

Cockney Ancestor



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Front Cover Illustration

The Front cover illustration shows Frank Orriss in his RAF uniform—see the article on page 3. *Image courtesy of Mark Carroll.*

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Editorial

Depending on when this magazine is published we will either be making plans to attend the next AGM (12 April 2025) or it will be all over. I am hoping to be there – Greater Anglia permitting and hope to meet many of you there.

This year it will be held at the Museum of the Home (previously known as the Geffrye Almshouses) which promises to be a great venue. I visited there on one of Dennis Galvin's famous walks and found it a fascinating look through the way our ancestors lived through the ages. I am excited to be going back to see what changes have been made. Read Melissa's article on page 43 for more information on this interesting venue's history.

As well as Alan McMaster's sad passing (his obituary is on page 21) I have been notified that Reverend Michael Potter has also recently passed away. Michael was a longstanding member of the society and also wrote several articles for early editions of the magazine. Unfortunately I have no details so cannot publish an obituary for him.

We are hoping to see many more of you visiting our website this year. If you haven't already logged in you can request a password from our webmaster. Many of you haven't updated your Members' Interests recently so maybe do that while you are visiting the members' page. There is an online Forum where you can post a query about your research and ask for help. Under the Resources heading you can see information about our branches, cemeteries in the area, see what data sets we hold, details of local archives and local register offices. Under the Search heading you can download many of the datasets that we hold such as baptisms, burials, casualties of WWII and Roman Catholic marriages. You can also download the latest copy of *Cockney Ancestor*. Surname Interests can also be found here.

Thank you to all the authors who answered my plea for more articles, please keep them coming.

Editor

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

Members are:

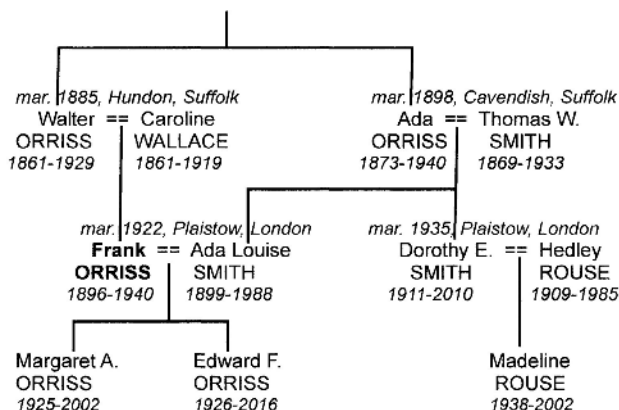
Vera Bangs (layout), Audrey Neal (article preparation), Brian McDonald (grammar and postbox), Peter Holford (proof-reading) and Graham Keeler (photo editor).

Frank Orriss – Barrage Balloons and the Blitz

Mark Carroll No. 10452

I never knew my maternal grandfather, Frank **ORRIS** (1896–1940) – his life was cut cruelly short in the blitz of East London in WWII. He had survived WWI in which he fought with the *London Scottish Regiment* in Egypt and Palestine and, in 1919, he returned to England to live with his father in Haverhill, Suffolk. According to the census of June 1921 he was living then at the home of his paternal aunt and uncle, Thomas William **SMITH** and Ada née Orriss, at 81 Elizabeth Road, Manor Park, East Ham, London E6; he was working as a meat carver in the catering section of the department store, *Jeremiah Rotherham & Co.* at 86 High Street, Shoreditch. But this article concerns his last days and his role during the German bombing campaign of east London in 1940 – the blitz.

FAMILY TREE OF FRANK ORRIS



On 15 April 1922 Frank married his cousin, Ada Louise Smith, in the parish church of Plaistow, East Ham. Initially, in 1924, the newly-weds lived in Chelsea, south-west London, where their children, Margaret Ada and Edward Frank, were born. A photograph (page 28), taken in

about 1929, shows Frank riding a motorcycle with Ada Louise in the side-car with their children. About 1930, Frank and his family moved to Leytonstone in north-east London, initially to 10 Lytton Road but, by 1937, the family were living about a mile away, at 77 The Risings, Walthamstow. However, the family's peaceful existence was about to be rudely shattered by the United Kingdom's declaration of war against Nazi Germany in September 1939.

At the age of 42, Frank was too old to have a fighting role in WWII. Instead, he enlisted in the *Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve* as a corporal (regimental number 846454), and was placed in charge of barrage balloons (*A Flight*, 909



Frank with his barrage balloon unit

Image courtesy of Mark Carroll

Squadron) in the East Ham area. On the front cover of this magazine a photo shows him in RAF uniform and the photo above shows him with some of his pals in front of a lorry towing a barrage balloon; Frank is fourth from the right. The balloons were tethered to the ground with steel cables; the German bombers were thus forced to fly higher than was ideal, thereby reducing the accuracy of their bombing.

Whilst based in East Ham, he was living with his mother-in-law (who was also his paternal aunt) at 81 Elizabeth Road, from where he wrote postcards to his wife describing the devastating effects of the German Luftwaffe's blitz of the East End in the Autumn of 1940.

In one, dated Monday 16 September, he writes: ... *during the heavy raids Sunday afternoon, Elizabeth [Road] was hit & every window is shattered in 81. It fell on that old shop on the corner of Fry Rd. All houses opposite are peppered. There were no casualties. ... We are having lively nights and days now, but all happy—an example of the blitz spirit, perhaps?*

On 13 October 1940 Frank secured an official pass that allowed him some leave for a few days to visit his family at 77 The Risings. He was killed there by a German land-mine that destroyed the family home on the night of Wednesday 16 October 1940. The cause of death was noted as ‘*Due to enemy action*’ and my grandmother’s 1940 diary has a single entry for that day, ‘*Tragedy*’.

Frank’s mother-in-law, Ada Smith, was also killed by the blast, for she did not reach the Anderson shelter in the garden in time. The baby granddaughter she had been holding, Madeline ROUSE, was found later by a policeman, miraculously alive and unharmed.

According to his son, Edward, all the family’s belongings, including Frank’s WWI medals, were lost in the rubble of the house. The family received the standard letter of condolence from King George VI and the name of Ada Smith was recorded in the official list of Civilian War Dead, 1939–1945.

The *Bombsight* website shows the location of all the German bombs that fell on east London during the blitz; one symbol there marks the spot where the land-mine destroyed 77 The Risings in 1940.

Frank and Ada were buried together in her husband’s grave at Manor Park



Cemetery (square 48, grave 411).

As he was a serving member of the armed forces at the time of his death, his final resting place is marked by a *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* headstone.

In his will Frank left a modest £269 1s 11d and his family left behind had to rebuild their lives.

Sources

Birth, Marriage and Death certificates, photographs and documents in the Carroll family collection

Bombsight website: <http://bombsight.org>

Frank and Ada's grave at Manor Park Cemetery
Image courtesy of Mark Carroll

41 Hornbeam Road, Epping, Essex CM16 7JU

Dudley's

Annette Kilbourn No. 14179

There were many department stores that my nan, Emily **RICHARDS** nee **JACKSON** (1905–1982) would have known in Hackney like *Matthew Rose & Sons* in Mare Street and *Henry Spokes* at Lower Clapton Road, but recently when I was at Kingsland Road, Dalston I looked up and spotted the old **DUDLEY'S** store sign.

I was immediately transported back to my childhood and could hear my nan saying how good *Dudley's* was and how nice the guy who owned it was.

The *Dudley's* in question was a large department store in Dalston and the history of the shop is that it was opened in the 1870s at No. 127 by Robert Alexander **DOREE** (1846–1925) as a Linen drapers. Robert also had another store at 28 Chatsworth Road which he acquired in 1883.

From an old advert from 1905, both stores sold curtains and curtain nets, dresses, household linens, calicoes and prints, flannels, flannelettes and blankets, carpets, oilcloths and furnishing drapery, skirts, blouses, hosiery and gloves, haberdashery, trimmings, corsets and underclothing. So, who was the Dudley in the store's title?

The Dudley in question was Robert's brother-in-law, Ziba Dudley (1858–1945), and it was Ziba who my nan described as a nice man. By 1894 Ziba had taken over the linen drapers from Robert.

When Robert retired, he was living in a place that I know very well, Cricketfield Road in Lower Clapton as I grew up nearby (Pic 1).

Ziba was not from the East End as he was born in the village of Long Crendon Buckinghamshire. On 31 March 1885 he married Ellen Doree (1861–1931), Robert's sister, at St. Peter's Church in St. Peter's Street Bethnal Green. Ziba, over time, expanded the linen drapers and eventually took over the whole block with his retail emporium. The department store stretched from 117 to 131 Kingsland High Street and had the phone number Dalston 348 until 1929 when the GPO moved their phone exchange from Dalston to Clissold, so the store's phone number then became Clissold 5846.

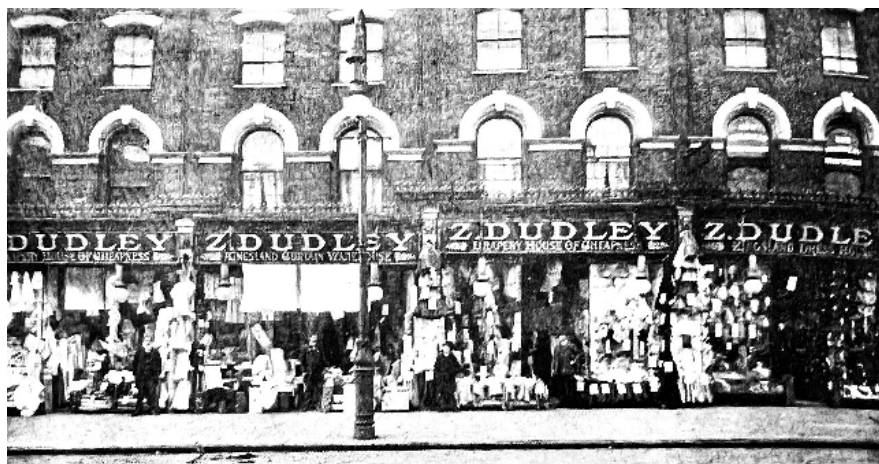
Over the years the store was known as the 'house of cheapness' and then later as 'NE London's leading store' and 'Dalston's Finest Department Store.' It was well known for its household goods and furnishings.

In my family it was where my great-grandma, Florence Jackson nee **LEE** (1882–1933), Nan, Mum, and aunts used to get their lace curtains, which *Dudley's* were famous for round our way.

My nan had an old postcard that belonged to her mum, Florence, and which has 1905 written on the back (Pic 2) which I have added to this article as it shows



Pic 1 One of my Grandad John Charles Tolladay's (1903–1980) old postcards showing Cricketfield Road where Robert Alexander Doree lived.
Image courtesy of Annette Kilbourn



Pic 2 Old postcard dated 1905 showing 121-127 before Ziba had gone on to take over shops 117, 129 and 131
Image courtesy of Annette Kilbourn

what the store looked like then. There was a fair old bit of shoplifting that went on at this store. For example, on 7 June 1889 in the *Hackney Gazette* it was reported that someone stole twenty-four yards of Velveteen.

Also, on 19 February 1909 in two newspapers, the *Islington Gazette* and the *Hornsey Gazette*, it was reported that two women were charged with stealing three calico aprons and two flannelette petticoats total value 7s 7½d (I won't name them in case their descendants don't know about this). Both ladies had been drinking but were not drunk and had been spotted stealing by a little girl called Evelyn **COHEN** aged eleven who lived just over the road from the shop in Sandringham Road. Evelyn went and told the manager what she had seen. On their way to the police station a PC **ELLCOTT** 16JR was handed the three aprons by one of the women who produced them from under her coat and she said 'Here you go guv'nor. I picked them up.' At the *North London Police Court* at 82 Stoke Newington Road N16 on 15 February, the two women were remanded for a week and could have had bail for £20.00 but both went to Holloway Prison. Looking on *Ancestry*, one of the women, a cigar maker from Tilia Road Hackney whose alias was Lillie **HOLT** according to the register of habitual criminals, was jailed for six months for larceny, so I would assume that the other one who was a flower seller received the same sentence.

Ziba, even as a successful businessman, was not above the law as *The Standard* newspaper reported on an incident when Ziba was charged on a warrant for unlawfully allowing two packages and one box to rest on the footway outside *Dudley's* on 9 December 1898. The packages had just been delivered by *Messrs Pickford and Co* but, before there had been a chance to take them in, Police Constable 232 J came along and ordered their removal. Clearly Ziba was his own worst enemy as, instead of just saying they have just been delivered and I was just about to take them in, he said, 'Get about your business; go on the other side of the way and don't come bothering me.' When the constable asked for his name Ziba said 'Get it: I shall not give it to you.' The other side of the way that Ziba referred to had lots of costermongers and hawkers working their pitches.

To make matters worse Ziba failed to appear in court the first time he was asked to and sent one of his managers instead. Once a warrant had been issued Ziba turned up with his solicitor, one C. V. **YOUNG**, who said that 'he was upset that the constable had gone past the hawkers etc and had made a beeline for him and that he had been very busy with his Christmas trade.' The judge, a Mr. **FORDHAM**, wryly said, 'I suppose that making money fast causes irritability, but never having made money fast myself I don't know.'

Ziba and his solicitor thought that he had been punished enough as, when the warrant was issued, he was duly taken away in handcuffs and had been marched through the streets by a constable past the shops of his fellow tradesmen. The judge however said 'Well Dudley, I think you behaved wrongly throughout. I

Z. DUDLEY

FANCY & GENERAL DRAPER
& DRESS WAREHOUSEMAN.

Silk Dresses, Millinery,
Hosiery, Curtains, Family
Mourning, Outfitting,
Underclothing, Furnishing,
&c.

117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129 & 131

High Street, Kingsland,

LONDON, E. 8.

Telephone : No. 348 Dalston.

An advert for the store pre-1927 as the stores phone number was 348 on the Dalston exchange. After this date the phone number was No. 5848 Clissold in the BT telephone directories online.

Image courtesy of Annette Kilbourn

on postcards. Many firms, including Zibas, whose employees would have been affected, also sent in their protests. These bundles of protest postcards and letters were conveyed to David LLOYD GEORGE (1863–1945) at 10 Downing Street (the Prime Minister from 1916–1922). The protest cards and letters arrived in one cab and a deputation including Ziba followed on in another. The ECA achieved a concession to delay the price rise to the 15 August so that the workers could still afford the train fares for their holidays booked for early August. The people whose holidays were booked for after this date would not be penalised either as they could book their tickets in advance if they booked them before the date of the

accepted your apology for not appearing before the warrant was issued. I shall pass over your disrespectful treatment of the court. There was an obstruction and when the policeman called your attention to it you were impudent to him. You will be fined 20s and 4d costs and in default of distress 14 days.'

I wonder what Ziba and the people from those times would have thought about the many obstructions on pavements today.

For all his bluster though Ziba was a kind employer according to my Nan as her Mum (my great-grandmother) knew a couple of people that worked at Dudley's.

Ziba was also a member of the *Early Closing Association (ECA)*. He started out by just being a local Hackney member then eventually become the chairman.

Newspaper articles that I found dated 28 July 1920 in *The Guardian* and the *Nottingham Evening Post* were about a rise in train fares. The train companies were proposing to raise their fares on 5 August by an extra farthing more per mile for third class tickets. August time was when many of the workers took their holidays. The ECA received 437,850 protests from workers about this, mainly

price rise. The ECA, as per the name of the Association, also worked tirelessly to get agreement for all shops to close early on a Wednesday or Thursday afternoon to give their workers a break. My nan said that she remembered being ushered out of *Dudley's* when she was younger when in the store with her mum at about 1pm on a few occasions (think she said it was a Thursday), as it was their early closing day. The ECA were successful in getting this recognised as an Act which was passed by parliament in 1911 and became effective in 1912. This gave the workers their afternoon off on a Wednesday or Thursday.

Ziba also thought of his customers too and the store ran a savings plan for them where they put in a certain amount of money each week and then could either spend this at the store or take it out at Christmas time for presents etc. Away from the store in his home life, Ziba and Ellen went on to have seven children, one of whom, Harold Victor Dudley (1888–1963), also worked at the store.

The family did not live too far away from the store being based at No.20 Clapton Common at Stamford Hill. By 1921 though, the family had moved to Dunottar, Kings Road, Richmond and then by 1933, after his wife's death, Ziba moved again to No.2 Pembroke Villas, The Green, Richmond and today this is a £4 m+ property.

After his wife died Ziba lived alone, well I say alone that is apart from his housekeeper, trainee housekeeper, cook and housemaid according to the 1939 register.

I guess once the department store grew more prosperous Ziba didn't need to be there that often and the store would have had managers there to keep things ticking over like his own son, Harold, and his son-in-law, Victor Lomax **COCKAYNE** (1887–1946), who had married Ziba's daughter, Evelyn Maud, who was known as Queenie (1891–1975).

In the 1930s the store employed around 120 people, and it was during this time that the old Victorian store's facade was modernised. A stepped parapet with the store's name emblazoned on it was added, as was a new clock on the corner of the building and the internal areas of the store were upgraded. This gave the store a more modern look rather than looking like lots of different shops joined together as in the old 1905 postcard.

When *Dudley's* was upgraded it then looked like the department stores that we would know today. They had window dressers who undertook the window displays of clothing shown modelled on mannequins etc which was designed to entice the customers into the store to make a purchase, rather than the store's old fashioned pile all their stock in windows look.

There is a good photo of the store after it was modernised which was taken in 1955 and looks like I remember it in the 70s. This is on *Google* and can be seen by searching for *Dudley's Kingsland High Street* and click on the search engine 'image' tab. Hackney archives also have this photo in their collection. Sadly,

Ziba died 17 July 1945 at Richmond Surrey, and he left a huge sum of money for the time which was £36,905 4s 10d. He left his fortune to his son, Harold Victor Dudley, and son-in-law, Victor Lomax Cockayne: the latter only outlived his father-in-law by a further year.

My Aunt Shirley said she remembers going in the store when she was younger with my nan and said that they used to have one of the old cash carrying systems in there at the time. This was a system that was used to send the customer's cash payments to the cashier's office. How it worked was that after every purchase an assistant would put a purchase bill and the customers money for the item in a small canister/tube which hung on a wire just above their head and pull a lever which would shoot it right across the store to the cashier's office, from where the change would be sent back in the same way. These overhead wire-and-pulley systems were called a *Rapid Wire* system.

I did find something online about this at another department store called **JACKSONS** at Reading on You Tube which had a pneumatic system <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhrSpejKzSY>

Now, whilst I do vaguely remember going in the store with either my mum or nan shopping, I do not really remember seeing this. I only recall seeing this a couple of times in shops when I was growing up, one of which has stuck in my mind was at *Dorothy Perkins* at Tottenham when my sister, Chris, purchased something. I was fascinated to watch the money pod shoot up to the ceiling with a whooshing sound and be carried along on wires where it then disappeared into a small hole in the wall and, as if by magic, another pod would come back again to the shop assistant. I was a little too fascinated though and I had to be dragged out of the store by my mum as I wanted her, my sister or other customers to buy something else so I could see this magical feat again. We did go back there afterwards, but I was told that I had to behave myself. To be fair though I was only about five or six but the memories from there have stayed with me to this day.

Going back to *Dudley's*, my main memories of the store are of a Christmas time. I used to be taken to see Father Christmas at *Selfridges* in Oxford Street, *Dudley's*, and, if we were shopping down that way, the old department store that has long since gone that was at 67-83 Seven Sisters Road, Holloway. When I looked this up, I think it was the *North London Drapery Store* or might have been *B.B. Evans*. I remember that Father Christmas would ride along on a sleigh from *Dudley's* to advertise that he had arrived at the store. He would ride down the High Street to Dalston Junction with a little helper who would ring a bell and Father Christmas would call out the traditional 'ho ho ho.' He would then announce that he had just arrived at *Dudley's*. When finished they would make their way back to the store where Father Christmas would see all the eager children like me and ask the usual 'have you been a good little girl this year' followed on by 'what do you want for



Pic 3 The old store name still stands proud over Ziba's old empire today
Image courtesy of Annette Kilbourn

Christmas little girl?' Of course, I always said that I had been good and then I would wander off happily with some small toy from him and hope that he would deliver my favoured present by the time I woke up on Christmas day

Although the store closed in

1975, which may well have been due to Ziba's daughter, Queenie, dying that same year, it is good that you can still see the old 1930s stepped parapet with the stores name standing out proudly over the parade of small mixed shops that are on the site today.

The store was not to remain empty for long, as *John Webbs Direct* selling warehouse took over trading on the site later in 1975.

To my family though the place no longer had the allure that *Dudley's* had and they look their custom elsewhere.

Email:annetekilbourn@btinternet.com



Pic 4 The old Dudley's clock from the 1930s on the building today which sadly has seen better days and no longer works
Image courtesy of Annette Kilbourn

A Full House

Peter Ferdinando No. 7

A treat that I very much enjoyed when I was growing up in the 1940s and 50s was to take a bus ride from our home in Rush Green with my mother and one or both of my sisters to visit my much-loved Nana, my maternal grandmother, in her terraced house in Essex Road, Manor Park, built in the first few years of the 20th century.

She was Charlotte Annie **SMITH** née **DAVIS** (1883–1964), the only grandparent I had who survived into my lifetime.

She had married William Thomas Smith (1881–1928) in 1903 in Bethnal Green, and they had moved east to the Essex Road house sometime between about 1908 and 1911, when the census shows her living with William Thomas and their two children, my mother Charlotte Kezia (1904–1977), always known as Lottie, and William Joseph (1906–1967), my Uncle Bill, the only uncle I ever really knew.

As an aside I would note that with such different parental surnames as Ferdinando and Smith I really have experienced both extremes of the genealogical research



The Smith House

Image courtesy of Peter Ferdinando

spectrum. On at least one occasion I had the special treat of spending a night in the Essex Road house on my own with Nana, and my memories of the house, confirmed by a description of it in a draft of a letter which I have, written by Uncle Bill to his solicitor following Nana's death in 1964, is of a house with three bedrooms, of which one was a very small box room, and no plumbing upstairs. The bath was in the kitchen downstairs covered by a wooden lid, and the toilet was outside, accessed from the small back garden.

The kitchen and toilet were in a single storey section extending back from the main house, the remainder of the ground floor comprising two rooms, always known as the 'living room' and 'front room.' The latter room was rarely used and contained an upright piano which I never saw anyone play, or recall playing myself, although I had started piano lessons aged five, on a piano which Nana bought for us in 1940 second-hand from her next-door neighbour in Essex Road for £4 (and which I still have).

There was also a spacious cellar, accessed from a door in the living room under the stairs, which had been used to store coal delivered through a cast-iron-lidded hole in the tiny front garden, but which had been used as a photographic dark room by Uncle Bill before he left home. The house is still there, looking much the same from the front as it did seven or eight decades ago, though the lamppost on the pavement outside the house has, not surprisingly, been modernised and now carries parking restriction notices which would certainly not have been required in 1921, nor in the 40s and 50s when I knew the house.

I have often wondered how the house had been modified to suit modern living requirements, and Google Earth appears to show a first-floor extension built over the original single storey section at the back. I would also guess that the modern occupants neither have to go into the garden to get to the toilet, nor have to take a bath in the kitchen!

I only recently looked at the 1921 census for the first time, taking advantage of the weekend of free access in November (my usual *findmypast* subscription didn't extend to the 1921 data), and had no difficulty tracing the Smith family in their Essex Road house. As expected, the family comprised William Thomas and Charlotte Annie Smith and their two children Lottie and Bill, aged 39, 38, 17 and 14, respectively.

William Thomas was recorded as a tea packer with *Messrs G. Payne & Co Ltd* of Tower Street, though he was described as 'out of work' at the time of the census. I have traced the company online and found that their premises in Tooley Street, south of the Thames alongside London Bridge, had suffered a serious fire in 1918, and the company had moved to Croydon in 1920. Whether William Thomas's description as out of work was in any way associated with either of these events or was perhaps connected with the tuberculosis which led to his early death only seven years after the 1921 census, I shall probably never know.

Both Lottie and Bill were employed by the GPO, Lottie as a sorting assistant and Bill as a boy messenger. Apart from William Thomas' employer and the fact that he was not working in 1921, I already knew all of this information from other records. But the first surprise was that there were two additional people in the Smith household. They were two-year-old Herbert William **FERDINANDO**, described as 'foster son' and 'mother dead,' and Herbert Stephen Ferdinando, a 34-year-old widower, described as 'visitor'.

I already knew of these two individuals. Herbert Stephen was my uncle, eldest of the three then-surviving brothers of my father William Frederick Ferdinando, and Herbert William was his son, my cousin. Herbert Stephen's first wife Florence (née **HILLIER**), Herbert William's mother, had died in 1918 of flu (perhaps the 'Spanish' flu epidemic, which killed nearly a quarter of a million people in the UK, and perhaps 50 million worldwide). In 1921 he was serving as a Staff Sergeant in the *Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC)*, the branch of the army in which both he and William Thomas Smith had served throughout the 1914–18 War.

At the time of the 1921 census his base was the Maryhill Barracks in Glasgow, but the explanation for his visit to the Smith household, other than to see his infant son, became clear when I discovered that 20 June 1921, the very day following that of the census, he remarried at the Church of Our Lady, Grove Road, Marylebone to Rachel **CLAERHOUT**, originally from Belgium, and William Thomas Smith was one of the witnesses. Herbert Stephen gave the Essex Road address as his place of residence at the time of the marriage.

He and Rachel went on to have a further five children, of whom two were born in Scotland, though in Edinburgh rather than Glasgow. My Aunt Rachel is the only member of this family that I can recall meeting as a child, and I still remember her very strong Flemish accent.

The Smith and Ferdinando families had been very close for many years prior to 1921, their friendship dating back to their time together in Bethnal Green, and amounting to a great deal more than a simple acquaintanceship, particularly following the deaths of the then five Ferdinando brothers' parents, their mother having died in 1903 and their father in 1912, both from tuberculosis. From that time on the Smiths had effectively provided a home base for all the Ferdinando boys, so Herbert William's presence in the Smith household while his widowed father was away on RAMC duty was perhaps not unexpected. What was less predictable though was his description as the Smith's foster son. I imagine that this was probably an informal arrangement, and perhaps Herbert William returned to the home of his father and his new wife after their marriage the day after the census.

A bigger surprise emerged from the 1921 census while I was scanning through the entire record noting all Ferdinando entries, as I had already done years previously for all the earlier censuses. I found another household living at the

same address in Essex Road as the Smiths, but in an entirely separate entry, with its own schedule number, albeit the next number to that of the Smith's entry. They were George John and Rose Ferdinando and their two children Dorothy Rose and George William, their ages being 31, 26, 3 and (as stated) 4, and again, this was a family familiar to me. George John, another uncle I never met, was the second eldest of the Ferdinando brothers. He had also been in the RAMC throughout the 1914–18 War, but he was now a refiner at the *Thames Board Paper Mills* at Purfleet in Essex. His marriage in 1920 to Rose (formerly **ST PIER** née **OWERS**) had been her second marriage, Dorothy Rose being her daughter from her first marriage. George William had been born to George John and Rose only about four months before the census date, his age being wrongly entered in the census return. Again, I have no recollection of ever meeting any of this family, though I suppose it is possible that I may have done so as a very small child.

So, there were two quite separate households living in the Essex Road house, comprising nine individuals, increased to ten at least on census day, so the house was certainly pretty full.

It is possible that George John and his family were staying in the Smith's house for at most a few days to attend Herbert Stephen's wedding the day after the census, but this seems unlikely, as George John is described as head of the household, rather than as visitor, like his brother, so it seems more probable that this was a longer-term arrangement, with the two families sharing the house.

I would like to have known how the two families shared the limited space and facilities, though in reality, of course, both Smiths and Ferdinando's, are likely to have found the accommodation in Manor Park a good deal more spacious and hygienic than they would have been accustomed to when they were living in Bethnal Green.

George John Ferdinando and his family had certainly moved away from Essex Road by the following year, as their next child Albert Henry was born in Romford in 1922, as were their other three children.

The one Ferdinando most notably missing from Essex Road house in 1921 was my father, William Frederick (known as Will), the youngest of the Ferdinando brothers. The Smith's Manor Park house had been identified as his home address at least since he joined the Merchant Marine still a few days short of his 15th birthday in October 1914. Prior to that he had served about 15 months on the *Metropolitan Asylum Board's* naval training ship *Exmouth*, moored near Grays on the Thames, to which he had been sent from *Leytonstone Schools Childrens' Home*, a vast institution housing up to 600 children and administered by the *Bethnal Green Board of Guardians*, where he had lived for most of the preceding seven years.

A few months before the end of the War, Will had left the *Merchant Marine* and, aged 18, had joined the *Royal Engineers*, serving as a seaman in the Docks

and Waterways Unit on the canals of Belgium and Germany. He was demobilized in 1920 and returned to Essex Road, but a few months later rejoined the armed services, this time in the fledgling *Royal Air Force*.

At the time of the 1921 census he was a 21-year-old AC2 Aero Rigger based at the RAF's *School of Technical Training* at Manston in Kent.

It is interesting to note that some of his colleagues at Manston were identified as 'fabric workers' presumably reflecting the flimsy material of which aircraft bodies were built in those early days of flying. In Will's census entry these colleagues were all male, though it is perhaps likely that a significant proportion of the fabric workers at that time would have been women. Will served for 6½ years, finishing in 1926 as a leading aircraftman working as a rigger on ground maintenance, before moving on to his eventual lifetime employment as a GPO sorter.

His home base continued to be the Smith's Essex Road house effectively until he and the daughter of the family, Lottie, married in 1932 and moved further east to their new home in Rush Green, on the borders of Dagenham and Romford, where they both lived for the rest of their lives, dying in 1961 and 1977 respectively, and where I was born in 1941.

Two other Ferdinando brothers also had significant links with the Smith's Essex Roadhouse. I wrote in CA154 about my Uncle Tom, the third-born of the brothers, who also served in the RAMC, both before and during WWI, and who died in 1913 of tuberculosis.

In Army records in 1911 Tom cited the Smith's house as his residence on temporary transfer to the *Army Reserve*.

Henry John Ferdinando, known as Harry, the second-youngest brother, who had been at the *Leytonstone Schools Home* with Will for several years before leaving in 1911, had also lived with the Smith family in Essex Road for a time. Harry had also been in the RAMC, but at the time of the 1921 census he was in the *Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry* posted to Ireland, and so was very unlikely to have been able to attend his brother Herbert Stephen's wedding the day after census day.

There had been two other Ferdinando siblings, a sixth brother, James William, and a single sister, Elizabeth, but both, of these, had died in infancy in the 1890s and so had no links to the Smith family home.

Meanwhile the house in Essex Road, now about 120 years old, continues to be a home, probably for a family, and I wonder what stories, their descendants will be able to tell, about family life in the house more than a century after the story I have told.

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Matthew Beer, a Man of Business

Peter Cope No. 14117



Matthew Beer
Image courtesy of Peter Cope

Reading Melissa Ford's interesting article about Wanstead (*Cockney Ancestor* No. 184 page 33) brought back memories of my research into my great-grandfather, Matthew **BEER**. Then I read the editor's footnote and recognised the address, Dover Road Wanstead, as his sometime address.

Born in Stepney, (probably at 42 Edward Street), one of twins, in 1854 he was at home in 1861 at 3 Suffolk Street, Poplar. However by 1871, unlike his twin brother Mark, Matthew had left home and was living at 14 Sheridan Street, St. George in the East. The head of household (he was only 17!), he was listed as a colour maker. His life in business had started.

He married Ann **WILLIAMS** at Poplar Parish Church on Christmas Day 1877; no detailed address was given, just Poplar but he was described as a commercial traveller, a description that was repeated in the 1881, 1891 and 1901 censuses.

From information a relative told me some years ago (and other evidence of



**Matthew Beer, his son Frank
and grandson Raymond**
Image courtesy of Peter Cope

which more anon) I believe that this was in the jute and rope trade.

Matthew and Ann set up home at 2 Ferns Road, Stratford where they lived with their growing family (Matthew Albert 1879, Montague Oliphant Alexander 1881, Ethel Caroline 1883, Frank Arthur Raymond 1886, Grace Anne 1889 and Winifred Elizabeth 1891) for the next twenty years.

The 1884 electoral register lists Matthew at No. 2, a freehold property. I am surprised at this as I thought most houses were leasehold. If he did own it business must have been going well, he was just 30-years-old. Whilst this house no longer exists there are some probably similar ones nearby in *The Green*,

Although I knew that

later he had become involved in the building trade I was surprised to find that this was as early as 1879 when the following advertisement appeared in the *East End News & London Shipping Chronicle* of July and August 1879; Stratford Green, Romford road—*For Sale four leasehold eight-roomed house, producing £112 per annum, lowest price, £1,340, lease 99 years, £5 10s. Each house. No letters. Mr Matthew Beer, 2 Ferns Road, Romford Road, E. A 25-year-old*

The family moved to *Pendennis*, Harpenden Road, Wanstead (later electoral registers reveal this to be No. 6 probably) after 1901 and before 1904 when tragically in February Ann died. Matthew, now described as a rope merchant, registered the death.

My grandmother, his eldest daughter Ethel, was twenty and must, I think, have stepped into her mother's shoes to run the house. Certainly, family lore says that Matthew, apparently a strict Victorian was, to put it mildly, not at all happy about



Matthew Beer at his granddaughter Kathleen Marjorie Beer's wedding to Bill Piggott, Ilford Parish Church
Image courtesy of Peter Cope

her meeting and marrying my grandfather (George James COPE) in 1905 as, of course, this meant that he lost his housekeeper! Reputedly on the wedding day he locked my grandmother in the house and went out taking the key with him. Her young brother Frank came to the rescue and the wedding went ahead, fortunately for me!

A few years ago, I bought an excellent booklet from Wanstead Library; *100 Year of Suburbia—The Aldersbrook Estate in Wanstead*. This describes the development of the estate and crucially lists some of the builders of individual houses. This lists Matthew and his eldest son, Matthew Albert, as the builders of Nos. 13 and 15 Harpenden Road. I am sure they were responsible for other houses as I was told many years ago that it was Frank the youngest son's job as a lad to go around the tenants to collect the rent.

Now we come to Dover Road. In November 1906 Matthew married a widow, Emily Stevens **MARTIN** (nee **PEARSON**) of *Lyndale*, Dover Road, Wanstead, the same road in which your editor lived. Emily's father, William Pearson, was a builder so it is possible that Matthew knew her through the building connection.

Matthew, now describing himself as a hardware merchant, moved in with Emily, the 1911 census revealing *Lyndale* to be No. 16 and that there was a live-in domestic servant, Florence **FORD**. This second marriage wasn't a success and

they separated shortly afterwards although they may have continued to see each other as they both retired to Bournemouth. Matthew moved back to 6 Harpenden Road where in 1921 he was living with just his youngest daughter.

His jute and rope business had developed alongside his building interests as he had for many years electoral rights from premises at 11 Leman Street off Whitechapel Road; *Matthew Beer and Co. Rope Manufacturers*.

If any members know more about what this would have involved, I would be pleased to hear from them.

By 1930 he had retired to Boscombe, living at 26 Poole Road Westbourne and by 1939 had moved to 14 Boscombe Spa Road which appears to have been a boarding house, where he was listed as a widower in the 1939 Register. He was one of eleven residents, mostly retired and clearly of some means. This was still his home address when he died at Strathallen Convalescent Home, Boscombe in April 1940.

I find it fascinating to see how some people show a particular skill from a very young age. In Matthew's case it was the ability to make money from two trades, jute & rope and building, a skill apparently not present in his siblings who all had more usual largely employed roles in life.

When he died he left over £10,000, a considerable sum at the time; whatever failings he may have had as a family man (and who are we to judge over 100 years later) clearly, he was highly successful in his business career.

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Obituary



Alan McMasters (1957–2025)

Melissa Ford No. 7658

It is with great sadness that I must write this. Not sure when Alan joined this society, but it was in the early days as his membership number was 2602. So I would say mid-1980s.

Alan, along with the late George Smith, were the first people that I met when walking through the doors of Barking Library back in 1999 to attend my first Barking & Dagenham branch meeting.

They were both so welcoming that 26 years later I am still part of this

organisation. Alan, I believe, was born at Upney Hospital; he was born with a cleft lip and palate, along with other issues. For many years he was under Great Ormond Street Hospital. In his family history records he had all his records including the notes that the surgeon had made against him. He grew up living at the newly built Sebastian Court near Upney Station, before the family moved to Lambourne Road, Barking.

Alan worked all his working life for Barking & Dagenham Council in the Road Sweeper Division.

Again, in his family history files, he had pictures of him driving the newly acquired Ride-on sweepers that the local authority had purchased. All this was recorded and was in the local newspaper.

For many years Alan was a valued committee member of the Barking & Dagenham branch; he also attended any other branch meetings that he could.

He would also have been seen helping Richard Chapman on the society book stall. When I took over the bookstall for the society, he was so helpful we would attend many history fairs together and I really got to know him.

On a sad note, when Alan's mum died his family history paperwork was burnt and he lost everything. He was very upset, more so about the paperwork he couldn't replace like the Great Ormond Street Hospital documents.

He moved to Dagenham and he spent his retirement getting all his family history together for a second time.

If he wasn't attending a history meeting or event you would find him at the archives/local study centre at Valance House doing his family history.

For the last few years Alan would miss branch meetings during the winter months. He did suffer with his chest. But we would always be on the other end of the phone.

When I moved to Norfolk in 2021, we would still have a good natter on the phone, and I always enjoyed getting little bits and pieces of history stuff in the post from him.

Alan hadn't been seen since October 2024. By December the worry set in and several of us tried to contact him without success.

We do not know the full facts, but we understand that Alan passed away on the 1 January 2025.

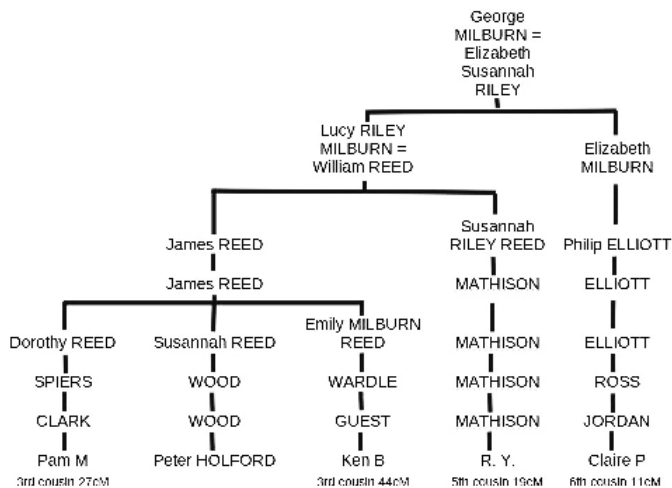
Alan will be greatly missed by many of us. RIP Alan.

Email: helpdesk@eolfhs.org.uk

Er No, Not Really

Peter Holford No. 14359

Last year I was emailed by Claire who wanted to explore our family relationship after we were matched by DNA. Although she now lives in the USA, she was born in Westminster, London in 1956. I was born in Lambeth a few years earlier. And so, we worked out that our birth places were no



Milburn/Reed DNA connection chart
Image courtesy of Peter Holford

more than half a mile apart on either side of the Houses of Parliament.

It looks like it's a simple matter of tracing back a generation or two to find our common ancestors. But a close look at the facts revealed by the match suggest a more complex story.

The first problem is that Claire is linked to me on my mum's side. But it was my Dad who was the Londoner. My mum was from Yorkshire. Secondly the link isn't a strong one being just one strand of DNA with a length of 11cM (centiMorgans) which says 'distant cousin'.

The amount of shared DNA can be very predictive of how close the relationship



St Katherine's church

Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

might be. A match showing 500cM or more shared DNA suggests a first cousin or closer. Beyond that there is far less of a correlation but 11cM is likely to be no closer than 3rd cousin and probably remoter than that.

Fortunately, we both have well researched family trees and *Ancestry's Thrulines* clearly showed the relationship. Our common ancestors are George **MILBURN** (born 1749) and Elizabeth Susannah **RILEY** (born 1748). They are our 5 x great-grandparents.

This chart (on the first page) is based on the information in *Ancestry Thrulines* which shows I have DNA matches to Claire and three other cousins. The figures at the bottom show how much DNA I share with each person. Claire is my 6th cousin!

Back to our common ancestors, George Milburn and Elizabeth Riley. George was a native of Morpeth which lies to the north of Hadrian's Wall whereas Elizabeth was from Marylebone, Middlesex. They married in St. James, Clerkenwell in 1773.

Their first daughter, Lucy Riley Milburn, was baptised at St. Katharine by the Tower in 1774. The third daughter, Susannah Riley Milburn, was baptised at Morpeth just two years later. There were other children and they were all born in



Morpeth Market mid 19th century
Image copyright free

Morpeth. This raises the question of what was George Milburn doing in London. In the age before the railways and steam ships a journey from Morpeth to London (300 miles) was a serious endeavour costing more money than most people could afford. The answer has to lie in trade and business. Fortunately, the marriage bond drawn up in 1773 gives this information, ‘George Milburn, bachelor, of the Parish of St. Katharine in the county of Middlesex, fellmonger’. A *fellmonger* was a dealer in hides (fells) or sheepskins who also separated the wool from the pelts. He might also prepare skins for tanning.

George’s home of Morpeth is an ancient market town, one of the main markets in Northern England. By the mid-18th century it was the location of one of the key cattle markets in England, selling cattle driven by drovers over the border from Scotland. In 1801 it had a population of about 4,000 (14,000 in 2021) but important enough to be the county town of Northumberland. So, Morpeth was a major livestock market and London was an obvious destination for those hides. Famously there was extensive trade down the East Coast taking coal from Newcastle to London. Other products would have taken the same route, feeding the huge market of London.

St. Katharine by the Tower, where George was a parishioner, lay just beyond the

city boundary and adjacent to the river between the Tower and Wapping. It was a major quayside where goods were imported especially from abroad because of restrictions on foreigners being allowed to access the Pool of London upstream from the Tower.

It is an obvious location for a Geordie fellmonger to conduct business. The area to the north in Whitechapel had a concentration of industry, especially shoe makers. No doubt George knew his market and knew who his customers were. St. Katharine's church was established in the 12th century under royal patronage but demolished in 1825 together with the adjoining hospital and about 1,250 houses in order to construct the docks that took the name of the church.

It seems that the Milburns moved easily between Northumberland and London. Lucy Riley Milburn married William **REED** in Morpeth in 1790. But, two years later, they were living in Staines, Middlesex. William died just nine years later and Lucy had four of her children baptised (aged between two months and five years) in Staines on the same day, 6 October 1799, shortly after her husband's death. For whatever reason the children hadn't been baptised it seems there was a need to get the deed done before setting off for home. Immediately after the baptisms Lucy returned to Morpeth and, in 1801, she remarried and had three further children.

From this point on Lucy and her children stayed in Northumberland. They were a middle-class family with the eldest son, Thomas, pursuing the profession of maths teacher in the 1851 census.

Very conveniently the family had a tendency to use surnames as given names—an absolute godsend to family historians (see chart). And so, a great-granddaughter of William Reed and Lucy Riley Milburn was christened Emily Milburn Reed. This was the first use of the name Milburn in this line of the family tree for three generations, proof of the persistence of oral history in the family.

As evidence of their progress in social advancement, Emily married John Richard **WARDLE** in 1873. They may have been residents of suburbs of Newcastle but they married at St. Olave's in Southwark (*CA152*). John went on to become the company secretary of *Lever Brothers* (later *Unilever*) and the family lived in Worsley, Salford.

With George Milburn and Elizabeth Susannah Riley being our common ancestors, Claire and I are separated by seven generations and are 6th cousins.

She is descended from Elizabeth Milburn, the second daughter of George and Elizabeth. I am descended from Lucy Riley Milburn and William Reed.

Claire's lineage stayed in the North East for the next four generations, with both her parents being Geordies. However, she says they met in London. My Geordie ancestry is further back with my great-grandmother, Susannah Reed, being from Chester-le-Street. (Susannah is a recurring name in this family—another golden nugget for the family historian!) My grandfather (Susannah's son) may have been

born in Newcastle but he moved from there when he was very young and was an accidental Geordie by birth. He considered himself to be a true Yorkshireman.

Again, it was a very mobile family with my great-grandfather, Francis Houlton **WOOD (HOULTON)**— another old surname being used!), was an engineer who constructed steam engines and moved around the country.

His brother, Richard Houlton Wood, was doing the same but as an engineer for the *Singer Sewing Machine Co.* The children of these two brothers were born in Newcastle, Liverpool, Eccles, York, Peterborough, Forest Gate, Edmonton and Middlesbrough. So, what did Claire and I deduce from this discovery.

Firstly, it validated some research that I had thought was very tenuous and not quite proven. It confirms who our 5x great-grandparents are and all the subsequent generations. This is very significant for me as the records for my Reed ancestors can seem very elusive with missing baptisms and death records as recently as the 1860s.

One other DNA match in the chart links back to my 4 x great-grandparents, William Reed and Lucy Riley Milburn, while the other two are a generation closer. Once again it shows the value of fully researched family trees as a basis on which to find DNA matches—the DNA alone cannot do it.

Lastly, I never fail to be surprised how much movement of people there was in previous centuries including before the age of mechanised transport.

As the Industrial Revolution gathered pace, there was a growing transportation of goods and therefore a migration of people. The merchants and the developing middle classes frequently moved for work, trade and increasingly for pleasure.

The comparison with my Suffolk ancestors, all of them agricultural workers, couldn't be more pronounced. From census to census they can be found in the same group of villages, with local East Anglian surnames such as **IFE**, **WOOLNOUGH** and **RICHES**, tied to the land in a very static way of life. Until economic forces made them move as well!

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Hackney History Festival

After the success of the inaugural festival last year, the programme and tickets for this May's event have now been released. For more information email hackneyhistoryfestival@gmail.com

Our Cockne



This photograph was sent in by Mark Carroll (10452) and was with Ada Louise in the side-car with their children. You can

y Ancestors



s taken in about 1929. It shows Frank Orriss riding a motorcycle
read about Frank Orriss and his barrage balloons on page 3.



Post Box

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

☰ Dear Members of the East of London Family History Society

My name is Alexander Daar (alexanderdaar@aol.com), and I am reaching out to you to seek assistance in my long-standing search for traces of my ancestors in London. Despite my intensive efforts, I have unfortunately not been successful so far. In 1766, my family emigrated to Russia from England, accompanied by other relatives, including the sister of my ancestor's wife. They moved there at the invitation of Empress Catherine II and settled in a colony established by European settlers. This information comes from the ship manifests documenting their arrival in Russia on 25 July 1766 as well as the colonist census dated 15 June 1767. Since these records were transcribed by Russian officials based on oral statements from the colonists, recorded phonetically in Russian, there may be inaccuracies in the spelling of names and abbreviations of place names.

My ancestor's name was Nikolaus (Nicholas) Iösef (Joseph) **DAR**. His surname may also have been recorded as **DARR**, **ARE**, **ARR**, **TOR**, or something similar. He was born around 1734 and was a master in gold embroidery. His wife, Anna (Ann) Krestina (Chrestina), was born around 1731. Their daughter, Marianna (Mary Ann), was born around 1762. Nicholas' wife's sister, Katharina (Catherine) **GULDRINGA** (possibly **GOULDER** or **GOLDRING**), was born either in 1716 or 1721, depending on the source. It is unclear whether this was her maiden name or if she was a widow at the time. The Dar family, as well as likely the family of his wife, originated from the city of Natinka (possibly Nottingham or Notting Hill) in England. Their religious affiliation was Roman Catholic, likely due to the absence of an Anglican church in the colonies.

At that time, Count **MUSIN-PUCHKIN**, the Russian ambassador in London, was tasked with recruiting settlers.

During my research, I came across the *Search Query/FreeREG* website.

There, I found references suggesting that families with the surnames Dar, Dare, and Goulding were residents of London during the relevant period:

- Robert Dar was buried on 13 July 1773, in London (City) Farringdon: St. Andrew Holborn.
- William Goulding was buried on 26 March 1779, also in London (City) Farringdon: St. Andrew Holborn.
- Ann **BOWLES** and Nicholas Dare were married on May 18, 1653, in London (City) Tower: St. Olave, as well as in other churches such as St. Helen, St. Benet, St. Peter, St. Paul, St. Michael, and St. Margaret Moses....

Despite these findings, I have not yet been able to establish a direct connection to my family. It is possible that other relevant records or sources exist that I am not aware of, such as emigration permits, legal documents, or other archives. Since my efforts so far have been unsuccessful, I am asking if members of the *East of London Family History Society* could help uncover new insights about my ancestors. Perhaps some relatives still living in the region could assist me. I would also be very grateful if you could publish my letter in your quarterly journal. Perhaps someone is familiar with my family's history and could help with my search. My greatest wish is to find the former residence of my ancestors and, after all these years, to visit the place of our origins. It would be a special honor for me to visit my ancestors' graves and establish a deeper connection to my roots.

☐ Kevin David (kevin.david@btinternet.com) is assisting the *Stairway to Heaven Memorial* to find the resting place of the 173 victims of the *Bethnal Green Tube Disaster*, 3 March 1943. They have the final victim, Arthur Theodore **SHEPHERD** (aged 42) to find.

A tree on *Ancestry* shows that Arthur had a daughter Elizabeth F. Shepherd in 1925 and his wife was Elizabeth M. Shepherd nee **OVERY**. Unfortunately Kevin cannot contact whoever put the tree on *Ancestry*. His daughter, Elizabeth F. **BROOKS** nee Shepherd died in 2003 in Newcastle under Lyme he cannot find the wife's death.

He hopes that someone related to Arthur will read this and shed some light on where his final resting place is.

CHARLES GARMONSWAY

Jeffrey Cousins No. 4895

Charles GARMONSWAY has long been a favourite ancestor—simply because I like the sound of the name! He was born in 1799 and baptised at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate. His parents were John Garmonsway and Rosanna Jane née WILLSON, who had married in 1793 at St. Botolph's.

Charles' parents—John had been baptised in 1770 at Yarm in North Yorkshire, the son of Isaac and probably Ann née SMITH. Yarm was a small port on the River Tees, but was being supplanted by Stockton, which in turn was supplanted by Middlesbrough. There is a local expression 'Yarm was, Stockton is, and Middlesbrough will be'. There is a fancy Garmonsway tomb in Yarm churchyard, though that does not belong to the Yarm Garmonsways but to the Garmonsways of Haughton le Skerne, Darlington. I had assumed that the family originated in the hamlet of Garmonsway in south-east County Durham, but *WikiTree* has a long line of ancestors (mostly Edward Garmonsways) going back to the early 17th century in the Malton area of North Yorkshire, so maybe the hamlet was named after the family. (Beware though that much on *WikiTree* is inaccurate). Rosanna Jane was a local girl born in 1765 and baptised at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, the daughter of John and Grace Wilhelmina. The family were recorded at New Inn Street in 1807, 1809 and 1813. In 1837 John and Rosanna Jane were removed from Islington to Shoreditch and both put into *Shoreditch* workhouse; John died shortly afterwards and was buried at St. Leonard's; Rosanna Jane, still in the workhouse, died in 1840.

Charles and his wife—He married Sarah Ann WENT in 1821 at St. Dunstan's, Stepney. She claimed to have been born in Mile End New Town in 1799 but I haven't been able to find out anything about her background. Most of the Went families came from villages around Colchester. Charles was mostly recorded as a clockmaker though sometimes as a watch maker. Clockmakers were regarded as some of the most respectable of artisans. Sadly, there are no known surviving examples of his work (I did ask at the *Clockmakers' Museum* when it was still situated at the Guildhall). The family was at Hoxton Market in 1822, Holywell Lane in 1823 and 1833, and Queen Street, Hoxton in 1826. The Hoxton area was very run down when I started researching my family history over 30-years-go but now it is quite fashionable.

Charles was a witness at the Old Bailey in 1828 as he had been a 'have-a-go-hero' having chased and caught a thief on the Commercial Road and delivered the culprit to a Police Constable. The accused, 16-year-old John ATRIDGE, had stolen a bundle of clothes worth 2s 1d, for which he was sentenced to death, though mercy was recommended as it was his first offence. It is curious that

Charles' evidence mentions prostitutes and hustlers on the Commercial Road in a very matter-of-fact way; it implies that they were regarded as just a normal part of street life.

By 1836 the family had moved to Bethnal Green. Trade directories list Charles at 1 Hare Street in 1836–45, 52 Sclater Street in 1852–67 and 105 Sclater Street in 1871–75. The 1841 census lists the family at Hare Street (by Church Row?), the 1851 census at 52 Sclater Street, the 1861 census is lost for Sclater Street above No.38, and the 1871 census has them at 105 Sclater Street. Hare Street was the western half of what is now Cheshire Street, and Church Row is now St. Matthew's Row. Most of Sclater Street remains, though the western end has been absorbed into Bethnal Green Road (so the numbers no longer begin at 1). Sclater Street was a classic East End street: a pub on every corner, one of the first eel, pie and mash shops, and a crowded bird market (the Huguenots having introduced the custom of keeping caged birds). No. 52 was probably one of the houses on the south side of Sclater Street that were demolished when the railway viaduct was widened. Demolishing houses to drive railway viaducts through the streets of inner London was 'sold' as a virtue by the railway companies as being a form of slum clearance, but the reality was that it just made the neighbouring streets even more overcrowded. Next to No. 105 is a 'cartouche' on the wall saying, "This is Sclater Street 1778". 1 Hare Street was on the east side of Brick Lane and 105 Sclater Street on the west, so Charles hadn't actually moved much more than across the main road. Both premises are now shops selling 'retro' clothes.

In 1841 Charles was a church clock maker, presumably working on the clock of nearby St. Matthew's, but unfortunately that church burnt down in 1859, destroying its once famous bells.

Charles used to fish in a river near Walthamstow (presumably the Lea) until it was poisoned by factory waste (grandson Alfred writing in 1934).

Charles and Sarah Ann were at 34 Chilton Street when she died in 1876, aged 77. Sarah Ann was the penultimate burial in Victoria Park Cemetery. This was not in Victoria Park, but on the north side of the railway in Globe Town. The cemetery, which had never been consecrated, then degenerated into a gambling den for ruffians.

Reginald **BRABAZON**, later the Earl of Meath, founded the *Metropolitan Public Gardens Association* in 1882 and in 1894 the cemetery was converted into a public garden, named *Meath Gardens* after him.

The only reminder that it was once a cemetery is 'V. P. C. 1845' painted over the western gateway from Usk Road. In 1880 Charles, aged 80, was removed from Bethnal Green, though in 1881 he was admitted (from 4 Barnsley Street) to *Bethnal Green* workhouse where he died in 1886. It is disappointing that John, Rosanna Jane, and Charles ended their days in the workhouse rather than being looked after by their family, but life was so much tougher then.

Charles' siblings—Charles had elder brothers Francis 1794–1813, John born in 1796 and Richard in 1797, and younger siblings Grace 1801–42, Thomas Richard 1803–?19, Michael 1807–08 and Edward Walls/Watts 1809–75, all baptised at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate except for the last who were baptised at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch.

John may be the John Garmonsway, clockmaker, who was tried for murder at Warwick in 1832. He had long suffered from paranoid delusions that his colleagues were damaging his work and his clothes, and had stabbed one of them to death. He had previously attempted to murder his father, forcing his parents to flee from London to Leicester, and John to move from London to Birmingham in order, to find new work. John was acquitted on the grounds of insanity and confined. An unnamed brother was said to have died insane a decade before.

Edward Walls/Watts served in the army, travelling all over the world given by his children's births in Ireland, Jamaica, India, Canada, and finally New Zealand where he died. He had married Letitia **KING** in 1831 at Limerick. His son John Henry was said to have been the first baker in Auckland, and son Edward ('Ned') Watts fought in the Māori wars.

Charles' children

Charles had children Francis Samuel 1822–95, Charles William 1823–89, Priscilla 1825–1911, Jane born in about 1832, and twins Alice and Sarah Ann born in 1833, all but Jane baptised at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch. The boys both became clockmakers like their father. Francis Samuel married Mary Ann **CLEMENTS** in 1844 at St. Dunstan's, Stepney. Charles William married Hannah Sarah **PRUDENT**, also in 1844 (on Christmas Day) at St. Dunstan's, Stepney.

I am descended from Priscilla who married Richard Joseph **FURBY** (1825–80) in 1846 at St. Dunstan's, Stepney. In 1851 they were living with her parents. The Furby family have a strong, but unproven, tradition of having come from France. Richard Joseph was a cigar maker but one-of his sisters-in-law Ann Maria may have been from the famous **THWAITE** church clock making family of Clerkenwell. Thwaite's made the clock at my local church in Ewell in 1799 and are still trading from the East Sussex coast (though I wouldn't recommend them).

Sarah Ann married John **PRICE** in 1852 at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, and they were two of the founders of the *Bethnal Green Christian Mission* at 34 Sclater Street. This was somewhere near the current junction with Bethnal Green Road—the remaining even numbers are on the south side, but an account at the time placed the Mission on the north side. Whichever it was, it was destroyed by bombing in WWII. After the Mission's (not totally amicable) takeover by William **BOOTH**, it evolved into the *Salvation Army*, in which Sarah Ann, John and their daughter Priscilla continued to serve.

26 Poole Road, West Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT19 9SH

My Family and their Pubs Part I

Peter Holford No. 14359

My grandparents didn't do pubs. They were upright, respectable, provincial middle-class people who grew up in Victorian times and thought that going to pubs was akin to consorting with the Devil. And, of course, they were God-fearing church goers.

For my grandmother it wasn't enough to pray once on Sundays. After a standard morning service in her local C of E she would take herself off to another religious establishment, the Catholic Apostolic Church, in the afternoon to pray some more. But this was my mum's family and they were solid Yorkshire folk from Hull.

This doesn't mean that they were anti-alcohol. They would have a pale ale and a sherry at the cricket club with the other members and the same again was permitted at Christmas (pictured right at the cricket club without alcohol!). Just to clarify one point—contrary to many Southern misconceptions there have always been some middle-class people living in Hull, admittedly usually on the periphery.

One story told by my mother was the procedure for catching the ferry across the Humber to visit relatives in Lincolnshire. This entailed walking through the docks past pubs frequented by sailors and dockworkers. The instructions were clear, 'Keep together, look straight ahead, don't dawdle and definitely don't talk to anyone.' Mum and her four sisters did as they were told, although I'm not sure about the eldest one, Eve—she was a rebel and found it very easy to shock her parents.

George HOLFORD and the Duke of Devonshire

My Dad's family was the complete opposite, running pubs, frequenting pubs and



**Lillian and Ernie Wood
at the cricket club**
Image courtesy of Peter Holford



Darnley Road

Image courtesy of Peter Holford

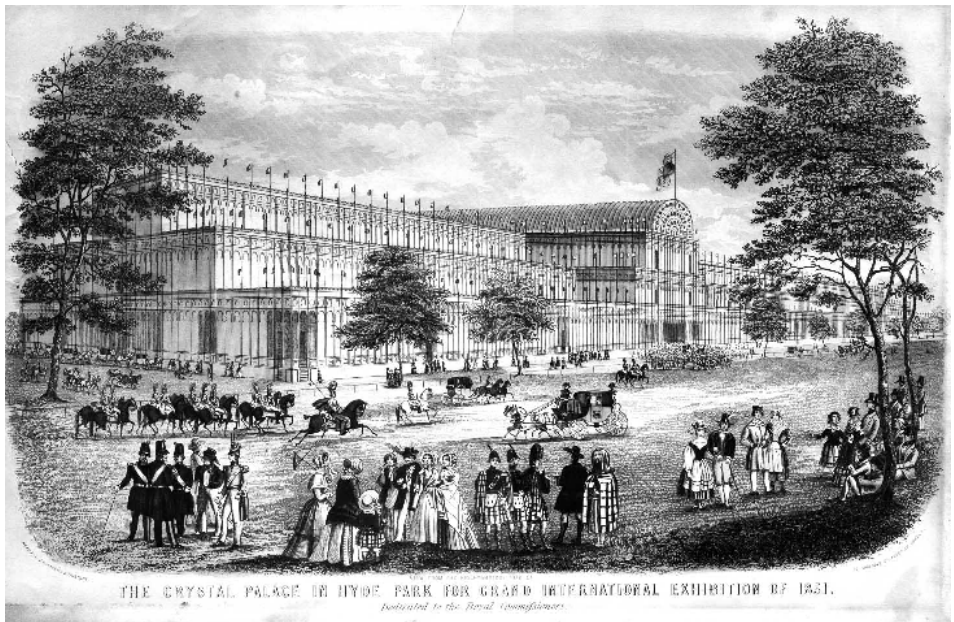
socialising in pubs. Dad was even born in a pub, the *Palmerston* on Well Street, Hackney. The first in the family to run a pub was George Holford (1869 – 1928). He was my great-uncle, my grandad's brother. Needless, to say, I never knew him, –I'm not that old!

In 1901 he was living back at home with his mum and four of his younger siblings on Darnley Road. He had been widowed. Also in the house was his daughter, Aphrah Matilda Holford. George was a piano maker and had married Aphrah Matilda **WELSMAN** in 1892. She died three years later at the age of 25. It looks like a bad situation for a young man who was still in his early thirties. There is another story that has been passed on by my dad that suggests it was even more difficult for George. Apparently, his



The Duke of Devonshire

Image courtesy of Peter Holford



Crystal Palace
Image courtesy of Peter Holford

daughter Aphrah, who was known as Dolly, was a ‘cripple’ after a childhood accident where she fell off the sewing machine. He knew no further details.

If that was so it suggests that George needed the help of his mother and family to cope as a single parent family. But he evidently didn’t wallow in self-pity. George had an entrepreneurial streak and piano making wasn’t going to be his long-term calling. At the other end of the terrace, at 72 Darnley Road (the family lived at 44), was a pub; the *Duke of Devonshire*. In August 1908, according to the *Shoreditch Observer*, George took over the licence and then ran it for twenty years until his death in 1928 at the age of 58.

The picture of Darnley Road, taken with a zoom lens (April 2023), shows the *Devonshire* on the right-hand side, to the left of the modern extension with the long window, while number 44 is the house at the far end of the terrace.

Why would a pub built in the 1860s be named after a member of the landed aristocracy? Establishments that brewed and sold beer had had to be named and bear a recognisable sign or face forfeiture of their beer. This law was introduced by Richard II in 1393 and, in an age of illiteracy, signs were pictorial and were unambiguous in what they showed; the *Bush*, the *Star*, the *White Horse*, and the *White Hart*; the latter was Richard’s emblem. Displaying that symbol showed a



**Joe Childs, George Holford, Anon, Ernest Holford
at the Land's End Hotel**
Image courtesy of Peter Holford

loyal subject owned the inn.

Trends in naming pubs followed societal changes with religious names such as the *Cross Keys* gaining favour in a God-fearing country which then gave way to names that showed support for the Tudor monarchy in its disputes with Rome; the *Kings Head* and the *Rose & Crown*. By the 19th century the British Empire was in its ascendancy and London was growing and prosperous for many. Pubs were now named after new technology and new activities; the *Railway*, the *Cricketers*, and after famous people.

In Ashton-under-Lyne a pub was renamed the *Pitt* and

Nelson in 1808 shortly after the death of those two national heroes.

Landed aristocracy tended to be used for pub names in areas where they held much land or contributed to a local [vestry](#) or other charity. The Duke of Devonshire had his estate at Chatsworth, Derbyshire and held land in Chiswick, London. There you can find the *Cavendish Arms* (Cavendish being the family name) and the titular *Devonshire Arms*.

In Hackney the pub was called the *Duke of Devonshire*. The website, *British History Online*, tells how the area to the west of Mare Street (the location of the *Duke of Devonshire* pub) was an area of market gardens in the 18th century. The **BUSCH** family originated from Hanover and, over various generations, developed their horticultural business. By 1777 they had opened a shop at the corner of London Lane and Mare Street. Under another generation the firm became noted

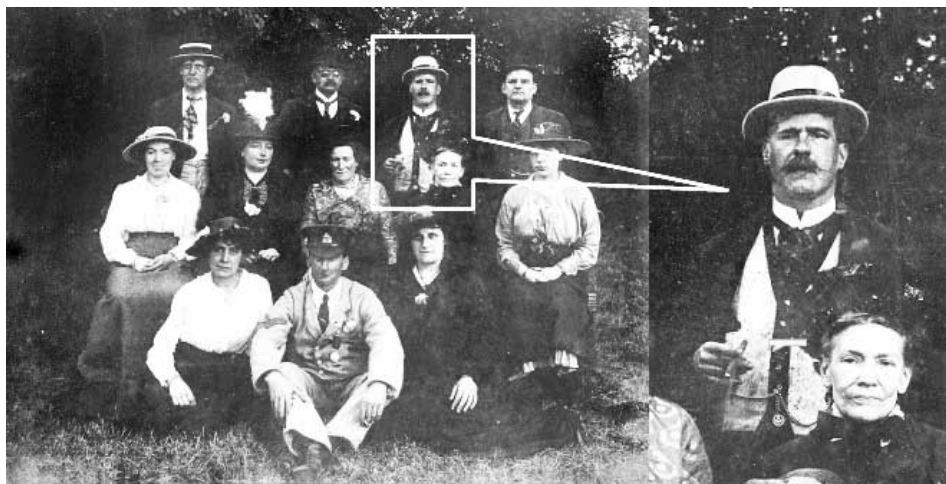
for exotics and, to house them, glass houses were built up to 40 ft. high. It seems that the Duke of Devonshire was a frequent visitor and he had a protégé called Joseph **PAXTON** who could build these glasshouses. Of course, backed by his aristocratic patron, Paxton was the man who went on to build the glasshouse to emulate all glasshouses; the *Crystal Palace* for the *Great Exhibition* in Hyde Park under the auspices of Prince Albert (shown on page 36). It is thought Paxton also secured the finest horticultural specimens from the Mare Street gardens to put in the *Crystal Palace*.

In 1854 the lease for the market gardens was due to expire and the land became available for a more lucrative development and the present housing (and pubs) were built across them. Perhaps these days a company such as *Wetherspoons* might have called the pub the Sir Joseph Paxton. But in the 1860s that wasn't acceptable as he was a commoner and a tradesman. In an era of deference and a belief that our rulers knew what they were doing, it was Joseph's aristocratic patron who was chosen to be honoured.

Back to George Holford. In 1908 he married for the second time. His new wife was Elizabeth Annie **WELSMAN**. Welsman? That was his first wife's surname. But this wasn't an incestuous liaison: Elizabeth was a widow and had been married to George's first wife's brother. Her maiden-name was **WHITE**. He was married longer this time; seven years instead of three! Elizabeth died in 1915 at the age of 38. OK, perhaps third time lucky? And so, it proved. In 1921 he married Ellen Louisa **RIDER**. She was 37 and a widow. Her birth name was **WRIGHT**. This marriage lasted seven years but this time it was George who died. I guess he didn't do long marriages!

He may have died in 1928 but he was still the telephone subscriber of the pub in 1940, twelve years after his death! His widow, Ellen, had continued running the pub and obviously felt no need to transfer the phone into her name. Ellen eventually remarried in 1941 and gave up the pub. George's daughter, Aphrah, had married Alfred **WALLING** in 1926. He was a native of Newton Abbott in Devon. They lived in Hackney but just as the war was starting, they moved with their daughter, Hilda, back to Newton Abbott where all of George's descendants lived by the 1950s.

There are four photos of George in my possession, all taken on special occasions. The photo outside the *Land's End Hotel* in about 1926 (previous page) shows him, the small guy with the big hat, while his brother, Ernest (my grandfather), is on the right. Ernest stood at 5' 7" according to his RNAS (Royal Naval Air Service) records while George is the shortest. Perhaps a reason why he favoured big hats! The other photo (on page 40) is from about ten years earlier and shows him with another impressive hat, distinctive waistcoat and stiff collar. His moustache is very neatly twirled at the ends. My dad remembers his uncle as being the affluent businessman and the photographic evidence supports this youthful impression.



George Holford
Image courtesy of Peter Holford

But it's not just the photos that provide the evidence. In 1990 my dad said that his Uncle George ran a tally business through his pub. A tally business was one where weekly payments were collected from people who bought goods under a hire purchase scheme. But the definitive proof which shows George Holford ran a successful pub is in his will. When George died in 1928, he left £5,750; the equivalent of about £260,000 in present day prices. He certainly came through the harsh period of the post-WWI period with few money issues.

The Duke of Devonshire opened in 1866 but closed around the turn of this century and was converted to residential use by 2002. As part of the conversion a penthouse layer was added above the roof line but the stone or terracotta signs above the cornice have been retained.

Footnote

The two photos of George Holford have appeared in *Cockney Ancestor* before, in the following articles.

- CA 136 Autumn 2012 – A 1920s Pub Outing to Land's End
- CA 175 Summer 2022 – Frank Holford

References

<https://www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/Pub-Signs-of-Britain/>
<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/middx/vol10/pp92-101>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devonshire_Arms

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'Dalston' Roffeys

Dr. Cliff Roffey No. 22353



I am a new member pursuing a One-name study for the GOONS (*Guild of One-name Studies*) for my surname **ROFFEY**.

I have however a particular interest in this East London area group as my 2 x great-grandfather John Roffey (1821–1880) migrated to Islington from the Horne area in Surrey in about 1847 and stayed there about twenty years.

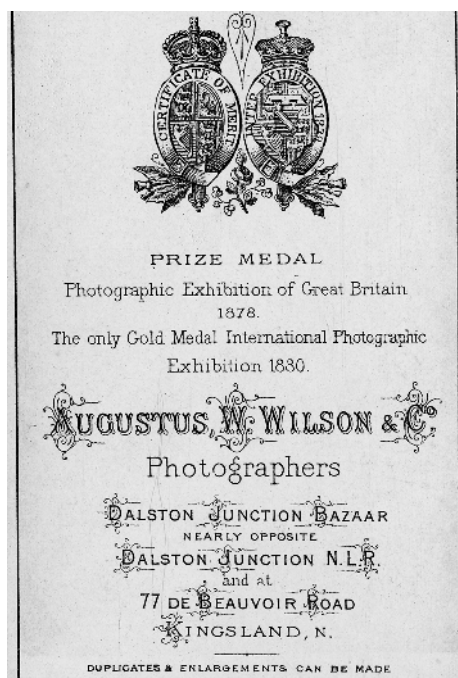
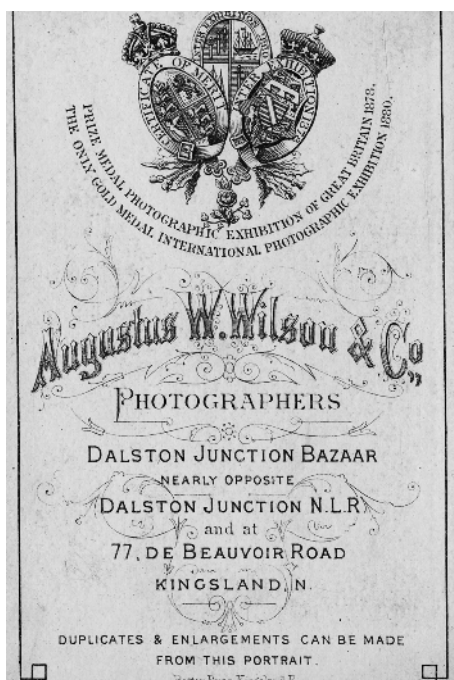


Eventually he settled in Portsmouth, Hants about 1867. Some of his relatives however were in the Dalston/Hackney area.

Several years ago, a co-researcher, Ron **SILVERBACH**, kindly sent me the attached five photos whom he believed to be 'Dalston' Roffeys in the Kingsland area of Hackney.

They were reported as being taken in 1882 and sent to him by somebody he could not remember the name of. Also attached are two copies from the back of them of the photographic studio.

Can anybody confirm the identity of any of them? It will be invaluable to my study.



There is the possibility however they might be **PENFOLD's** as they married into the Roffey family in Kingsland.

The back of the photos indicate the photographer to be Augustus W **WILLIAM** & Co, Dalson Junction Bazaar nearly opposite Dalston Junction N.L.R 77 De Beauvoir Road, Kingsland, N.

Would anybody know if it is possible to trace their identity via where this photographer's archives went if known? I would in any case be pleased to hear from anyone concerned with the Roffey family.

*E-mail: cgroffey@aol.com
72 Moggs' Mead, Petersfield, Hants
GU31 4NX*

Geffryes Almshouses

Melissa Ford No. 7658

Situated on Kingsland Road, in the area of Haggerston. Haggerston appears in the Domesday Book as Her-gotestane, an outlying hamlet of Shoreditch.

The area was very rural and local farmers supplied London with milk and dairy products.

The Regent's Canal was built in the area in 1820. This was then followed by the railway which led to the area starting to change and build up with industry and people.

London had many guilds and the tenth of the great twelve livery companies is *The Ironmongers Company* which has had links to the iron trade for over

700 years. Their hall is by the Barbican. One of their freemen was a gentleman called Robert **GEFFRYEs**, born c1613 in Landrake, Cornwall. He married Priscilla **CROPLEY** 23 September 1651. At some point they lived in Lime Street, London. No children were born to them.

He held several positions within the Ironmongers Company. By 1673 he received a knighthood and in 1685 he became the Lord Mayor.

During 1688–1690 and again 1693–1704, he was a president of *Bridewell & Bethlem Hospitals*. He died 26 February 1704.

During his life he had invested money into the *East India Company* and the *Royal African Company*, so he was wealthy. He made part of his money from his investment in transatlantic slavery.

In his will he stated that any residue of money should be given to the Ironmongers



The Geffryes Museum

Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons



View of Geffrye Museum grounds from the bedroom of a restored almshouse
Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Company to purchase land for almshouses to house the widows of ironmongers.

On 25 March 1712, at a cost of £200, land was purchased at Haggerston. By 1714, at a cost of £4,500, 14 almshouses for up to 56 pensioners were built. The buildings consisted of two storeys and a basement, ranged around three sides of a garden and constructed of yellow stock bricks with red brick dressings.

The interior of each almshouse consisted of a central staircase opening into a room on either side of both floors, with cupboards behind the stairs and a wash house and fuel store in the basement.

A chapel was built with a bell turret. Over the central door was a statue of the founder.

All the rooms came without furniture, but the pensioners did receive £6 per annum along with six bags of coal and free accommodation. A chaplin, groundskeeper, matron and chapel clerk also lived on site.

By 1716, at a cost of £20, the company purchased more land to the north for a burial ground.

Looking at the 1911 census there were 50 adults and one child living there. The child was the son of the gatekeeper, Richard **BARRETT**. Included in the 50 was the matron, Annie **YOUNG**, and three live-in nurses.

The oldest pensioner was 98-year-old Emma **CADE** who came from Finsbury.

Looking at the birth places of the pensioners, there were only about ten from the local area. There were pensioners who were born in Denmark, Belgium and the East



Statue of Robert Geffryes
Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

During WWII it remained open, only closing when an air raid shelter was dug into the garden to hold up to 700 people. Locals were not happy because it spoilt the garden as piles of earth were left sitting there in a heap. The area was hit on the 15/16th Sept 1940; 12 people were killed, 10 men and 2 women.

It continued to survive and, in 1991, it became a charity trust. By 1998, with funding, they created a herb garden and a period garden and added an extra wing.

The museum closed in 2018 for a major upgrade. It reopened in June 2021 under the new name *Museum of the Home*.

Indies; the remainder were from Norfolk, Yorkshire, Kent, Cambridgeshire, Lancashire, Suffolk, Essex, Gloucestershire and Surrey.

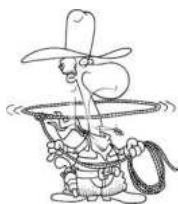
By 1911 it was decided that the pensioners would be moved to Mottingham (now in Hook, Hampshire).

The building was finally purchased by the *London County Council*.

They opened the garden to the public in 1912 and then decided to make alterations to the almshouses by removing the upper floors and connecting the separate houses, leaving the external aspect of the building unaltered. It was then turned into a museum of furniture and woodwork.

It was opened 2 April 1914 and called *The Geffrye's Museum*.

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Roundup

- ❖ *The National Archives* (TNA) has recently opened an exhibition which allows you to step inside the hidden world of MI5. *MI5: Official Secrets*, open from 5 April to 28 September, lets you explore the extraordinary stories behind the security of the nation with their exciting programme of in-person and online events. For more information visit their website or book on *Evenbrite*.
- ❖ *A to Z Goes Live*: The SOG's most eagle-eyed members may have noticed that *SoG Explore* now has an additional button on its search interface. At the click of a button, you can now peruse their record sets alphabetically, open PDFs, browse images in a set, and filter *SoG Explore* results by record set. Instructional videos with tips and tricks are coming soon!
- ❖ All member groups of the *Family History Federation* are entitled to make their transcriptions available to the public using the facilities provided by the Federation through *FindMyPast* (FMP). All material added to the FMP datasets brings income for the society involved. For example, *Bedfordshire FHS* submitted nearly one million baptism, marriage and burial records covering the period 1538–1853. *Calderdale FHS* added some workhouse register record sets with 65,000 new records for Halifax (Gibbet Street & Ovenden and Todmorden (Gauxholme)) workhouses covering the period 1756–1924. *Nottinghamshire FHS* added over 88,000 burial records for the period 1546–1955. *Wiltshire FHS* added 120,000 baptism and burial records for 1559–1837.
- ❖ *Parish Chest*, a service from the Family History Federation, has over sixty family history societies and some twenty plus traders, at a one-stop online shop, offering a wide range of family history materials in some sixteen categories including:
 - Parish register transcriptions;
 - Memorial inscriptions information from gravestones across the country;

- Nonconformists: Baptists, Wesleyans, Independents, Quakers and many more nonconformist lists;
 - Wills and Probate Indexes of wills and administrations;
 - Folders, printing facilities, giftware and more!
 - Societies and suppliers regularly add new lines, so visit to see what is there to help you add to your family tree. www.parishchest.com
- ❖ *Hackney History Festival* returns in May—tickets available now! After the success of the inaugural festival last year, the programme and tickets for this May's event have now been released. The *Hackney History Festival* is a community festival that features talks, walks, and guided tours showcasing the rich history of Hackney, known as Europe's most diverse borough. The festival is organized by local groups, including the *Hackney Society* and *Hackney Archives*, and aims to engage residents and history enthusiasts in exploring the area's fascinating stories. Visit <https://hackneyhistoryfestival.org> for tickets and more information.
- ❖ New mid-20th century trade directories are now available on *The Genealogist*.
- ❖ *Trove.Scot* with 1.2 million images from Scottish archives, 335,000 records of Scottish places, 55,200 designated historic sites and 2,000 significant objects are included in the new project funded by Historic Environment Scotland. For more information visit www.trove.scot.
- ❖ Did you know that if you are a resident of Tower Hamlets you can visit the Tower of London for £1! To take advantage of this special offer bring your *Idea Store* or *Tower Hamlets Library card* and bring proof of name and address e.g. a utility bill or bank statement to prove you are a resident. Then you can explore all the delights the Tower of London has to offer for a pound. The offer is valid all year round. Only one ticket per adult cardholder can be purchased per day. Adults can purchase extra tickets for additional children for £1. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets can only be purchased on the day from the ticket office at The Tower of London. They are now operating with timeslots with a limited capacity. If a timeslot is full, you will go in the next available timeslot.

Missing from the Census

Peter Cope No. 14117

A recent DNA match led me to research the family of my great-grandfather **BEER**'s brother, Walter Joseph Beer 1851–1901. His daughter, Mary Ann Beer 1878–1915, proved particularly interesting.

In the September quarter of 1899 she married Elias **ISAACS** in Mile End. They went on to have six children and were easy to find in the 1911 census even though Mary was now known as Rachael. Then I found Elias in the 1921 census with his new wife, Sarah, after Rachael's death.

However, I couldn't find the newly married couple in the 1901 census and it is clear from other people's trees on *Ancestry* that they couldn't either.

In this situation my first move is to search for children of the marriage born as near as possible to the census date. There is a good chance that parents will know their children's names and dates of birth better than their own and indeed this has worked on a number of occasions in the past!

In this case I was fortunate that Elias and Mary's first child, Michael Angel Isaacs, was born in 1900. However, searching for him in the 1901 census still drew a blank.

Although it became clear that I was researching what appeared to be a Jewish family, Michael was baptised at St. Michael & All Angels (the source of his name maybe?), Southwark. Best of all the family's address was included, 16 Ontario Street.

Their next child, Leah May Isaacs, was born in April 1901 and, also baptised at St. Michael's and their address was still 16 Ontario Street. With this information I now knew where they should have been living at the time of the census.

Turning to *FindmyPast*, I searched the 1901 census for 16 Ontario Street and found the family straight away. Not listed as Isaacs but as **ANGEL**! Elias, Mary and Michael Angel. I suspect that when the enumerator called and asked for the family's names they said Michael Angel, Elias and Mary and so they were listed as Angel. Maybe they never had a chance to say Isaacs.

Whatever happened I had found them and thought that other members may find the research route I took a useful one when they can't find family in a census.

Mind you I still can't find my grandmother or her sister in the same census which frustratingly leaves me with a significant gap in their lives.

Email: Petercope@hotmail.co.uk

Dr Muriel Jessie Lough Pt I

George English No. 10383

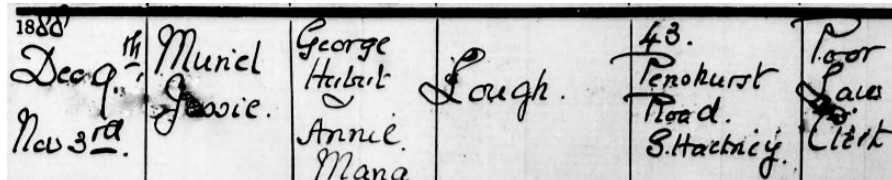
The First Woman Doctor from St. Mary's in 1921

Introduction

Muriel Jessie LOUGH, the daughter of George Herbert Lough and Annie Maria ROBSON, was born 3 November 1888. George Lough had married Annie Robson at St. John of Jerusalem Church in South Hackney in 1879. Muriel was the sixth of their eleven children. She was known as Jessie by the Lough family.

Jessie would become the first woman doctor to qualify from St. Mary's Hospital, London in 1921. It was in his laboratory at St. Mary's that Alexander FLEMING would discover penicillin in 1928. Jessie was also the first woman to be appointed to be a Medical Officer of Health (in Barking). Just over 100 years later, there are now more female than male doctors for the first time ever in the UK.

Muriel Jessie Lough was born 3 November 1888, at 43 Penshurst Road, South Hackney, Middlesex. She was christened in St. Augustine, Hackney 9 December 1888. Jessie's father, George Herbert Lough, was a poor law clerk, managing the workhouse in Poplar. Jessie would grow up in South Hackney. In 1901, Jessie and



Part of Birth certificate

Image courtesy of George English

NAME and SURNAME	RELATION to Head of Family, or Position in the Institution.	• CONDI-ON as to Marriage.	AGE last Birthday.	
			Male.	Female.
Robert Rand	Patent		5	-
Charles McLeaver	"		2	-
Edith Poirier	"			3
Jessie Lough	"			12
Dorothy Lough	"			8
			1	

1901 Census, Eastern Hospital,
Homerton Grove, Hackney London
Image courtesy of George English

her sister, Dorothy, were patients in the Eastern Hospital, Hackney. The Eastern Hospital was an infectious diseases hospital. In 1900, the Hospital had 362 beds. Some 2,513 patients had been admitted during the year: 367 with



George and Annie Lough and family about 1898.

Muriel Jessie Lough is standing beside her father
Image courtesy of George English

scarlet fever (8% mortality), 1,633 with diphtheria (14% mortality) and 246



**Isolation cubicles in Eastern Hospital
 treatment of infectious patients**
Image courtesy of George English

with enteric fever of whom 34 died (14% mortality). A new isolation block was built in September and held in readiness for plague cases. It is not known which infectious diseases Jessie and Dorothy had. Jessie Lough went to the East London College, matriculating in 1906 and graduating in 1910. East London College offered men and women a range of courses, which were mainly vocational in nature. These included subjects ranging from book-keeping and elocution, to dressmaking, millinery and also more academic subjects such as mathematics and botany. Women students

typically studied arts-related subjects to fit them well for their 'vocation' in the home, thus reinforcing traditional male and female roles. However, many women students excelled in a range of challenging academic subjects. The access to education, libraries and opportunities for improvement offered them the possibility of social mobility, and students were active in debating social issues of the day, including the *Conciliation Bill and Women's Suffrage*. The *Conciliation Bill* was put forward in 1910 by an all-party committee of MPs to give some women the vote. It was passed, but then dropped when another election was called in November. Two more Conciliation Bills were attempted



Jessie Lough in 1907
Image courtesy of George English

in Parliament in the subsequent years. Furious suffragettes stepped up their campaign resulting in many clashes with police and arrests.

The Lough family moved from South Hackney to Woodford, Essex. In 1911, Jessie was living with her family and studying for a Bachelor of Science degree in London where she had matriculated in July 1906. In 1914, she was appointed a Heath Visitor in Stepney. On 10 January 1917, she registered for the London Medical School for Women.

Jessie's niece, Joan **SENGHAS** (née Lough), wrote:

I was very fond of Aunt Jessie. She often visited Etchingham when she was a medical student. I remember spending an evening with her; dissecting a rabbit at the kitchen sink. When at 'Talbots', the Lough home in Woodford, children were allowed to examine the skeleton kept in a box under Aunt Jessie's bed. In those days, a skeleton was real, not plastic, supposedly imported from India. Jessie was Assistant Medical Officer of Health in Barking from 1920. Unfortunately, the Director did not like women doctors, and because the Council hired them both at the same meeting, he'd had nothing to do with the choice.

Joan wondered if it was her father's influence as a poor law clerk that took Jessie to work with the East End poor. Jessie's experience as a patient in the Eastern Hospital, or her experiences while at East London College could also have influenced her decision to become a doctor.

to be continued.....

9 Glebe Avenue, Mauchline, Ayrshire KA5 6AF

On the Buses

Melissa Ford No. 7658

On *The Buses* was a TV sitcom which ran from 1969 to 1973. I can remember it, but I was only three when it finished so I must have seen it on one of the many reruns. Also, they made several films.

One of the main characters was Stan **BUTLER**, played by Reginald A **VARNEY**. Reg was born 11 of July 1916 at 7 Addington Road, Canning Town to parents Sidney Thomas Varney and Annie **NEEDHAM**.

He was baptized at St. Matthias Church, 4 August 1916. He attended the local school at Star Lane. Reg was a good piano player. His first job when he left school was as a messenger for a hotel in London.

He socialized in the local clubs and it was here that he was given the opportunity to show off his piano skills for which he was paid eight shillings and sixpence. He got more gigs, so he took it up full time.

He met a local girl from East Ham called Lilian Emma **FLAVELL**. The 1939 register shows him living with her family at 80 Masterman Road, East Ham. Later that year they married and had one child, Joanne.

When war was declared he signed up with the Royal Engineers where he also entertained his colleagues. After leaving the army he continued to perform in Music Halls. He then got some small parts in TV.

The history of his working career is documented on the internet. He died 16 November 2008 and is buried at St. Peter's Burial Ground, Budleigh Salterton in Devon.

Stan's sister, Olive **RUDGE**, was played by Anna **KAREN**, birth name Ann **MCCALL**. She was born 19 September 1936 in Durban, South Africa to parents John McCall and Muriel **HARRISON**. Aged eight, after seeing the film *National Velvet*, she wanted to be an actor. She attended the *South African National Theatre*



Reg Varney as Stan Butler

Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons



Anna Karen as Olive Rudge

Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons



Stephen Lewis as Cyril Blake

Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

for three years before her father died and her mum decided to move her and her sister to the UK.

Whilst living in London she attended the *London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art* but to fund this she worked at the Panama Club as a striptease artist.

This is when she took the name Anna Karen.

In 1957 she married opera singer Dick **SMART** and they moved to Italy. But, by the early 1960s, the marriage was over and she moved back to London.

In 1967 she married actor Terence A **DUGAN**. They never had any children together, but he had a daughter from his first marriage. They had 41 years together and lived in Windsor Road, Ilford before Terence died in 2008 after a lengthy illness. His funeral was held 18 March 2008 at Golders Green Crematorium.

Anna is famous for playing Olive, along with playing Aunt Sal in *Eastenders* where she appeared in 57 episodes.

Her best friend was the late Barbara **WINDSOR**. They met on one of the *Carry-on* films.

Back in 2016 she had fallen at home and she was last seen in public in a wheelchair at Barbara Windsor's funeral in January 2021.

On the 22nd February 2022, the fire brigade were called to a fire at her home in Windsor Road where she was discovered dead in a chair. It seems that she fell asleep with a lit cigarette. Her funeral was held

18 March 2022 at *Golders Green Crematorium*. The bus inspector in the sitcom, Cyril **BLAKE**, nickname **BLAKEY**, was played by Stephen **LEWIS**. Born 17 December 1926 at All Saints Maternity Hospital in Poplar to parents Richard Lewis & Elizabeth **LAWLESS**, Stephen was the sixth child of seven children. He was brought up in and around Poplar.

His father died in 1934, but the family were close. After leaving school he took any job that he could get before following his brother, Joseph, into the Merchant Navy because this was a steady income.

On his many visits home he would attend the workshops run by Joan **LITTLEWOOD** at the *Theatre Royal Stratford*.

He got the acting bug and his acting career took off. His famous catchphrase was 'I 'ate you Butler'. Stephen never married but he was close to his remaining siblings. In 2007 he was diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Around 2011/12 he and his sister, Connie, the only surviving children of Richard and Elizabeth, decided to move into Cambridge Nursing Home, at Cambridge Park, Wanstead. But whilst there Stephen passed away 12 August 2015.

He was buried at St Patrick's Roman Catholic Cemetery in Leytonstone.

That's our Newham & Redbridge connection with the sitcom 'On The Buses'.

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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 E11 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 6pm. The meeting room will be available from 5.30pm.

Diary Dates

Check the website www.eolfhs.org.uk for updates

MAY 2025

(H)	3rd	<i>Our Mutual Friend Charles Dickens (Z)</i>	Jef Page
(NR)	28th	<i>East End Life through a Camera Lens</i>	Danny Wells
(CL)	30th	<i>Roadhouses along the Thames</i>	Luci Gosling

JUNE 2025

(H)	7th	<i>The Shakespeare Company (Z)</i>	Julian Whybra
(NR)	25th	<i>City Alleyways</i>	Jill Finch
(CL)	27th	<i>tba</i>	

JULY 2025

(H)	5th	<i>tba</i>	
(NR)	23rd	<i>Our Mutual Friend Charles Dickens</i>	Jef Page
(CL)	25th	<i>tba</i>	

AUGUST 2025

(H)	2nd	<i>tba</i>	
(NR)	27th	<i>tba</i>	
(CL)	29th	<i>tba</i>	

(Z) also on Zoom

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

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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

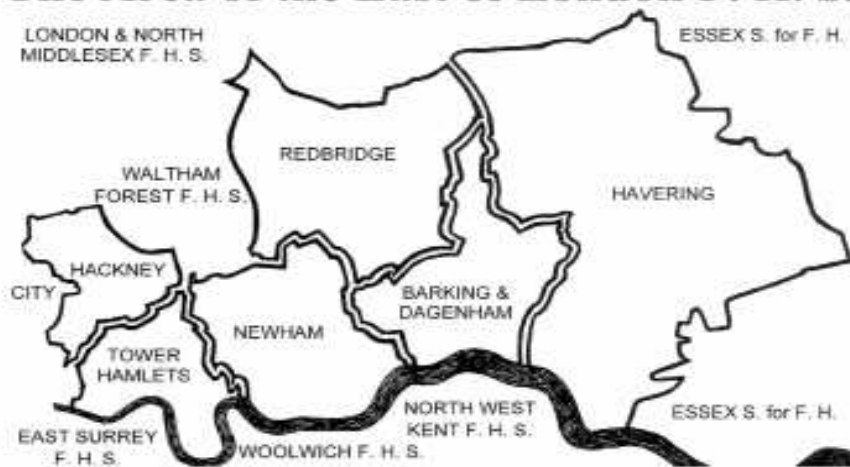
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Writing for Cockney Ancestor

All 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. Further details can be found on our website.

The Area of the East of London F. H. S.



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.