

Family History



THE JOURNAL OF THE INSTITUTE OF HERALDIC AND GENEALOGICAL STUDIES

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THE INSTITUTE OF HERALDIC AND GENEALOGICAL STUDIES

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The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies [IHGS] is an independent educational charitable trust established to provide training and research in the study of the history and structure of the family. It was established in Northgate, Canterbury, in 1961.

Set in its own grounds in a charming property dating from the thirteenth century, the Institute runs courses of instruction leading to qualifications in genealogy and heraldry. We offer a range of Distance Learning Courses, including our renowned Higher Certificate Correspondence Course in Genealogy which was established to train professional genealogists.

Associate membership is £40 for the year and runs from the date of purchase. Our online member area offers a range of benefits, including access to our Family History Journal digital archive, exclusive digital copies of IHGS publications and maps, 10% discount on distance learning courses, recorded talks, books and physical copies of maps.

The Institute is famed for its library and for its publications, including the celebrated Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers. Library opening hours are 10:00 – 3:00 pm, Monday to Thursday, an appointment is recommended. IHGS members and students have free access. The rate for non-members is £10 a day or £5 per half-day. IHGS is a FamilySearch Affiliated Library and visitors can access it for free.

The Institute shares its premises with its sister company, Achievements, also founded in 1961. Achievements is an international research organisation devoted to, and specialising in, all aspects of genealogy, family tree research, heraldry and associated artwork.

IHGS has a proven track-record in teaching Genealogy and Heraldry to Hobbyists and Professionals alike

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Note from the Editor

We invite contributions of articles to our journal, Family History. Articles should focus on genealogy or heraldry, whether comprising historical analyses, personal research journeys, or insights into family history and heraldic traditions. Experienced authors, graduates and students are all encouraged to contribute.

Front cover:

Professor Turi King receiving her Bickersteth Memorial Medal from the Earl of Lytton at the IHGS Awards Day ©IHGS 2026.

IHGS produces a free monthly email newsletter. To subscribe please visit our website, www.ihgs.ac.uk

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IHGS NEWS

AWARDS DAY

We were delighted to welcome so many students, tutors, volunteers and friends to our annual Awards Day at IHGS. It was a lovely occasion to recognise and celebrate the dedication, hard work and achievements of our students and tutors and to present Turi King with the Bickersteth Memorial Medal.

The glorious sunshine meant we were able to make the most of our beautiful gardens, while many guests also enjoyed the opportunity to tour our library and explore its collections.



We were also pleased to welcome Lisa Constanti, Director of RQG, and Else Churchill from SOG, who joined us for the occasion.

Our President, the Earl of Lytton, joined our Principal, Dr Paul Fox, in presenting certificates to our successful students. John Tunesi also joined the presentations, awarding certificates to our heraldry students. Many congratulations to everyone on their well-deserved achievements.



IHGS Principal Dr. Paul Fox, CEO Jane Smyth, RQG representatives Nicholas Dixon and Lisa Constantini and Director of Research Liz Yule



Professor Turi King and Earl Lytton



IHGS Tutors Chris Huning, John Norris, Ann Ballard and LHG Pam Smith

The afternoon's speeches and presentations concluded with the award of the Bickersteth Memorial Medal to Professor Turi King.

PROFESSOR TURI KING AWARDED THE JULIAN BICKERSTETH MEMORIAL MEDAL

We are delighted that Professor Turi King has been awarded the Julian Bickersteth Memorial Medal for her outstanding contributions to family history and genetic genealogy.

Professor King, Director of the Milner Centre for Evolution at the University of Bath, is a leading UK forensic geneticist and has worked in the field of genetic genealogy for over 25 years. She gained international recognition for leading the DNA analysis that confirmed the identity of King Richard III's remains, as well as co-presenting *DNA Family Secrets* on the BBC. Her pioneering research has significantly advanced genetic genealogy, archaeogenetics, and forensic genetics.



The Julian Bickersteth Memorial Medal recognises significant and sustained contributions to family history. Professor King's influential work, including her PhD research on Y-chromosomes and British surnames, has been instrumental in bridging genetics and traditional genealogy.

Professor Turi King said: "I am honoured to receive this award. Family history and genetic genealogy have always been central to my work, and I'm thrilled that science continues to enrich our understanding of British heritage and ancestry."

A fantastic achievement and well-deserved honour!

EXAMINATION RESULTS 2025-2026

We are very pleased to confirm that our examination results for this year are as follows:

Diploma	Higher Certificate	Advanced	Intermediate	Elementary
D. Brambill	M. Devine	S. Clarke	J. Dyson	R. Evans
S. Cook	G. Higson			A. Geary
S. Herd	K. Rowe			A. Kilminster
K. Hooper	E. Wise			M. Milton
J. Rahman				S. Ruddock
A. Smith				J. Timings
R. Spiers				

We were delighted to announce that Pam Smith has been awarded our highest qualification for her thesis, *All Change: Railways and Societal Alteration in Mid-Nineteenth-Century Rillington*. Her research helps our understanding of how national developments were experienced at parish level.

We jointly awarded with the Heraldry Society:

Diploma in Heraldry

J. Norris
P. Westgate

Heraldry Intermediate

C. Huning
P. Westgate

Heraldry Elementary

C. Huning
K. Ross
K. Rowe
P. Westgate

John Norris received the Diploma in Heraldry for his excellent dissertation '*A window into the evolution of English heraldry through the study of Ela, Countess of Salisbury and Sir William Sharington and their occupation of Lacock Abbey, Wiltshire*'.

Ian Newton was presented with his Diploma in heraldry Certificate for his piece *Burghersh Tombs in Lincoln Cathedral* which he was awarded in 2025.

Many congratulations to them all on their achievements.

ENHANCED AGRA RECOGNITION FOR THE HIGHER CERTIFICATE

Future graduates of our Higher Certificate in Genealogy (HC) are now exempt from the 20-hour research assignment when applying for AGRA Membership. The enhancement in the recognition is because the IHGS Higher Certificate itself now concludes with a 20-hour research assignment which in turn meets the AGRA criteria.

This significant recognition from AGRA reflects their confidence in the quality, rigour, and professional research skills developed throughout our course.

Our intensive yet flexible HC course enables dedicated students to gain a recognised qualification and progress to professional membership.

To celebrate this exciting development, we are offering a 10% discount for all new Higher Certificate Course enrolments.

Enrol now and save 10% using the code IHGSAGRA10

For full details, syllabus, and enrolment information, please contact us at registrar@ihgs.ac.uk or visit www.ihgs.ac.uk/courses-correspondence.

IHGS WELCOMES THREE NEW TUTORS TO OUR TUTORIAL TEAM

We have welcomed three new expert tutors, strengthening our course support across genetic genealogy and heraldry.

Dr. Andrea Degl’Innocenti joins IHGS as DNA Lead and Tutor, bringing specialist expertise in molecular biology, genomics, and scientific education. Chris Huning and John Norris join the Heraldry Course Tutor Team.

Dr. Andrea Degl’Innocenti, DNA Lead and Tutor



Dr. Andrea Degl’Innocenti brings a strong scientific background to the Institute’s growing work in genetic genealogy. A molecular biologist and genomics specialist, he is also the founder and principal investigator of Istituto Vinciano per le Scienze, The Vinci Institute of Sciences, in Vinci, Italy.

He graduated *cum laude* in molecular biology at the University of Pisa and completed his PhD at the Max Planck Institute for Brain Research. His research and teaching career has included roles in Italy and across Europe, with teaching experience in molecular biology, medical genetics, and environmental sciences.

His appointment as DNA Lead and Tutor adds a significant strand of scientific expertise to IHGS course provision at a time when DNA evidence is playing an increasingly important role in genealogical research.

Chris Huning, Heraldry Course Tutor



Chris Huning joins IHGS with lifelong interests in history and heraldry, supported by a BA in History from San Jose State University and professional experience from a technology career in project and product management.

After completing the IHGS Heraldry Course, Chris passed the Heraldry Society Elementary and Intermediate examinations and is now studying for the Heraldry Diploma. As a tutor, he will help students build a sound understanding of heraldic principles, practice, and interpretation.

His combination of historical study, structured heraldic training, and professional communication experience provides our students another knowledgeable guide through the discipline.

John Norris, Heraldry Course Tutor



John Norris has been interested in heraldry since his teens. After a career as a Chartered Insurer and manager with a large commercial insurer, he deepened his study of the subject through the IHGS Heraldry Course. In 2026 he received the Diploma in Heraldry for his excellent dissertation '*A window into the evolution of English heraldry through the study of Ela, Countess of Salisbury and Sir William Sharington and their occupation of Lacock Abbey, Wiltshire*'.

John is a member of the Heraldry Society and the City of Bath Heraldic Society. His professional background also included training colleagues, an experience he now brings to his role supporting students on the Heraldry Course. He joins IHGS with his enthusiasm for helping students get the most out of their course experience and develop confidence in their heraldic studies.

NEW IHGS MEMBER AREA

Our new members-only section, is designed to provide supporters with exclusive access to resources, information, and discounts. It offers a range of benefits, including access to our Family History Journal digital archive, exclusive digital copies of IHGS publications and maps, 10% discount on distance learning courses, recorded talks, books and physical copies of maps. Our new monthly recorded talks are free to members through the member area and will be available to watch for a month.

The members only area is part of the Institute's broader initiative to modernise engagement and make genealogical and heraldic education more accessible in the digital age. Current members can log in immediately to access the new content, while new visitors are encouraged to join and explore the benefits of membership. To learn more about membership or to access the new members-only area, visit www.ihgs.ac.uk/about-become-a-member.

NEW BOOKS BY IHGS GRADUATES

History of Parish Registers in England and Wales: From the Restoration to Civil Registration by John Wintrip published by the Lutterworth Press, 2026.

John obtained a DipGen in 2008 and LHG in 2019. Several chapters of his new book are based on his Licentiate's dissertation.

Loyalty in Stone: Interpreting the Heraldry of the Burghersh Tombs of Lincoln Cathedral by Ian Newton. Ian has graduated with the IHGS Diploma in Genealogy and the IHGS & Heraldry Society Heraldry Diploma. His new book is available through Amazon.co.uk.

STARTING YOUR SCOTTISH ANCESTRY JOURNEY – NEW IHGS ONLINE COURSE

Designed for beginners by IHGS Tutor Lorna Kinnaird, this tutor-assessed course provides a practical introduction to Scottish family history research. It shows how to use key records, including statutory birth, marriage and death records, census returns, valuation rolls and Old Parish Registers, thus gaining the skills and confidence to trace your ancestors effectively.

The course is entirely self-paced, allowing you to study whenever it suits you. Each module includes a practical assignment, and every student is supported by a personal tutor who provides feedback and guidance throughout the course. Students who prefer not to complete the assessments may opt out.

Whether you're taking your first steps in genealogy or looking for a structured introduction to Scottish records, this course offers a flexible and supportive way to begin your research journey.

Summer Offer: Save 20% on the standard course fee of £450 for a limited time. Enrol at any time and start exploring your Scottish family history today. Use the code SCOTSUM26

PROPERTY, PEOPLE AND PLACE: A GUIDE TO HOUSE HISTORY RESEARCH

Discover the story behind your home with this new online course, designed to guide you through the records and resources needed to research the history of a house and the people who lived there: written by our expert Tutors Lucy Browne, Sarah Pettyfer and Lorraine Whale.

The course is ideal for anyone with some experience of family history research. It comprises:

Getting Started - The Foundations

Learn how to lay the foundations of your research and find a place to begin. Explore records relating to the house itself, its surroundings and the wider community, and learn how to build a timeline that brings together the facts, events and stories as you uncover them.

Location, Location, Location – Using Maps

Maps are invaluable tools for house historians, but the variety available can be overwhelming. This module introduces a range of mapping resources, from modern tools such as Google Earth and Google Maps to historic maps which reveal how a place has changed over time.

Into the Recent Past - Sources for the 19th and 20th Centuries

Discover how to connect the records of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries to trace the occupants, ownership and development of a property.

Paper Trails - Title Deeds and Court Records

Title deeds and court records form the legal backbone of property history. This module explores how these records document ownership, transfer, disputes and rights connected with a property, helping to build a clearer picture of its past.

Follow the Money - Tax and Probate

Tax records and probate documents can reveal far more than ownership alone. From medieval lay subsidies to later property taxes, these sources provide insights into the wealth, status and circumstances of past residents. Wills and inventories often contain detailed descriptions of property, possessions and family relationships, offering a vivid insight regarding those who once lived in the house.

Lords, Lands and Tenants - Manorial and Estate Records

Explore the rich evidence found in manorial and estate records, which can shed light on landholding, tenancy, inheritance and the relationship between landowners and local communities.

This is a non-assessed course. However, students may submit a house history report for feedback from our Tutors. Introductory Offer £360 (usual course fee £450).

NEW BOOK - TRACING YOUR ANCESTORS USING NEWSPAPERS by Chloe O'Shea

Congratulations to IHGS Tutor Chloe on the publication of her new book. This book guides you through understanding, and interpreting newspaper articles using real life case studies.

Published by Pen & Sword, www.pen-and-sword.co.uk.

Unlock the captivating stories hidden within the pages of historical newspapers and bring your ancestors back to life with Tracing Your Ancestors Using Newspapers. Newspapers have long been an invaluable, yet often underused, resource for genealogists. Thanks to ongoing digitisation, it is now easier than ever to search for ancestral articles from the comfort of your own home, but finding meaningful results isn't always as simple as entering a name into a search box — and even when you do, how can you be sure the article is really about your ancestor?

This book guides you through the process of uncovering, understanding, and interpreting newspaper articles that feature your ancestors. You'll explore the wide range of stories that can be found, from court proceedings and military exploits to lost pets, acts of bravery, letters to the editor, and unexpected community involvement. Along the way, you'll learn how to assess the reliability of articles, trace relatives across regions and continents, and make the most of ever-expanding online archives.

As well as identifying specific mentions of your ancestors, newspapers offer unparalleled context. They can help you understand the world your relatives lived in — what news they read, what challenges they faced, and how their lives were shaped by the events of their time. From scandal and gossip to marriage announcements and heroic deeds, newspapers preserve the everyday voices of the past in vivid detail. Packed with expert advice, practical guidance, and inspiring real-life examples, Tracing Your Ancestors Using Newspapers will help you deepen your research, break down brick walls, and discover the people behind the names on your family tree.

* * * * *

MARTÍN BOFILL AND CATARINA DOMENECH: A DOUBLE EMIGRATION STORY

By Kirsty Hooper, DipGen

Introduction

On Wednesday 25 April 1855, a young Catalan man called Martín Bofill landed at London Bridge Wharf aboard the British steamship *Seine* from Boulogne. The ship's passenger list records that he and his brother José Bofill were travelling as part of a group of eleven Spanish men, ten of whom gave their profession as 'taponero' (cork-cutter) and one, Manuel Girbal, as 'comerciante corcho' (cork merchant).¹ The group all originated from the Catalan province of Girona in south-east Spain, which was the centre of the Spanish cork trade.

Martín's wife Catarina Domenech soon joined him in London, where they lived for seven years. Martín's brother José, who had travelled to London with him, settled in the city. He climbed the professional ladder from taponero to cork exporter and established a thriving international business. However, Martín and Catarina had a different vision. In 1862, they re-emigrated to Australia, enticed by the Victoria Gold Rush, before taking on a farm in remote central Victoria, where Martín died in 1898 and Catarina in 1911.

Origins: Palafrugell, 1829-1855

Martín and Catarina were both from the small town of Palafrugell in the Catalan province of Girona. Palafrugell is just inland from the Mediterranean coast, approximately 123 km north of Barcelona, and 90 km south of the French border at Cerbère. It was a centre of the Spanish cork industry during the 18th and 19th centuries, and today it is home to the Museu del Suro (Cork Museum of Catalunya).

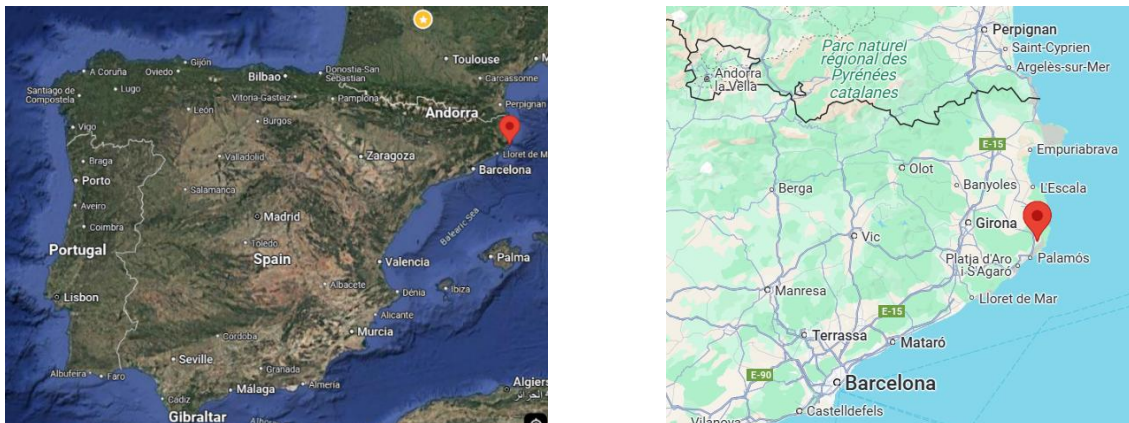


Figure 1: Location of Palafrugell. Source: Google Maps

The parish church of Sant Martí de Palafrugell was originally founded in the eleventh century. Its records are held at the Arxiu Diocesà de Girona (Girona Diocesan Archive) and the Municipal Archive in Palafrugell, who have digitised them in partnership with the Genealogical Society of Utah.

¹ 'List of Aliens'. *Seine*. 23 April 1855. Port of London. Home Office: Aliens Act 1836: Returns and Papers, 1 April 1855 – 31 May 1855, n.p. Original Data: The National Archives (TNA), HO3/78. Accessed at www.ancestry.co.uk : 2 October 2025.

Digitised records from the 15th century to the 20th century are available on the Diocesan Archive's own webpage and on FamilySearch.²

Both Catarina and Martín were baptised at Sant Martí. Like most Spanish baptism registers of this period, the entries were entered freehand, but followed a standard formula. The child's full name, with both surnames, is entered into the outside margin, while the entry itself states the date of baptism, name of the child, date of birth, and the names, birthplaces and residence of both parents and all four grandparents. The high level of detail included in Spanish baptism records provides valuable genealogical information that can help to distinguish between similarly-named individuals.



Figure 2: Esglesia de Sant Martí de Palafrugell. Source: Viquipedia by Davidpar (CC-BY)

Baptism of Catarina, 1829

Catarina Domenech Riera was born in Palafrugell on 24 November 1829 and baptised a day later. The baptism record is written in Spanish, not Catalan, but with various phonetic spellings that suggest the priest was more accustomed to writing in Catalan than in Spanish (e.g. 'baxo' for bajo, 'sinco' for cinco):³

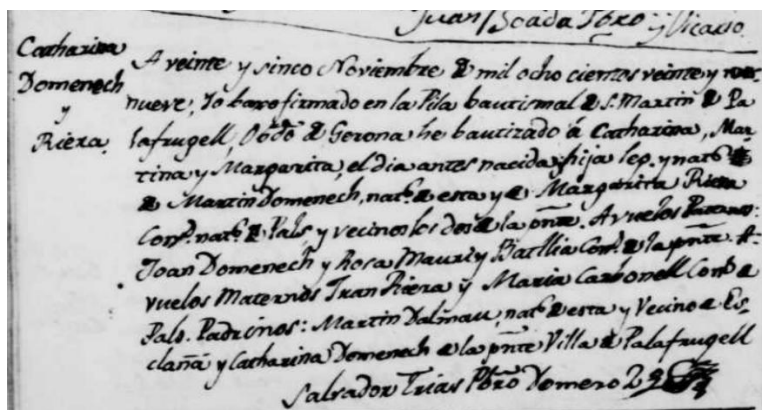


Figure 2: extract from Palafrugell baptism register. Source: FamilySearch

Translation: On the 25 November 1829, I the undersigned in the baptismal font of S. Martín de Palafrugell, Diocese of Gerona, baptised Catharina Martina Margarita, born the previous day, legitimate and natural daughter of Martín DOMENECH, born in this parish, and Margarita RIERA, born in Pals, both resident in this parish. Paternal grandparents: Joan DOMENECH and Rosa MAUN y Battlias, married couple, both of this parish; Maternal grandparents: Juan RIERA and Maria CARBONELL, married couple, of Pals. Godparents: Martín DALMAU, born in this parish and resident in Esclaña and Catharina DOMENECH of this town of Palafrugell.

² Sant Martí de Palafrugell [San Martín de Palafrugells]. Registros Parroquiales, 1453-1923. Archivo Diocesano de Girona / Archivo Municipal de Palafrugell. Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah. FamilySearch. <https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/198011> : 16 June 2025.

³ Baptism of Catharina Domenech y Riera. 25 Nov. 1829. Sant Martí de Palafrugell. Llibre de Baptismes, 1822-1834. p.288. Arxiu Diocesa de Girona. CAT ADG 3/208 1 1 1 B8. Accessed at www.arxiuadg.org : 19 June 2025.

Catarina's baptism record shows that her father's family were from Palafrugell, but her mother's family were from Pals, a small town about 9 km north of Palafrugell. It also names her godparents; the coincidence of names suggests that she was named for her godmother, presumably a paternal relative.

Baptism of Martín, 1832

Martín Bofill Bosch was two and a half years younger than his wife. He was born on 7 March 1832 in Palafrugell and baptised a day later.⁴

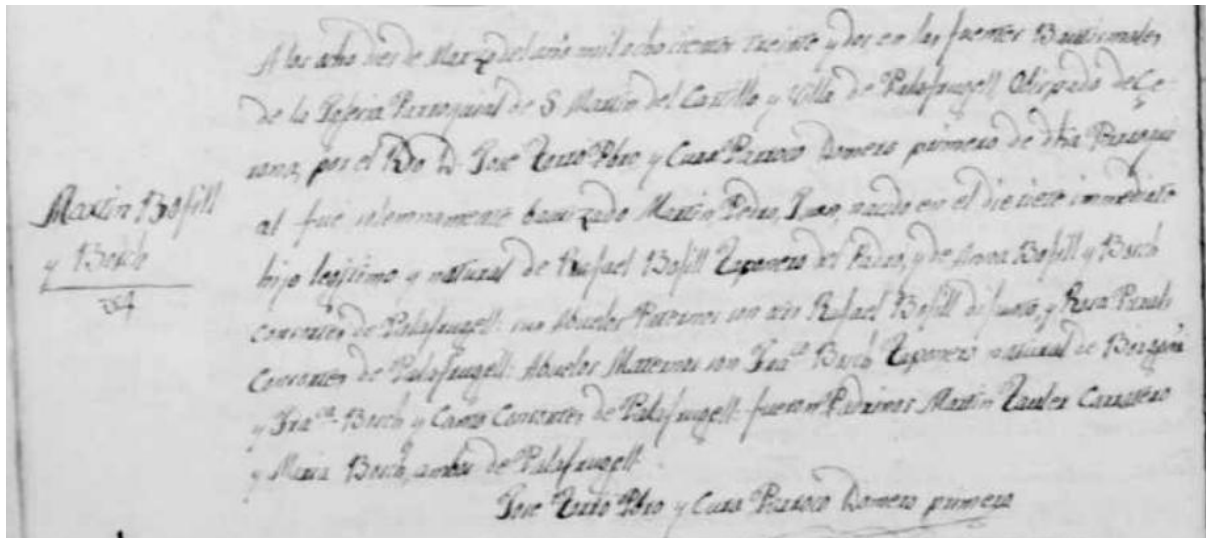


Figure 3: extract from Palafrugell baptism register. Source: FamilySearch

Translation: On the 8 March 1832 in the baptismal springs [sic] of the parish church of St Martín of the Castle and Town of Palafrugell, Bishopric of Gerona, by the Reverend D. José Torro, Prebend and Parish Priest of this Parish, was solemnly baptised Martín Pedro Juan, born on the 7th of this month, legitimate and natural son of Rafael BOFILL cork-cutter, the father, and Anna BOFILL y BOSCH, both of Palafrugell; Paternal Grandparents are another Rafael BOFILL, deceased and Rosa PARALS, both of Palafrugell; Maternal grandparents are Fra[ncis]co BOSCH, cork-cutter, born in Borzán and Fra[ncis]ca BOSCH y Canto, both of Palafrugell. Godparents were Martín ZAULEZ Carratero and Maria BOSCH, both of Palafrugell.

Martín's baptismal record, completed by a different priest, provides slightly more information than Catarina's. It shows that both his parents and three of his grandparents were from Palafrugell, but that his maternal grandfather was from an as yet unidentified place called Borzán [poss. Borrassà]. It also states that both his father and maternal grandfather were cork-cutters, and that his paternal grandfather was deceased.

⁴ Baptism of Martín Bofill y Bosch. 8 Mar. 1832. Sant Martí de Palafrugell. Llibre de Baptismes, 1822-1834. p.398. Arxiu Diocesa de Girona. CAT ADG 3/208 1 1 1 B8. Accessed at www.arxiuadg.org : 19 June 2025.

Marriage of Catarina and Martín, c. 1853

The next logical step would be to look for the record of Catarina and Martín's marriage, but unfortunately the Palafrugell marriage register for 1853-1860 is missing from the digitised set hosted both at FamilySearch and at the Arxiu Diocesà de Girona. I have not been able to discover whether the original register is missing, or whether it was simply missed during the digitization process (the baptism and burial registers for the same period have survived). Catarina and Martín's marriage is not in the previous volume, and so we must assume they married in 1853 or later.

The argument for a marriage in 1853 or early 1854 is that Catarina and Martín's eldest daughter Ana María Rosa, was born on 9 July 1854. The record of her baptism, which took place the next day, describes her parents as 'cónyuges' (spouses), confirming that they were married.⁵ It names her three surviving grandparents, whose names correspond to those on her parents' baptism records, and confirms that both parents and all three grandparents were born in Palafrugell. Sadly Ana lived for only a month. She died on 11 August 1854 and was buried the next day.⁶

Just over a year later, Martín and Catarina had a second daughter, Ana Catalina Martina. She was born on the 29 December 1855 and baptised the next day at Palafrugell.⁷ Again, her baptism record states the names and birthplaces of her parents and grandparents, which correspond to those given on the baptism records of her parents and sister.

First Emigration: London, 1855-1862

By the time of Ana's birth in December 1855, the direction of the family's lives had changed radically. In April of that year, Martín and his brother José had left Palafrugell for London, where they landed on 23 April 1855.

23 April 1855: Passenger list of the *Seine*

Martín and José arrived in London aboard the *Seine*, a 262-ton steamer, built by London's General Steam Navigation Company (GSN) in 1849 for the busy London-Boulogne shipping route.⁸ The GSN dominated British short-haul steamer travel in the first half of the 19th century, and London-Boulogne was one of their busiest lines, with twice-weekly sailings from London Bridge Wharf.⁹

Under Section 2 of the Registration of Aliens Act of 1836, the Master of any ship arriving from overseas was required to submit a list of his 'alien' or foreign passengers.¹⁰ The form completed by Samuel Word, the Master of the *Seine*, on docking at London Bridge Wharf on 23 April 1855 listed his eighteen foreign passengers, among them the group of eleven cork workers that included the Bofill brothers:

⁵ Baptism of Ana Bofill y Domenech. 10 Jul. 1854. Sant Martí de Palafrugell. Llibre de Baptismes, 1852-1861, p.58. Arxiu Diocesà de Girona. CAT ADG 3/208 1 1 1 B10. Accessed at www.arxiuadg.org : 19 June 2025.

⁶ Burial of Ana Bofill y Domenech. 12 Aug. 1854. Arxiu Sant Martí de Palafrugell. Libro Septimo de Obitos, 1852-1858, p.28. Diocesa de Girona. CAT ADG 3/208 1 4 1 O7. Accessed at www.arxiuadg.org : 19 June 2025.

⁷ Baptism of Ana Bofill y Domenech. 30 Dec. 1855. Sant Martí de Palafrugell. Llibre de Baptismes, 1852-1861, p.92. Arxiu Diocesà de Girona. CAT ADG 3/208 1 1 1 B10. Accessed at www.arxiuadg.org : 19 June 2025.

⁸ No. 315: *Seine*. *Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping from 1st July, 1855 to the 30th June, 1856*. London: J & H Cox, & Wyman, 1855.

⁹ Robert Edward Forrester. *The General Steam Navigation Company c. 1850-1913: A business history*. PhD Thesis, University of Greenwich, 2006, p. 31. Accessed at <https://gala.gre.ac.uk/> : 3 June 2025.

¹⁰ Under Section 3 of the same act, each of these 'aliens' was required to 'declare his Name, Description, &c and produce his Passport,' and would then be issued with a Certificate of Arrival. 236 volumes of these certificates are held at The National Archives under HO 2, but the series ends in 1852, so no certificates connected with this voyage are available.

Although their nationality was given simply as ‘español’ (Spanish), the group all came from the province of Girona, which had been a key centre of the European cork trade since the eighteenth century, thanks to its extensive cork oak forests, proximity to France and excellent maritime connections.¹¹

As ‘taponeros’ or skilled cutters in Girona’s thriving cork industry, the Bofill brothers and their colleagues would have been employed in small workshops, producing ‘tapones’ or cork stoppers, largely for the French wine trade just across the border.¹² Their arrival in London in 1855 responded to a tremendous expansion in the British cork manufacturing sector.¹³

Birth of Jenny Catherine, 1859

No passenger list has been located that shows Catarina and Ana arriving in London, but it must have been before the end of 1858, as the Bofills’ second daughter Jenny Catherine was born in London on 10 June 1859.

Jenny’s birth certificate provides us with an earlier address for the family at 9 Ann’s Place, Lant St, Southwark, and tells us that Martín was working as a ‘cork cutter (journeyman)’ at the time of her birth.¹⁴ It also shows some of the problems inherent in recording unfamiliar names; Martín’s surname was first recorded as BOSSILL, before being crossed out and replaced with BOFILL, while Catarina’s ‘former’ surname is recorded as RIERA, which was in fact her second or maternal surname.

Jenny was baptized on 4 August 1859 at St George’s Roman Catholic Cathedral in Southwark:¹⁵

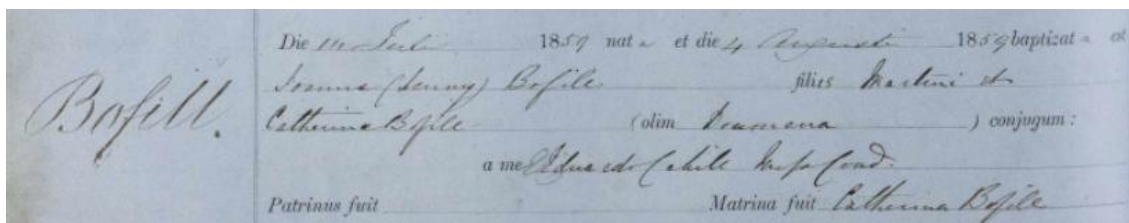


Figure 5: Extract from St George’s Cathedral Baptism Register.

As is normal for Roman Catholic parish records in England, the baptism was recorded in Latin. It states that ‘Joanne (Jenny) BOFILL’ was born on 14 July 1859, which is a month later than the date recorded on her birth certificate. She was baptised on 4 August 1859, the daughter of Martín and Catherine BOFILL, formerly DOUMENA [sic; this is the priest’s attempt to transcribe DOMENECH]. The godmother was ‘Catherina BOFILL,’ presumably the child’s mother.

¹¹ Rosa Ros and Pere Sala, ‘Redes comerciales y desarrollo industrial en la manufactura corchera catalana antes de 1914. El ejemplo de Genís y Cía,’ *Revista de Historia Industrial* 56 (2014): 49-80 (52-53).

¹² Rosa Ros and Pere Sala, ‘Redes comerciales y desarrollo industrial en la manufactura corchera catalana antes de 1914. El ejemplo de Genís y Cía,’ *Revista de Historia Industrial* 56 (2014): 49-80 (53-54).

¹³ Until mid-century, wine bottle cork production had generated a staggering wastage of around 75%, but the invention of linoleum in 1855 with cork flour as a key ingredient ushered in a new period of innovation in cork products. See Oliver Wilton and Matthew Barnett Howland, ‘Cork: an historical overview of its use in building construction,’ *Construction History* 35.1 (2020): 1-22 (6).

¹⁴ Birth of Jenny Catherine Bofill. Q3 1859, St George Southwark RD, Vol. 1d, p. 128. General Register Office of England & Wales: Digital Certificate.

¹⁵ Baptism of Joannae Bofill. 10 July 1859. Southwark, St George’s Cathedral. Baptisms, 1856-1861, p. 548. Original data: Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark.

7 April 1861: England & Wales Census

The next record we have of the family is the 1861 England & Wales census, which shows that they had moved from Southwark to 124 Royal Mint Street, Whitechapel.¹⁶

Name	Relation to head of family	Condition	Age		Occupation	Where born
			M	F		
Martín BOFILL	Head	Mar[ried]	28		Cork Cutter	Spain Naturalized British Subject
Catherine D[itt]o	Wife	Mar[ried]		28		Spain
Anny D[itt]o	Dau[ghte]r	Unm[arried]		5		Spain
Jane D[itt]o	Dau[ghte]r	Unm[arried]		2		Southwark St George's

Like many census records, this one contains some inaccuracies, particularly with regard to ages. It recorded Martín as 28, although he had turned 29 the previous month, and Catarina as also 28 (she was 31). Jenny's name is recorded as Jane, and her age given as 2, although she was still two months short of that birthday. As is often the case for unfamiliar names in domestic records, both Catarina and Ana's names were anglicized, to Catherine and Anny respectively.

The census records Martín as a 'Naturalized British Subject,' indicating that he had been through the process of naturalization. This process, which after 1844 was achieved by applying to the Home Office, allowed foreign-born people to acquire the same legal status as British-born citizens. No papers in Martín's name appear in the naturalization records under HO1, which is searchable on TNA Discovery.

Sadly Jenny Bofill died in July 1861, shortly after her second birthday. She was buried at Victoria Park Cemetery, Hackney, on 30 July 1861. The burial register records her as Jane BOFILL of Royal Mint Street, age 2.¹⁷

Second Emigration: Australia, 1862-1911

London to Melbourne, Jan-Apr. 1862

We cannot say whether their decision was directly connected with little Jenny's death, but six months later, Martín, Catarina, and Ana left England for good. On 21 January 1862, at London's East India Docks, they embarked on the 1100-ton clipper ship *Lincolnshire*, bound for Melbourne, Australia.¹⁸ The passenger list completed by the ship's master on departure shows them as Martín (29), Kate (29), and Annette (5) Bofill.¹⁹

¹⁶ England & Wales Census. 7 Apr. 1861. Whitechapel, Middlesex. 124 Royal Mint St. Head of household: Martín Bofill. TNA RG9/273/10/23

¹⁷ Burial of Jane Bofill. 30 July 1861. Victoria Park Cemetery, Hackney. Burials, Vol. 4, p. 59. TNA, RG/8/45.

¹⁸ 'Messrs Money Wigram and Sons [advert],' *Daily News*. 16 Jan. 1862, p. 1. Accessed at www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk : 23 June 2025.

¹⁹ Passenger List. *Lincolnshire*. Arriving Melbourne 1 Apr. 1862. Martín Bofill, Kate Bofill, Annette Bofill. Public Record Office Victoria. Dept. of Trade and Customs. Inward Overseas Passenger Lists, VPRS 947/P0000, Jan-Apr 1862. Image 225. Accessed at <http://prov.vic.gov.au>: 23 June 2025.

As with the census, the record shows minor inaccuracies in the family's ages, as well as continued anglicisation of Catarina and Ana's names. The *Lincolnshire* arrived at Melbourne on 26 April 1862.

The Bofills travelled to Melbourne in steerage along with another Catalan family: Salvador Raurich (34), his wife Annie (22), and their daughter, recorded as Annie (1) although her birth and death records have her as Catherine.²⁰ Salvador was another of the cork cutters who had travelled to London with Martín in 1855; the 1861 census recorded him lodging just around the corner from the Bofills in St Mark's Street.²¹

Whatever the push factor for the Bofill and Raurich families' decision to re-migrate from London to Melbourne, the pull factor was very clear. Although the census shows us that Martín and Salvador had continued to work as cork cutters for at least six years after arriving in London, they were recorded on the passenger list with quite a different occupation: minor [sic; miner].

The context for Martín and Salvador's sudden career change can be found in the adjacent entries for several of their fellow passengers, described much more bluntly as 'gold seeker.' This suggests that the Bofill and Raurich families were attracted to Australia, and specifically to Victoria, by the Victorian Gold Rush, which had already drawn more than half a million settlers to the colony in the decade following the discovery of gold at Clunes in 1851.²²

The Victoria Gold Rush: Mosquito Flat, 1863-1868

Subsequent records confirm that the Catalans were indeed heading for the Victorian goldfields. The next available record of the Bofill family is the birth record of Martín and Catarina's third daughter, another Jane. This Jane Bofill was born on 21 April 1863 at Mosquito Flat in the district of Newbridge, Victoria.²³ The settlement of Mosquito Flat, about 120 miles north of Melbourne, was a hub of gold mining activity at this time, and home to around 500 miners.²⁴ The Bofills arrived just as Mosquito Flat was shifting from a camp into a town; a letter published in the local newspaper in July 1862 recorded that 'calico and canvas are fast disappearing, and neat brick ... cottages, are taking their place'.²⁵

Jane's Australian birth record includes much more genealogical information than the English contemporary equivalent. It not only records her parents' names, but also their ages, birthplace, details of their marriage, and other children, both alive and dead:

²⁰ Birth of Catherine Mary Raurich [sic]. Q3 1861 Whitechapel, vol. 1c, p. 367. General Register Office of England & Wales [index only]. Accessed at www.freebmd.co.uk : 23 June 2025.

²¹ England & Wales Census. 7 Apr. 1861. Whitechapel, Middlesex. St Mark St. Head of household: William Burgus. Salvador Raurich recorded as Redish Silverdor. The National Archives RG9/273/105/24, no. 112. Accessed at www.findmypast.co.uk : 19 June 2025.

²² Charles Fahey, 'Peopling the Victorian Goldfields: From Boom to Bust,' *Australian Economic History Review* 50.2 (2010), pp. 148-161 (149).

²³ Birth of Jane Bofill. 21 Apr. 1863. District of Newbridge, Victoria, Australia. 1863, no. 307. BDM Victoria 9879/1863. Accessed at <https://bdm.vic.gov.au> : 23 June 2025.

²⁴ David Bannear. *North West Victoria Historic Mining Plots (Maryborough), 1850-1980. Historic Notes*. Heritage Victoria. Undated. p.37. Accessed at <https://heritage.vic.gov.au> : 23 June 2025.

²⁵ 'Mosquito Flat (from a correspondent),' *Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser*, 11 Jul. 1862, p. 5. Accessed at <https://trove.nla.gov.au> : 23 June 2025.

- Father: Martín BOFILL, miner, 31 years, b. Catalonia, Spain
- Mother: Catherine BOFILL formerly BUMENECK [sic], 31 years, b. Catalonia, Spain
- When/where married: 9 of September 1853, Spain
- Issue living and deceased: Annette, 6 weeks (deceased), Jane, 2 ½ years (deceased), Ann, 7 years (living)

The details of Martín and Catarina's marriage given here confirm our hypothesis that they were married in 1853 or early 1854 at Palafrugell, meaning that their marriage was recorded in the missing volume of parish marriages. The information about their deceased daughters matches the information from church and cemetery records in Palafrugell and London.

The Bofills had two more children while living in Mosquito Flat: Henry (b. 1865) and Mary (b. 1868).²⁶

The Raurich Family

Salvador and Annie Raurich settled alongside the Bofills in Mosquito Flat. Sadly, their daughter Catherine died there in December 1862 aged just 17 months.²⁷ I can find no further reference to Annie, but Salvador returned to London a year later, embarking the *Sussex* at Melbourne on 12 December 1863 and landing in London on 14 March 1864.²⁸

From Miner to Farmer: Waanyarra, 1870-1911

By the late 1860s the deposits in the Victoria goldfields were depleted and many miners were struggling to support themselves and their families. The Victoria Land Act of 1869 aimed to address this by opening up all unoccupied Crown land, allowing miners to apply for a three-year licence to 'select' (occupy and cultivate) up to 20 acres of land. The Bofills, like thousands of other families, took advantage of this opportunity, and we can trace their trajectory through the Registers of Applications and Licensees held at Public Record Office Victoria.

Land Registration, 1869

The first step in the process of becoming a 'selector' was to make an application. The Register of Applications shows that Martín submitted his first application (no. 14266) on 27 January 1869 for a plot of 3 acres 3 roods and 29 perches at Waanyarra. Its location was given as Section 8, Allotment 15, and the application was approved on 16 April 1869.²⁹ The related Register of Licensees confirms that license no. 15129 for the same plot of land, now with slightly reduced measurements of 3 acres 2 roods and 8 perches, was granted on 1 April 1869.³⁰

²⁶ Birth of Henry Bofill. District of Newbridge, Victoria, Australia. BDM Victoria 23968/1865 (index only); Birth of Mary Bofill. District of Newbridge, Victoria, Australia. BDM Victoria 19445/1868 (index only). Accessed at <https://bdm.vic.gov.au> : 23 June 2025.

²⁷ Death of Catherine Rawrich [sic]. 15 Dec. 1862. District of Newbridge, Victoria, Australia. 1862, no. 208. BDM Victoria 9472/1862. Accessed at <https://bdm.vic.gov.au> : 23 June 2025.

²⁸ Passenger List. Public Record Office Victoria. Dept. of Trade and Customs. Outwards Passenger Lists, 1852-1923. VPRS 948, Oct-Dec.1863. *Sussex*. Leaving Melbourne Dec. 1863, p.2. S Raurich. Accessed at <http://prov.vic.gov.au> : 23 June 2025.

²⁹ No. 14266. Martín Bofill. Victoria Land Selection, Register of Applications, All Districts, Sec. 42, 1867-1868, vol. 3, p. 310. Public Record Office Victoria, 13034. Accessed at www.familysearch.org : 24 June 2025.

³⁰ No. 15129. Martín Bofill. Victoria Land Selection, Register of Licensees, Sec. 42, 1865-1871, vol. 3, p. 12. Public Record Office Victoria, 13048.

A year later on 20 December 1869, Martín submitted a related application for a 10-acre extension to the plot, which was granted on 14 December 1870.³¹

Martín's three-year licence to 'select' (occupy) this land was granted under Section 42 of 'The Amending Land Act 1865.' Section 42 waived the requirement for land to be surveyed before it was selected, with the aim of speeding up the selection process. The Register of Licensees further records that Martín paid £2 rent per annum for his original plot and £2.50 per annum for the extension during the three years of his license (1869-1871).³² He subsequently purchased both plots under Sec. 31 of the Land Act 1869, which allowed licenseholders a pre-emptive right of purchase to land they had occupied for at least two and a half years.³³ The *Victoria Government Gazette*, the colony's publication of record for government transactions, recorded the approval of Martín's land grant in October 1881, noting that he would have to pay fees totalling £2 1s 5d to the authorised officer at nearby Dunolly.³⁴ The entry in the Register of Licensees dates the finalization of Martín's purchase to 29 September 1882.³⁵

Almost a year after his first application, on the same day he applied for an extension to his original plot, Martín applied for a second plot of land in Waanyarra. The Register of Applications shows that this application was for a plot located in Section 9 of Waanyarra, forming a portion of allotment 4, and at 9 acres 3 roods 38 perches it was three times the size of Martín's original plot.³⁶ The same Register shows that he paid £2.50 for a survey and the license was issued on 14 December 1870. The Register of Licensees records that he paid £4 rent per annum between 1869 and 1871, and that he subsequently purchased the plot under Section 31 of the Land Act 1869, although no date is given for this purchase.³⁷

Family Life

With the acquisition of this land, the family made the 35-mile journey north from Mosquito Flat to Waanyarra, a growing township in the Victoria goldfields, 111 miles north west of Melbourne. Their seventh and youngest child, Martin, was born here on 26 April 1870.³⁸ His birth record confirms the information about his parents and siblings given in Jane's birth record seven years earlier:

Accessed at www.familysearch.org : 24 June 2025.

³¹ No. 1816. Martín Bofill. Victoria Land Selection, Register of Applications, Sec. 42, 1868-1876, vol. 3, p. 71. Public Record Office Victoria, 13036. Accessed at www.familysearch.org : 1 July 2025.

³² No. 17588. Martín Bofill. Victoria Land Selection, Register of Licensees, Sec. 42, 1865-1871, vol. 3, p. 14. Public Record Office Victoria, 13048. Accessed at www.familysearch.org : 1 July 2025.

³³ 'Full Description.' VPRS 627 Land Selection Files, Section 31 Land Act 1869. Department of Crown Lands and Survey. Public Record Office Victoria. Accessed at <https://researchdata.edu.au> : 24 June 2025.

³⁴ 'Applications for Grants Approved under Section 31 of "The Land Act 1869",' *Victoria Government Gazette*, 21 Oct. 1881, p. 2905. Accessed at www.findmypast.co.uk : 1 July 2025.

³⁵ No. 17588. Martín Bofill. Victoria Land Selection, Register of Licensees, Sec. 42, 1865-1871, vol. 3, p. 14. Public Record Office Victoria, 13048. Accessed at www.familysearch.org : 1 July 2025.

³⁶ No. 1817. Martín Bofill. Victoria Land Selection, Register of Applications, Sec. 42, 1868-1876, vol. 3, p. 71. Public Record Office Victoria, 13036. Accessed at www.familysearch.org : 1 July 2025.

³⁷ No. 17589. Martín Bofill. Victoria Land Selection, Register of Licensees, Sec. 42, 1865-1871, vol. 3, p. 14. Public Record Office Victoria, 13048. Accessed at www.familysearch.org : 1 July 2025.

³⁸ Birth of Martín Bofill. 26 Apr. 1870. District of Newbridge, Victoria, Australia. 1870, no. 2007. BDM Victoria 11600/1870. Accessed at <https://bdm.vic.gov.au> : 23 June 2025.

- Father: Martin BOFILL, farmer, 38 years, b. Catalonia, Spain
- Mother: Catherine BOFILL, formerly BUMENECK [sic], 38 years, b. Catalonia, Spain
- Marriage: September 9th 1853, Spain
- Issue living and deceased: Annette (deceased), Jane (deceased), Ann (14), Jane (7), Henry (5).

The birth record omits Martín junior's older sister Mary, born in 1868, and thus aged 2 at the time of his birth. This seems to be an error; no death was recorded for Mary Bofill between 1868 and 1870, and she is the only possible candidate for the marriage recorded for Mary Bofill in 1888.³⁹ Martín junior's birth record also confirms that Martín senior had changed profession with his acquisition of land in Waanyarra, from miner to farmer.

Brushes with the Law

The extensive digitized records of the Victoria Petty Sessions, the local courts that sat below Quarter Sessions and Assizes in the legal hierarchy, allow us to trace the family's occasional brushes with the law. These encounters also shed light on how individuals were impacted by the fast-growing Colony of Victoria's equally fast-evolving legislative framework.

On 2 May 1866, Martín appeared at the Tarnagulla Petty Sessions as one of a number of defendants charged with keeping unregistered dogs. He was found guilty and fined 5s with 6s costs; in default (i.e. if he did not pay the fine), he would spend 48 hours in Dunolly Gaol.⁴⁰ The registration of dogs had been compulsory in most Australian states since the early 19th century, partly as a means of controlling the wild dog population, but also as a source of revenue.⁴¹ In Victoria, the Dog Act 1864 required the owner of any dog over six months of age to register their animal at the court of petty session by 15 January each year on pain of a fine of between five and ten shillings.⁴²

On 3 February 1875, Martín was back at the Petty Sessions Court as a defendant on two charges brought by a Henry Williams, of 'cruelly illtreating 22 goats and thereby did injury to each goat,' and 'committing injury to property under the value of £20'.⁴³ This case had been adjourned from a previous court on 20 January, to give time for witnesses to be summoned.⁴⁴ Both complaints were dismissed, with no costs.

On 17 July 1878, Martín was one of a number of local parents summoned to court because of their child's absence from school.⁴⁵ In his case the charge was 'neglecting to cause your child Jane Bofil [sic] to attend school'.

³⁹ Marriage of Mary Bofill & James Henry Dyer. 1888. District of Newbridge, Victoria, Australia. BDM Victoria 3306/1888 (index only). Accessed at <https://bdm.vic.gov.au> : 23 June 2025.

⁴⁰ Tarnagulla Court of Petty Sessions Cause List Books, Vol. 2 (09/1865-08/1870). 2 May 1866, no. 94. Martin Bofill. Public Records Office Victoria, VPRS 354. Accessed at www.findmypast.co.uk : 2 July 2025.

⁴¹ See, for example, Neil Ransom, *Collared: A History of Dog Registration in South Australia*. Campbelltown, SA: Neil Ransom, 2005.

⁴² 'An Act to amend the Law relating to Dogs'. 2 June 1864. 27 Victoria (1864), no. 229., pp. 513-517. *Victorian Historical Acts* (Database). Australian Legal Information Institute. Accessed at https://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/hist_act/tda186474/ : 2 July 2025.

⁴³ Tarnagulla Court of Petty Sessions Cause List Books, Vol. 3 (08/1870-09/1875). 3 Feb. 1875, nos. 537 and 538. Henry Williams vs Martin Bofill. Public Records Office Victoria, VPRS 354. Accessed at www.findmypast.co.uk : 2 July 2025.

⁴⁴ Tarnagulla Court of Petty Sessions Cause List Books, Vol. 3 (08/1870-09/1875). 20 Jan. 1875, nos. 511 and 512. Henry Williams vs Martin Bofill. Public Records Office Victoria, VPRS 354. Accessed at www.findmypast.co.uk : 2 July 2025.

⁴⁵ Tarnagulla Court of Petty Sessions Cause List Books, Vol. 4 (10/1875-08/1883). 17 July 1878, no. 223. Martin Bofill. Public Records Office Victoria, VPRS 354. Accessed at www.findmypast.co.uk : 2 July 2025.

As in all but two of the cases on the same page of the court register, the charge against Martín was dismissed. Jane was now 14 years old, which meant that she had one more year to attend school under the Victoria Education Act 1872.⁴⁶ Martín was summoned to court again nine years later on the same charge.⁴⁷ Although the child in this case was not named, it was presumably Martín junior, who had turned 14 six months earlier. On this occasion, the charge was upheld and Martín senior was fined 1s and 2s 6d costs, which he paid on the spot.

Naturalisation of Martín Bofill, 1893

After 30 years in Victoria, Martín applied for naturalisation early in 1893.⁴⁸ Because Australia was a British colony, this meant that through naturalisation he became not an Australian, but a British subject. There is no mention of an earlier naturalisation, although Martín had stated on the 1861 English census that he was a ‘naturalised British subject’. This supports our hypothesis, based on the lack of evidence for naturalisation paperwork in London, that Martín never formally applied for naturalisation during his time in London. By that time his youngest son and namesake had reached his majority, Martín was known as Martín Bofill Senior.

In order to begin the process, Martín completed a printed form, the Memorial for Letters of Naturalization. This form, completed on 7 February 1893, records the following information (the handwritten responses are **in bold**):

- That your Memorialist’s name is **Martin BOFILL Senior**
- That he is **60 (sixty)** years of age
- That he was born at **Palfurgell [sic], Province Girona [sic], Spain**
- That he is by occupation a **farmer**
- That on the **20** day of **February** in the year **1862** he arrived in the Colony of Victoria by the ship **Lancashire** from the Port of **Blackwall** in **England** and that he has ever since he arrival, being a period of **thirty one years**, been a resident in said Colony of Victoria.

Martín’s responses show how, at the distance of 31 years, details could become obscured. As we saw previously, the ship he arrived on was the *Lincolnshire*, not the *Lancashire*, and his date of arrival was 26 April, not 20 February 1862. There is no port of Blackwall in England (the *Lincolnshire* set sail from the East India Docks), but the shipping company who ran the *Lincolnshire* were based at Blackwall Yard, which may account for the confusion.

The form is heavily annotated by clerks in both pencil and red pen. The annotations tell us that Martín’s form was received on the 8 February, that he took his oath on the 15 February, and that his ‘Nat[urali]z[atio]n Letters’ were forwarded on 16 March.

⁴⁶ Education Act 1872 (Vic). Documenting a Democracy: Australia’s Story. Museum of Australian Democracy. Accessed at <https://www.foundingdocs.gov.au/item-sdid-25.html> : 2 July 2025.

⁴⁷ Tarnagulla Court of Petty Sessions Cause List Books, Vol. 5 (08/1883-08/1888). 1 Oct. 1884, no. 30. Martin Bofill. Public Records Office Victoria, VPRS 354. Accessed at www.findmypast.co.uk : 2 July 2025.

⁴⁸ Australia Naturalisation Records. Martin Bofill (Senior). 13 Mar. 1893. Cert. No. 5618. Record Book No. 37, p. 62. National Archives of Australia, A712 1893/W1065. Accessed at <https://naa.gov.au> : 1 July 2025.

Death and Probate of Martín Bofill, 1898

Martín Bofill, described as a farmer of Waanyarra, died on 26 March 1898 at Waanyarra at the age of 66 years, 10 months and was buried the next day at Tarnagulla Cemetery.⁴⁹ The brief obituary published in the regional *Bendigo Advertiser* newspaper acknowledged his status as an early settler, recording that ‘An old resident of this district, Mr H Bofil of Waanyana [sic] died yesterday after a lingering illness’.⁵⁰ Martín’s death certificate confirms this; his cause of death is recorded as ‘aneurism of arch of aorta’ and exhaustion, which he had suffered for two years.

Martín’s Australian death certificate contains significantly more genealogical information than a contemporary English equivalent, albeit with the caveat that this information was provided to the best of the knowledge of the informant, in this case Martín’s eldest daughter Annie (recorded as A ISON, daughter, Tarnagulla). It tells us that his parents were ‘Rafael BOFILL, cork cutter’ and Annie BOFILL, m[aiden] n[ame] REERA [sic]. While Rafael’s details are correct, Martín’s mother’s surname was actually BOSCH; the name RIERA was Catarina’s maternal surname, which suggests Annie had confused her two grandmothers.

The last three columns on the death certificate provide additional genealogical information, again with some minor inaccuracies demonstrating how details can be obscured by the passing of time. Martín’s birthplace is given as Parafugal [sic], Spain, presumably a phonetic rendering of Palafrugell. The record states that he had been ‘34 years in Victoria,’ which would place his arrival in 1864; in fact, he landed at Melbourne in April 1862, so had been in Victoria for 35 years and 11 months. It states that he was married at ‘Parafugal’ at the age of 21 to Catherine DOMANA [sic]. His children, ‘in order of birth,’ are listed as:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| • Annie. Dead | |
| • Annie. 42 yrs [the informant] | • Henry. 32 yrs |
| • Jane. Dead | • Mary. 30 yrs |
| • Jane. 34 yrs | • Martin. 28 yrs |

This corresponds to information from the other sources we have seen. It also confirms that the omission of Mary from Martín junior’s birth certificate was accidental, as she is listed here, alive and with the correct age of 30.

Martín’s will, dated 14 March 1898, states that ‘after payment of my just debts funeral and testamentary expenses, I give devise and bequeath unto my dear wife Catherine Domanic Bofill all my Real and personal Estate wheresoever and whatsoever’.⁵¹ It was signed with Martín’s distinctive signature and witnessed by his son in law Harry Ison, husband of his eldest daughter Annie.⁵²

⁴⁹ Death of Martin Bofill. 26 Mar. 1898. District of Tarnagulla, Victoria, Australia. 1898, no. 387. BDM Victoria 5096/1898. Accessed at <https://bdm.vic.gov.au> : 9 July 2025. NOTE: no. 385, two entries above on the same page of the register, records the death on 19 February 1898 of Martín junior’s 5-week-old daughter Grace Bofill, from ‘marasmus, harelip and cleft palate’.

⁵⁰ ‘Obituary.’ *Bendigo Advertiser*, 30 March 1898, p. 3. Accessed at <https://trove.nla.gov.au> : 2 July 2025.

⁵¹ Will of Martin Bofill. 1 Aug. 1898. Registrar of Probates, Supreme Court. Public Record Office Victoria VPRS 7591/P0002, 68/606. Accessed at <http://prov.vic.gov.au> : 9 July 2025.

⁵² Marriage of Harry Ison & Annie Bofill. 1881. District of Tarnagulla, Victoria, Australia. BDM Victoria 3170/1882 (index only). Accessed at <https://bdm.vic.gov.au> : 23 June 2025.

As Executrix, Catarina had to meet a series of obligations, beginning with the ‘Affidavit of Publication of Notice,’ dated 10 May 1898, which confirms that she had placed the required advertisement in the *Age* newspaper, Melbourne, giving notice that an application for probate was to be made.⁵³

On 31 May 1898, once the required 14 days had passed from the date of that advertisement, Catarina made her own affidavit concerning Martín’s death and wishes. She stated that Martín died on 15 April 1898, that his will dated 14 March 1898 appointed her sole Executrix, and that his property in Victoria comprised real estate worth £250 and personal estate worth £50. Catarina signed with a mark rather than a signature; the Registrar added a note stating that ‘Catherina Domanic Bofill being a markswoman, this affadavit was first read over to her in my presence when she seemed perfectly to understand and made her mark thereto in my presence’.

Probate of Martín Bofill of Waanyarra, farmer, was granted on 27 July 1898 in the Probate Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of the Colony of Victoria. Following this, a second set of records were generated.⁵⁴ On 1 August 1898, a letter was issued confirming Catarina’s obligation as Executrix to deposit a true and perfect inventory’ of Martín’s estate within three months and an account of her distribution of the estate within fifteen months. Almost three years later, on 1 June 1901, a second letter was issued reminding Catarina of her obligations. A handwritten note in the margin, presumably by Catarina’s attorney, states ‘I have not realized this Estate, nor increased or diminished same. It therefore remains ... the same as when I obtained Probate’. It is dated 12 October 1901 and accompanied by Catarina’s mark. This is the final document in the file; there is no detailed inventory.

Death and Probate of Catarina Domenech, 1911

Catarina survived Martín by thirteen years. She died on 2 September 1911 at Waanyarra of senility and exhaustion, having been seen by a doctor two days earlier on 31 August.⁵⁵ She was buried on 4 September 1911 at Tarnagulla Cemetery. Her death certificate reflects the constant confusion about her name, recorded here as ‘Catherine ~~DOMANACH~~ BOFILL’. As with Martín’s death certificate, the necessary genealogical information was provided by one of the couple’s children, in this case their elder son Henry Bofill. He gave Catarina’s parents’ as ‘Henry DOMANACH, Gardener’ and ‘Not Known,’ suggesting that Henry believed he had been named for his maternal grandfather (whose name was really Martín Domenech), but had no knowledge of his maternal grandmother.

The information Henry provided about his mother’s life was less accurate than that provided by his elder sister thirteen years earlier, perhaps reflecting the ten years in age that separated them, as well as the fact that Annie was the only surviving child to have been born in their parents’ native Palafrugell. He gave the place of Catarina’s birth and marriage as Barcelona (120 km south of Palafrugell), suggesting that he was aware of a Catalan connection, but not its precise details.

⁵³ Grant of Probate: Martín Bofill. 1 Aug. 1898. Registrar of Probates, Supreme Court. Public Record Office Victoria VPRS 28/P0000, 68/606. Accessed at <http://prov.vic.gov.au> : 9 July 2025.

⁵⁴ Grant of Probate: Martín Bofill. 1 Aug. 1898. Registrar of Probates, Supreme Court. Public Record Office Victoria VPRS 28/P0002, 68/606. Accessed at <http://prov.vic.gov.au> : 9 July 2025.

⁵⁵ Death of Catherine Bofill. 1911. District of Tarnagulla, Victoria, Australia. 1911, no. 193. BDM Victoria 11155/1911. Accessed at <https://bdm.vic.gov.au> : 9 July 2025.

When asked to name Catarina's children, he provided details only for those still living, unlike Annie who had included the two sisters she had lost in childhood, but whom only she was old enough to remember.

Catarina's obituary, probably provided by Henry, is more detailed than Martín's, and like his emphasises her status as an early settler:

The death occurred at Waanyarra on Saturday last (says our Tarnagalla correspondent) of an old and respected resident, Mrs Catherine BOFILL, relict of the late Mr Martin BOFILL. She was 79, and was born at Barcelona in Spain, and came to Waanyarra 49 years ago. She leaves a family of two sons and three daughters to mourn their loss.⁵⁶

Catarina's will, dated 19 December 1907 and signed with a large cross, describes her as Katrina [sic] BOFILL of Waanyarra, widow.⁵⁷ She left everything to her elder son Henry Bofill, described as a miner of Waanyarra, whom she also named sole executor. Probate was granted to Henry on 8 October 1912, and the grant was filed at Melbourne three days later.⁵⁸ Interestingly, the probate documents consistently record Catarina's date of death as 2 December 1911, two months after her confirmed death date.

Catarina's probate documents include a detailed account of her property, which comprised real estate at £300 and personal estate at £12. Exhibit A, sworn by Henry on 1 October 1912, provides a statement of Catarina's assets and liabilities. It confirms that the real estate included the two plots of land previously purchased by Martín:

Allot. 14, Sec. 8, Parish of Waanyarra ... containing 2 acres 2 roods 31 perches held under Cert. of Title, Vol. 1085, Fol. 216840, and allot. 15, sect. 8, same parish and county, containing 3 acres 2 roods 8 perches held under Cert of Title Vol. 525, Fol. 104990.

This is where the family had built their home, described as:

a dwelling house of slab and stone, iron roof, a stable and out-buildings [the house and buildings are built partly on allot. 14 and partly on allot. 15, which two allotments adjoin].

The value of both allotments, 'with all improvements therein,' was £200. There was also a third allotment, described as '12B, sect. 8 ... containing 4 acres 3 roods 34 perches', valued at £100.

Catarina's personal estate comprised 'about 5 acres of hay', valued at £10, a single furrow plough, valued at £1, and a bedstead and rocking chair, valued together at £1. A note, presumably added by Henry, states that 'other furniture in house belonged to me this deponent'.

⁵⁶ 'Obituary.' *The Bendigo Independent*. 7 Sep. 1911, p. 2. Accessed at <https://trove.nla.gov.au> : 2 July 2025.

⁵⁷ Will of Katrina Bofill, 19 Dec. 1907; Probate 8 Oct. 1912. Registrar of Probates, Supreme Court. Public Record Office Victoria VPRS 7591/P0002, 125/998. Accessed at <http://prov.vic.gov.au> : 9 July 2025.

⁵⁸ Grant of Probate: Katrina Bofill. 8 Oct. 1912. Registrar of Probates, Supreme Court. Public Record Office Victoria VPRS 28/P0000, 125/998. Accessed at <http://prov.vic.gov.au> : 9 July 2025.

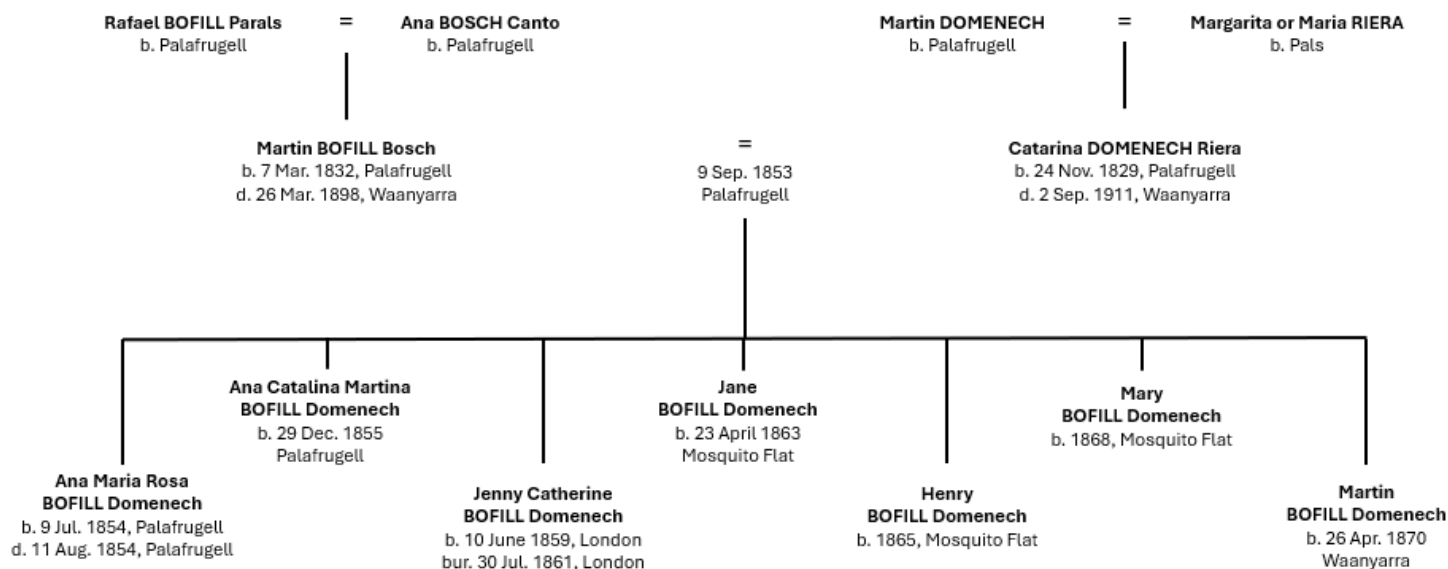
The only liability noted was a mortgage for £100 ‘on the whole of the Real Estate, to Mrs Annie ISON of the Victoria Hotel, Tarnagulla’. Annie Ison was Catarina’s eldest daughter; perhaps the mortgage had been given to enable her mother to continue to live in the family home.

Conclusions

This project used the double emigration of Martín Bofill and Catarina Domenech as an example to demonstrate the sources available for tracing migrant lives through genealogical research in Catalunya, England, and Australia. Drawing on church and civil records, censuses, passenger and immigration records, land records, quarter sessions records, newspapers, and probate records, we were able to trace Martín and Catarina’s journey from their hometown of Palafrugell on the Catalan coast to London and then to Victoria, Australia.

The records demonstrate the difficulties inherent in tracing lives that cross national and linguistic borders, and the importance of cultural, geographical, and linguistic expertise for identifying personal and place names that are sometimes several variations removed from their original form. The records also demonstrate how historical details are transmitted and (mis)remembered across oceans and generations, providing us with an insight into the Catalan family stories remembered by Martín and Catarina’s Australian descendants.

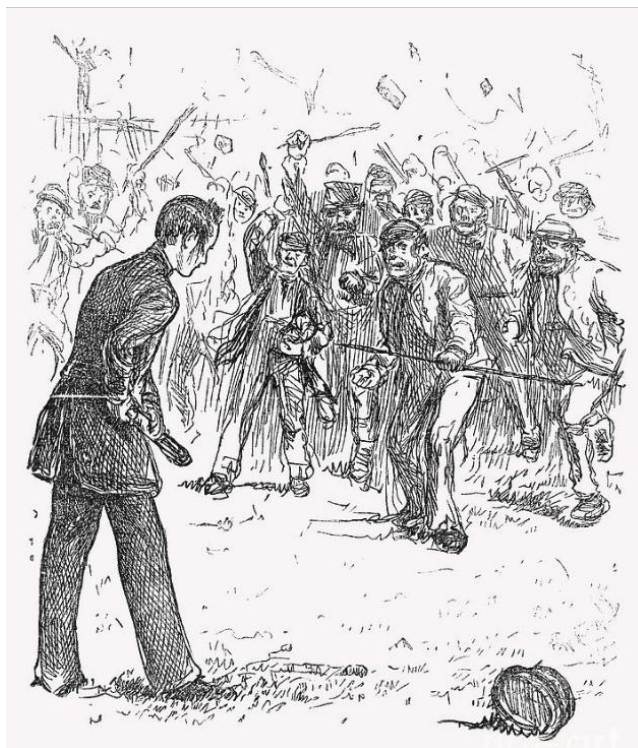
The Bofill Domenech Family Tree



* * * * *

WILLIAM MAYBANK AND THE HYDE PARK RIOTS 1866

By Jananne Rahmann, DipGen



Punch. August 11, 1866

Introduction

This piece of work emerged while researching my husband's family tree. One of the brothers of his 2x great grandmother was William Maybank, a policeman who lived in and patrolled the Hampstead area of London. However his death in 1870 at the age of only 41 was recorded in Lambeth. Further investigation revealed that William had drowned in the Thames and his body had been brought ashore near Waterloo Bridge four days after he was last seen.

This report aimed to explore William's life, career and the events leading up to his death using censuses, GRO and parish registers and Metropolitan Police records. Newspaper reports were a key source of information about William's policing activities as well as details of the inquest into his death. It was in these reports that his involvement in a major incident - the Hyde Park Riots of 23-25 July 1866 - came to light. This report examines the evidence for William's role in those riots and discusses the potential impact this experience had on his physical and mental health.

Family Background

Evidence presented at the inquest of February 1870 into William's death provided clues to his family life. One of the witnesses was his widow, Isabella, who gave her address as Little Albany Street in Marylebone. She was described as the mother of eight children.

A search for the couple in the 1861 census for Little Albany Street produced a match¹. William was then 32 and working as a policeman while Isabella was 30. William's place of birth was given as Surrey but no town was specified. They were living with four of their children, aged between 1 and 7 years, all of whom had been born in the area of St Pancras.

1861 Census. Residence: 28 Little Albany Street North, Pancras MDX					
Name and Surname	Relationship to Head of Family	Condition	Age	Rank, Profession or Occupation	Where Born
William MAYBANK	Head		32	Policeman	Surrey
Isabella Ditto	Wife		30		Surrey
Emma Ditto	Daughter		7		St Pancras Middlesex
William Ditto	Son		5		Ditto Ditto
Alfred Ditto	Son		3		Ditto Ditto
Maryann Ditto	Daughter		1		Ditto Ditto

The children's birth registrations were examined and Isabella's maiden name was found to be Bayes/Bays. The search was extended to find the entries for other children, and a total of eight were found at regular 2-year intervals starting in 1854:

Name	Birth registration quarter/year	Registration district and GRO reference	Mother's maiden name
Emma Charlotte MAYBANK	Q2 1854	Strand 1b 397	BAYES
William Henry MAYBANK	Q2 1856	St Pancras 1b 9	BAYS
Richard Alfred MAYBANK	Q1 1858	St Pancras 1b 9	BAYES
Mary Ann MAYBANK	Q2 1860	Pancras 1b 1	BAYS
Margaret Elizabeth MAYBANK	Q2 1862	Pancras 1b 5	BAYES
Esther Sarah MAYBANK	Q3 1864	Pancras 1b 5	BAYES
Lydia Jane MAYBANK	Q2 1866	Pancras 1b 23	BAYES
Alice Isabella MAYBANK	Q3 1868	Pancras 1b 4	BAYS

A search for the marriage of William Maybank and Isabella Bayes produced a match in the parish register of St Clement Danes, Westminster, on April 29 1851². At that time William was 21 and working as a porter. His father, also called William, was a tailor. Both parties gave the address 56 Clement Lane. They were married by banns and Isabella signed with her mark.

The 1851 census was taken a month before William and Isabella were married, yet the couple were found together at 56 Clement Lane and enumerated as husband and wife³. William gave his age as 21 and his place of birth as Godalming in Surrey.

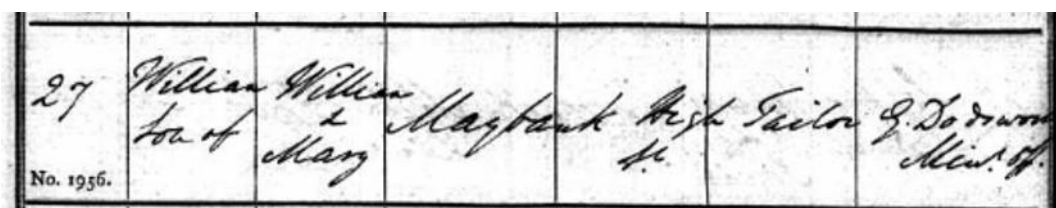
¹ William Maybank. 1861 England Census. Pancras MDX. www.ancestry.co.uk. Original data: TNA. Census Returns of England and Wales 1861. Reference Class RG 9 Piece 96 Folio 58 Page 15. Digital copy of original image viewed 20 March 2025.

² William Maybank / Isabella Bayes. Marriage 29 April 1851. Westminster MDX. www.ancestry.co.uk. Westminster, London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1935. Original data: City of Westminster Archives Centre. Westminster Church of England Parish Registers. Reference STC/PR/5/21. Page 103. Digital copy of original image viewed 20 March 2025.

³ Wm Maybank. 1851 England Census. Strand MDX. www.ancestry.co.uk. Original data: TNA. Census Returns of England and Wales 1851. Reference Class HO107 Piece 1511 Folio 319 Page 7. Digital copy of original image viewed 20 March 2025.

1851 Census. Residence: 56 Clement Lane, Westminster MDX					
Name and Surname	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age	Rank, Profession or Occupation	Where Born
MAYBANK William	Head	Married	21	Light Porter	Surrey Godalming
Isabella	Wife	Married	21	Charwoman	Middlesex Westminster

Based on his age in the two censuses, as well as his marriage registration, William's year of birth was estimated to be around 1829. The parish registers for Godalming in Surrey were examined and a baptism was found for William, son of William – a tailor - and Mary Maybank, on 27 December 1829⁴.



Ss Peter and Paul, Godalming SRY. Parish baptisms. 1829						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1829 December 27	William Son of	William & Mary	MAYBANK	High Street	Tailor	G Dodsworth

Other children of William and Mary Maybank who were baptised in Godalming in that time period were sought, with the following matches^{5 6}.

Ss Peter and Paul, Godalming SRY. Parish baptisms. 1825-1834						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1825 August 26	Mary Elizabeth Daughter of	William & Mary	MAYBANK	High Street	Tailor	C Smith Curate
1828 February 13	Emma Daughter of	William & Mary	MAYBANK	High Street	Tailor	C Smith Curate
1832 April 24	Charlotte Daughter of	William & Mary	MAYBANK	Pound Lane	Tailor	R Ekin Vicar
1834 June 6	Alfred	William & Mary	MAYBANK	Pound Lane	Tailor	W Wolger Officiating Minister

⁴ William Maybank. Baptism 27 December 1829. Godalming SRY. www.ancestry.co.uk. Surrey, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1921. Original data: Surrey History Centre. Surrey Church of England Parish Registers. Reference God/4/1 Page 245. Digital copy of original image viewed 20 March 2025. Reproduced with permission Surrey History Centre.

⁵ Mary Elizabeth Maybank, Emma Maybank and Charlotte Maybank. Baptisms 1825-1834. Ibid. Pages 181-277.

⁶ Alfred Mabanke. Baptism 6 June 1834. Ibid. Reference God/4/2 Page 10.

The family were found together in the 1841 census (minus Emma who was with grandparents) at 44 Vere Street in St Clement Danes, Westminster⁷. Father William was listed as Alfred, aged 35, but the children's names and his occupation of tailor pointed to this being the correct family and they must have moved from Godalming to London between 1834 and 1841.

A search for William Maybank in the Discovery catalogue produced a match for the father in the Home Office Criminal Petitions: On 12 June 1835 William Maybank, tailor, of 6 Bedford Court, Catharine Street, Strand, was tried at the City of Westminster Sessions for assaulting his wife⁸. Mary Maybank had taken out a warrant for her personal safety but her husband was granted bail for good behaviour and because he showed contrition. Also Mary was described as being heavily pregnant with their sixth child and unable to support herself or her family. As the couple already had five children baptised in Godalming, a search was made for further children of William and Mary born or baptised in Westminster in 1836 or later. Only one was found: Ann Eliza Maybank's birth was registered in Strand during Q3 1841⁹. However no match could be found for another child baptised in or soon after 1836 and as Alfred was the youngest child in the 1841 census, it seemed likely that the child Mary was carrying at the time of her husband's trial in 1836 miscarried or was stillborn.

Neither of William's parents were found in the 1851 census, and a search of the GRO indexes revealed that both of their deaths had been registered in Q4 1847¹⁰¹¹. Burials were found in the parish registers of St Mary le Strand and their addresses were recorded as 89 Drury Lane, indicating they were still living together at the time of their deaths. William was 43 years old when he died and Mary was 45¹²¹³.

In summary, William Maybank moved with his family from Godalming to London when he was around 6 years old. The warrant brought by his mother in 1836 indicated that the family experienced domestic violence at the hands of William's father but ultimately the family stayed together. When William married Isabella Bayes he was working as a porter but sometime after 1851 he joined the Metropolitan Police and it was his professional life that was examined next.

Police Career

Enlistment

In order to identify when William joined the Metropolitan Police, the alphabetical register of joiners for the period 1 Jan 1843 and 30 April 1857 was searched.

⁷ Alfred Maybank, 1841 England Census. Stand MDX. www.ancestry.co.uk. Original data: TNA. Census Returns of England and Wales 1841. Reference Class HO 107 Piece 731 Book 6 Folio 17 Page 27. Digital copy of original image viewed 20 March 2025.

⁸ William Maybank. Trial 12 June 1836. Home Office: Criminal Petitions, Series 1. TNA. Reference HO 17/90/74. Online transcript viewed 20 March 2025.

⁹ Ann Eliza Maybank. Birth Q3 1841. Strand Union MDX. www.gro.gov.uk. Reference Volume 1 Page 341. Transcribed index viewed 20 March 2025.

¹⁰ William Maybank. Death Q4 1847. Strand MDX. www.gro.gov.uk. Reference Volume 1 Page 438. Transcribed index viewed 20 March 2025.

¹¹ Mary Maybank. Ibid. Reference Volume 1 Page 450.

¹² William Maybank. Burial 19 December 1847. St Mary le Strand MDX. www.ancestry.co.uk. Westminster, London, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1812-1910. Original data: City of Westminster Archives Centre. Westminster Church of England Parish Registers Reference SML/PR/4/8 Page 75. Digital copy of original image viewed 20 March 2025.

¹³ Mary Maybank. Burial 5 January 1848. Ibid.

There was only one entry under Maybank: warrant number 32550. The original entry was examined and found to be William¹⁴.

Date of Appointment	NAME	No. of Warrant	REMOVAL FROM THE FORCE		BY WHOM PRINCIPALLY RECOMMENDED, AND THEIR ADDRESS
			Cause	Date	
	George	32546	Resigned	25 Aug 1875	Mr. John Staman, 11 King Street, Oldman Square, W. London
	Maybank William	32550	Dismissed	11th Jan 1876	Mr. J. Story, 62 Fleet Street, City; Mr. J. Benyon, Strand

He had been appointed on 19 June 1854 and been recommended by Mr Story of 62 Fleet Street and Mr F Benyon of Strand. A search for both of these men was made using the Post Office London Directory 1854 but only William Story was found: he ran a tailor's shop at the address in Fleet Street¹⁵. As William's father had been a tailor, it may have been through this connection that they knew each other.

It was not until 1889 that the Metropolitan Police introduced certificates of service which contained detail such as a physical description, postings, promotions and demotions¹⁶. However three sources of information were examined to discover William's professional activities: police orders, court records and newspapers.

Police orders

Police orders were the daily record of news, instructions, promotions and rewards, retirements, suspensions and dismissals across every division of the Metropolitan Police. They have been collected together in annual volumes and, although order books covering the period from when William joined the service through to August 1857 were not available, those from September 1857 onwards were searched for references to him¹⁷.

The inquest mentioned William's collar number had been S 270, indicating that he served with S or 'Hampstead' Division¹⁸. This covered the area north of Euston comprising Albany Street, St John's Wood, Hampstead, Whetstone, Barnet, Hendon and Edgware. This was a vast area and it seemed likely that William operated out of the divisional branch located at 52 Albany Street, close to where he lived. This correlated with the locations of the arrests he made that resulted in his appearance in Old Bailey records and newspapers (see below).

On page 30 is a full list of William's appearances in the order books. In summary, his name appeared 24 times between September 1857 and January 1870. Overwhelmingly, these appearances related to the receipt of small rewards or his attendance at a police court in Marylebone, Marlborough Street, Bow Street, Brentford and Clerkenwell to identify defendants.

¹⁴ William Maybank, warrant number 32550. MEPO 4 No.3 Warrant Nos: 19889 – 35804. TNA. Reference MEPO 4/334/5. Page 338. Digital copy of original image viewed 24 March 2025.

¹⁵ William Story. 62 Fleet Street, tailor. www.ancestry.co.uk. London, England, City Directories, 1736-1943. Original data: The London Archives. Post Office London Directory. 1854 Page 283. Digital copy of original image viewed 24 March 2025.

¹⁶ London Metropolitan Police. TNA Research Guide. Viewed 24 March 2025.

¹⁷ Metropolitan Police: Office of the Commissioner: Police Orders. TNA. Reference MEPO 7/19 to 32 (Sep 1857-1870).

¹⁸ Metropolitan Police Divisions 1860s. www.historybytheyard.co.uk

Police orders relating to William Maybank (1859-1870)

DATE	TNA REFERENCE	ENTRY
22 January 1859	MEPO 7/20 Page 21	FINES, &c. – S. P.C. 270, MAYBANK, 2s. and cautioned.
5 October 1859	MEPO 7/20 Page 243	FINES, &c. – S. P.C. 270, MAYBANK, 5s. and cautioned.
22 May 1860	MEPO 7/21 Page 121	REWARDS. – S. P.C. 270, MAYBANK 7s.
4 April 1862	MEPO 7/23 Page 81	P.Cs. TO ATTEND POLICE COURT (TO IDENTIFY), – BOW STREET. – S (Maybank)
27 January 1863	MEPO 7/24 Page 23A	REWARDS. – S. P.C. 270 MAYBANK, 2s. 6d.
31 March 1863	MEPO 7/24 Page 79	REWARDS. – S. P.C. 270 MAYBANK, 2s. 6d.
7 April 1863	MEPO 7/24 Page 84	REWARDS. – S. P.C. 270 MAYBANK, 6s.
29 March 1864	MEPO 7/25 Page 108	CLASSES. – The undermentioned Constables are appointed 2 nd Class. S 32550 Maybank
8 June 1865	MEPO 7/26 Page 167	POLICE TO ATTEND POLICE COURTS (TO IDENTIFY). – BOW STREET. – S (Mason and Maybank)
13 June 1865	MEPO 7/26 Page 172	REWARDS. – S. P.C. 270, Maybank 5s.
11 April 1866	MEPO 7/27 Page 118	REWARDS. – S. P.C. 270, Maybank 5s.
18 April 1866	MEPO 7/27 Page 126	REWARDS. – S. P.C. 270, Maybank 2s. 6d.
10 July 1866	MEPO 7/27 Page 223	REWARDS. – S. P.C. 270, Maybank 5s.
17 July 1866	MEPO 7/27 Page 230	REWARDS. – S. P.C. 270, Maybank 5s.
25 September 1866	MEPO 7/27 Page 298	REWARDS. – S. P.C. 270, Maybank 3s.
11 October 1867	MEPO 7/29 Page 324	POLICE TO ATTEND POLICE COURTS (TO IDENTIFY). – MARYLEBONE, – S (Maybank).
6 November 1867	MEPO 7/29 Page 346	POLICE TO ATTEND TOWN HALL, BRENTFORD (TO IDENTIFY). – S (Maybank).
28 November 1867	MEPO 7/29 Page 371	POLICE TO ATTEND TOWN HALL, BRENTFORD. – S (Maybank).
4 December 1867	MEPO 7/29 Page 377	POLICE TO ATTEND POLICE COURTS (TO IDENTIFY). – CLERKENWELL. – S (Maybank).
8 April 1869	MEPO 7/31 Page 103	REWARDS. – S. P.C. 270, Maybank, 3s.
28 April 1869	MEPO 7/31 Page 120	REWARDS. – S. P.C. 270, Maybank Note in favour.
7 September 1869	MEPO 7/31 Page 250	POLICE TO ATTEND POLICE COURTS (TO IDENTIFY). – MARLBOROUGH STREET. – S (Maybank)
8 September 1869	MEPO 7/31 Page 251	POLICE TO ATTEND POLICE COURTS (TO IDENTIFY). – BOW STREET. – S (Maybank)
11 January 1870	MEPO 7/32 Page 9	DISMISSAL. – S. P.C. 270 Maybank; no pay.

In March 1864 he was among a large group of constables third class who were promoted to second class.

At no time did William's name appear on the sick list, nor was he ever suspended. There were two occasions when he was fined and cautioned, both in 1859, but no details were given.

Close reading of the order books showed that by far the most common disciplinary issue among policemen at this time was drunkenness. However William's name was never among those who had to be cautioned in relation to this problem.

Court records

Transcripts of trials at the Old Bailey have been published and made available to search and read online. Five were found in which William was directly involved:

- 15 June 1857 he arrested Hannah Smith for passing counterfeit coins, extracting two 4d pieces from her mouth before she was able to swallow them¹⁹.
- On 25 October 1864 William attended the trial as the arresting officer of William Woods who was accused of attacking his common-law wife with a shoemaker's knife. Woods must have been a close neighbour of William's because his address was in Little Albany Street²⁰.
- In April 1865 William was on duty at 5.15 am in Hampstead Road and gave chase to a burglar across the rooftops, apprehending him only later that morning²¹.
- In November 1865 he was a witness to a fatal accident on the corner of Euston Road and Brook Street, when a speeding pony cart struck a pedestrian who then fell under the wheels of a passing omnibus²².
- In January 1867 he gave evidence at the trial for robbery of Thomas Connor and Margaret Cooper, having been the arresting officer of Cooper²³.



Punch. 19 October 1861

¹⁹ William Maybank. Trial of Hannah Smith. 15 June 1857. www.oldbaileyonline.org. Reference t18570615-692. Digital copy of original image viewed 25 March 2025.

²⁰ William Maybank. Trial of William Woods. 24 October 1864. Ibid. Reference t18641024-962.

²¹ William Maybank. Trial of Francis Williams. 8 May 1865. Ibid. Reference t18650508-554.

²² William Maybank. Trial of William Belcher. 20 November 1865. Ibid. Reference t18651120-25.

²³ Maybank. Trial of Thomas Connor & Margaret Cooper. 7 January 1867. Ibid. Reference t18670107-172.

Newspaper reports

The newspapers reported on cases that appeared before the police (magistrates') courts. A search of the British Newspaper Archive and Times Digital Online using William's name and collar number produced 11 matches:

- May 1861 William appeared at Marylebone police court having arrested Joseph Taylor for trying to steal a watch. Taylor was sentenced to three months hard labour²⁴.
- In May 1864 a report in Lloyds Weekly described William as a plain-clothes constable who gave evidence at Marylebone magistrates court about a "scrimmage" or scuffle that broke out between bystanders near the newly-planted Shakespeare's Oak on Primrose Hill²⁵.
- William interceded in a dispute between a cabman and his client in October 1864 in the course of which he was punched by the client. The man was imprisoned for 7 days for assaulting a police constable²⁶.
- In December 1865 William apprehended a man who had stolen clothing and belongings from a cabdriver. The jury found the man guilty and he received a sentence of 12 months' imprisonment with hard labour.
- In August 1866 William saw two men stealing a silk handkerchief out of a gentleman's pocket in Hyde Park. On arrest, one of the men threatened to "kick his daylights out". They were sentenced to 6 and 12 months' with hard labour²⁷.
- William came upon an unconscious Charlotte Williams in January 1868 lying in Hampstead Road. She was taken to the station and then to hospital but died of a stroke caused by alcohol and exposure to the cold²⁸.
- In March 1868 William was punched and kicked to the ground by a drunk man in Stanhope Street, Euston. It took four officers to subdue his assailant who was sentenced to 4 months' imprisonment²⁹.
- Again operating in plain-clothes, William was policing a royal procession in Southwark in May 1868 when he recognised a known gang of thieves in the crowd. Shortly afterwards he responded to calls for police assistance from a group of individuals who had caught one of the gang, Thomas Wright, stealing a silver watch out of a man's pocket³⁰.
- In May 1869 he was the arresting officer for an overseer charged with embezzling funds from the Guardians of the Poor of St Pancras³¹.



A Metropolitan policeman constable
ca.1864 *The Peeler Issue No.12 2008*

²⁴ William Maybank. The Times. 22 May 1861. Issue 23929 Page 11. The Times Digital Archive. Digital copy of original image viewed 4 April 2025.

²⁵ William Maybank. Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper. 1 May 1864 Page 4. www.findmypast.co.uk. Digital copy of original image viewed 25 March 2025.

²⁶ William Maybank. Daily News. 11 October 1864 Page 7. Ibid.

²⁷ William Maybank. The Times. 14 August 1866. Issue 25576 Page 9. The Times Digital Archive. Digital copy of original image viewed 4 April 2025.

²⁸ William Maybank. Morning Herald. 16 January 1868 Page 6. www.findmypast.co.uk. Digital copy of original image viewed 25 March 2025.

²⁹ William Maybank. Morning Herald. 20 March 1868 Page 8. Ibid.

³⁰ William Maybank. London Evening Standard. 14 May 1868 Page 4. Ibid.

³¹ William Maybank. London Daily Chronicle. 21 May 1869 Page 5. Ibid.

- William was called to a domestic affray in December 1869 when Thomas Watkins was attacked, bitten and kicked by his estranged wife in a drunken rage. She received a prison term of 2 months' hard labour³².
- In what must have been one of William's last cases, on Christmas Day 1869 he was called in when a physical fight broke out between a thief and one of the employees of the firm whose goods were being stolen. The prisoner was initially released because none of the witnesses for the prosecution had appeared at the magistrates' court – allegedly because the offender's friends had taken them all to the pub. A second arrest followed several days later and this time the accused, a repeat offender, was sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment³³.

Collectively the police orders, court records and newspaper reports indicated that William had a solid if not especially spectacular career. Sometimes he was in uniform on a local beat and frequently would have worked nights. He was also sent to arrest felons.

At other times he policed large public events, sometimes in plain clothes, aware of potential troublemakers and stepping in if anything occurred in the crowd. The above list must have only been a small percentage of his work but it showed that he was at constant risk of attack from aggressive or drunken offenders and that considerable personal bravery was necessary to carry out the job. The cases also illustrated the weight his word was given in a court of law when he was often the only witness to a charge that resulted in a conviction.

Dismissal

The register of joiners referenced above also provided the date when he left the force: 11 January 1870. The reason column simply said 'Dismissed'. The corresponding entry in the police orders provided no further information about the circumstances³⁴.

DISMISSAL.—S. P.C. 270 Maybank ; no pay.

His dismissal occurred just three weeks before he was found drowned in the Thames and the loss of his job must have come as a huge blow. William was then 41 years of age, with a wife and eight children depending on him and his income, and the pension he would have expected was now forfeit. Interestingly, at the inquest into William's death, his widow Isabella made reference to the Hyde Park Riots in July 1866 and an injury that William sustained while policing that event. The circumstances that caused the riots, the role of the police and William's experiences as the incident unfolded were examined next.

³² William Maybank. The Times. 16 December 1869. Issue 26622 Page 9. The Times Digital Archive. Digital copy of original image viewed 4 April 2025.

³³ William Maybank. The Times. 1 February 1870. Issue 26662 Page 9. Ibid.

³⁴ William Maybank. Dismissal 11 January 1870. Metropolitan Police: Office of the Commission: Police Orders 1829-1989. TNA. Reference MEPO 7/32 (1870) Page 9. Original viewed 8 January 2025.

Hyde Park Riots 1866

The public disorder that took place between Monday 23 and Wednesday 25 July 1866 occurred in the context of the ongoing campaign to reform the parliamentary electoral process. The Great Reform Act had been passed in 1832 but by the 1850s a second set of reforms was evolving, aimed at reducing the property qualification and redistributing parliamentary seats on a fairer basis. In 1866, William Gladstone (then Chancellor of the Exchequer) introduced a bill which would have seen one in four men qualify for the vote. However the bill failed and in response the Whig government of Earl Russell resigned on 19 June 1866, to be replaced by the Conservatives led by the Earl of Derby.

The Reform League had formed only a year earlier and its aim was universal manhood suffrage. On the failure of the 1866 Reform Bill, demonstrations were planned in the capital on 29 June and 2 July. These both passed off relatively peaceably but a third, scheduled for 23 July, was intended to culminate in Hyde Park, a traditional location for large-scale public gatherings. However the government elected to take a hardline position and declared any meetings in the park that day to be unlawful.

Five days before the event, on 18 July, police orders recorded that “The large bills, prohibiting the Meeting in Hyde Park on 23rd, sent to each Division this day, are to be extensively posted in every part of Town, especially near the proposed Meeting Places of the Reform League.

The small bills are to be widely distributed to Shop-keepers, Public-houses, &c.”³⁵ The Home Secretary, Spencer H Walpole’s made public declarations to the same effect that appeared in the press³⁶.

“Home Department, July 21, 1866.

“Sir, - I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your note, inclosing a copy of certain resolutions intended to be proposed at a meeting in Hyde Park. After the statement which I felt it my duty to make in the House of Commons, I had hoped that those who proposed to convene that meeting would have forbore to call it together. Should they still persevere in their intention (which I trust they will not), I have no other course left open to me but to desire the police to act on the notice issued by Sir Richard MAYNE. – I am, sir, your obedient servant, S.H. WALPOLE.”

Despite the warnings, the demonstrators headed towards Hyde Park only to find the gates chained and the police present in large numbers. Newspapers claimed that there were 1,500 police on special duty and the police orders supported this view since they contained instructions for 1,613 men to be at their posts by 4.30 that afternoon, 30 minutes before the park gates were locked (see below). William’s S Division made up the majority of the men posted inside Hyde Park itself.³⁷ As well as the heavy police presence, guardsman, some of whom were mounted, were also on hand to disperse any crowds that gathered.

³⁵ Police orders. Wednesday 18 July 1866. TNA. Reference MEPO 7/27 Page 231. Original viewed 11 March 2025.

³⁶ The Manchester Courier. 24 July 1866. Page 8. www.findmypast.co.uk. Digital copy of original image viewed 25 March 2025.

³⁷ Police orders. Saturday 21 July 1866. TNA. Reference MEPO 7/27 Page 234. Original viewed 11 March 2025.

The following Divisions are to furnish the undermentioned numbers of Police for duty on 23rd. They are to parade at their respective posts at 4:30 p.m. :—

Division.	Suprnts.	Inspectors.	P.Ss.	P.Cs.	Plain Clothes.	Mounted.		Total.
						Inspectrs.	P.Ss. or P.Cs.	
A.	1	4	10	100	10	—	10	135
B.	1	2	10	100	5	—	—	118
C.	1	2	10	100	5	—	—	118
D.	1*	2	10	100	5	—	—	118
E.	1	1	3	30	5	—	—	40
F.	1	1	3	30	5	—	—	40
G.	1	2	10	100	5	—	—	118
H.	1	1	3	30	5	—	—	40
K.	1	2	10	100	5	1	4	123
L.	1	1	3	30	5	—	—	40
M.	1*	2	10	100	5	—	—	118
N.	1	1	5	50	5	1	4	67
P.	1	2	10	100	5	1	4	123
R.	1	1	5	50	5	1	4	67
S.	1	2	10	100	5	1	4	123
T.	1	1	3	30	5	1	4	45
V.	1	1	3	30	5	1	4	45
W.	1	1	3	30	5	1	4	45
X.	1	1	3	30	5	1	4	45
Y.	1	1	3	30	5	1	4	45
Total	20	31	127	1,270	105	10	50	1,613

* Acting Superintendents.

According to the newspaper reports, the growing crowds outside the locked gates became increasingly angry at being refused entry. By sheer weight of numbers they were able to shake the park railings until they collapsed and many people poured across them, setting them on a collision course with the police positioned inside the park, as this report showed³⁸:

When the first set of rails was thrown down, the police made a charge to force back the crowd. The crowd, however, was too strong for them, and they were soon driven back. Other charges followed, and the temptation of a half-made roadway in the park strewn with brickbats was too much for the wildest part of the crowd. The police were pelted with stones, and great confusion followed. The police made charge after charge, first back to the Marble Arch from the broken rails and then outwards from the Marble Arch towards the park. Whenever they advanced the mob ran away, and whenever they retired the mob followed, howling and throwing sticks and stones. This lasted perhaps half an hour or more, and a good many hard blows were struck, some with terrible effect.

The same reporter absolved the police of brutality, but rather praised them for their forbearance in the face of a great deal of provocation³⁹:

The temper of the constables was beyond all praise... They were repeatedly struck by heavy stones and also with sticks: attempts, once or twice successful, were made to pull them from their horses, and even to cut their girths, and they bore it all with admirable patience and good temper.

The damage done to the railings on Monday 23 July attracted considerable crowds on the Tuesday and Wednesday, and on both days the scene of the earlier incident triggered further lawlessness, requiring the police to repeatedly try to disperse the crowd⁴⁰:

³⁸ Pall Mall Gazette. 24 July 1866. Page 1. www.findmypast.co.uk. Digital copy of original image viewed 25 March 2025.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Shields Daily News. 25 July 1866. Page 3. www.findmypast.co.uk. Digital copy of original image viewed 25 March 2025.

RENEWED DISTURBANCES YESTERDAY.

About three o'clock yesterday afternoon a large crowd attacked twelve constables in the park, but Sir Richard MAYNE arrived with reinforcements and took possession of the park. Numbers of roughs threw stones at carriages, broke boughs off trees to make sticks, and did mischief to plants and flowers. At last the police had to use their truncheons.

Large crowds collected in Oxford-street, and the police were compelled repeatedly to charge them in order to keep the thoroughfare open... Many police were badly hurt, and a number of persons are in custody. At ten o'clock there was much confusion in Oxford-street, near the park entrance, but a large body of police were on duty, and the lifeguards patrolling the park.

Commentators placed the cause of the initial incident on 23 July firmly on the shoulders of the Home Office and its decision to withhold permission for the meeting in the park. Though the leaders of the Reform League distanced themselves from the troublemakers, they capitalised on the government's discomfort and called for the police and military presence to be withdrawn from the park. Thereafter the civil disobedience was diffused and by Thursday 26 July the incident was over.

Three days of civil disorder kept the police courts busy and the hearings of all of those who had been arrested were reported in the press. A search through these reports provided the key to unlock William's personal experiences. On Tuesday 24 July four cases were heard at Marylebone police court concerning stone-throwing, window-breaking and assaults on the police. The final case related to an assault on William⁴¹:

MARYLEBONE - YESTERDAY

Edward SHENTON, aged 19, of 19A, Adam-street West, Marylebone, clerk, was next charged.

MAYBANK, 270 S, whose head was bandaged up, said – I was in Great Cumberland-street this morning and saw a constable with a prisoner in custody. This prisoner took hold of him and said the officer should not take him, and tried to pull him away. I went up to him and he said to me, "You take that," and struck me a severe blow on the top of my head with a stick. The blow has cut my head badly. Several other officers came up and got their heads cut at the same time.

Henry ADDISON, 34 D. – I saw him strike last witness, and when I went up to him he struck me on my head as well, saying, "You take that. I'll see whether you take me."

Prisoner. – It's false.

Mr. MANSFIELD. – I believe it to be true. For the assault upon the first officer you must be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for two months; and when that term has expired to be imprisoned for a further term of two months with hard labour for the assault upon the second officer. You are a young ruffian.

Prisoner, who was exceedingly well dressed, seemed astonished.

Here was evidence that William was injured in the early hours of the Tuesday 24 July in one of the streets to the immediate north of Oxford Street and near Marble Arch. Unlike the other men charged that day - a labourer, slater and stableman - Edward Shenton was a white-collar worker and his smart appearance evidently made an impression on the reporter. All four of the defendants were in their teens or early 20s. However William's bandaged head provided a striking image and this may have contributed to the relatively harsh sentence given to Shenton in comparison with those received by the other three men.

⁴¹ William Maybank. Morning Herald. 25 July 1866 Page 7. www.findmypast.co.uk. Digital copy of original image viewed 25 March 2025.

Examination of the police orders in the ensuing weeks revealed attempts to quantify the impact of the riots on the force. There were requests for returns to be made detailing the injuries sustained by policemen, the number who remained on the sick list as a result of their injuries, an inventory of items of uniform lost or damaged, and lists of police against whom (legal) proceedings were being taken. However the statistics produced from these returns were not made public.

By the middle of August, the orders stated that extra pay would be issued to all of those men involved, and this was followed by an announcement of further rewards⁴²:

Several gentlemen who witnessed the courage, temper, and forbearance of the Police during the Riots in Hyde Park on Monday and Tuesday, July 23rd and 24th, being anxious to express their sense of the good conduct of the Police, and to show their desire to assist those who were wounded and disabled, opened a list at Messrs. Drummonds for their own subscriptions, and those of such other persons as desired to contribute. The amount already received at Messrs. Drummonds is upwards of £700. The Commissioner has now decided on distributing a part of this amongst those of the Police who were injured, dividing them into two classes.

1st. To those who were injured and rendered unfit for duty, according to the following scale for the respective ranks:-

To each Superintendent £6
Inspector £4
Sergeant £3
Constable £2

2nd. To those who were injured, but not rendered unfit for duty, according to the following scale for the respective ranks:-

To each Superintendent £3
Inspector £2
Sergeant £1
Constable £1

These sums will, the Commissioner feels assured, be valued as coming from a large number of their fellow countrymen, desirous of expressing their sense of the good conduct of the Police, and the important services rendered by them in support of the law and order.

A search of the police orders in the days and weeks following the riots did not provide any evidence that William was among the absent or sick, suggesting that his injury was not serious enough to prevent him reporting for duty. This was borne out by the fact that he was able to attend the police court the day following his injury. Whatever compensation William received would not have mitigated the longer-term effects of his injury. Three and a half years later William was dead and at the inquest several witnesses described how the head injury he sustained that day affected his state of mind. To understand what bearing it might have had on his death, the records of the inquest were examined in detail.

⁴² Police orders. Saturday 18 August 1866. TNA. Reference MEPO 7/27 Page 23. Original viewed 11 March 2025.

Inquest

Newspaper reports of the inquest into William Maybank's death stated that it was held by the coroner of East Surrey. Only a few inquest records survived for Surrey and they did not cover the period in question⁴³. Fortunately the circumstances surrounding William's death were of sufficient public interest that several reporters attended the inquest and it was from their published articles that the details could be pieced together.

The earliest report was published the day after the inquest and several others appeared in the following days. Two extensive accounts appeared on 8 February in the *Times*⁴⁴ and on 13 February in *Reynolds's*⁴⁵, relaying the following details:

- The inquest was held on Monday 7 February at the King Henry VIII Tavern, High Street, Lambeth by the coroner of East Surrey, Mr W Carter.
- Walter Scott, inspector of the Thames Police, and James Hester, a labourer, confirmed that William's body had been found floating in the river on the Surrey shore near Waterloo Bridge at 10 am the previous Friday (4 February). It was fully dressed and there were papers in the pockets which allowed them to make an initial identification.
- The widow, Isabella Maybank, of 28 Little Albany Street, Regent's Park, identified the body. She had last seen her husband alive on the evening of Monday 31 January. He came to her place of work - she was a cleaner at the Adelphi Theatre in the Strand - and told her he was going to call on someone (but never did). When she got home her son Alfred showed her a letter that had been left on the table and, from its contents, Isabella believed he had decided to end his life. The letter was read to the court:

31st January, 1870.

Dear Wife, - By the time you read this your husband will be at rest. When you see P.C. 182 S BARRELL thank him for all he has done for you and me, but I hope God will pay him for his trouble. He has robbed my little ones of a loaf of bread, but I hope God will pay the debt some day; and when you see 239 S GROUNDS tell him to think of me if ever he should be alongside of him. I have no more to say, but I hope to see you in heaven. God bless you all! WILLIAM MAYBANK.

- In relation to his state of mind, she said that he had never told her why he had been dismissed from his job but that he had no other profession to fall back on. He had "conducted himself well" since his dismissal, though "losing his situation seemed to prey very much on his mind." He had served with the police for fifteen years and had signed up for a longer term in order to qualify for a larger pension.
- She said that he had frequently complained of headaches ever since he had "received a beating at the Reform Bill riots". This prompted the coroner to ask if anyone could provide more details, and PC Grounds stepped forward. Initially he was hesitant to speak for fear of being "dismissed,

⁴³ Coroner's records. Archives and history research guides. Surrey Heritage. www.surreycc.gov.uk.

⁴⁴ William Maybank. Inquest. The Times. 8 February 1870. Issue 26668 Page 10. The Times Digital Archive. Digital copy of original image viewed 4 April 2025.

⁴⁵ William Maybank. Inquest. Reynolds's Newspaper. 13 February 1870 Page 7. www.findmypast.co.uk. Digital copy of original image viewed 25 March 2025.

like Maybank” but he was given permission to speak freely by Inspector M’Hugo of S Division who was also in attendance.

- After being sworn in, PC John Grounds stated that he had know William for nine years and had been on duty with him at the time of riots. He confirmed that William had received a head injury necessitating medical treatment “for some time afterwards”. William had since complained often of headaches, particularly after “any unusual noise or excitement, or when he had to take any one into custody”. As with Isabella, William had not told Grounds the reason for his dismissal but had said “Jack, I am innocent of what I am accused of, and shall be back in a few days”.
- Inspector M’Hugo “intimated” that William’s dismissal had been due to “having made an untruthful statement” but did not elaborate further. The coroner elected to let the subject drop since “in the absence of the evidence of the deceased, that could not be gone into”.
- The jury’s verdict was “suicide while in a state of temporary mental derangement”. They also made a small collection which was given to the widow “and her eight children”.

William’s final note appeared to support the verdict of suicide but it also assigned blame to another officer – PC Barrell – for his dismissal. It was understandable that the coroner did not want to dig into this episode as it was beyond his jurisdiction but it left an intriguing clue about what had gone on between William and Barrell and the charge of untruthfulness that was sufficiently serious to see William being dismissed so suddenly.

PC Grounds was evidently nervous of speaking too freely in front of his commanding officer and his subsequent evidence did not appear to contain anything particularly controversial. Perhaps he did not feel confident despite assurances that he should speak freely, or perhaps the untruthfulness had related to the injury and treatment he had or had not received in July 1866.

John Grounds also suggested that William had required ongoing medical treatment for the head injury sustained in 1866 though there was no evidence for this in the police orders. Grounds also reported that loud noises would bring on William’s headaches and that taking someone into custody was a particular trigger. It was not hard to connect this reaction with the traumatic experience of 24 July 1866 when he was attacked while assisting a colleague in the arrest of Edward Shenton. It was also evident from several of the newspaper reports examined previously that William had suffered violent assaults and injuries multiple times in his career, including in the course of an arrest in 1868, two years after the riot.

Having concluded the inquest, the death certificate was issued on 9 February 1870⁴⁶

385	Found in the River Thames Fourth February 1870 Brought ashore at Lambeth	William Maybank	male	41 years	late a Police constable of the Metropolitan Force	Suicide by drowning when mentally deranged 4 days submerged	Information received from William Barker Coroner for Surrey Inquest held 7th February 1870	Ninth February 1870	William Daws Registrar
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⁴⁶ William Maybank. Death 4 February 1870. Lambeth SRY. Original data: GRO. Reference Volume 1d Page 245. Original viewed 20 March 2025.

William was buried the next day in Camden⁴⁷. A search for his widow in the 1871 census found her and five of her children were still living in Little Albany Street⁴⁸, and the following year Isabella married coach painter Charles William Mason⁴⁹.

Conclusion

William Maybank's story was interesting for several reasons: his experiences policing the capital in the mid-1800s demonstrated the physical risks that came with the job, never more so than during civil disturbances when the police became targets of public frustration and violence.

We cannot know how much William's state of mind was affected directly as a result of the blows struck by Edward Shenton in the early hours of 24 July 1866, or from the cumulative effects of multiple physical assaults in the course of his working life. It should not be overlooked that William's experience of violence began with his father and the domestic abuse visited up his mother which he may have witnessed. The trigger for his suicide was clearly his dismissal on 11 January 1870, the circumstances of which remained cryptic but may well have been related to his physical and mental struggles.

This case required a careful examination of disparate sources, produced for different audiences, but they all contributed to an understanding of William's life and death, his family situation and his career as a policeman, as well as the political and social context of London and Britain in the 1860s.

PEDIGREE CHART

Page 41 shows the family tree for the Maybank Family.

SOURCES

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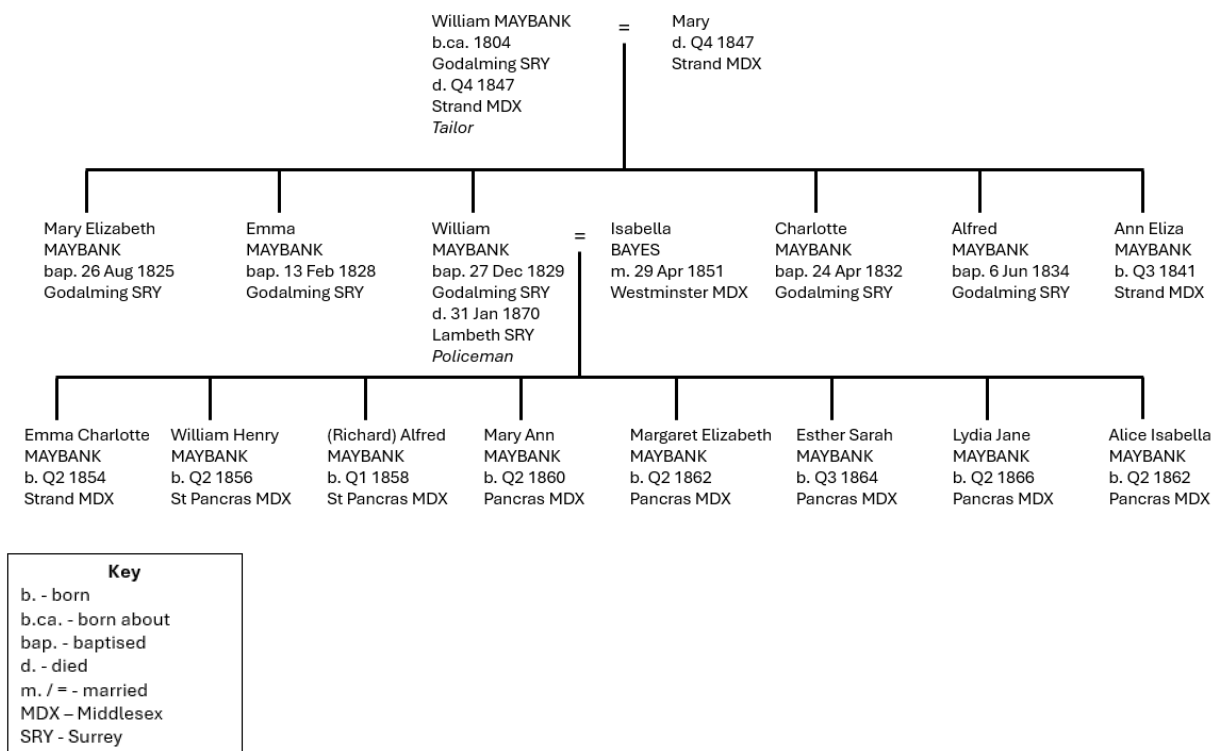
⁴⁷ William Maybank. Burial 10 February 1870. Camden MDX. www.ancestry.co.uk. UK, Burial and Cremation Index, 1576-2014. Original data: Deceased Online. Transcript viewed 25 March 2025.

⁴⁸ Isabella Maybank. 1871 England, Wales and Scotland Census. St Pancras MDX. www.findmypast.co.uk. Original data: TNA. Reference Class RG10 Piece 202 Folio 85 Page 27. Digital copy of original image viewed 13 April 2025.

⁴⁹ Charles William Mason / Isabella Maybank. Marriage 2 April 1872. Pancras MDX. www.ancestry.co.uk. London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1940. Original data: The London Archives. London Church of England Parish Registers. Reference P90/PAN1/148 Page 212. Digital copy of original image viewed 25 March 2025.

Pedigree Chart

The Maybank family of Surrey and London



* * * * *

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If you live within 80 miles of these venues, and would like to represent IHGS at a fair, please visit www.ihgs.ac.uk/2723 for further details and to apply to become a representative.

* * * * *

THE MYSTERY OF THE ‘LAMPSHADE DOCUMENT’

Elizabeth Yule, DipGen

Research can take unexpected turns within any genealogy project, and this was the case when a search of the South West Inheritance Trust’s Devon Archive catalogue revealed various ‘lampshade documents’ listed within their collections. One of these catalogue entries is shown here, detailing a conveyance involving one George Daniell and apparently representing a property in Yeovil, Somerset. The document itself had ‘evidently been used as a lampshade.’

 Lampshade Document »  MISCELLANEOUS

Four pieces of parchment, 1806

Repository	Devon Heritage Centre
Reference number	4620Z/Z/1a-d
Description	being the surviving portions of a conveyance, to which George Daniell was a party. Appears to concern property in Yeovil, Somerset. The pieces of parchment have evidently been used as a lampshade .
Date	1806

In fact, using historic parchment documents, such as this property deed, as a lampshade became popular in the mid-20th century. An article by Surrey County Council revealed that the county archivist managed to save several deeds from a local department store, which were being used “to cut up into ‘make it yourself’ lampshades.”¹⁰⁸

Indeed, the practice of using parchment to make lampshades continues, as shown by this blog post by established lampshade makers Dannells.¹⁰⁹

Lampshade Inspiration - How to use laminated parchments

Updated: May 29, 2024

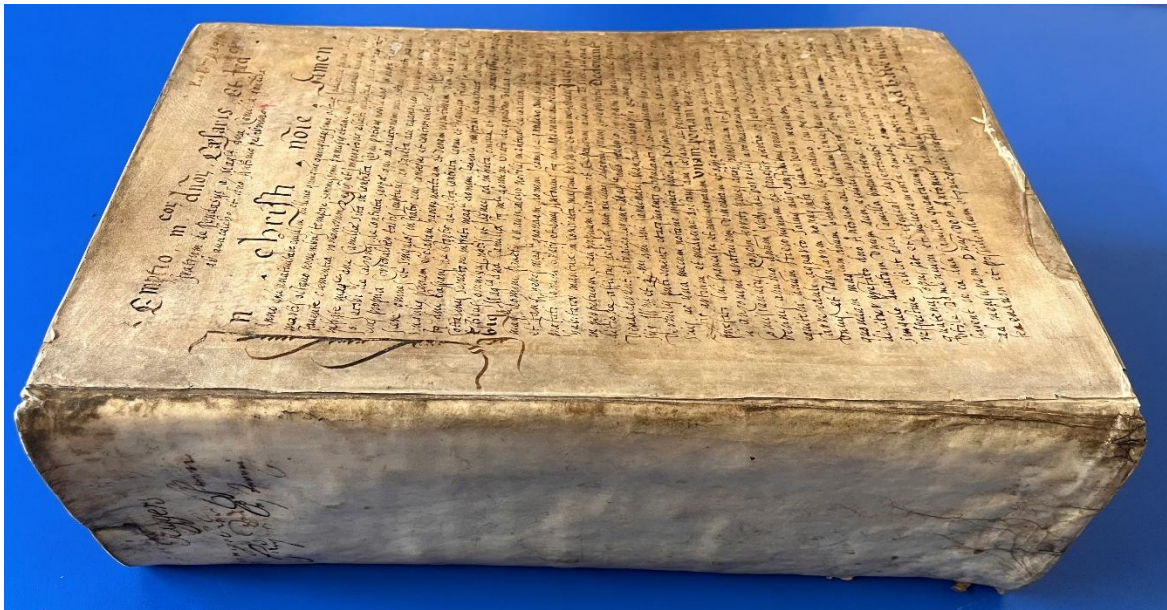
Parchment lampshades are back! Offering a delicate, soft glow and holding plenty of possibilities for creativity, their natural feel fits well with many interior trends.

Parchment deeds became more readily available in the 20th century due to the 1925 Law of Property Act, which only required such documentation to be kept for a period of thirty years. Prior to this time there was no defined period that title deeds were required, but after 1925 older title deeds were effectively redundant. This is one of the reasons that their survival is so sporadic – they were often thrown away or repurposed.

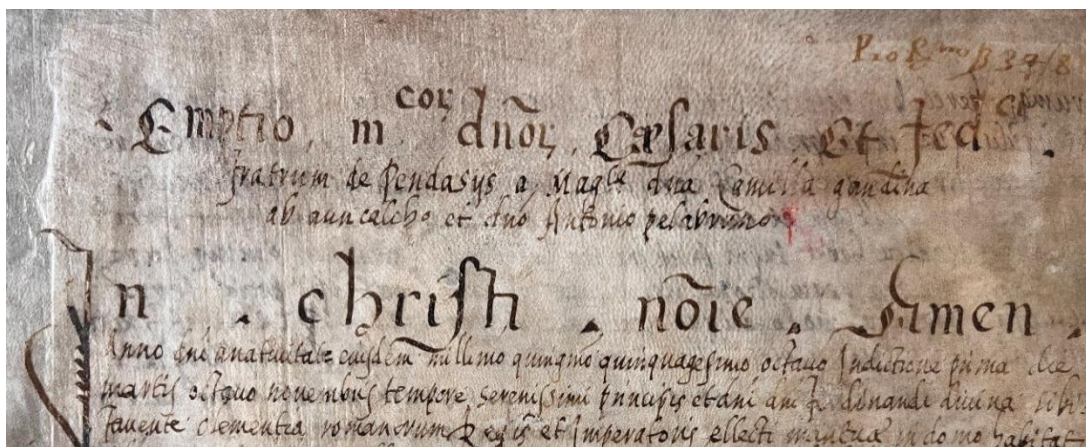
It may be that historic parchment from other countries is used to bind a volume that is special to its owner. A volume of Austrian heraldry – *Spiegel der Ehren de Erzhanter Oesterreich* – for example, can be found in the IHGS library, bound in a property document written in Latin, but with uncertain origins.

¹⁰⁸ <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/community/news/categories/heritage/a-sorry-state-in-deed>

¹⁰⁹ <https://www.dannellsblog.com/post/introducing-lampshade-making-parchment>



This volume was published in 1668, and at some point the owner chose to bind the book in a document from 1558. This represents a purchase document ('Emptio') with parties given as 'dnor Cesaris,' 'fratrum de Pendasys a Magla' or the Pendasys brothers from Magla, as well as Camilla Gandina and Antonio Pelabrano.



The names suggest a document of Italian origin, although there are a few possibilities as to where the place 'Magla' was – perhaps Maglie in Italy, or Malaga in Spain. The document, recorded in Latin, also names other individuals - Camilla's daughter Juliet for example, as well as one Johanem de Gandino.

A full translation is likely to reveal further clues about the origin of this document, but what is clear that whoever used this to bind the *Spiegel der Ehren de Erzhtantes Oesterreich* was concerned about its properties that would help the parchment protect the printed volume, not the content of the original Item.

So if you come across an intriguing bound item, perhaps in your local archive or second hand book shop, look closer at the binding and see what stories it may tell!

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