizza restaurant next door to the famous *Crown & Greyhound* pub. So, I started to wonder where Francis's shop had been and made contact with the *Dulwich Society*. They were very helpful and



Francis's grocery shop, Dulwich Image courtesy of Peter Cope

quickly came back to me with the answer. Francis's shop is now a restaurant; yes, you've guessed it, called *Rocca*!! So, without realizing it I have been in Francis and Mary's shop many times! Although the whole building has been much altered and extended. it was originally, I imagine, a pair of narrow Georgian semi-detached houses and it is possible to distinguish the original structure and Francis's half, the lefthand side, behind the modern extension. I am not sure what happened to Mary but the family left the shop shortly after Francis's death and I

cannot find her in the 1881 census. What of their children though? I traced Laura to Australia where she married John **MCARTHUR** in Sydney in 1900 and died in Armidale New South Wales in 1919.

As for Frances, she married a Geneva born Swiss, William John SCHWALBACH, a ship's cook and steward, in Stepney in 1882. They emigrated to Australia where it appears that his father was already living. They went on to have eight children and many descendants down to modern times. I even have a DNA match amongst them. One further thing that puzzles me. Two of Frances's children, Louis and Edgar Schwalbach, served with the Australian forces in WWI. I have found an article in the Armidale Express, 16 July 1918 saying that Mrs Schwalbach of Armidale has received a couple of fine photographs of her two soldier sons and that they were taken with their two little English cousins. Who are the English cousins, presumably children at that date? Since the Schwalbachs came from Switzerland and emigrated to Australia surely the cousins must be on the Nichols side and I can only think must have been children of Margaret Mary Nichols as Sarah didn't marry, was in service and died in West Ham in 1931. However, I can't find any more about Margaret Mary after the 1881 census when she too was in service. So, as on previous occasions, I leave members with a challenge. What happened to Margaret and who were the two little cousins?

Email: peterfcope@hotmail.co.uk

Missing Address in the 1881 Census

George Chappell No. 10065

Eden Place, Shoreditch

Thad been looking for years for an ancestor and only recently focused on the possibility of them living in Eden Place, Shoreditch but then noticed two handwritten comments on the census returns for this district.

I then contacted The National Archives.

The background was that I had been looking for the **FOX** family in the 1881 census for some years.

However, it was finding that (at least) two members had been living in Eden Place, Shoreditch just five months before the census took place, that I then focused on that specific address. *The Genealogist* allows me to search by address and nothing comes up for Eden Place in the 1881 Census.

I then looked at the *Description of Enumeration District* for RG11/395 and Eden Place is noted as in the enumerators district so thought that information should be there.

A check of each census page with the *Abstract of Totals* in the *following pages* seems to show that no pages are missing, but Eden Place does not appear either as if visited or the page(s) lost.

However, when looking at the handwritten notes in the top left hand corner of both these forms, the wording on *The Abstract Sheet* appears to say *the sheet torn out by* ???? and that on the *Renumeration District* sheet as *Revised*. So, it looks like that something has happened.

I referred my query to *The National Archives* who have just replied:

I have looked at the images you linked to in your previous enquiry and it does look as though there was some contemporary revision which has resulted in the entries for Eden Place being omitted.

At this stage I am unable to determine at what point the entries vanished, but there is certainly no trace of them now.

I did trawl through the relevant piece number for Eden Place and I cannot find it at all either.

I am sorry to be the bearer of bad news but I can at least say for sure that they are not there now.

I hope that this confirmation at least allows you to know that this dead end is in fact definitely a dead end.

Email: gjavenue@gmail.com

Our Cockne



This photograph was sent in by John Sly (13403) as part of the Wor right his grandmother Elizabeth Mary **CARPENTER** nee **PASCOE** b on 20 July 1907 and died 1 December 1964. His mother Ethel Blan She married on 4 May 1946 and died on 14 Decemb

Cockney Ancestor

y Ancestors



nen of the East End display at the 2023 AGM. It shows from left to orn 10 January 1880 at 54 Locksley Street, Stepney. She was married che **SLY** nee Carpenter born 10 August 1908 at 54 Locksley Street. er 1974 and his grandfather John Edward Carpenter.

Life in Guinness Trust Before, During and After WWII, Part I

Douglas Andrews No. 5210

y father, Stanley Ernest ANDREWS, was born 3 February 1899 at 37 Luard Street, Islington, a somewhat poor and unhealthy area of London, situated as it was behind St. Pancras and King's Cross stations, with all that smoke and numerous unpleasant smells from the local industries–dyeworks, chemical factories, slaughterhouses, tanneries, explosives manufacturers and so on.

Dad was the fourth of seven children and, when studying the details from all their birth certificates, I was amazed to see just how frequently the family moved house and how many jobs their father undertook to make a living.

The first-born, Edward Welch, was born at 14 Hasker Street, North-East Chelsea 28 July 1890 when his father was a builders' labourer. He was followed almost two years later by Florence Maud 20 April 1892, born at 61 Home Road, West Battersea when her father was a waiter. On 12 March 1894 her sister, Olive Lilian, was born at 7 Urswick Road, Battersea by which time her father had gone back to working as a builders' labourer. Then came Felix Leonard 24 June 1896 when the family were living at 34 Nicholay Road, Upper Holloway and his father was a licensed victualler's waiter. Next came my father as stated above, when his dad was a music hall attendant (might that have been *Collins' Music Hall* on Islington Green?). He was followed by Percy Harold 3 May 1901 at 15 Lynton Road Crouch End, Hornsey when his father was a journeyman plumber and lastly, Adelaide Doris entered this world 22 December 1903 at 6 Park Road, West Tottenham when her father was a railway labourer.

At the outbreak of WWI in August 1914, my Uncle Len–as Felix was always known–was a regular in *The Royal Navy*, having signed on very promptly on his 18th birthday on 24 June 1914 for 12 years, so, with him as an example, my father volunteered for the Navy in November 1915 but was patted on the head and told '*Go home, son*', as he was obviously under age. Undaunted, he offered his services to the Army and was accepted, joining *The London Scottish Regiment* (part of *The London Regiment*) 30 November when he would have been 16 years and 299 days old. Obviously proud of his uniform, Father had some professional photographs taken and, if I have interpreted the flash on his left sleeve correctly, it appears to be M.G. surrounded by laurel leaves. This would suggest that he was a trained machine-gunner; but I don't think I would like to be in a platoon where the machine-gunner was a lad of eighteen! The uniform he is wearing in the full-length picture is his best walking out one. By the time he had finished

his basic training it would seem that reports of the horrendous casualties incurred during the fighting in France were being received, and father's battalion was on a train out of King's Cross en route for France, by which time the euphoria of the rush to join the *Colours* had worn off.

Seizing the opportunity as they steamed slowly in the Hornsey area, he and one or two others *bailed out* and deserted, living rough for a few days before he decided to go home-the family were by then at 2 Myddelton Road Hornsey. Approaching the top of the road he saw his brother who told him, *Don't go indoors, there's a Redcap sitting in Dad's chair!* Father had had enough though, and gave himself up, whereupon

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Discharge papers Image courtesy of Douglas Andrews



Best uniform Image courtesy of Douglas Andrews

he was promptly incarcerated in an army prison (Colchester or Chelmsford?) where their life was made unbearable–let's face it, he could have been shot for desertion in time of war!

After a couple of weeks of harsh treatment, the prisoners were offered a pardon if they opted to volunteer for the very thing that had made them desert, service in France, an offer which he readily accepted. Father's misdemeanour seems to have done his career no harm in that, although his former regiment had moved on without him, he later served with the 5th Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment, The Notts and Derby Regiment (The 'Sherwood Foresters') and The 1/24th Battalion London Regiment (The Queen's), ending his service as an acting sergeant. His date of discharge-or disembodiment in army parlance-was 24 May 1919, having served for three years and 175 days (see discharge paper) and his character is described as good, an honest and sober man.

Somewhere along the line, my father developed an artistic streak because, back in civvy street, he made his living as a selfemployed oriental lacquer expert. But *The Great Slump* seems to have put an end to his career and I have two *testimonials* from companies who had used his services in the past but could no longer provide him with gainful employment, both dated May 1932.

Of the two drawings of Prime Ministers, the one of David Lloyd **GEORGE**-Prime Minister from 1916 to 1922-was drawn with light and dark strokes of an ordinary lead pencil. There is a note on the back in indelible pencil which reads *St. Rone Narre, or Narri Wood, Somme, France, Sept. 1, 1918* and his presence in this area is confirmed by three overnight leave passes which we have for him to proceed to Lille, dated for 29/30 October, 17/18 November and 20/21 November, all 1918. Note that they cover Armistice Day, the final day of the war. Perhaps father had befriended a local girl-we shall never know!

The second portrait, an Indian ink sketch of Winston **CHURCHILL** as he was then known is signed by my father and presented by him to the **COLES** family who took such wonderful care of my older brother, Stan, and me on their mixed farm in Oakford, Devon, for over $2\frac{1}{2}$ years from 1942–1944. It was



David Lloyd George Image courtesy of Douglas Andrews



Winston Churchill Image courtesy of Douglas Andrews



Guinness Trust Estate with flower borders Image courtesy of Douglas Andrews

treasured by them until finally their daughter, Dorothy, then well into her 90s and almost blind, returned it to my mother who often stayed with her until the 1980s. I have several other examples of his talent, and when my older brother, Stan, was born in 1931 at 12 Riversdale Road Islington, father is shown as a master lacquer artist.

The Guinness Trust Estate of 400 flats was completed in Stamford Hill in 1932, somewhat further out of London than their earlier housing projects to the south of the city. I believe that the first occupants moved in shortly after that date but my parents secured their flat, No. 255, a year or so later by which time the more desirable tenements had been taken. It was four floors up and was in one of the blocks near the bottom of the estate almost on the railway line, which involved a walk of four hundred yards or so to get to the main gate.

It became a lifelong ambition of my mother to, one day, occupy a flat in one of the blocks nearest the main gate-but more on this later!

I can see from documents we have, that my father secured a new job as a postman with the G.P.O. and he started work on £2. 14s. 0d. (£2.70p.) per week 2 December 1936, the sole breadwinner in a family of four as we were by that time, as I had been born in *The Salvation Army Mothers' Hospital* in Lower Clapton in 1934. I was named after Field Marshall Earl **HAIG**, the Commander of The British Army during the War (and who was instrumental in introducing *The Poppy*)

Fund)-he was Douglas, Earl of Haig, and I had been born on Armistice Day.

A few words now on the general layout of the flats. They were built on a large plot of land between *George EWER'S Grey Green Coach Station* on the Stoke Newington (or south) side and his brother *Albert E. Ewer's Commercial Vehicle Repair Depot* on the Stamford Hill (or north) side. The first fifty feet or so fronting the main road was given over to flower beds between both the front and back entrances. The main bulk of the flats was contained in four pairs of double-sized blocks, each block containing two entrances to twenty flats with four on each floor.

The first two blocks consisted of No.1–20 and 21-40, then opposite was 41-60 and 61-80. The Superintendent, Mr BIRCH, occupied No.1, which also included his office in which the weekly rents were paid. The next three pairs of double blocks contained flats Nos. 81–160, then 161–240 with our pair housing 241-320. Behind this pair was a half-block housing flats Nos. 321-340 (the railway line meant that there was only a small triangular piece of land available) and this one block was always referred to as the wids since they were for single person occupancy only. To the left of the main concourse were three more halfblocks with the first one (from the railway line up towards the main gate) 341-360. A few yards in front of this block there was a small flat roofed building adjacent to the railway embankment, which had double wooden doors at both ends. This was purpose built to house the odd-looking commercial sweeper vehicle, which had two solid tyred wheels at the front with a third centrally at the rear. It had a single seat cab which was open to the elements on top. Underneath was a cylindrical brush of about a 15 inches diameter and 10 feet or so wide and offset at an angle of 45 degrees or so which revolved backwards when the machine was being driven. I very seldom saw the sweeper in action partly because of my absences when evacuated and partly (perhaps) because fuel would have been hard to get. After the war it was permanently parked near the front gate to the estate behind the Superintendent's block until it disappeared and was presumably scrapped. The driver of it would have been one of the four porters whose names were SCUTT, BAILEY, OBITZ & ALLEN during my time. We always referred to this small building as the sweeper shed and, if it is still there, I should think it has mystified residents ever since as to its original purpose.

Behind block 341-360 coming towards the main gate were the last two single blocks numbered 361-380 and opposite it was 381-400. There was then a communal drying room (each flat had a numbered washing line!), a boiler house with a single outside hot water tap and one very small public toilet.

Around the perimeter of the grounds most flats were allocated a numbered pram shed which were in sets of four, then there was a small drop in the concrete to accommodate the fall in the ground level and provide drainage. These little bumps proved very handy for one small boy learning to ride a two-wheeled bike- me! One other feature not already mentioned was a small club room which was adjacent to block 341-360, again almost on the railway line, which contained table-tennis tables and where Christmas functions and other such events could be held. During WWII, the residents of the flats put on their own variety shows in it, which were well supported.

The small oblong piece of ground from the boiler-room to the main gate was laid out with flower-beds until it was only too obvious that war was inevitable!

Construction of air-raid shelters then began, with two underground ones in the flower beds between the front and back gates and parallel to the main road and four more underground ones in the gardens leading down from the main gate to the boiler-room complex with yet



Sylvia Image courtesy of Douglas Andrews

another two on the small piece of available land from the wids, almost on the railway embankment itself.

The builders also built a large surface shelter behind the block containing flats 41-80 with another behind the block 121-180 and two more in an east-west direction down from the back gate-in the picture of my then girlfriend Sylvia, later my wife, taken in the mid 1950s.

The last remaining surface shelter can be seen in the distance, having been retained as a store shed.

As a family, we rarely used the shelters because the underground ones always seemed to have a few inches of water in which duckboards had been laid and they always smelt musty and damp. Two-tier steel bunks were all along the walls and there was a small emergency escape hatch up a four-rung vertical iron ladder at the far end. *To be continued*.....

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The Reminiscences of an Ordinary Man–Part XVI

This article was written by Reg C Coleman (Non-Member) in late 1970/80.

LLOYD GEORGE was losing his grip as Prime Minister and it would not surprise him if he resigned. There was trouble in his Coalition Government formed in 1918 between the Liberals and Conservatives. Roughly half the Liberals were led by Lloyd George and the other half by **ASQUITH** and, in addition, some were siding with the Conservatives.

The United States were asking and nagging for a start at repaying the huge war debts, which we had borrowed on behalf of ourselves and the Allies. We on the other hand, were unable to collect the Allies share. Lloyd George had suggested that America wiped the slate clean and so let us all try to repair the damage that war had done, but it was refused. In the meantime he had given bankrupt Germany a six months moratorium on reparations, but the French government had disagreed and demanded the last ounce of blood from Germany and were demanding to occupy the rich industrial Ruhr district with an army of occupation.

The Great War to end all wars was over, but another war had taken its place, of arguments, disagreements about the amount and ways of payment of reparation by Germany. Hate too still existed between France and Germany. The Germans were a bankrupt nation, fighting for their very existence and, although agreeing to paying reparation of £6,600 million early in 1921 at the rate of £100 million per year, failed to do so by the end of 1921 and again trouble ensued in this direction. Lloyd George was constantly abroad at meetings trying to find peaceful solutions between the European nations. First one would agree and others would not. It seemed that he was continually up against a brick wall, as one would say, and I can't help thinking that his original idea of everybody wiping the slate clean of war debts and starting afresh to build a new world out of all the damage and ruin of war, would have been a better policy for all. Unfortunately, mankind is not made that way.

At home in England in 1922 unemployment rose to an all-time level of approximately 1¹/₂ million and the burden on the local council rates for poor law relief was enormous (there being no social security). There was no stipulated financial amount from town to town and my district of Poplar, East London, paid the highest amount of relief in all England, of 33 shillings for a man and wife plus 10 shillings for rent. This got a nickname of *Popularism* throughout the country.

George LANSBURY was Mayor of Poplar and I recall him refusing to pay a special levy to the *London County Council* owing to this financial strain on the rates and, together with 29 other councillors, was sent to prison for this refusal. Ultimately this caused a review to be made throughout all boroughs and the levy

was equally proportioned between rich and poor districts. Lansbury was a brave man and stuck by his principles. This year was a bad one for the working class and England in business. Exports dropped and wages had been lowered, in some cases below 1918 standards.

I had a surprise one evening when my old friend, George, called. He also was one of the vast-army of unemployed, despite having had a grammar school education. He was scratching out a meagre living working on his account by selling a new-fangled type of oil lamp known as the *Alladin Lamp*. It could be hung from the ceiling or stood on the table and had a wick which was surrounded by a large incandescent burner similar to that used for gaslight. It certainly gave a much brighter light. Poor old George was trying to sell to his friends and also hawk this lamp as a door-to-door salesman. What a comedown for him and how lucky I was to cling to my job, although having a lower education. This was one of the fortunes of war one could say.

It was now October 1922 and just as father had predicted, Lloyd George had resigned his premiership of the Coalition Government. Two days later Bonar LAW, who was a sick man and had been told by his doctor that he had about two years to live, was sent for by the King and became Prime Minister of the new Conservative Government. This was to be the last time that Lloyd George was to be a Premier, although a lot of people thought otherwise. Three days after accepting office, Bonar Law obtained the dissolution of Parliament 26 October 1922 and a general election took place 15 November. The result proved to be a further weakening of the Liberals and a strengthening of Labour. A number of Liberals turned Conservative and some to Labour who returned 142 members as against 59 in the previous Government. Among the newcomers were Clement **ATTLEE**, formerly Mayor of Stepney, George Lansbury, previously Mayor of Poplar and that great veteran of today, Emanuel **SHINWELL**.

Lansbury was a great man of the people and never used a taxi when going home from the House but was often seen sitting in a tramcar at Aldgate enroute to his home in Poplar. I believe that this was the first time Poplar had a Labour MP. When I was a lad, it was always Sir Alfred **YEO**, a Liberal. He was a well-known figure, opening fetes etc This was also one time that Winston **CHURCHILL** was defeated at Dundee. Labour was now represented by strongly dedicated and educated men such as Clement Attlee, a varsity man from Oxford and lecturer in Social Sciences. Another was Phillip **SNOWDEN**, a Yorkshireman and keen debater of finance. Labour was becoming the strongest opposition. My dear father had forecast much of this during our nightly talks and I learnt a lot from his wisdom. What a shame that he was physically so ill for, had he got caught up in this political field, I'm sure he would have made a name for himself. Labour had now to elect a leader and Ramsey **MACDONALD** became that man.

Meantime, during January 1923, France and Belgium carried out their threats to



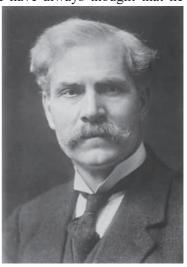
Stanley Baldwin 1920 Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

occupy the rich industrial district of the Ruhr, Germany and sent troops in to Essen. This was against England's wish and in addition caused passive resistance by German workers. The coal mines stopped working and no exports made as part payment to reparation. Strangely this did us a good turn and our unemployed coal miners were re-employed, thus helping to reduce the mass of unemployed. There began to be riots, disorders and wrecking of trains plus loss of life in Germany. The German mark which was once 20 to the pound was, in January 1923, 81,200 to the pound and, by November 1923, had risen to a staggering 22,300 million to the pound. What a state they were in. Trouble broke out all over Germany and was given an extra push by Socialists in Bavaria led by Adolf HITLER and General LUDENDORFF.

1923 was a crisis year for Bonar Law. His health was rapidly failing and the doctors diagnosed that he had cancer of the throat, so he sent his resignation to the King. I have always thought that he

was a brave man to have ever taken this high office, when being told at the time that he had only two years to live. The King then sent for **BALDWIN**, who accepted the position as Prime Minister and, 16 November 1923, obtained the dissolution of Parliament and an election took place 6 December.

The result was a hairline victory for the Conservatives. Labour had gained many more seats and were stronger by having 191 members as against 142 in the previous Government. When Parliament assembled, 8 January 1924, with Baldwin as Prime Minister of a Conservative slender majority, it was a precarious position for them and a fortnight later, 21 January, a vote was taken in the House as to who should take office, Labour or Conservative. The Liberal Party held the balance in their hands and the result was that



Ramsay Macdonald 1923 Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons



British Empire Exhibition, Treasure Island Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

the Conservatives were defeated by Labour at 328 votes to 256. Baldwin then resigned and the King sent for Ramsey Macdonald to form the first Labour Government. Snowden, the clever debater on finance, became the Labour's first Chancellor of the Exchequer and Clynes, Lord Privy Seal. Clement Attlee and, I believe, Emanuel Shinwell were included in the Government set up as undersecretaries. It had been said that Labour would not last long.

Cartoons in newspapers depicted Labour Ministers in top hats controlling the destiny of our country. More free places for children gaining scholarships to secondary schools (known as grammar schools today) and also state-aided scholarships to universities were revived. The ordinary working and middle class have a lot to thank this early Labour Government for.

1924 was to see the great *British Empire Exhibition* opened by King George V at Wembley, 23 April. It was reckoned to be the greatest since the great *Exhibition* of 1851. I went there several times and it seemed as though every corner of the Empire was represented. A tattoo by all sections of the armed forces was held and it was most spectacular and stirring. Every night was a fully booked one and it made you proud to be British, as the soldiers marched and counter marched to stirring military bands from all regiments.

Irene and I spent many evenings there and how happy it made one after a hard day's work in the middle of a drab week. I was now to enter a new phase of my life.

To be continued.....

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Obituary

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Tom Cannon by Vera Bangs No. 2457

t is with great sadness that I announce the death of Tom Cannon, a stalwart member of the Editorial Committee.

Tom worked for the *News of the World* as a hot metal compositor for over 30 years.

When he retired, he and his wife Renee took an interest in family history and started attending meetings at the Havering Branch.

He always joked that it was Renee's fault that he got involved. He was not interested in family history but enjoyed the computer branch meetings and helped Renee with her research.

With his extensive knowledge of the print and processes he was



soon persuaded to join the Editorial Committee and became a member of the committee in 2003.

Tom had a keen eye for layout and presentation and without his help many more errors would have crept into *Cockney Ancestor*. He made sure that we kept to the style set out by Denise Barnett all those years ago, but also was quick to suggest ways to improve.

He will be a hard act to follow.

Our sympathies go out to his family at this sad time.

Kathleen Hanson

Kim Thompson (non-member)



Kathleen 1945 Image courtesy of Kim Thompson

a dairyman and Ann Hanson (1825–1895) a dairyman and Ann Hanson (formerly DOWLING) née AMES (1846–1911).

Although the birth certificate suggests her parents were married, they were not.

Catherine appeared on the 1881 and 1891 census records as Catherine Dowling after her mother married David Dowling in 1878.

The schools she attended were on Berner Street and then the Dalgleish Street school when it opened in 1880. In 1887 she then left to work at the *Bryant and May* match factory in Bow. She worked there alongside her mother, Ann.

In 1895 Catherine became known as Kathleen. She met a young seaman by the name of George **PEARMAIN** and they married the same year. Two sons, George Thomas and Thomas Arthur, were born in 1896 and 1898.

By 1901, Kathleen and her two sons, George and Thomas, were on the census under the surname **HOOD** (which was her husband George's stepfather's surname). She is listed as a fancy box maker at Bryant and May. George snr was not with them but may have been at sea.

A daughter was born in 1902 who they named Kathleen followed by a final son, Robert, in 1905.

Things go quiet until the 1911 census. Kathleen is living with an Alfred **BAKER** in West Ham; they claim to have been married for 17 years and have a four-yearold son named John Alfred Baker. Her children from George are sent to George Pearmain's brother and also to an institute.

Kathleen and Alfred have a daughter born in 1912 who they name Ruth Ellen Lillian; they then have her baptised as Ruth Marion.

In 1914, they move to Bethnal Green and settle at a house on Old Ford Road. They have a daughter Ellen Mary, baptised as Ellen Charlotte. The father, Alfred, is now known as Albert.

Two more sons are born in 1916 and 1918 who they name Walter Albert and Francis Sidney to Kathleen and Walter Albert (who seems to like changing his



Kathleen and George Image courtesy of Kim Thompson

forenames!). I can follow the family through electoral rolls where, eventually, some of the older children begin to appear with them.

Kathleen's spouse, Walter Albert, dies in 1936, and she is named in his will as Kathleen Pearmain.

Her family become fractured and begin to move away. When WWII breaks out, the area she lived in was heavily bombed. Kathleen moves in with her daughter, Ellen, to a house in Windsor.

This is where she remains until her death 12 December 1946. Extra Notes:

I believe Kathleen and George were initially a love match. He was at sea (or in the workhouse) quite often throughout their marriage. He also seemed to have developed an unhealthy obsession with her and had her initials tattooed a few times on his arms as well as other naval tattoos such as clasped hands.

Eventually, after their last child, Robert, was born in 1905, they separated. George was later found dead in the River Lea in 1921; it was deemed suicide. His wrists and ankles were tied with rope and shoelaces and he left an eloquent letter on his person, addressed to his siblings but with no mention of his children. Also, he was barely literate, so I have suspicions!

Kathleen and spouse, 'Alfred', met in 1909. He had a baby son with a young woman named Mary Ann, who was in the match trade like Kathleen. She (Mary Ann) had tried stealing from Alfred so he threw her out. She was never seen or heard from again after she was remanded for it in the summer of 1910.

Kathleen helped to raise the baby, but had to make the decision to send her eldest son to her brother-in-law and placed the younger three in the *East India Docks Institute*. They went on to have four more children, two girls and two boys.

Alfred over the years changed his forenames and age. He kept his birth place the same. It wasn't until I took a DNA test, that it revealed he was really called Albert Walter **BUTCHER** who had been born in 1868. Alfred died in 1936, as Walter Albert Baker aged 65.

Kathleen didn't understand her sons. The youngest, Frank, left home in 1937

against her wishes and joined the army. Her other son with Alfred, Bert, had become a welterweight boxer to earn money. He too left home in 1938. Her two daughters, Ruth and Ellen, married their respective spouses in 1939.

She continued to live at their family home in Old Ford Road throughout the war, surviving the Blitz and up until the Tube Disaster in 1943. Her daughter, Ellen, then requested her to move to her house in Windsor.

Robert, her son from her marriage to George, had been captured at the Fall of Singapore. He was sent to *Sandakan* where he died. Frank, her son from the relationship with Alfred, was captured in 1940 and sent to a Stalag camp. Later he was moved to a farm in Austria and was a labourer.

I have also discovered that Kathleen's father, George, was a second cousin to Reginald Hanson, who was the Lord Mayor of London in 1886. So, whilst Kathleen was starting work as a match girl and in relative poverty, he was having tea with the Queen.

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Female Emigration Society and Ann Chaney in 1850

Sharon Cook No. 14942



Ann Waller Gray 1863 Image courtesy of Sharon Cook

y family have been letter writers and keepers. Some were written by my CHANEY ancestors in the 1850s from Wisconsin to the kin left in London. Thanks to the keeper of the letters, they now reside in the Wisconsin Historical Society archive. And, having spent a day at the London Metropolitan archive last May, I have more insight into the terrible conditions my ancestors left on Green Bank in Wapping.

James Frederick Chaney and his brother-in-law, Fred **JOHNSON**, arrived in New York City in the fall of 1849 with the notion they'd find jobs painting houses, only to learn, painting outside stopped with the cold weather. So, they kept moving West and landed in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. I'll probably never know how they learned of that city. It was new and growing, but 50 miles northwest of Milwaukee and the middle of nowhere.

But they found work painting the inside of a church. Meanwhile, my 2 x greatgrandmother, James Frederick's wife, their four daughters and Fred Johnson's wife were left in London. In a letter, James advised his wife and sister-in-law to seek the assistance of St. George's or St. Luke's and identified specific men to see. To learn more about those parishes, I visited the LMA and was assisted in my quest.

It was heartbreaking to read the vestry minutes of St. George's in the East. At every meeting, one of the vestrymen reported on visiting *the children* and reporting that they were satisfactory. Or during a cholera outbreak, hiring additional doctors and reporting on the number of deaths. Of course, none of the children were identified by name...a sad state to be so anonymous. In those

vestry minutes, it was noted that a Mr QUEKETT received money on a regular basis and, in doing a little googling on my phone while sitting with the Vestry Book, I learned he was the curate of St. George's, and that Charles **DICKENS** had used him as a model for an article in his magazine, '*What a Curate Can Do if He Tries About Poverty*'. In the letter, my 2 x great-grandmother (Ann **WALLER** Johnson Chaney) wrote to her mother (Ann Waller **GRAY** Johnson) about her trip to North America; she speaks of a Mr Quekett paying for the *girl's* passage to Toronto and handing her eight pounds, presumably as payment for being the matron of the group. In further research, I learned that this group of 25 girls was the seventh sent away from London by the Female Emigration Society, founded by Mr Quekett and Sir Sidney **HERBERT**. The first six groups had sailed for Australia, and it was hoped that a shorter journey to Canada would result in faster information about the success of the scheme and could be used in seeking more donations for the enterprise.

In 1852, Dickens again pens a piece for his magazine, recounting the 20th group of women who were leaving for Australia under the auspices of the Female Emigration Society. His article correlates with my 2 x great-grandmother's account of her passage from London, leaving Holborn for the Blackfriars train station, a steamer to Gravesend and boarding a ship for a new life.

So, now the quest is to learn more about the Emigration Society. Dickens reports that Mr. Quekett kept records of each person he helped. Where are they? Where was the home in Holborn where the girls lived before boarding a ship? The home served as a sort of test to see how the girls would survive being on their own. How were the girls selected from the applications I learned they had to submit? Where are those applications? Once on board a ship, each girl was given a blank paper with Sir Sidney's wife's name, and they were to write to her when they got to Australia or Canada. Are those letters hiding in some file? Some of these answers may come from the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre where some of Sir Sidney's papers, and those of his wife's family which was **A'COURT**, are kept.

I wrote about this family in the Summer 2015 edition of the Cockney Ancestor. In that article I note I had just learned about the East of London Family History Society and knew I would find help with my research. And that has proven to be very true. Here's a link to the transcription of the family letters that appeared in a Wisconsin Magazine of History in the 1960s. Since that time, the actual letters are in the archives. Even if you don't have a connection to my family, these letters will give you insights into living in the East of London in the 1840s.

Sources: Wisconsin magazine of history: Volume 47, number 3, spring, 1964 - Wisconsin Magazine of History Archives - Wisconsin Historical Society Online Collections (wisconsinhistory.org)

2974 South Delaware Avenue, Milwaukee W1 53207 USA

Women of the East End (from 2023 AGM Display)

Eliza Carpenter

Marilyn Roberts No. 13251



Eliza Carpenter Image courtesy of Marilyn Roberts

ttached is a photograph of my grandmother Eliza CARPENTER.

She was born Elizabeth Cissie **AYRES** on 9 November 1889 in Ford Street, Old Ford, the eldest child of George & Elizabeth Ayres.

At some point, the family moved to Appian Road, Bow where she continued to live, first at number 14, then number 10, then back again, until the houses were demolished in the 1960s(?), when she, and my maiden aunt who lived with her, were moved to Russia Lane, Bethnal Green where she died in 1979.

May I tell you a little about her and why she was so special to me, and to so many people around her? I

have made a scrapbook about her life, I have found out so much more about her and about the lives that the women, particularly those in the East End, lived.

Being the eldest daughter, it would appear Eliza was expected to stay at home to look after her aging parents, so it wasn't until 11 June 1918 when she was 28, and she was scrubbing the passage floor one day when there was a knock at the door and there stood Charles Carpenter, a young man, a soldier, whom she had known for a long, long time. 'I'm asking you one more time, are we ever going to get married?' he asked her. 'Yes, you know we are', she replied. 'Right, well, get your coat on, I've got the special licence, we are going right now!' And so they did, at St. Pauls in Old Ford, one of the last marriages to be conducted by K.G. **BARRON** at the church before he became an Army Curate in France.

They had a brief few days honeymoon at his sister's house before Charles had to return to his regiment, the Duke of Cornwall's in France.

Charles survived the war but, sadly, not an unexpected illness (Spanish flu?) which took him within hours of him leaving for work at Old Ford Station one morning in December 1928. He was 40-years-old.

Despite the fact that my gran was left with two little girls (my mother was just a few months old and her sister, $2\frac{1}{2}$) my gran never remarried.

She continued looking after her parents, a brother who had returned from the Great War, injured, and who never worked again, and another 'orphaned' young man who was no blood relative at all, all in a tiny terrace house.

Somehow she managed on her small pension and occasional assistance from the likes of the *Great Eastern Railway Old Comrades Association*.

Fortunately she was a good seamstress so was never short of work but (years on) I can also remember her buying leather from Roman Road market and cobbling men's work boots! Many years later, she took off the streets a young woman and her two children – no questions asked. She looked after the children so the woman could find a job and, eventually, rooms of her own (the daughter became my godmother and I was in touch with her until she died in Pietermaritzburg in 1985).

My gran had very little but what she had she was grateful for and was always willing to share it with others. She was a gentle soul and mildly spoken and never did I hear her swear nor say a harsh word of anyone.

Housing was sparse after the war so, when mum and dad married in 1950 they had a room at number 14, which is where I was born in 1951, and then my brother in 1955. Eventually, mum and dad moved to a house in Poplar in 1956 but my childhood was not a happy one and my gran was my refuge, the ever open door where I knew life was constant no matter what, and I shall always be grateful to her for that.

I have few photos of my gran smiling, not that she was a grim person, far from it, just camera shy but the first one, from **GRIFFITH'S** Studios, is probably my favourite, taken on her 70th birthday so please use this one (the others I have used in my scrapbook album to illustrate the papers I found after she had passed away).

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Louise Duval Smith

Mark Carroll No. 10452



Louise Duval Smith Image courtesy of Mark Carroll

Here is a photo of my maternal 2 x great-grandmother, Louise Duval SMITH nee WILLOUGHBY (1851–1895).

By the age of 43 she had had 16 children and so deserves my respect for being a mother under severely deprived circumstances in east London.

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Doreen Betty Dunn Image courtesy of Christine Head

Doreen Betty Dunn

Christine Head No. 11182

y mother – Doreen Betty Dunn, was born in Forest Gate Hospital in 1920. She lived in Ashford Road, East Ham until forced out by the blitz 1940/41.

She served in the WAAF 1941 - 1945 as a driver, mainly of ambulances. She died in 2003.

Email: christinehead289@gmail.com

Elizabeth Mary Ann Ferdinando, nee Clenshaw

Peter Ferdinando No. 7

This photo is of Elizabeth Mary Ann FERDINANDO, nee CLENSHAW, my paternal grandmother.

Born 20 June 1865 at 8 Smart St, Bethnal Green (daughter of Thomas & Elizabeth Clenshaw, both handloom silk weavers at the very end of that industry's decline– within 4 years of her birth her father had become a dock labourer).

Died 7 January 1903 of tuberculosis, age 36, when my father William Frederick was 3-years-old.

In 1881, living with her parents, she was a matchbox maker.

She married Herbert Stephen Ferdinando, my grandfather, at St. Jude, Bethnal Green on 12 July 1886, and went on to have seven children, two of whom died in infancy.

During her married life she shared her husband's boot finishing occupation.



Elizabeth Mary Ann Ferdinando Image courtesy of Peter Ferdinando

Her Clenshaw family, who had been silk weavers for several generations, appear to have been descended from a French Huguenot family, probably named **CLINCHANT**.

The original 80mm x 70mm photo appears to be a tintype (the metal sheet it is printed on is magnetic).

2 Troed-y-Rhiw, Rhiwbina, Cardiff CF14 6UR

Beatrice Howick Cheryl Malone No. 15373



B eatrice HOWICK, my mother, was born in Coventry Street, Bethnal Green on 21 November 1918.

She worked throughout the Blitz at *Eden Fisher Townsend*, Book Binder, Pitfield Street, Hoxton.

This photograph was sent to her husband while he was serving in the Royal Engineers abroad.

He had special leave to marry in 1942 before returning to his duties for the rest of WWII.

Email: cherylwmalone@hotmail.co.uk

Beatrice Howick Image courtesy of Cheryl Malone

Alice May Holford nee Stafford

Peter Holford No. 14359

This is a photo of May HOLFORD (née STAFFORD) (1886–1980). I think this shows her before her marriage in 1911. I have written about her a few times. She was a survivor having been divorced in 1923 and lived a hand to mouth existence before her two children were old enough to right a few wrongs.

She was actually born in Camden but moved to Hackney with her dad and siblings after her mother died in 1901. She was always there, always dependable, always cheerful, a calm and loving presence in my childhood and beyond-a stark contrast to my mum!



Alice May Holford nee Stafford Image courtesy of Peter Holford She was an EastEnder through and through despite her North London roots. She only left when she became unable to live independently. She died in the Isle of Wight.

Email: counthill@aol.com

Margaret Holland Sue Bleazard No. 15518

ttached is a photo of my Mum, Margaret HOLLAND (1919–1987) born in Poplar in October 1919.

The photo shows her in her WRNS uniform after she joined up in 1942 during WWII.

She was posted to Aden, Yemen, where she met my Father, William LOUGHLAN, and they got married in February 1945 at Steamer Point RC Church, Aden.



Margaret Holland Image courtesy of Sue Bleazard

Email: sue bleazard@hotmail.com

Sophia Court Sue Odell No. 5981

am responding to the call for photos of *Women* of the East End, for the AGM. I hope this one is acceptable.

It is of my great grandmother Sophia COURT (1845-1921), a dressmaker.

She was born Sophia **PICKERSGILL** and married William **ODELL**.

They lived in Bow from their marriage in 1863 until his untimely death of pneumonia twenty years later, leaving her with eight children aged between 4 and 19.

She eventually moved out to Essex and remarried in 1893.

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Sophia Court Image courtesy of Sue Odell

Connection to Wanstead

Melissa Ford No. 7658

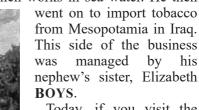


Thomas Finnis, Lord Mayor 1856 Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Thomas Quested FINNIS was born in 1801 at Hythe in Kent, he was baptised at the local church, St. Leonard's 12 February 1801, his parents were Robert and Elizabeth Finnis.

Aged 14, his dad paid £150 for him to do a seven-year apprenticeship to James **SMITH** (bowyer). In 1823 he was admitted to the *Freedom of the Bowyers Company* and by September he was given the Freedom of the City of London.

Thomas married Ann Lydia **WARD** 28 March 1828 at St. Matthews Church in Brixton. He then went on to become a partner in a firm of provision merchants *Finnis & Fisher*. He had a grocers in Tower Street, City of London. He saw the opportunity to expand the business and provide goods for voyages which were started from the nearby docks, like *marine soap* which works in sea water. He then



Today, if you visit the *British Museum*, you can see a set of marbles which was sent to him in 1851 from Nineveh by his nephews. Due to the location of the business in the city he got very involved in civic life. In 1833 he became a common



Park Gates Image courtesy of Melissa Ford



Painting of the Lord Mayor's Parade on the River Thames Image painted by JMW Turner

councillor. So, what is the connection to Wanstead? Well, in 1840/1 he purchased *Park Gates*. This property was on the corner of today's Blakehall Road and Overton Drive. It was the entrance to Wanstead House, which was only demolished 16 years before. So, a prime location.

Park Gates was a sprawling house with gardens big enough to accommodate a boating lake. If you look at the census for this place, Thomas and Ann had many servants, at one point there were eight living in. The couple didn't have any children but were very supportive of his many nieces and nephews. (They were patrons of *Wanstead Infants Orphans Asylum*).

In 1848 he became an Alderman as well as Sheriff and Deputy Governor of the *Irish Society*. It was in 1856 that he became Lord Mayor–this was the last year that the *Lord Mayor's parade* was on the River Thames.

Ann died in November 1861 after a three-day illness; she was buried in the family vault in Hythe. Thomas continued living at *Park Gates* and filled his time with different organisations such as:

Metropolitan Board of Works (1863–1866), Thames Conservancy Board (1872–1883), Treasurer of the Sons of the Clergy (1874–1882), Member of the City Glee Club (he never sang)

Thomas died at *Park Gates* 29 November 1883, he was buried at St. Leonard's, Hythe 6 December 1883. He left everything to his nieces and nephews. Today you will find a memorial on *Prospect House* (the family home) in Hythe to him and his brother John who died in Meerut. *Park Gates* was demolished in 1925.

(Previously published in Newham & Redbridge newsletter no.180)

Email: historymel4@gmail.com

Who Was This Man?

William Pease No. 13526



ho was this man and what office did he hold? I think he may be Charles W. **HOOPER**, born in Mile End Old Town on 23 January 1876.

He died in Stepney on 26 January 1937, age 51.

Charles Hooper was one of the brothers of Louisa Hooper, my wife's maiden grandmother.

The story was that he was the Mayor of East Ham.

However, when I started my family history research some years ago, I contacted the Newham records office and found that there had never been a Mayor of East Ham or West Ham called

Hooper. I made similar enquiries of the other East End successor boroughs and got the same answer.

Does anyone recognise the man or the regalia?

80 Stowe Drive, Southam, Warwickshire CV47 1NP

Recycle your printer cartridges

Recycle4Charity collect used printer cartridges and make a donation to the charity of your choice-preferably the East of London FHS.

Go to *http://www.recycle4charity.co.uk*. On the home screen click on Register Now.

Further down, on the same screen, type the word East in the Choose Your Charity box. A drop down list of charities beginning with the word East will appear. Select East of London FHS–C916.

Check you have selected the correct charity at the top left of the next screen. Add your name and address details so they can send you the envelopes for returning your used ink cartridges.

On the next screen choose envelopes rather than boxes.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND Epson or Kodak cartridges, damaged cartridges, cartridges that have been previously refilled, cartridges that have been labelled for another brand eg. Tesco, PC World or Office Depot, cartridges with labels removed or extra holes (signs that refilling has been attempted).

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For those offering personal or commercial services to members:

Full page£45Half page£30

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Lineage adverts-non-professional: 5p per word,

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A 10% reduction if advert appears in 4 consequitive publications

Email: editor@eolfhs.org.uk or contact: Mrs Vera Bangs 24 Alderney Gardens,Wickford, Essex SS11 7BD

Branch Information

Havering (H): First Saturday of the month at *Trinity Church, Gaynes Road, Upminster, Essex RM14 2YS.* Doors open at 1pm, meeting starts at 2pm.

Newham & Redbridge (NR): Fourth Wednesday of the month at *The Churchill Room, Wanstead Library, Spratt Hall Road, Wanstead, London Ell 2RQ.* Doors open at 7pm, meeting starts at 7.30pm.

Central London (CL): Last Friday of the month at *St. Andrew's, Short Street, Waterloo, SE1 8LJ.* The meeting starts at 5.45pm. The meeting room will be available from 5.30pm.

Diary Dates

Check for updates to the Society's Online News at *www.eolfhs.org.uk/news/* MAY 2024

(H)	4th	100 Years of Public Health 1840–1939	Carol Harris
(NR)	22nd	Putting Your Ancestors on the Map	Dr Nicolas Dixon
(CL)	31st	Treasures from the Privy	Alistair Owens
JUNE 2024			
(H)	1st	Geocoaching	Mike Wade
(NR)	26th	Family History & the Media	Dr Nick Barratt
(CL)	31st	Skegness is so Bracing!	Luci Gosling
JULY 2024			
(H)	6th	The Riddle of Queen Boudica	Andrew Summers
(NR)	24th	Women Police in World War I	Nigel Compton
(CL)	26th	William Shaw Lindsay	Bill Lindsay
AUGUST 2024			
(H)	3rd	Where There's a Will	Ian Waller
(NR)	28th	Members' Evening	
(CL)	30th	An Introduction to the History of Hackney	Sean Gubbins
SEPTEMBER 2024			
(H)	7th	Finding Public Servants	Alan Ruston
(NR)	25th	tba	
(CL)	27th	Difficult Women of Hackney	Sue Doe

Society Information

Surnames of Interest:

Until the Surname Interests position has been filled please follow the instructions set out below:

Members with Internet Access and an email address are encouraged to submit their Surnames of Interest via the Society Website. Members without internet access may send details of their Interests or request a search of the Surnames of Interest to the General Secretary, Janet Seward, at the address on the inside front cover. Please remember to quote your membership number and enclose a stamped self addressed envelope. The same service is available to non-members of the Society.

Contact Email Addresses

Chairman: chairman@eolfhs.org.uk Secretary: society.secretary@eolfhs.org.uk Treasurer: treasurer@eolfhs.org.uk Membership: membership.secretary@eolfhs.org.uk Projects: projects@eolfhs.org.uk Helpdesk: helpdesk@eolfhs.org.uk Editor: editor@eolfhs.org.uk

Enquiries and Correspondence:

In all correspondence with the Society, please quote your membership number. When writing it is essential to enclose a SAE for a reply.

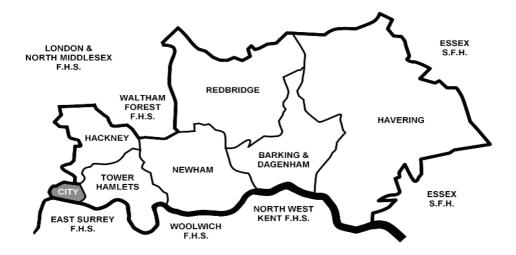
Webmaster: Bill Hughes. Email: webmaster@eolfhs.org.uk

Website: Put *http://www.eolfhs.org.uk* into your browser and add it to your favourites or bookmarks.

Writing for Cockney Ancestor

Il material for inclusion in *Cockney Ancestor* should be sent to the Editor, 24 Alderney Gardens, Wickford, Essex SS11 7BD or email to *editor@eolfhs.org.uk*. Please quote your name and membership number and enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope for any returns.

There is no guarantee that an article will be included in any particular edition. Please do not send any original photographs in case they are lost or damaged. Your article submission will be acknowledged and you will be asked to complete and submit a copyright form.



The Society's area is to the east of the City of London, and it comprises the London Boroughs of Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Newham, Redbridge, Barking & Dagenham, and Havering. A selective list of places within these boroughs is as follows:

Hackney: Clapton, Dalston, Hackney, Haggerston, Hoxton, Kingsland, Shoreditch and Stoke Newington.

Tower Hamlets: Aldgate, Artillery Liberty, Bethnal Green, Bishopsgate, Bow, Bromley-by-Bow, Bromley St. Leonard, St. George in the East, Isle of Dogs, Limehouse, Mile End, Millwall, Old Ford, Norton Folgate, Poplar, Ratcliff, Shadwell, Spitalfields, Stepney, Stratford-le-Bow, Tower Liberty, Wapping and Whitechapel. **Newham:** Beckton, Canning Town, Custom House, East Ham, Forest Gate, Little Ilford, Manor Park, Plaistow, Silvertown, Stratford Langthorne, Upton Park, West Ham and North Woolwich.

Redbridge: Barkingside, Chadwell Heath, Chigwell, Clayhall, Cranbrook, Fairlop, Fullwell Cross, Gants Hill Cross, Goodmayes, Hainault, Ilford, Great Ilford, Little Heath, Newbury Park, Redbridge, Seven Kings, Snaresbrook, South Woodford, Wanstead, Woodford, Woodford Bridge, and Woodford Green.

Barking and Dagenham: Barking, Beacontree, Part of Chadwell Heath, Dagenham East, Dagenham Heathway, Dagenham Village, Rush Green and Upney.

Havering: Chadwell Heath, Collier Row, Corbets Tey, Cranham, Elm Park, Emerson Park, Gidea Park, Havering-atte-Bower, Harold Hill, Harold Wood, Hornchurch, Rainham, Romford, Upminster, and Wennington.

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