

The Story of our Powley family

1 The Powleys of Flegg, Norfolk

My mother's family name of Powley is derived originally from the Christian name Paul. In this respect it is similar to the many other variants Powell, Pawley, Poole, Pooley, Poll etc. Unlike the very widespread Powell, and most fortunately for us, the form Powley is found virtually only in the county of Norfolk, where it has undoubtedly mutated thus as a result of the strong local dialect. In the days when names were written down just as they sounded, many minor variations occur, and we can find Powle, Pawle, Pawley, Powlle, Pouly, and Powelly amongst other forms. This persists until around 1760, only then becoming invariably Powley.

Even within Norfolk, there are two distinct distributions of the surname, one found mainly in the area around Swaffham, west of Norwich, and the other in the district known as Flegg, to the north and west of Great Yarmouth. A distance of more than 30 miles separates these two areas, so it seems unlikely that these two groups were related – they probably derived originally from different “Paul” families. Our families' forebears were the Flegg Powleys.

Flegg is virtually an island, extending just seven miles by seven, bounded on the north and west sides by the River Thurne, to the south by the River Bure, and by the North Sea coast. The modern roads generally follow mediaeval routes; the district is even nowadays accessible only by the bridges at Acle or Potter Heigham, or from Yarmouth itself. (The minor Horsey road across the sand dunes from the north was built only around 1860). There are some eighteen distinct Flegg settlements or villages, which did not change a great deal from the time of the “Domesday” survey (1086) until as recently as 1800. Martham, Ormesby and Caister were always the largest of these, with populations of around 500-600 apiece, and others such as Ashby, Oby, Billockby, Thrigby, Clippesby and Mautby the smallest, each with only around 50 residents. Our family seems to have moved freely around several of these villages over the centuries, but largely confined to those in the south and east of the district.



2 A summary of our Powley male line – for easy reference

The following lists the male Powleys in our direct line, as presently known, from 1660 down to the present day. The generations are numbered “backwards” so that earlier ones can easily be added in, if and when we can find more. Section numbers refer to the detailed text later.....

Generation	Section	Name	Born	At	Married
10	6	Richard	c1663	Scratby? Norfolk	Maria Philips
9	7	Robert	1696	Ormesby, Norfolk	Rose Ames
8	8	John	c1735	Caister? Norfolk	Mary Stanford
7	9	Jonathan	1768	Ormesby, Norfolk	Berry Cudden
6	10	Matthew	1802	Fleggburgh, Norfolk	Ellen Hollis
5	12	John Hollis	1827	Billockby, Norfolk	Eliza Durrant

John Hollis Powley and his family moved from Norfolk to London in 1862....

Generation	Section	Name	Born	At	Married
4	13	John Alonzo	1864	Bermondsey, London	Amy Ade
3	14	John Francis	1885	Bermondsey, London	Constance Green
2		Cecil Valentine John	1912	Walthamstow, London	Lucy Schmid (nee Stanley)

3 Some Powley statistics

Before proceeding further, it is useful to consider the frequency and distribution of the surname Powley and its variants in more detail here, both for general interest and to gain a feel for the numbers we might expect to find in the Flegg villages at any one time. This is important since before around 1750 it is sometimes difficult to prove definite links between the various generations of a family, so this has to be based rather more on probability instead.

Firstly, we looked at the 1881 census. This lists a total of 926 people with the surname Powley living in England and Wales. This compares with only 202 called Jagers (and variants) but is nonetheless still relatively rare. Of these, 389 (42%) were then living in Norfolk, but 472 (51%) were born there. This latter figure increases to 63% for the over-fifties, showing that migration out of the rural areas to towns and cities was by then well under way. 211 (23%) were living in the London area. The only other area apart from Norfolk with an established indigenous population (though very much smaller) is Westmorland, where presumably a similar dialect mutation of the surname has occurred. In 1881 it was still a “young” population, with only 38% being over the age of 30, and a mere 14% over 50. 87 of the 926 Powleys in 1881 were born in the district of Flegg, representing 9.4% of the total and around 1 in 5 of all those born in Norfolk.

An alternative easily analysed statistical approach is offered by the International Genealogical Index (IGI) on the Internet. This lists christening and marriage entries from Parish Registers, mainly in the period 1540-1850, but does not yet have comprehensive coverage, especially in rural areas. The IGI for Norfolk contains a total of about 6200 entries for the surname Paul and its derivatives. There are around 2000 entries for each of the root forms Paul/Poll, Powell, and Powley/Pawley in the whole county.

Those in the Flegg parishes plus Yarmouth comprise 600 Powleys, but only 60 Powell (mainly in Yarmouth) and 6 Paul, say 670 total. Removing duplicates and speculative entries (e.g. “born circa....at ?”) from these leaves a total of 326. 9 of the 25 Flegg parishes are fully indexed in the IGI, and there are some additional family entries in the others, so the coverage is around 40% of the population. We can thus estimate that there were a total of some 900 Powley “events” in Flegg over the 300 years 1540 – 1840.

We read that the population of this area hardly changed at all from the Domesday Book figures of 1086, up to the first “modern” census in 1801. This is perhaps surprising in view of the supposedly relatively large families of the time, but of an average of perhaps 6 to 8 children per couple, perhaps only 3 (1 or 2 males) would survive into adulthood, and maybe typically only 1 male would marry and then father children to continue the cycle and the family name.

Assuming an average of 1.7 IGI “events” (christenings and marriages, including a significant number of re-marriages of those widowed) per person over the 300 years, coupled with a life expectancy of around 30 years, yields a total of around 60 persons with the name Powley resident in Flegg at any one time in the period. This looks to be a very realistic estimate in comparison with the 87 shown as born there in the 1881 census, and also aligns well with a “snapshot” of the situation in the years 1780-1800, a period which is well documented in the original parish registers. These 60 inhabitants can be grouped into around 10 distinct family units, equating to roughly one unit at any one time in each of the 10 or so parishes in which we regularly find them. The same data shows that people with the surname Powley accounted for typically 1 in 35 of the population in these villages. Armed with this analysis, we can proceed to trace our particular family line through the registers with a fair degree of certainty.

4 A history and description of Flegg

The following sections covering the general history of Flegg from earliest times to around 1500 are included for interest, to look at where and how our family might have originated, and how they would have lived.

4.1 Ancient Flegg

The community of Caister-on-Sea seems to have been the first in the district, having its origins in a Roman fort, “Castro”. The village names Repps, Bastwick, Martham, Somerton and Winterton (the latter two no doubt denoting seasonal grazing areas) all in the northern part of Flegg are of Saxon origin, indicating that these settlements date back to perhaps the sixth century. However, the area in general appears to be sparsely populated until the “Danish” invasion, which took place around 885 AD. All the other settlements – eleven of them – have names ending in “-by” (mediaeval “-bei”) denoting that they were established by the invaders, who came in fact from various parts of what we now call Scandinavia. This remarkable collection of names is unique to Flegg; there are only 3 other such villages in the whole of Norfolk. Indeed the name Flegg itself is derived from an old Danish word “Flæg”, meaning a reedy or marshy place. It seems the incomers to the “island” had no difficulty banishing the few local inhabitants they found, and set up the prosperous agricultural community that was to flourish under their rule for the most part of the following 200 years. For many centuries afterwards (some say even nowadays) the district retained its very strong Scandinavian character. If indeed we could ever hope to trace our forebears back this far it is thus very likely that they were of “Danish” origin.

4.2 Mediaeval Flegg

The Victoria County History of Norfolk, published 1906, gives much detail about the Flegg district at the time of the so-called Domesday survey of 1086. This was carried out by the all-conquering Norman establishment as an inventory of their new acquisitions. In their record the area is called “Flec” and many of the modern village names may be easily recognised; “Scroutebei” is Scratby, “Ormesbei” has become Great Ormesby; “Philebei” is Filby and “Bitlakebie” Billockby.

The main form of social organization in continental Europe in mediaeval times was what is nowadays generally referred to as the “Feudal” system. It was based primarily upon land ownership and tenancy

granted in return for specified services, and reflected the wariness of administrations that were almost permanently on a war footing with their neighbours. The Normans brought the system over to England from 1066 and developed it into its finest form, but the Danes had already established something similar in this part of Norfolk. It was in essence a hierarchy of power, authority, rights and services extending from the monarch downwards through nobility, lesser gentry, free tenants and Villeins, down to serfs at the lowest level; backed up by a complex legal system and fully supported by the Christian church. It was to last until around 1300, thence became gradually eroded upon the growth of money-based commerce and industry. Feudalism thus gave way to the class system as the dominant form of social ranking.

In 1086, the population of Flegg can be estimated at around 4500, and this was hardly to change at all for centuries; the 1801 census figure is very similar and this stability is reflected in the numbers for nearly every one of the villages. This was always an exceedingly prosperous agricultural district whose taxes were often amongst the highest in the kingdom. To put this in context, the population of the nearby “urban” community of Norwich was similarly about 5000 at the end of the eleventh century, and this was the third largest such in the whole country, after just London and York. Another striking feature associated with this prosperity is that at the time of the Domesday survey, nearly all the tenants of Flegg were Sokemen, Freemen or “Bordars”; there were virtually no “Serfs” (essentially, the later “agricultural labourer” class) at all. Sokemen were farmers owning their own property (but still under the obligation of services to the Lord of the Manor); Freemen had similar status but were tenants of the Lord; together these two groups comprised some 2/3 of all heads of households. The remaining 1/3 were “Bordars”, a local Norfolk name for the Villeins, essentially smallholders who were sub-tenants of the freemen. At all these levels, the necessary labour force came mainly from within the tenants’ own family unit.

The wealthy nobleman Alwin of Thetford, a former Saxon sheriff of Norfolk, was Lord and patron of freemen in nearly every Flegg village. The Sokemen and freemen however enjoyed a high degree of autonomy in their affairs, being able to lease and dispose of their holdings without permission and move around at will, and as a consequence are quite poorly documented. Many names are mentioned in these Domesday transcripts, but there does not seem to be even one Paul or anything remotely like it amongst them, so any attempt to relate to our family origins this far back in time would require a much greater in-depth study than has so far been achieved! Even up to as late as 1500, the main source of detailed information about individual inhabitants available to historians is the Manorial or Court Rolls. Though many such survive for Flegg, generally executed in beautiful script, there are very few people able to read and interpret these, and their professional services obviously tend to come at an appropriately high price!

To gain some impression of what life was like then, there is an excellent recent book “Mediaeval Flegg” by Barbara Cornford, one such dedicated expert (The Larks Press, Dereham, 2002). Most works of this kind tend to focus only on the activities of the nobility and wealthy overlords, resulting in what is surely to most people a very dull subject. Whilst appropriately scholarly, this account also manages to bring the day-to-day scene vividly to life, so that we can imagine actually being there amongst the ordinary people of the villages. Martham is the best-documented community, one of the larger ones but probably quite typical of the area. Again there is unfortunately no-one called Paul amongst the many names mentioned, and personal correspondence with the author confirmed that she has not come across references to anyone called Powley etc in the course of her researches. Much of what follows is a very brief synopsis from this work, in an attempt to capture some of the character of Norfolk rural life in these times.

Land usage in Flegg can be divided into three main parts. The now-popular “Broads” cruising areas arose out of the systematic diggings for peat for use as fuel many centuries ago, and their subsequent flooding. Adjacent to these are extensive tracts of low-lying clayey marshland, which with improved drainage have been usable for sheep and cattle grazing for many hundreds of years. The remaining

“upland” areas (that is, anything over 5 ft above sea level!) are of a rich loam and have been under constant cultivation (mainly for corn, sent to the Yarmouth markets) for over 1000 years. The soil was so well drained and fertile that it did not even need to be rested every 2 or 3 years as elsewhere, nor was it needed for grazing. There were only small areas of woodland – used for grazing pigs, and some meadow used likewise for the plough oxen.

There was only one watermill in the area, there being in general no streams suitable for their operation, so most grinding was still carried out using hand-querns, a practice unchanged since Roman times. Windmills however came to be used extensively from the 12th century onwards in all the Flegg villages.

At the time of Domesday, the average holding of a Flegg freeman was small, only around 5 – 15 acres (the word “Tenant” derives from “Ten acre holder”) but the records should not be interpreted too literally since sometimes the local “acre” could be up to one and a quarter times the accepted standard measure! The “great fields” were divided into strips, each separated by an unploughed furrow, and worked by their tenants in exactly the same way as are modern allotment holdings, growing mainly barley with some wheat and rye plus a few peas.

This was a remarkably civilised society. Women could and did inherit and hold land, but had to formally surrender it to their husband upon marriage. Land could be given as dowry, or kept to provide an annuity in old age. A man without heirs would lease out his land. Ploughing was organised on a team basis; each freeman owned two oxen, a total of eight being required to operate the plough team serving an average of 30 acres.

However this simple and fair system of land inheritance gradually led to its downfall. Fragmentation of the holding occurred wherever there was more than one male heir, and after a bad harvest the more opportunistic tenants would buy additional land speculatively, likewise selling again after a good year. Some prospered, but equally others would fall easily into poverty. By 1292, the average holding was down to around five acres, and this may have been comprised of odd strips and bits and pieces scattered all around the village. Though shared out more amongst the population, such holdings could not be worked efficiently and were now too small to support a family without other additional sources of income. Many had to partially sell up in order to buy food and pay rent on the rest.

The countryman’s long-fabled resourcefulness emerged as one result of these changes; diversification was the order of the day. Cows began to be kept as a source of milk and cheese (formerly only domestic goats provided these). Sheep also were commonly kept after around 1350. Fishing was still generally free (or carried out covertly) and plentiful. Eels could be easily trapped. Other activities were peat digging for fuel, and salt panning on the tidal lower Bure, with all the products easily saleable in Yarmouth. Cultivation of peas as a staple food for market became widespread. A well-chosen combination of such activities could be sufficiently remunerative that some tenants could now pay their landlords to be excused some or all of their “services”, so enabling further development of their own activities. In this way, rural society gradually evolved into a money-based system of craft industries supplementing that comprising the supply of services and produce.

From around 1200, the familiar modern systematic use of Surnames became established in Flegg, somewhat earlier than in many parts of England, and partly as a result of the growth of the craft and marketing culture. Many surnames were of course directly related to the family activity and easily recognisable as such: Miller, Carter, Smith, Salter. On the other hand, our “Paul” is clearly a traditional name rather than that of a craftsman or merchant, and so it is satisfying to think that he was probably one of the longer-established and more prosperous freemen!

Fragmentation of the traditional tenancies clearly could not go on, and much land with the remaining freemen was sucked into the “manorial” system by around 1300. The Abbeys and Monasteries became powerful landlords, in Flegg particularly at Hemsby and Martham. The typical holding was now a much more viable 120 acres, overseen on a day-to-day basis by the Bailiff, and very detailed accounts were generally kept. A bailiff would typically be paid £2 per year, whereas tenants might expect to earn 8 shillings for their labours. Previously kept only for riding, horses began to be used for ploughing instead

of oxen – they were much more efficient and could be worked for longer hours. Access to and use of the marshes became restricted, and fishing was no longer free for all. The well-managed dominance of the manorial system did however lead to enhanced prosperity for the general populace of Flegg, and the primary local market town of Yarmouth was in the 1330's far more affluent than Norwich.

Ecclesiastically, Flegg has always been part of the Arch deanery of Norwich. In 1253 the district comprised 26 parishes, but amalgamations to cater for viable congregations took place as early as 1300, with Repps joining Bastwick, and Ashby with Oby. Scratby became absorbed into the parish of Ormesby St. Margaret (Great Ormesby) and its own church, long a ruin, had disappeared by 1550. Later, Stokesby was joined with Herringby and Thurne with Ashby & Oby, so that by 1842 there were only 21 functional parishes.

By 1300 much of the land in Burgh St Margaret and Ormesby was in the hands of the Clere family, as tenants-in-chief of Ormesby Manor. The Pastons likewise became dominant in several of the other nearby villages. Many of their tenants were however still widely scattered around neighbouring parishes as a result of the previous inheritance patchwork; this was already recognised as no bad thing since it helped to reduce the weakening effect of in-breeding amongst the small populations of these rural communities.

A typical tenant's house or "message" of the period was a one- or two-roomed dwelling with mud walls and a roof of turf or rushes, self-built. His small private ground or "toft" adjoining was enclosed by hedge or fence and contained a barn and animal pens. A typical inventory would show few possessions; a cart, a ploughshare, a hand quern or grindstone, a spade and a fork. In the house would be a table, a hair mattress, a basin for cooking, a washing-bowl, dishes, plates, a cask and a vat.

4.3 14th Century Misery

Several events contrived to make this next period a difficult one for civilization in Flegg, after many centuries of prosperity. There was a great famine in 1315/16, caused by poor harvests whereby the price of basic foodstuffs quadrupled. They then took four years to return to something like previous levels. Rising water levels flooded the peat diggings, and the adjacent marsh pastures were often flooded also. Cattle disease prevailed in the years 1319-26.

Famine and disease reduced resistance to plague, and the "Black Death" of 1349-50 devastated Flegg even more than most parts of the country. Typically between a third and half the population died. The report from Runham is stark; "all the tenants are dead". Much of the land went untended; it reverted to the lord of the manor but could not be let. There was a severe labour crisis for much of the 1350's. Land rents were very cheap, existing holdings could easily be increased and wages quickly doubled; the lowly labouring classes found themselves with enhanced power and influence. For the first time since the Danish invasion, there were many incomers to the district; particularly mentioned are men from Fornsett, southwest of Norwich, and Flemings as hired labour from the continent. It may be that our Powley ancestors themselves came from the Swaffham area then as part of this influx? All of the Flegg villages gradually and fully recovered.

Inevitably the great manorial system begun to seem oppressive; since wages were much higher but prices stable the overlords attempted to balance the books by imposition of a hated poll tax, and greatly increased fees and fines for all manner of petty misdemeanours and transgressions. One example of the latter was that the cost of a marriage licence increased 16-fold for women over the age of 33, since they were then deemed too old to produce children as a source of future labour! The populace responded by rioting – culminating in the so-called "Peasant's Revolt" of 1381 in which mobs took over the towns of Norwich and Yarmouth, symbolically destroying their charters. The court rolls of St. Benet's Abbey (which detailed their tenants' services and fines) and elsewhere were burnt. The riots were quelled only after some weeks, and thereafter the Manorial obligations and restrictions came to be gradually relaxed.

4.4 Prosperity in the 15th Century and beyond

After the turmoil of the 1300's, with this new sensible order of things life in Flegg settled down to a golden age of stability and relative prosperity for all. Wages were good, land plentiful, rents fixed and prices stable. There were again more incomers, with new surnames appearing in the court rolls – but still no Powleys found, so far! These factors led to the emergence of a dominant and autonomous class of individual Yeoman Farmer landowner by 1500, supported by a veritable army of strong, loyal agricultural labourers and their families; a system which was to prevail in Flegg until the 1700's and well beyond.

Religious activity seems to have wavered for a period, as there is evidence of a strong undercurrent of heresy in East Norfolk following the preachings of William White circa 1428. In essence, he condemned all aspects of religious orthodoxy and promoted the view that men and women should have only direct communion with God. This teaching deemed marriage and baptism to be unnecessary. With most baptisms taking place privately at home rather than at the Parish Church it must have been easy for the labouring classes to just ignore the established rites, which just may have some bearing on our difficulty tracing records at a later date!

5 The first Parish Registers – and the first Powleys!

Parish Registers in something similar to the modern format, recording baptisms, marriages and burials in a standardized manner, were instituted in 1538 during the reign of Henry VIII. They relate to the established Church of England. Only a few of the Flegg rural parishes appear to have adopted the new system quickly; just Runham and Thrigby have surviving registers from the earliest years.

It is in the second of these that we finally find our first Powley entry: - on 4th February 1549, one **William Powle** married Margaret Cottunne (Cotton) at the parish church of St Mary, Thrigby (pictured).

Alas we do not yet know whether he is definitely a member of our own family (though it seems quite probable), since only one recorded child of this couple has been found to date, the daughter Margaret Powle, who married John Hyx (Hicks) at Filby on 26 November 1585.



The records at that time give no indication of status, occupation or abode of any of these people. If William is indeed one of our forebears, and if my cousins Mary and Philip and myself call ourselves “generation 1” and our mothers “generation 2” and so on backwards then he will be of generation 14 or possibly 15.

Unfortunately there is then a long gap before we come to the first person that can be directly linked to us, Richard Pouly, born circa 1663, who is of generation 10 in this system. The problem is firstly that other neighbouring parishes did not start their registers mainly until around 1556 to 1563 (or at least no earlier ones have survived) and in cases such as Mautby and Ormesby St. Margaret there is nothing

before 1600. And secondly even after that date, some, such as for Filby, Caister and Hemsby are almost totally illegible at various periods due to damage by damp, vermin or simply the ink has faded.

The Norfolk County Record Office at Norwich is doing a splendid job in collecting together, filming and indexing all available evidence (often Archdeacons Transcripts may survive where the original registers do not, or vice versa) but this is a slow and gradual task. Likewise, it will be some time – if ever - before we can be sure we have found most of the surviving evidence and can start to make better guesses as to how it might all link together.

As an example of the potential difficulty here, there are records relating to several members of a family around 1610-1630 at Burgh St Margaret by the name of Pawling. These were transcribed by one James Hargreave Harrison in 1883, possibly from Archdeacons' Transcripts, in a work which is known to be full of errors and omissions. Are we to assume the name could originally have been Pawley or Powley? There are no other people with the name Pawling or Pauling in Flegg then or since, but the further away from the expected spelling or sound we get, the more tenuous this exercise becomes. And if our people in this period did indeed live in the parish of Burgh St. Margaret, which is quite possible, we do not have the luxury of being able to consider and interpret the entries in the original parish registers, since these were all destroyed in a fire at the parsonage there in 1739! So, for the time being, we skip quickly on to 1688, the year of marriage of the above-mentioned Richard Pouly, and the start of the history of our Powley family proper.....

6 Richard Pouly of Scratby, born circa 1663 (“generation 10”)

If he was aged around 25 years at the time of his marriage, Richard Pouly would have been born circa 1663. The marriage register entry describes him as “of Scratby”, the coastal village that by then had been absorbed into the parish of Ormesby St. Margaret (Great Ormesby). Most likely he was born there, but there is another reason why we may never find him, or his link to previous generations, since during the period of Cromwell’s “Commonwealth” all church marriages and baptisms were in fact totally banned for some years by law. Some were still carried out clandestinely, and other vicars dealt with a backlog after the restoration of the monarchy, but for the most part, there are no records at all for the period around Richard’s birth.

Richard Pouly married Maria Philips of Great Ormesby on 3rd October 1688 at the parish church of St. Margaret (pictured).

This event is accurately and well documented in the Boyd and Phillimore marriage indexes, also on the IGI.

The original parish register entry, like many of that period is in Latin; it reads: -

“Richardus Pouly de Scrouteby, solitus, et Maria Philips, soluta, matrimonium solemnizerunt dei Tertio Octoberis”



Richard and Maria went on to have at least five children, all baptised at Ormesby St. Margaret as follows: -

Maria, in August 1689
Anna, in May 1691
Elizabeth, in August 1693
Robert, baptized on 18th October 1696
and **Martha**, on April 21 1706

All of these are shown in the register with surname spelled “Pouly” with the exception of Robert, who is “Powly”

We felt that there should surely have been a first-born son named Richard after his father? However, the only way this could be fitted in is either around 1687-88, before the parents were married, or possibly early 1695. There is no record of any such baptism in either case, so perhaps the child died at birth and it was then considered unlucky to perpetuate the name for a later son.

The former situation may seem surprising to us, but it was in fact then and for at least 150 years subsequently very common particularly amongst the rural labouring classes for parents not to commit to marriage until the first child had lived for several months and seen to be strong and healthy. This was of course because of a high probability that either the child or the mother, or both, would not survive. In such cases the child would be baptised in the mother’s surname, and often charmingly described in the register as a base-born or bastard child.

There is also a long gap from 1696 to 1706, in which there surely would have been two or three more children; maybe these were born and baptised in a neighbouring parish, perhaps Caister, Burgh or Filby? Otherwise, many poor parents would defer the baptisms as they were unable to afford the fees, then might have several older children christened at the same time – and some unfortunately may not have lived that long.

Richard and Maria’s apparent only son Robert continues our Powley family line as “generation 9” (below). The only further record we have of their family is that youngest daughter Martha married Robert Clerk of Thrigby at Ormesby St Margaret on 24th January 1731.

7 Robert Powley and Rose Ames – “Generation 9”

Robert Powley married Rose Ames (Amis) at the parish church of the Holy Trinity, Caister-next-Yarmouth (Caister-on-Sea) on 20th October 1724. Their first child, also **Robert**, had in fact been born some seven months earlier, in accordance with the common practice explained above, at Runham on 14th March. The baptisms of three more children are recorded in the Ormesby St. Margaret registers: -

William	on 15 th January 1726
Mary	on 21 st December 1729
Richard	on 7 th November 1731

William was possibly named after Rose’s father, though we have not found any details about her family. Amis is a common surname in this part of Norfolk, but the spelling Ames as seen here seems to be unique. Son Richard is undoubtedly named after Robert’s father.

We expect to find later children, but there are no further baptisms shown in the Ormesby register, which is clear and concise. On the other hand, those for Filby and Caister at this time are almost totally unreadable, so it is likely that the family has moved on, possibly to find better-paid work.

In particular, we really wanted to find a son John, the link with the next generation (see below) who was born circa 1735, but we have yet to establish this with certainty – perhaps the Archdeacon’s transcripts of the above registers will help here?

Of the other known children of Robert and Rose, son William married Elizabeth White on 17th April 1760 at Ormesby St Margaret, and daughter Mary married William Barber on 16th June 1751 at Filby.

8 John Powle and Mary Stanford – “Generation 8”

This John Powle married in 1763, and our family line from that event onwards is now absolutely clear and definite. He is described as “of Ormesby” though as we have seen, there is no record of his baptism there. He was probably born around 1735 and we speculate that his father was Robert since he gave this name to his first son.

There is however perhaps another possibility, thought less likely at present, that his father was Richard (Robert’s brother), the supposed elder son of Richard and Maria as discussed above. This Richard (as Richard Pauly) seems likely to be the one who married Suzanna Nobbs at Filby in 1716. They had 5 children, Richard, Mary, John, William and Solomon, all christened at Caister in the period 1717-1735 (and all with the surname “Powell”!) The son John was christened on 11th May 1728, so seems a little too old to be our man (marrying at age 34?), but might be. As can be seen, there is still some uncertainty to be resolved here, and there are many further records still to be looked at, given time.

Meanwhile, onto the definite story: “John Powle of Ormesby” was married to Mary Stanford at Upton St Margaret parish church on 14th March 1763. Mary was born in 1742 in the village of Fishley; the combined parish of Upton-with-Fishley being just outside the district of Flegg itself, north of Acle bridge and on the west side of the River Bure opposite Thurne.

This is a first example of several in our family of another seemingly common practise of the times, whereby the man would court and marry a girl from a village maybe several miles distant from his own. Perhaps the general populace were already suspicious (or superstitious?) of weakness resulting from inbreeding within these small communities, and made a conscious effort to avoid this?

Another possible influence regarding poorer families was that the parish overseers would be keen for a local girl to marry a man from another village, especially if she was pregnant, since she would then become the responsibility of his village instead of their own! And it is certainly true in the present case and many of the later ones that after the marriage the couple return to the husband’s former home parish to have their children. In John and Mary’s case, we found just two: -

Robert	christened 16 th June 1765
Jonathan	christened 6 th December 1768

both at Ormesby St. Margaret, with the surname spelt Powley. Jonathan continues our family line as generation-7. We know nothing more of Robert except that he may be the “Robert Powly” who married Ann Nuby (Newby) at Martham in 1793?

The register of Ormesby St Margaret shows in 1771 the burial of a Mary Powley, “a young woman”; this is quite possibly our Mary, aged just 29, who perhaps died in childbirth? It would certainly explain why John and Mary had only two children, which was quite unusual in those days.

If this is the case, it is also very likely that our widowed John Powley is the one who then married Diana Corke at Billockby All Saints on 27th October 1777, when he was around 42 years old. We know nothing about Diana except that she was a spinster at marriage, and was already some 8 months pregnant!

They were married by banns, but no indication of his status, occupation etc are given. John and Diana went on to have a total of four known children, as follows:

Mary	christened 22 nd November 1777 at Billockby All Saints
Elizabeth	born 9 th March 1780 at Burgh St Margaret
Richard	christened 8 th July 1781 “ “
Eleanor	“ 26 th July 1789 “ “

The inclusion of a Mary and a Richard here is a strong indication that this is indeed our John Powley. Daughter Eleanor was buried at Burgh St Margaret on 25th October 1789, aged only 3 months.

Elizabeth is no doubt the Elizabeth Powley, single woman, who caused great scandal amongst the villagers of Burgh St Margaret by having at least four illegitimate children, apparently by several different fathers! Such frolics serve to lighten the undoubted drudgery of rural life at that time, and also show that in some respects not a lot has changed between then and nowadays. They are recorded in the Burgh St Margaret register as follows:

Edward	“the illegitimate son of Elizabeth Powley”, born 14 th January, christened privately on (illegible) January 1801
Samuel	ditto, born 18 th June, christened 20 th June 1802, and was buried at Burgh on 1 st August, aged only 6 weeks
Christmas	ditto, born 20 th February, christened 28 th Feb 1804
Edward	ditto, born 3 rd March, christened 4 th March (1805? – see below)

Christmas was so named despite being born on the 20th February; there was in the village a young married man by the name of John Christmas so perhaps she was trying to make a subtle point here? Taking the register literally, Edward was apparently born just a few days later! Surely there were not *two* Elizabeth Powleys producing illegitimate children in this same small village at the same time? The likely explanation is that the new vicar was just as incompetent as the previous one (see below), and got the year wrong; it perhaps should have been 1805? This Edward, clearly shown in the original baptism record as illegitimate and with no father’s name recorded, has in the IGI index curiously acquired a father with the very strange name of Ramseier Powley. The Norwich library staff thought that this somewhat American-sounding contrived name (“Ram’s Heir”! – surely not?) has been invented by whoever transcribed the record - presumably a descendant - to hide their shame of an illegitimate ancestor!

Of these four, only the second Edward seems to have survived long enough to be recorded in the 1841 census. He married Esther Wilkinson on 26th July 1826 at the parish church of Ashby with Oby & Thurne, and the census entry shows them at Church Street, Rollesby with Edward working as an agricultural labourer. They have two children with them, Ann aged 13 and Harriett, 2. Esther, who was around the same age as Edward, is recorded here as “Easter”. The family could not be found in 1851, so it is likely that Edward was the one recorded as passing on in 1845, aged 40.

John & Diana’s son Richard seems to have taken Mary Shearwood as his partner around early 1797 (he was only 15 years old, and no marriage record could be found), and they had four known children, all girls christened at Billockby as follows:

Maria	born 12 th September, christened 8 th October 1797
Margaret	christened 20 th October 1799
Frances	“ 14 th August 1803
Hannah	born 5 th March, christened 6 th April 1806

Of these, we know that Margaret married James Sadler on 30th December 1821 at St Nicholas, Yarmouth, and is possibly the Margaret Sadler who died locally in late 1839 aged 40. Frances is maybe the one who married Matthew Smith in Norwich on 16th February 1830, and died in Yarmouth in the summer of 1837 aged 34. Hannah may not have married, and if so a candidate for her demise is also in summer 1837, in the Flegg registration district, when she would have been 31.

John's wife "Dinah" Powley was buried at Burgh St Margaret on 2nd April 1805, her age given as 61 years. We have not so far found any record of John's demise, which could conceivably have been at any time after 1789.

9 Jonathan Powley and Berry Cudden – "Generation 7"

John and Mary's second son Jonathan married the delightfully-named Berry Cudden on 6th April 1790 at the parish church of Stokesby St. Andrew with Herringby; another example of "bride from nearby village". We know nothing about her family, or how she may have come to be given the very unusual first name. The surname Cudden, spelled thus, is quite common in the area in the later censuses and civil registration entries. However, a couple of generations previously it appears very prone to mis-spelling: in the baptism entries for Jonathan and Berry's children it is rendered variously as Cutting, Cadden, Cuddey, Cutton, Cuten and even Goodwin (which seems somewhat implausible even with the heaviest of accents!). This last may however have arisen because Berry had been married before, and widowed young; it may be her married name whereas Cudden was her parent's surname (or perhaps vice-versa)? Perhaps it is really "Cotton" (again)?

Jonathan and Berry had 8 known children, as follows. The first, Joanna, was baptised at Thurne, but they then moved to settle in the nearby village of Burgh St. Margaret (often called Fleggburgh to distinguish it from the many other "Burghs" in Norfolk); all the other baptisms were there.....

Joanna	born 8 th December	1791	baptised 9 th Dec
Mary	" 19 th January	1794	" 27 th Jan
John	" 3 rd December	1796	" 4 th Dec
Ann	" 13 th March	1799	" 17 th Mar
Matthew	" ? ? (early)	1802	
William	" 4 th September	1803	baptized same day
Frances	" 10 th December	1804	" 11 th Dec
Benjamin	" (late July ?)	1807	" 3 rd August

As was usual then, the baptisms generally took place within a few days of the birth, and were conducted by the vicar in private at the family home rather than at the parish church. That William was baptized on the same day as he was born indicates a particular sense of urgency; the infant was no doubt sickly and not expected to survive, so it comes as no surprise to read of his burial on 18th September, aged just two weeks, at Burgh St. Margaret parish church.

Unfortunately, there is no baptism record to be found at all for son Matthew, either at Burgh or at any of the neighbouring 20 or so parishes (all of which are by now well and legibly documented) in the period 1795 – 1805. Of all the children it was, too, the one we most wanted to find, since Matthew forms the next generation in our direct family line! By a lengthy process of data collection and elimination we concluded that Jonathan and Berry were almost certainly his parents (there really were no other possibilities), and this was neatly confirmed sometime afterwards by the discovery that Matthew re-

married late in life (having been widowed), after the start of civil registration; the certificate shows his father definitely to be Jonathan. This same certificate also gives us, for the first time, Jonathan's occupation; unsurprisingly it is Agricultural Labourer. We don't know whether he was the latest in a long line of such, or just the first of several more generations yet to come, but the former is more than likely in this rural district.

The uncharacteristic lack of a baptism record for Matthew in the Burgh registers may most likely be put down simply to the vicar's forgetfulness early in 1802 (we know that Matthew was born there at around this time, since data in the later censuses and age at death all tally very closely). With the home baptisms, it seems that he very was lax in writing up his register back at the church; he was replaced (presumed "retired") shortly afterwards!

We pick up Matthew's life story again in the section following. Of Jonathan and Berry's other children, we know that daughter **Ann** married **John Sutton** at Burgh St. Margaret on 18th March 1823. Brother Matthew was one of the witnesses, and made an "X", "his mark" in the register, as so many of his fellow labourers on the land had perforce to do.

Ann & John could not be found in the 1841 census, but in 1851 they are living in Clippesby village, with John born around 1791 at Blofield employed as an agricultural labourer. Three sons are with them, Benjamin aged 18, George 14 and Robert 10, all born at Clippesby. Ten years on in 1861 they are all still there, with John aged 70 now giving his birthplace as Upton. The three sons are all unmarried and working as ag. labs. Ann Sutton died in either late 1862 or late 1865, and husband John passed on in the spring of 1871, aged 80.

Daughter **Frances** was in 1841 employed as a house servant to Prudence Moors aged 80 "of independent means" living in North Road, Great Yarmouth. By 1851 she is at East Street in the town, servant in the household of Edward Jones aged 70 a retired seed crusher and his daughters.

Frances married **James Cutts** a few months later in the summer of 1851 at Yarmouth, when she was 46 years old. The 1861 census shows them at 77 George Street, Great Yarmouth, with James aged 61 a Master Mariner born at Bungay, Suffolk. James's unmarried daughter from a previous marriage, Eliza aged 29 born at Yarmouth is with them, and they have two fishermen as lodgers. The Cutts are still at the same house in 1871, with James now a retired mariner. His daughter Eliza is now indicated as an "imbecile". There is now only one lodger, a newspaper editor.

Having lost her husband in the spring of 1875 at Yarmouth, the 1881 census finds Frances now staying at Cley Road, Caistor with her niece Sarah George aged 53, "cottage owner" also a widow and her children. At age 77 she gives her occupation as "formerly lodging keeper". Frances Cutts died in the spring of 1882 aged 78 years.

Jonathan & Berry's son **Benjamin** married **Judith Gillings** on 25th October 1825 at Blofield parish church when he was just 18 and Judith 16. They could not be found in 1841 or subsequent censuses, and nothing further is known about them at present.

Berry Powley died in June 1826 and was buried at Burgh St. Margaret church on the 15th of that month aged 59. The widowed Jonathan then married a widow, **Judith Yallop**, a year or two younger than himself, at Burgh on 10th January 1829. His new bride was born **Judith Appleton** in around 1774, and married **John Yallop** at Somerton parish church on 5th May 1794, being subsequently widowed.

Jonathan passed on just eight years later, at the good age of 69, and was also buried in Burgh churchyard on 17th March 1837.

Although many headstones from this time survive in the grounds of this very attractive thatched-roofed church (pictured), most are now so weathered as to be totally illegible, and none with the name Powley were found.



In the first detailed census of 1841, Jonathan’s widow Judith Powley is the last of her generation of our family still living in the area; she is staying in a cottage at Brown’s Farm, Billockby.

At age 65 she is recorded rather improbably as an agricultural labourer, and has a son by first marriage Daniel Yallop aged 20, also an ag. lab, with her. Judith passed away there early in 1842.

10 Matthew Powley and Ellen Hollis – “generation 6”

Jonathan and Berry’s second son Matthew married **Ellen Hollis** at Burgh St Margaret parish church on 12th October 1826 – a Thursday – after reading of Banns on the previous three Sundays. They were “single man, single woman, both of this parish”. The register is signed by Ellen, and by Robert Hollis (perhaps an uncle) as witness, but Matthew and his younger sister Frances had to “make their mark”.

Ellen was born in early 1801, she is the daughter of John Hollis (originally of Horning) and Susannah, nee Dunham (born c 1770 at Acle) who were married at the parish church of Thurne with Ashby and Oby on 1st February 1791. Further detail of the Hollis family can be found at Appendix (A).

Matthew and Ellen’s first child, **Richard**, was in fact born out of wedlock as another example of this common rural practice mentioned earlier. His baptism in late 1823 (the exact date cannot be deciphered as the page is faded and soiled) is recorded in the Burgh register thus: - “Richard Dunham the base-born son of Eleanor Ollis, christened.....” We know that Matthew Powley was the father, since Richard died young (possibly the one recorded in early 1838) and is commemorated on the family headstone at Clippesby church.

Their other children were as follows: -

John Hollis	baptised 2 nd September 1827	at Billockby All Saints
Mary Anna	“ 12 th September 1830	“ “
Robert Benjamin	“ 5 th September 1832	“ “
Frances	“ 13 th July 1834	“ “
Benjamin	“ 10 th September 1836	at Clippesby St. Peter
Barbara	“ 23 rd April 1842	“ “
Alfred	“ 8 th July 1842	“ “

a total of eight including Richard.

Billockby All Saints church is now mainly a ruin, albeit a well-maintained one (pictured); we found no Powley headstones in the churchyard.

John Hollis Powley continues our male family line as Generation 5 (see below). Benjamin died young, aged only 5, and was buried at Clippesby church on 30th December 1841. Barbara was born in the spring of 1840 but not baptised until she was two years old, an unusual situation which may indicate a period of severe financial hardship for Matthew and his family; it is likely that all the others were christened when just a few days old.



In all of the baptism records, also in the 1841 and 1851 censuses, Matthew is shown as an Agricultural Labourer. In the latter census the 4 surviving elder children are also “Ag Labs” (even the two girls!) and the two youngest are shown as “scholars” indicating that perhaps for the first time the children of these poorer farming communities are able to obtain some sort of formal education. In 1841 the Powley family were living at Horn’s Cottage, Clippesby, presumably tied to Matthew’s job; they may still have been there in 1851 but that census unfortunately does not show individual addresses in this small village. The 1845 White’s directory of Norfolk gives the population of Clippesby as just 123, and the only farmer listed is William Garrett, who lived at South House. Billockby was even smaller, with only 71 inhabitants but including 3 farmers.

Ellen Powley’s name is rendered variously as Ellenor, Eleanor and Elinor in the Billockby baptism entries up to 1834, but following the move just down the road to the neighbouring parish of Clippesby a year or two later she has evidently started to call herself Elizabeth! (perhaps she was in fact Ellen Elizabeth?). Elizabeth it is then up to at least 1842, including the 1841 census, wherein daughter Barbara is also recorded as “Betsey”. Both Ellen and Barbara have reverted to their original given names by time of the 1851 census.



Matthew’s wife Ellen died in 1854 “aged 53 years” and was buried in the churchyard of Clippesby St Peter (right) on 13th October.

It seems that this sad loss provoked a dramatic re-assessment of his rural lifestyle, the only one that he, his children and forebears had ever known, for we see major changes occurring within the next two years.....

11 The lure of the Big Town; a new wife and a new job

Matthew and his family now follow in the footsteps of many of his fellow-countrymen in moving to the nearest big town, Great Yarmouth. It was something of a surprise to find him re-marrying there at the age of 55 only two years after Ellen’s death, and also that he now had a very different job!

Matthew Powley married **Susanna Graver** at the parish church of St. Nicholas, Great Yarmouth on Sunday, 12th April 1857. His bride was a widow, born in Yarmouth as Susanna Smyth in February 1805, the daughter of William Smyth, a Master Mariner and his wife Ann, nee Crane and christened at St Nicholas on 12th November 1809 when she was 4 years old. She married Samuel Graver in the same church on 23rd November 1828, and they seem to have adopted a child called **Cornelius Powley**. For further details, see Appendix (B)

It was good to find out about Matthew's second marriage (initially from the 1861 census entry) because the certificate finally gave us the proof that his father was definitely Jonathan, and also is the only document showing that Jonathan was a farm labourer. However, in other respects it was disappointing: no addresses are shown for either party; Matthew is shown as a Publican, but no occupation is shown for Susanna. Despite his apparent new status, Matthew still has to "make his mark" whereas Susanna signs. The witnesses' were Matthew's sister Frances Cutts ("her mark") and his son-in-law James Benns.

To try to understand more about Matthew's apparent good fortune we next look at the 1861 census. In this, he is listed as a "General Shopkeeper" at 1, Seymour Place, Yarmouth. His wife of 4 years again has no occupation shown and the only one of his children still living with them is Barbara, now aged 20. Presumably in practice they would both help out in the shop.

In the twenty or so years after 1840, the town of Great Yarmouth was rapidly expanded by the construction of many terraces of houses on the vast tract of open land between the medieval walled "Old Town" and the beach. Initially the blocks were all given individual names, but these seem to have long since fallen into disuse, such that the houses are now identified by numbers only along their respective roads.

Thus it is proving difficult to definitely locate 1, Seymour Place but it appears to be the corner house on the north side of Victoria Road, where Duncan Road crosses (west side of Duncan Road). The Trafalgar Tavern is next door (on Victoria Road). In view of what happens next, we can speculate that perhaps Susanna was the publican at the Trafalgar and that she lived next door (possibly running a "corner shop" here also). Also that when Matthew and his family first arrived in Yarmouth, probably in the spring of 1856, they lodged with her. Certainly when they married, or maybe before if they were already living and working together, Susanna would have probably have had to surrender the publican's licence to Matthew under the system then prevailing.

Back in the 1851 census, 1 Seymour Place is shown as occupied by one Keziah Barker, a 56 year old widow and lodging-house keeper.

The 1864 and 1865 Yarmouth directories list Matthew as "Shopkeeper" and "Grocer" respectively at Seymour Place, but in 1871 the census shows a new occupant at no.1, Jonas William Wells, a general carter. Matthew, by now 68, and Susanna have moved a few hundred yards away to another terraced house, the first of a block of five going north up the west side of Nelson Road from its junction with St Peter's Road, close to the old town wall. He is still working, also now as a Carter.

Matthew was destined to be widowed for a second time, as Susanna died in December 1875, aged 70.

He himself soldiered on for another 15 months, passing away in Yarmouth on 14th March 1877 at the then good age of 74.



As a fitting final touch presumably arranged by his sons, his body was brought back to Clippesby for burial beside his first wife Ellen and their two children who died in infancy, on 19th March. The family headstone (picture above), probably erected by his sons at this time, still survives in a prominent position right outside the entrance porch to St. Peter's church, though now somewhat overgrown and leaning precariously backwards. It reads "sacred to the memory of Matthew Powley who died 14th March 1877 aged 74 years, also to Ellen his beloved wife who died 9th October 1854 aged 52 years, and also Richard and Benjamin, sons of the above"

So what has become of their other children? We follow the fortunes of the elder son, John Hollis Powley, as the next generation of our family line, in the section following below. As he, Alfred, Frances and Barbara were all in Yarmouth by 1861, we could probably assume they all came there together from Flegg with Matthew around 1856.

Mary Anna could not be found in the 1861 census, and she does not appear to be the one who married Joseph Chilvers or Charles England in the autumn of 1861 at Yarmouth; it is likely then that she died during the 1850's, there are several candidates in the registers as Mary Ann. Strange though that she is not recorded on the family headstone – perhaps the daughters were considered less important than the sons in this respect?

Frances married **James Benns** on 9th May 1858 at St Nicholas, Yarmouth. James was probably the son of William Benns, a coal merchant and his wife Hannah, born at Stokesby around 1830, though he is not with them in the 1851 census, and none of them could be found in 1841. The 1861 entry shows James and Frances living in Acle village, with James working as a boatman on the Broads; they have their 8-month old son James Alfred, born at Acle, with them. Next door we find the aforementioned William, aged 56 born at Stokesby, and Hannah, 51, originally from Freethorpe. They have three other younger children with them, Benjamin an 18 year old boat builder, John 16 coal carter, and Sarah Ann 14 a scholar, all born at Acle.

In 1871 James is recorded as a waterman, he and Frances are living "near the boat ditch" at Acle and still have just the one child with them. William & Hannah remain next door to them, but all their children have now left home. 1881 shows James still working as a waterman, but by 1891 he is a coal merchant at Marsh Wall, Acle, so has evidently inherited his late father's business. His son James is still with them, employed as a coal carter in the business. James senior still has his business in 1901 at the age of 69, the address now shown as Boat Dyke Road, Acle. James and Frances are still living there in 1911, as old age pensioners. Son James is a coal carter, by now married but his wife is not shown with him in the census. Frances Benns died locally in the spring of 1916, aged 81.

Barbara became Mrs **Thomas Beales** on Boxing Day 1864, also at Yarmouth St Nicholas. Thomas was born in the autumn of 1838 at Yarmouth, the son of Daniel & Ann Beales. From at least 1871 through to 1901 Thomas and Barbara lived at no.1, Row 71 in Great Yarmouth. In the first of these 4 censuses, Thomas is shown employed as a coachman, aged 32. They have 3 children, Ellen Susannah born summer 1865, Arthur Thomas autumn 1867 and George Henry summer 1869, all at Yarmouth. By 1881, Thomas has become a brewer's carter and they have added 4 more children, Edith Frances, Annie, Charles Benjamin and Frederick James. We meet Annie again later, in London. In both 1891 and 1901 Thomas is described as a brewer's drayman and son Arthur has become a coachman, presumably taking his father's former role? Younger son Charles is a gardener's assistant in 1891, aged 15. Barbara Beales died in the spring of 1908 at Yarmouth, aged 68.

Robert could not be found in the 1861 census, and neither could his future bride **Elizabeth Ingram**. They were however married in the autumn of 1864 at Yarmouth, when Robert was 32. A son **George** was born to them in late 1865. Elizabeth was born about 1837 in Yarmouth, the daughter of William Ingram,

a sail maker in the town, and his wife Elizabeth. In the 1841 census her family home was at North Row, Yarmouth, and the young Elizabeth has no less than 5 older brothers for company! By 1851 they have moved to Yallop's Row in the town, where her father was still working as a sail maker aged 53, accompanied in the task by his two elder sons. Elizabeth at 13 is still at school. Yallop's Row was at the northernmost extremity of the Old Town, running between Fuller's Hill and North Quay, by all accounts not the most salubrious of districts!

The 1871 census shows Robert working as a labourer, staying with his wife and son at no. 2 back of Napoleon Place, Yarmouth, quite near to Seymour Place. His by now widowed mother-in-law Elizabeth Ingram (aged 75) is staying with them; she is incorrectly shown as Robert's "mother" which caused us a certain amount of confusion at first!

The pictures show Napoleon Place, Yarmouth and the back thereof, in 2001.....



Sometime before 1881 Robert moved his family to Hull, Yorkshire, presumably to find better work, and they were to stay there the rest of their lives. In the 1881 census they are shown living at 6 Botanic Terrace with Robert working as a dockside labourer and son George a crane boy with the North Eastern Railway Company. Elizabeth Ingram, now shown as 81, a "fisherman's widow" is staying with them. She passed away towards the end of the same year.

In 1891 Robert & Elizabeth are at 5 Goodwin Terrace, Hull; Robert is a labourer and son George a railway porter. 10 years later they have moved again to 10 Herbert Terrace, Regent Street in the town, with Robert now working as a bricklayer's labourer. George, still a porter is living elsewhere in the area. For some reason best known to themselves, both Robert and Elizabeth have added around 7 years to their real ages in the 1901 census, and there seems to be no record of their subsequent demise!

Alfred Powley married **Martha Elizabeth Carter** at Yarmouth St Nicholas on 22nd July 1860, just a few days after his eighteenth birthday, and their son Alfred Frederick was christened a few weeks later, in October. Martha was around a year older than Alfred, born in Yarmouth as the 2nd of 4 known children, all girls, to James Carter, a twine spinner and his wife Maria. In the 1851 census the Carter family are living at Row 59 (Crown & Anchor Row) in Yarmouth Old Town.

Alfred and Martha had a total of 9 known children, all born in Great Yarmouth as follows.....

Frederick Alfred	(as he is shown in the births register)	autumn 1860
Ellen Lavinia		in the spring of 1862
Martha Elizabeth		summer 1864
Laura Maria		early 1867
Alfred Frederick		summer 1876
Florence Ada		autumn 1878
Emma Eliza		February 1881

Charles Albert
Sydney John

autumn 1883
summer 1885

The first Frederick died in early 1863 aged only 2 but all the others survived into adulthood. There is an unusual gap between 1867 and 1876, in which maybe 2 or even 3 others were born but died young, so are not found in the censuses.

Alfred Powley is shown as a labourer in both of the 1861 and 1871 censuses. In the whole of this period they were living at cottage 12 or 13, Row 121, Great Yarmouth. In the former year the family are sharing this small cottage with a widow Elizabeth Cropley aged 63, not thought to be a relative, but by ten years later with 3 children they at least have the place to themselves.

The Yarmouth Rows

The famous Rows, tightly packed terraced hovels separated by narrow alleyways in a grid pattern within the old town walls, dated from medieval times. They ran predominantly in an east-west direction between the Quays and the main north-south thoroughfare, King Street. This type of street plan is unique in the British Isles, though similar to that found in some Scandinavian towns with which Yarmouth has had trading links since the 11th century. The narrowest alley measured only around 27 inches, but most were around 4 feet in width. In earlier times just one man at each end could defend a whole row.

The Rows were devastated by bombing in the Second World War, and there is now but little remaining to show what they were like. Most of the houses surviving until then dated from the 1650-1750 period and were occupied mainly by labourers or fishermen engaged in the famous herring industry.

A typical Rows cottage contained just one room on each of three floors: ground, first and attic. A passage led from the front door to the back yard, with a wooden partition screen containing the room door. The fireplace was in the opposite wall with a cupboard to one side and the staircase on the other. The windows were small, with diamond-pattern lights, the attic had no window at all. An 1849 enquiry found whole families living in one room, with 1 privy to every four cottages housing an average of 24 people each. This proximity enabled the rapid spread of disease; there was no piped water supply until 1855, the wells were contaminated and cholera was rife.



Charles Dickens somewhat inexplicably describes life here at this time as “idyllic”, presumably after only the most cursory of inspections. The east wind howling straight down the alleyways directly off the sea was said to help dispel the noxious odours! The lure of secure, relatively well paid employment in Yarmouth must have been very strong to make our family want to give up their rural village life for this. The Rows were commonly referred to by numbers – there were about 150 in all – but most also had distinctive names; 121 being “Captain Christmas’s Row”. Only a fragment of this one now survives, at the King Street end just opposite York Road (picture above right, in 2001).



By 1881, Alfred Powley and his family have managed to escape from this claustrophobic hell, to the airy spaciousness of South Denes Road. He is by now a Carter, perhaps having taken over his father Matthew’s business after his death in 1877. We don’t know if this was merely a local town operation, using the distinctive special narrow “Troll Carts”, the only ones that could be taken right into the Rows, or one providing a service between the outlying villages and Yarmouth.

Our picture shows a preserved Troll Cart, in the Market Place at Great Yarmouth....



If the latter however, it would probably have been to and from the old Powley haunts of Flegg, in the way immortalised so colourfully by the character of Mr. Barkis (“*Barkis is willin*”) in Dicken’s

“David Copperfield”. This novel is well worth studying in detail to gain an impression of life in these villages and in Yarmouth at precisely the period of interest to us for our family.

Only 5 of their children are with them in the 1881 census, the youngest, Emma being just one month old. Martha Elizabeth at 16 is working as a factory hand in a silk manufacturer’s works, Laura is a servant though at home on census night, and young Alfred is already shown as a scholar.

The eldest child, Ellen Lavinia seems to have got into a bit of bother, and has probably had to leave the family home. She is found staying at 2 Belford Place, St Nicholas Road in Yarmouth, a visitor at the house of Margaret Ward, a fisherman’s wife, and has a 7-week old illegitimate daughter Kate with her.

By 1891 Alfred & Martha with their family have moved to 58 Ordnance Road, Yarmouth, and he is working as a fish carter. They have 4 boarders, militia trainees aged from 19 to 26. The eldest girls Ellen & Martha have both married by now and moved elsewhere (see below), the other 6 are at home with Laura now a silk weaver at 24 and Alfred, 14, an errand boy at the port.

The next two girls married during the 1890's and we see below that son Alfred had also moved out, so that by the time of the 1901 census at 59 Admiralty Road just Emma, Charles and Sydney are still at home. They are working as a domestic servant, wheelwright's apprentice and "leather closer's assistant" respectively, while Alfred senior is now listed as a fish salesman as well as a carter.

Ten years on, the parents have moved next door to no. 57, with Alfred now just listed as a carter. Daughter Emma and her husband Charles Sager (see below) are staying with them, Charles also being a carter. The 1921 census shows Alfred & Martha visiting a Frederick Rivett & his family, at The Street, Acle in Norfolk on Census night; Alfred is shown as a retired carter for a fish salesman.

Alfred Powley lived to a good age, passing on in the early weeks of 1924 at Yarmouth, aged 81. His wife Martha died there in late 1931 aged 89.

Of Alfred & Martha's children, we know that **Ellen** Lavinia married **Charles Herbert Snowley** in the autumn of 1883 in Flegg district. Charley as he was known was born at Runham in the spring of 1860, and it is possible that he was the father of Ellen's daughter Kate, though we do not know what had happened to her subsequently.

In the 1891 census, Ellen & Charley, a miller's carman are at Lathom Terrace, Yarmouth with a 3 year old son, also Charley, born at Bradwell, a couple of miles south-west of Yarmouth. Around 1898 this family followed Ellen's uncle Robert Powley to Hull, where the 1901 census finds them living at 79 Barnsley Street in the district of Sculcoates. Charley Snowley is running a fried fish shop and coffee house at the address, and they now have a total of six children ranging in age from 13 years down to 9 months.

By 1911 they were living at 43 Wellington Lane, Beverley Road, Hull, and Charley is working as a dock labourer. They have two more children, but 2 of the older ones have left home. Son Charley is now a railway porter. Ten years later they are at 63 Eles Street, Hull, once more with a Fried Fish business. Ellen is assisting in the shop, and there are three children at home, son Alfred, 19 is working as a milk seller. Ellen Snowley died in the Hull area in spring 1945 aged 83.

Martha Elizabeth married **Noah Jacob Page** in the summer of 1884 at Yarmouth. Noah was born in the town, and at 28 was some 8 years older than Martha. The 1891 census shows them living at 12 Bure Place, Runham, with Noah working as a labourer in the gasworks. Ten years later they are at 38 North River Road in the same village and he is now a general labourer at a chemical works. They have Arthur Farrow and his family boarding with them, and do not appear to have had any children. By 1911 the couple are at 10 West Street, Yarmouth with Noah working as a labourer. Their niece Laura Stolworthy (below) is staying with them on census night. Noah Page died in the summer of 1914 at Yarmouth aged 55, and Martha is possibly the one who married Michael McLaughlin at Huntingdon in late 1918.

Laura Maria Powley married **William John Stolworthy** in the summer of 1892 at Yarmouth when she was 25 and he a local lad of just 23. In 1901 they are at 120a Blackfriars Road, Yarmouth with William employed as a general labourer. They have two children, Ada and Laura, 4 and 3 respectively. With them on census night is Laura's younger sister **Florence** Wright, recently widowed at just 22 years old. She had married **William Charles Wright** at Yarmouth in late 1899. Ten years later the Stolworthy family have moved along Blackfriars Road to no. 136a with 3 more children, with head William employed as a fish worker. William Stolworthy died in late 1918 at Yarmouth, aged 46 and Laura then married Arthur W. Butler there in late 1923. In the 1921 census she is found at 28 Admiralty Road, Yarmouth with 3 daughters all working at Grout & Co, silk manufacturers of St Nicholas Street. Son William 17 is an office boy with Irvin & Son, fish salesmen at the fish wharf in Yarmouth.

The youngest of Alfred & Martha's five daughters, **Emma Eliza** married **Charles John Sager** in early 1902 at Yarmouth. As we saw above, they are staying with Emma's parents Alfred & Martha on census

night, 1911. Ten years later they are at 30 Southgate Road, with Charles a fish basket maker with Mr Knight's Yarmouth Stores Ltd in Southgate Road. There are no children at home now, but they have a Riley family as visitors on census night. Charles died in summer 1931 aged 50 at Norwich but Emma lived on in Yarmouth until late 1965, aged 84.

Son **Alfred** Frederick Powley is shown as unmarried in the 1901 census living at no. 8 cottage, Row 83 (Aldred's Row) in Yarmouth, employed as a labourer. He apparently has 3 children all shown with the surname Powley. With them is a 26 year old widow **Bessie Hunt**, and the birth registration records reveal that she is indeed their mother: Frederick Powley Hunt was born in late 1897, Alice Bessie Powley Hunt in summer 1898, and Minnie Powley Hunt in late 1899!

In 1911 Alfred and Bessie are at 32 Boreham Road, Yarmouth, with Alfred working as a carter. They claim to have been married for 14 years and have two more children; all their family are now recorded with the surname Powley. They did eventually marry, in Yarmouth in 1913. In 1921 they are still at Boreham Road; he is now a fish carter with Messrs N. Suffling Ltd at No. 2 Fish Wharf. Daughter Minnie at 21 is an assistant at a "Fancy Bazaar" in King Street, Laura Maud, 19 is a shop assistant in Chinaware at the Domestic Bazaar Company (possibly the same organization), and son Harold 15 is an errand boy for Messrs Jarrold & Sons, the famous printers & stationers also of King Street. In 1939 they are still at 32 Boreham Road in Yarmouth, with Alfred working as a general labourer. Bessie died in 1954 aged 79 and Alfred in early 1963 at 86.

Son **Frederick** uses the surname Powley throughout his adult life. He married **Elsie Maud Brown** in 1920 and the following year they are found at 9 Harboard's Buildings, Great Yarmouth, he working as a saw mill labourer for F. Wenn Ltd, box makers at 72 North Street. In 1939 he is still at Harboard's Buildings, apparently single again and working as a factory hand at a sugar works. There is a George Stolworthy, baker at no. 2 nearby. He appears to be the one who died at Yarmouth in 1966, in his 70th year. **Minnie** married Ernest William Smith in 1926 at Yarmouth, and died there in 1984, aged 84. Ernest was just 3 weeks older than her, and died in 1979.

Charles Albert Powley married **Victoria Emily Gaze** in the spring of 1907 at Yarmouth. She was born summer 1884 at nearby Gorleston. By 1911 they were living at 4 Bull's Lane, Gorleston, where they ran a general greengrocery shop. There are no children. Ten years later we find them at 28 Water End in the village of Woodstone, Northamptonshire, with Charles working as a wagon repairer (temporarily out of work) at the Great Eastern Railway's Moys works in Peterborough. There are two children, Alfred 8 & Hazel 2, both born in Gorleston. Charles died in early 1957 at Yarmouth aged 73, and Victoria there in early 1963 aged 78

Finally, Alfred & Martha's youngest son **Sydney** John married **Augusta Hodds** in summer 1907 at Yarmouth. She was born in 1887 at Gorleston. In the 1911 census they are at 7 Trafalgar Road, Gorleston, with Sydney having the exciting job of "swill maker". They have a daughter Eva aged 3, and a lodger Maud Hodds, no doubt Augusta's sister, is staying with them; she works as a machinist at a waterproof clothing factory. By 1921 they have moved to 8 Lovewell Road nearby, with Sidney's employer shown as F.W Green, Swill & Basket Maker at 25 South Quay, Yarmouth.

Sydney died in early 1950 in the Yarmouth area, aged 64. Augusta passed away in 1963 in the Norwich area, aged 76

12 John Hollis Powley and Eliza Durrant - “generation 5”

(From Norfolk to London)

Matthew’s eldest surviving son John Hollis Powley married Eliza Durrant at St. Nicholas, Great Yarmouth on 10th October 1859, at the relatively late age of 32.

Eliza was the daughter of Charles Augustus Durrant and his wife, also Eliza, and was born at Hickling, north Norfolk sometime in 1838. Charles Durrant was then a farm labourer, shown thus in the 1841 census living at The Green, Hickling. Both Charles and Eliza were born at Hickling, he around 1815 and she about 3 years previously. Staying with them in the census there is a William Durrant aged 6, who in later life becomes known as William Austick, Charles’ stepson, so presumably Eliza was previously married to a man named Austick, widowed about 1835 or 6 and married Charles in 1837.

The Hickling parish registers are not on IGI, but consulting these at Norwich Record Office would probably fill in more detail here. For what we know already about this family, see appendix (C)

We do not know if this Durrant family was related to the two George Durrants, father and son, who were Yeomen Farmers at Burgh St Margaret around 1850, and for whom Matthew Powley most probably worked during his years at Burgh.

Durrant is quite a common Norfolk surname, so it is likely that John Hollis Powley met Eliza only when he came to Yarmouth with his father around 1856; no doubt she had come there about the same time to find employment in service.

In the 1861 census, John and Eliza Powley are shown as lodgers in the household of Elinor Crowe, a widow, in Row 109, Great Yarmouth, just a hundred yards or so north from that of his brother Alfred.

Also living at this tiny cottage were Mrs Crowe’s sister, their father, two nieces and one other lodger!

Row 109 was “Red Lion Row” and just a fragment survives, although the pub guarding the entrance from King Street is nowadays called “Liberty’s”.....

And John has made even more of a dramatic career change than his father since coming up from the country – he has become a mariner with the merchant service, sailing out of Yarmouth harbour, though he was in fact at home on census night. John and Eliza’s first child Charles Matthew was born at the Row 109 cottage a few months later, towards the end of 1861.



Sometime during 1862 – 63, John broke ranks completely with his father and the rest of his family and made the bold step of moving from Yarmouth to London. Whether he thought there would be better opportunities for the advancement of his seafaring career there, or whether his employers transferred him is not known.

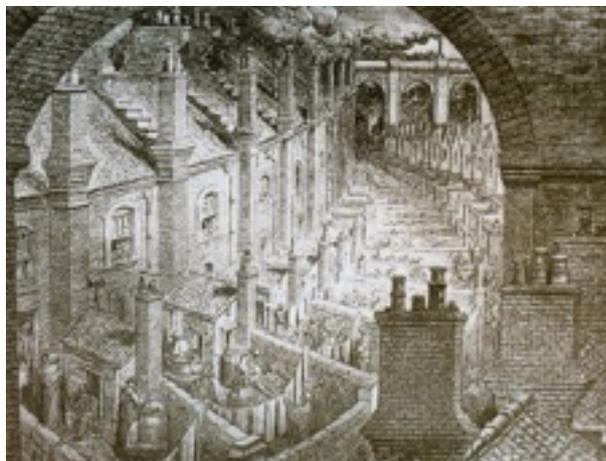
Whatever, second son **John Alonzo** Powley was born at 26, Salisbury Lane, Bermondsey on 19th January 1864 and baptized at Christchurch, Bermondsey on 15th April 1866. His unusual middle name does not imply, as we thought at first, any kind of Mediterranean family connection, but is just an example of a common fad or fashion of the times. John Hollis Powley is still shown as a merchant

service mariner, but now working out of the London Docks; Salisbury Lane was close to the waterfront, off the main Jamaica Road by Cherry Garden Pier.

This sounds to be quite nice, but the reality is that living conditions for the lower classes in Bermondsey then were probably no better than at the Yarmouth Rows they had left, and possibly even worse.

The Powleys stayed at Salisbury Lane until after 1871, but the census of that year now shows John's occupation as "Engineer".

By 1881 at age 53 he is an "Engine Driver" and has moved with his family about half a mile westwards to 57, Larnaca Street, still in Bermondsey, just off Abbey Street in the shadow of the great brick viaduct of the South Eastern Railway striding out towards Dover from London Bridge station.



The image (right) is a delightful and well-known Gustav Dore depiction of life in suburban south London at around that period. It is probably of an imaginary and somewhat over-dramatised location, but could well be Larnaca Street (or any one of scores of others!)

We did wonder if he was now working for the railway company, out of their nearby large locomotive sheds at Bricklayer's Arms but this is unlikely as their drivers would normally have started young as engine cleaners and worked their way up through the ranks.

The 1891 census clarifies this further; he is a "Factory Engine Driver", by then aged 63, and would no doubt have been in charge of one of the giant stationary steam engines installed to drive plant and machinery in one of the many engineering works in this part of South London. Assuming that he had been so employed for the last twenty years or so, this probably means that he had become unfit to go to sea any longer, perhaps as a result of some injury, in his early forties?

After their sons Charles Matthew and John Alonzo, John and Eliza were to have further children at Bermondsey over the years from 1866 to 1881, as follows:-

Ellen Eliza	born 29 th July 1866, baptized 24 th January 1869 at Christchurch, Bermondsey
Alice Eliza	born 26 th March 1868, baptized with Ellen
Alice Mary	born 12 th December 1870, baptized 10 th March 1878 at Christchurch
Alfred	born summer 1873, baptized with Alice Mary
Emily Annie	born early 1878, baptized with Alice Mary & Alfred
Anne Eliza	born early 1881, baptized 20 th January 1882 at St Mary Magdalene, Bermondsey

The baptisms of John Alonzo in 1866 and the 1869 pair above show the family abode as 26 Salisbury Lane, with father John Hollis a mariner as expected. For the 1878 session they are still at Salisbury Lane, but father John has unexpectedly become a gas fitter! By 1882 as we saw above they had moved to 57 Larnaca Street, and John Hollis is recorded in the baptismal register as a mere labourer.

Alice Mary is shown in the April 1871 census at Salisbury Lane aged 7 months, but Alice Eliza was also definitely theirs, confirmed by the baptism record. This would seem to imply that the latter died in infancy, but no death register entry was found, nor any mention in the censuses, and nothing further is known of her.

In the 1881 census (at 57 Larnaca St) the two elder boys Charles and John are shown as mercantile clerks, presumably in one of the Dock offices. Anne Eliza – here called “Annie” - died in early 1882 at the age of just 12 months. It was thought there might also perhaps have been another child born around 1875-76 who did not survive long thus not appearing in the census, but there are no candidates shown in the birth registration records.

John Alonzo Powley married in 1883 at the age of only 19, and continues our male family line – we return to him in the next section. Charles is shown as still unmarried at 29 in the 1891 census, living at home and by now working as a roof slater. Younger son Alfred, 17, is a general clerk. This census entry usefully shows some family or “pet” names; Charles is of course “Charlie”; Ellen Eliza is called “Selly” and she too is shown as unmarried, 23, with no occupation. Emily Annie is just “Emily”, perhaps to avoid confusion with Annie Beales, John Hollis Powley’s 18 year old niece (daughter of his sister Barbara, born in Yarmouth) who by now is also living in at Larnaca St as a general servant to the family – such apparent luxury being quite common at that time even amongst “working class” households.

The 1891 census also lists, surprisingly, another child Alice Mary born after a long gap, in early 1885 apparently when mother Eliza was around 47 years old. This would imply that the first Alice Mary, born 1870, had died young, but we can find no evidence whatever of this. In this census entry the 6 year old is clearly and definitely shown as the *daughter* of John and Eliza. The 1901 census however equally clearly shows her as their *granddaughter*. If this latter is correct she could surely only be Ellen’s child, as the elder Alice was aged only 14 in early 1885. This was interesting enough to warrant obtaining the full birth certificate, which confirms that young Alice was indeed Ellen’s. She was illegitimate – the father is not even named – and born on 24th March 1885 at the infamous local Union Workhouse, Horslydown, adjacent to London Bridge station. The mother was just 18, and shown as occupation “Domestic Servant”. Young Alice has the fairly unique distinction of being baptized twice, perhaps to help assuage her mother’s guilt, firstly as plain Alice at St John, Horslydown on 13th April when she was 3 weeks old, then as Alice Mary on 7th October 1888 at St Mary Magdalene, Bermondsey

Evidently her father had banished her from the family home as the “shame” of the pregnancy became apparent, but both the baptism records give her address as 57 Larnaca St, so they are apparently reconciled by then. She is also shown with her family there in the 1891 census, but Ellen was to die young, in the autumn of the following year 1892 aged only 26, and still unmarried. Her daughter was then looked after by the grandparents as one of their own. In 1921 we find Alice at 16 Addiscombe Road, Croydon, a housemaid to Henry Tessier, director of a Spice Merchants & his family. She would in effect have been my mother’s “Aunt Alice” but was never spoken of.

By 1901, John Hollis Powley describes himself as “unable to work”. This is unsurprising, as he is now 73 years old! In fact the census shows him as 75, while his wife Eliza appears to be getting younger at only 62. Of the children, apart from the young Alice, only Emily Annie, 23, is still living at home; she is a laundress/washerwoman.

There is an **Alfred** Powley listed as running a Confectionery shop at 20 Dockhead, off Tooley Street, Bermondsey in the 1900-1901 London trade directories. We know that John & Eliza’s son Alfred married **Beatrice Sarah Gray** on Christmas Day 1898 at St Anne, Bermondsey when he was 25. The register shows his abode as 57 Larnaca Street, and occupation “valuer”, so the sweet shop may have been just under his temporary administration pending sale? His father John is listed as “engineer” and sister Emily was a witness. Beatrice was born in the Borough district of Southwark on 6th December 1874, daughter of George, a brewer’s drayman and his wife Sarah Ann, and in 1881 living at 6 Victoria Place there. 1891 finds the family moved along the street to 2 Victoria Place where Beatrice is the third of seven children, at 16 working as a waitress at an inn. Her address at marriage is given as 94 Abbeyfield Road, Bermondsey.

Alfred & Beatrice's first child **Violet Beatrice** was born in Bermondsey in the summer of 1899. However the 1901 census shows them by now living out at Lewisham, at 79 Adelaide Road, with Alfred employed as an auctioneer's clerk. They have one servant living in, employed as a "monthly nurse". Daughter **Ivy Constance** was born there in summer 1902, then sons **Alfred George** in Epsom 1904 and **Stanley Hope** in Croydon 1910. The 1911 census shows the family at 20 Colvin Road, Thornton Heath. Ten years later they are at the Swan Hotel, Lancaster Gate in London, where Alfred senior is the manager, assisted by his wife Beatrice and son Arthur. Stanley Hope is with them, shown as attending Croydon School, and there is also another son, Lionel Kenneth aged 3.

Alfred Powley senior died at Thornton Heath a few weeks later in the summer of 1921, aged just 50. Beatrice never remarried, and died in that area in the spring of 1974 when she was just six months short of her 100th birthday.

Son **Alfred George** is found in 1939 as a barman/cellarman at the Swan Hotel, 66 Bayswater Road, London, still single at 35. He may be the one who married Karen Ford at Epping, Essex in 1966, but this seems unlikely. He died at Enfield, Middlesex in 1983 aged 78.

Daughter **Ivy** is found in 1921 at 6 Durham Avenue, Bromley in Kent, general servant in the home of Stephen Merryfield Monk, Lace Agent and his family; interestingly she is listed as Ivy Constance **Peace** Powley. She married **Henry Philip Marzy** in Croydon, Surrey in 1925. Henry was the son of Philip Marzy and his wife Edith, born in Holborn, Central London in 1900. Marzy senior was born at Kreuznach, Alsace-Lorraine in around 1876, but had come to London by 1891, at 14 working as a page-boy. He married Edith Florence Baker at Holy Trinity, Knightsbridge in 1896 and in 1901 is a hotel waiter living at 52 Lamb's Conduit Street, Holborn. He died in 1907 at the age of just 30, and his widow Edith married John Goodman in early 1909. So in 1911 we find young Henry, now recorded as Philip Henry, together with his younger brother Leonard Stanley Marzy, at 93 Clapham Road, Kennington, south London with their mother and stepfather, the latter recorded as a lecturer & manager. A son Michael Marzy was born to Henry & Ivy in Leeds in 1928, but no further record of them could be found; they probably moved abroad, perhaps to the USA as wartime approached.

Meanwhile in 1921 **Violet** is at the White Horse Hotel 74-77 High Street, Dorking in Surrey as a live-in servant. However, she is possibly also the intrepid teenager who had enlisted in the newly-formed Women's Royal Air Force on 3rd May 1918, service no. 10297, and shown later, in 1940 as a registered nurse with service no. 106534. She then probably died in service abroad.

Stanley Hope Powley married Margaret D. White in 1938 at Woolwich, and the following year they are found at 65 Princess Road, Leicester; he was then an assistant manager of a chain store. However they were back in the London area by early 1940, with daughter Judith born at Woolwich then, and another Pamela A in 1941 in the Chertsey, Surrey area.

Lionel Kenneth Powley married Marjorie Ternouth in the autumn of 1939 at Oxford. Marjorie was born in summer 1915 at Eastry near Sandwich in Kent. Neither can be found in the September 1939 ID card register (presumably still redacted at present) and her mother's maiden name at birth is also shown as Ternouth; she cannot be found in the 1921 census either. She is possibly the illegitimate daughter of another Marjorie, in the 1939 ID card register a café proprietress at Powis Square, Notting Hill in London.

Of John & Eliza's son **Charley's** subsequently life we know very little. There is only one Charles Powley of the right age listed in the 1901 census, but this says he was born at Bermondsey rather than Yarmouth, an understandable error as his parents moved when he was very young. He is at 11 Miley

Street, Bermondsey, a boarder in the house of Herbert Willis, a police officer & his family, occupation stated as bricklayer's labourer. Interestingly, he claims to be widowed at the age of 40, presumably having married during the 1890's, but no record of such could be found. However, a marriage indexed in late 1904 at Edmonton might just be him. The 1911 census index is no more illuminating; in 1921 he is possibly the Charles boarding at the Bennett household, 27 Maltby Street, Bermondsey, born in Great Yarmouth, unemployed but his age seems incorrect at 65 and the original entry is crossed through. He appears to be the one who died in late 1937 at Bermondsey aged 76.

Alice Mary Powley married George Edwin Wilson on 8th September 1889 when she was 19, at St Mary Magdalene, Bermondsey. Her abode is given as Townsend Street, with her father's occupation as "engineer". George was 22, a local man from Crimscott Street working as a tanner. John Alonzo Powley was a witness. In the 1891 census George & Alice are living at 109 Abbey Street and have a daughter Alice Eliza aged 10 months. George's young brother Charles Wilson, a scholar aged 9 is staying with them on census night. Their daughter passed away in the summer of 1893. By 1901 they have moved to 23 Princes Street, Bermondsey, and children Ethel 6, Ellen 4 and Charles 2 are with them. Ten years on again, they are at 55 Larnaca Street, next door to the old family home, now with six children. Alice Wilson died in 1920 aged 49.

Emily Annie Powley married a widower Joseph George Whiteley, a leather dresser on 18th December 1904 at St Mary Magdalene, Bermondsey when she was 26. She was still living at 57 Larnaca Street then, and her father is given his earlier occupation of mariner in the register, but not shown as deceased. Joseph, whose father was also Joseph and a leather dresser, was lodging at the same house. There were no Powley witnesses.

By 1911 they were living at 373 Evelyn Street, Deptford. Joseph unfortunately lost his sight soon afterwards, leaving Emily as the family breadwinner. She worked at Woolwich Arsenal during the Great War, and the 1921 census shows them living at 102 Manor Road, Brockley in Kent, with Joseph shown as a pupil at a Blind Institution and Emily a Club Assistant with the National Federation of Discharged & Demobilised Soldiers (a forerunner of the British Legion) at Stanstead Road, Forest Hill. They have two daughters, Ivy 12 & Dorothy 9, both born in Deptford.

They then moved to Worthing, Sussex, where she ran a boarding house assisted by a daughter during the later 1920's. After another spell living around Deptford – Lewisham they were in Brockley again during World War 2, an area which suffered much bombing and destruction. Emily died in the Dartford area in late 1959 aged 81.

John Hollis Powley had passed away in early 1903 at Bermondsey, probably at his long-time home in Larnaca St, his age stated as 74 years. His wife Eliza survived him by many years; in 1911 she is shown living in an "Institution" at Vanbrugh Hill, Greenwich, at the age of 72. She passed on there in early 1917 aged 78.

Larnaca Street no longer exists; no. 57 was the highest-numbered of the small terraced houses here, probably at the easternmost end by the railway viaduct. The street is not shown in the 1871 census, so was presumably newly built in the ten years to 1881; John and his family may well have been the first occupants. It ran just to the north of Abbey Street, in a west to east direction crossing Maltby Street.

13 John Alonzo Powley and Amy Ade – “generation 4”

John Hollis Powley’s second son John Alonzo married **Amy Ade** on Sunday 29th July 1883 at St. Andrews, Holborn. Though he was only 19, he lied and gives his age as 22 on the certificate, so not requiring his parent’s permission; presumably he did not expect this to be readily forthcoming. Amy’s age, 20, is correct.



Both parties give their residence as 2, Dyer’s Buildings, a smart apartment block just off High Holborn which still exists (right), now mainly used as offices. For full details of the Ade family see appendix (D), in which we find that this was at the time the home of Amy’s sister Ann Amelia and her husband Harry Fox, so they are evidently using this as an “address of convenience”! John is a clerk, and there were no family witnesses present.



John and Amy were to have a total of ten children in the twenty-two years after their marriage, and as far as we know they all survived into adulthood, reflecting the higher quality of life now prevailing in London. Their names and birthplaces are as follows:-

Caroline Amy (Amy)	1884 July 3rd at Abbey Street, Bermondsey; baptized at St Luke, Bermondsey on 25 th October 1885
John Francis (John)	1885 September 5 th at 157 Grange Road, baptized with Caroline
Edith Muriel (Edith)	1887 May 19th at Bermondsey
Lilian Constance (Lily)	1890 November 2 nd “
Kate May (Kate)	1893 May 27 th at Camberwell
Hilda Gladys (Hilda)	1895 April 12th at East Ham
Joyce Irene (Joyce)	1897 (winter) “
Gwendoline Pearl (Gwen)	1899 July 24th “
Leslie Walter John	1903 June 17th “
Eric Lewis John (Eric)	1905 August 10th at Tottenham

In the above, where we do not yet know the exact birth dates just the season is shown – “winter” denoting early in the year. The baptisms for the later children will be added as they are found.

Throughout this period John Alonzo’s occupation is shown as a Commercial Clerk, though probably no longer with a shipping company in the docks. The birthplaces of the children demonstrate a common trend amongst “upwardly mobile” young families of the late-Victorian period who were determined to better themselves – leaving behind the densely-packed, still somewhat unsanitary conditions of inner South London for the healthy north-eastern suburbs where much well-planned and solidly built new housing was becoming available.

157 Grange Road, Bermondsey was probably a room in a lodging house. This house is now long demolished.

By the time of Lily's birth in 1890, the growing family has moved into one of the then very fashionable new apartment blocks springing up all along the main Bermondsey thoroughfare of Tooley Street. They were probably the first inhabitants of 531 Hanover Buildings upon completion in 1889, and remained there for two or three years; the 1891 census shows the family as expected with the first four children, the eldest two of whom are recorded as scholars.



The six-storey blocks extend for approximately half a mile along the south side of Tooley Street eastwards from Druid Street, and also have rear entrances in Fair Street. We think that apartment 531 was towards the top of the imposing façade of the easternmost block (pictured), overlooking Dockhead and Shad Thames, where Tooley Street becomes Jamaica Road.

This is the only one of the five or six buildings to have escaped major damage from bombing during the Second World War, and looks to be in largely original condition. While the Powleys were there, Tower Bridge was being constructed nearby which no doubt provided a most fascinating spectacle. The eastern end of the Hanover Buildings complex is nowadays known as Devon Mansions, and the flats have been completely re-arranged and renumbered at some stage, probably when modernised with bathrooms etc around 1930.

Lilian's birth at Hanover Buildings was very unusually registered by her aunt (John Alonzo's younger sister) the wayward Ellen Powley, of 57 Larnaca Street; she was "present at the birth". Perhaps this was because John had to be away on business, and mother Amy was maybe not too well for some weeks afterwards?

Again presumably needing more space, by the time 5th child Kate was born in 1893, the Powleys have moved to a terraced house at 9 Verney Road, Camberwell (also now long demolished). They did not stay there long, and by 1895 had finally escaped from South London to one of the brand-new residential developments at East Ham, where they were to remain for the next ten years. The only address we have here is 12 Malvern Road – at the time of the 1901 census. They may have spent the whole period there, or perhaps moved around once or twice within the same area – the other birth certificates would provide fuller detail. These houses were generally rented out by the developers – at around 4 or 5 shillings a week - rather than being available for purchase, and represented the ultimate in artisan residences at the time. Number 12 (right) survives today, along with most others in the street, is still nicely ornamented externally and kept in very smart condition.



The final move to 15 Springfield Road, Tottenham came in January 1905, a few months before the birth of John and Amy's last child Eric.

This large terraced house (below) in the classic high-Victorian London suburban style was built in 1898-99, and was probably also initially rented for a few years before being purchased outright. It was to be John and Amy's home for the rest of their lives, then passing to their son Eric, and indeed remained in our family occupation for almost exactly 100 years, until Eric's wife Nellie passed on in 2005. It is

very smartly kept and retains many original features, including the ornate and heavy front door.

At the time of his son John's marriage in 1911, John Alonzo was apparently employed as a mere "clerk" at a firm of cabinet manufacturers. This was probably Harris, Lebus & Co (or their predecessors) the well-known manufacturers of quality "G-plan" furniture at Ferry lane, Tottenham.



However, the census of that year shows his correct status as "Accountant in the furniture trade" and by the time of his retirement around 1930 he had risen through the ranks to become a director of this prestigious company. A long way indeed from the family origins as farm labourers in rural Norfolk! Lebus was at this period the largest furniture manufacturer in the world. Established in the 1890's, the Tottenham factory was opened in 1904 and soon spread over an area of 25 acres, with a staff of 1000. It closed down in 1969. Also of interest in the 1911 census entry at Springfield Road, daughter Kate at age 17 shows her occupation as "County Bursar", a trainee teacher assisted by Education Authority grant. Hilda, just turning 16, is a "hand folder in stationery"

The 1921 census, taken on 19th June, shows most of the family at 15 Springfield Road. John Alonzo is as expected a commercial clerk working at H. Lebus & Co, Cabinet Maker at Tottenham Hale. Daughter Lilian is teaching at Lancastrian School in Church Road, Kate is an "elementary clerk" for the government, at Salisbury Hotel, Fleet Street, and Hilda a clerk with Nestle & Co at their Bromley-by-Bow factory. Joyce is a clerk at Gestetner & Co, copier makers in Tottenham Hale and Gwendoline a student teacher at Earlsmead School, Broad Lane, Tottenham. Leslie and Eric are in full-time education.

John Alonzo Powley lost his wife Amy in the spring of 1935, and probably as a result soon after became a virtual recluse, rarely leaving his room – even less the house – at 15 Springfield Road. His meals and other requisites were prepared by those of the children who were still at home, and taken to him. My father recalled that he alone of the family did not attend his wedding to my mother (his granddaughter) in June 1939, and indeed despite having known her since their schooldays, he never actually met the family patriarch. However, the 1939 ID card registration shows that he has moved out, temporarily, together with his daughters Caroline & Lilian, to Brierley Cottage, Cross Lane, West Mersea in Essex; curiously his occupation is shown as "Electrical Clerk (Retired)". John's spirit was no doubt further weakened by the horrors of the new war, and by the unfortunate circumstances of the death of his eldest son John Frances in 1940. John Alonzo Powley passed away on 12th January 1942, by now back at Springfield Road, just 7 days short of his 78th birthday. He is buried at Tottenham Cemetery.

John Alonzo, like his exact counterpart in my father's family, William Jagers and indeed many of their contemporaries seems to have led a most interesting and varied life, fully exemplifying the spirit and opportunities of the late-Victorian golden age in London. He would be worthy of further study to fill in more of the detail, as time permits.

John Francis Powley continues our family line in the following section below. Of John and Amy's other children, we know that the girls Amy, Lily, Joyce and Kate never married.

In 1911, Caroline Amy is a housemaid to Edwin Hiscocks, wholesale drapery warehouseman and his family at 79 Crouch Hill, North London, and in 1921 a servant in the household of George Poter, medical

practitioner & his family at 28 St Mary's Road, Surbiton, Surrey. She died in early 1944 at Edmonton, aged 59.

"Aunt Lily" is thought to be the one appearing in photographs circa 1929 of my mother and her sister Vera on a seaside holiday, acting as guardian and chaperone after their mother had died the previous year, but we know nothing further of her life. In this one she is affecting a jokingly "severe" expression; it is apparent that the lower half of her skirt has been inundated by a freak wave while paddling! Vera is on the left and my mother Connie at right, displaying a fine pair of bloomers in the breeze..... Lilian died in the Edmonton area in early 1962 aged 71.



Edith in 1911 is a servant in the house of Frederick Hiscocks (probably the son of Edwin, above), a wholesale drapery traveller (sales rep) and his family, 16 King's Avenue, Muswell Hill, so is close by her elder sister then. She married **Percy Wakeman** in the spring of 1917, and a son John Percy was born in Edmonton in late 1918; he was not mentioned by Mum or Nellie, so it was no surprise to find that he died young, in early 1922 aged 3. Meanwhile in the 1921 census we find Edith and son staying as visitors with a Crittenden family at 41 Milton Street, Maidstone, Kent, while Percy is away serving with the Royal Navy. Their only other child, daughter **Brenda Muriel** also born at Edmonton in the spring of 1925 married **Bryan Taylor**, and they were living latterly at Lenham in Kent. In the 1939 index, Percy & Edith are shown at Kingsway Cottages, Chartway Street, Hollingbourne, Kent, where he is working as a builder's labourer, having retired from the Navy. Edith Wakeman died in early 1952 in the Maidstone area, aged 64.

Kate became a teacher at Lancastrian Junior Mixed School, Tottenham, but died as a result of contracting consumption (Tuberculosis) in August 1925 at the London Hospital, Whitechapel, aged only 32.

Hilda married Tom Davis in early 1922 at Tottenham and soon afterwards moved to Leicester where their daughter Ursula Mary (always known as Mary) was born in the summer of 1926. The 1939 registration shows them at 166 Uppingham Road, Leicester, with Thomas as a schoolmaster, and they were still there during the 1950s. Hilda acted as a "mentor" to younger brother Eric, supporting him while he was at university. She died in August 1987 in the Lewes, Sussex area, aged 92.

Little is recalled about **Joyce's** earlier years, but after the second war she ran nursing homes in the Isle of Wight for many years, at Shanklin then Bembridge. She retired to a small bungalow in Marlborough Road, Ryde around 1960 (right), and died there in early 1974, aged 77.

Sometime previously she was "befriended" by a local gentleman of similar age, who proceeded to fraudulently amend her will, leaving everything to himself. Powley family members were however alerted in time, resulting in a scene of dramatic comedy on the day of the funeral. The family barricaded themselves in the bungalow, with



curtains drawn while the “gentleman”, unaware of their presence, tried to break in and establish his ownership. The locks were changed as soon as possible and the local police informed, resulting in the arrest and subsequent trial of said gentleman!

Gwendoline married Walter Arthur G. MacGregor (“Uncle Mac”) at Tottenham on 8th September 1923 and had two children, Margaret K. born early 1927 and Alan J. in summer 1931, both at Edmonton. The 1939 ID registration shows that Gwen (only) has moved to Sandridge, Manor Road, Wimborne in Dorset; her husband is no doubt already registered, in the Armed Forces or Home Guard.

They celebrated their Golden Wedding in 1973 at Sandbanks, near Poole, Dorset, with a large family party. Here they are at front, right of centre with my mother at left, Eric Powley centre with his wife Nellie hidden behind Mac, and Joyce at right. Gwen died at Poole in early 1978 aged 78.



Of the two younger sons, **Leslie** Walter married **Doris Ethel Storr** in Barnet, Hertfordshire in 1926. Doris was born in Kensington in 1899, the daughter of John Speller Storr, a corporal in the Royal Engineers, and his wife Alice. By 1911, John had retired from the army, and was now Chief Fireman at the Victoria & Albert Museum in Kensington; the family lived on the premises. Leslie & Doris had no children; the 1939 register shows Leslie at Poynder’s End, Preston, Hitchin, Hertfordshire. He is a schoolmaster with London County Council, presumably evacuated there with his school. Doris, also a teacher with the LCC is found similarly and temporarily at Roundfield House, High Road, Broxbourne, also in Hertfordshire. Leslie died at Barnet in early 1973 aged 69, and Doris in 1981 aged 82 in the Hendon area.

Eric was educated at Tottenham Grammar School then Kings College, London; said to be the first family member to attend university. He became a teacher, and in September 1939 was likewise evacuated, to 36 Salisbury Road, Baldock, Herts. In the 1950s he was Headmaster at Risley Junior School, Tottenham, also a leading figure promoting and supporting local out-of-school youth activities at a time when these were sorely needed. I remember very well his sincere advice to me (at the age of around nine) “to ensure above all else that you get a good degree”.

From around 1946, a young woman called Nellie Barratt became Eric’s secretary and personal assistant at his school, and then his life partner. Nellie, as she was always known was born **Ellen Caroline Barratt** on 9th November 1925 at Tottenham. Eric & Nellie did not have children, and finally married in early 1973 when they realised that Eric was suffering from a terminal illness; he died on 25th January 1974 at the Royal Free Hospital, Grays Inn Road aged 68.

Nellie was apparently known to the Powleys when she was a young girl, but was reportedly treated by some of the older members more as a servant than as a future member of their extended family. In 1939 we find her at age 14 with her younger brother John, 12 evacuated with their school to carry out seasonal hop-picking (an east London tradition) at Knox Bridge, Cranbrook in Kent, living in one of the wooden huts there under supervision of one of their schoolmasters.

14 John Francis Powley and Constance Green – “generation 3”

At the time of the April 1901 census, John Francis was living at home with his parents and seven sisters (!) in Malvern Road, East Ham, and was employed as a junior clerk, aged 15.

Almost exactly 10 years later, he was to be found at 123 Napier Road, Tottenham, presumably (and understandably) lodging away from the now somewhat overcrowded family home nearby at Springfield Road. He is a ledger clerk at a lamp-works. This house still exists (right), though much modernised externally at least.

On Saturday 25th March 1911 he married **Constance Julia (Con) Green**, at Tottenham. His bride was the eldest daughter of Edward Arnott Green, then living with her family just two doors along from the Powley family home, at 19 Springfield Road; for further details see Appendix (E)



A few weeks after their marriage in 1911, the census shows John and Con living at 340 High Street, Edmonton, probably a flat above a shop. His occupation is further clarified here as “wages clerk and assistant ledger clerk, electric lamp works”.

Unlike the very large broods of most previous Powley generations, their family was to comprise just three children before John was called away to serve in the trenches in World War 1 from 1915; they are.....

Cecil Valentine John (Cecil)	born 14 th February 1912 at Edmonton
Constance Julia (Connie)	born 17 th August 1913 at Edmonton
Doris Vera Ethel (Vera)	born 24 th August 1915 at Walthamstow

This is interesting since my mother Connie always thought that she was born at Walthamstow; she only ever had a short-form version of her birth certificate which does not show this detail, and was apparently never told otherwise. However the registers show that the family did not move until sometime around 1914, when they went to live at 46 Cornwallis Road, Walthamstow, and no doubt Vera *was* born there.



The pictures above show, at left, Con at around the time of her marriage, with marvellous hat; centre is John at about the time of his departure for wartime army service in France, early 1916, with Con and the children, Cecil at left, my mother Connie centre and young Vera in her mother's arms. On the right, John and Con a few years later, around 1920.

At right, taken on the same occasion, again with the children.....

The Cornwallis Road houses were built for rent by the well-known developers Warner Estates in 1895, and the rent was around 8 shillings a week in 1913 for good-sized and well-equipped accommodation.

Many of these houses were in effect split into two separate apartments, one on each floor, with separate entrance doors side by side in a large arched porch, but it seems no 46 was a conventional single-entrance mid-terrace house about midway along the south side (it no longer survives – see later).

We know little about John's army service; possibly his records may survive amongst those damaged by fire in the 1939-45 war now gradually being catalogued and released by the Public Record Office. He was with the Essex Regiment in France, service number 61545, and in 1917 was stationed at Pont de l'Arche, Eure departement.



Upon demobilization in 1919, John took up employment at the Associated Equipment Company's omnibus works at Royal Standard, Walthamstow, as a clerk – he may already have been working there for a year or two prior to 1915. This factory had started life as the Vanguard Motor Omnibus Company in

1906, taken over by the London General Omnibus Co in 1910 and reformed as AEC in 1911. The latter was contracted to supply the majority of London's buses for the following sixty years, including the famous LGOC "B" type standard open-topped double-decker of which over 5,000 were built and which performed sterling front-line war service in France and elsewhere. It may be that John's wartime role was to help maintain and service them there? The 1921 census shows the family at 46 Cornwallis Road, with John confirmed as an Engineer's Cost Clerk at the AEC works, Blackhorse Lane although temporarily out of work, as were many others at the time due to industrial disputes.

1927-28 was to prove a sad and difficult time for John and his family. Firstly, AEC, having run out of space for further expansion of its business at Walthamstow, moved the factory in its entirety to a new "green field" site at Southall, West London. Existing employees were given the opportunity to continue at Southall, but this involved being "bussed" to and fro at the beginning and end of each working day – at that time routinely including Saturday mornings.

Many made this time-consuming trek for a while and maybe John was among them, but just a few months later he was to lose his wife Con to pneumonia, at the age of only 48, in the autumn of 1928. The death was registered at London City, so presumably occurred in hospital there. Needing to spend more time with his children, John perforce became unemployed, for this was the start of the great depression that lasted well into the 1930's.

Messrs S. Noton, manufacturers of "Crown" brand luggage, started up in the old AEC works premises in late 1929, and John was able to obtain some work there for a while, again as a clerk.

His daughter Connie (my mother) took over responsibility for looking after the household at Cornwallis Road, at the age of only 16, ably assisted by her aunt Lily Powley and her close school friend Edie from Edward Road. This is one of my favourite pictures of her, about this time.....



With the continuing general trade depression, John was soon out of work again, and was to remain so for much of the 1930's.

Son Cecil managed to find work as a "tally man", getting orders for clothing and then collecting the weekly payments door-to-door. The 1939 ID index shows him at 46 Cornwallis Road, a cashier salesman with Cathec Ltd, Drapers, Tailors and General Outfitters.

Vera was working at Woolworth's store in Walthamstow around 1933-34 at least.

The two daughters married within a few weeks of each other in the summer of 1939; Connie to my father, Leslie Arthur Jagers on 18th June at St. Paul's Church, Courtney Road (the next street to Cornwallis Road), and Vera to Frank Bull on the 23rd July. Frank also worked at Noton's luggage factory; by September they are already at their long-term home, 33 Salisbury Road, Chingford with Frank shown as a sales ledger clerk. There is some little mystery regarding my parents' wedding day, which they only became aware of around 1990, and was never satisfactorily resolved; they were adamant that this was a Saturday (as normal), but the 18th June, as appearing on the certificate, and upon which they always celebrated their anniversary, was definitely a Sunday!

15 A Sad Epilogue

As we have seen, through a combination of circumstances, John Francis Powley was to find life something of a struggle, not able to enjoy the relative success and social advancement achieved by his parents and some at least of his brothers and sisters. Perhaps in the early days at least he felt somewhat intimidated by his, by all accounts, overbearing and domineering father, and being the only older brother amongst seven sisters?

His first love was always the Army, and he had an overwhelming desire to serve his country, especially with the rumblings of war becoming stronger once again. He was able to rejoin in 1938 as part of a general intensive recruitment drive, and being still unemployed was very grateful for the £50 bounty then on offer. However, unsurprisingly on account of his age (52) he was merely placed on reserve.

Being an Army man, it was something of a surprise to find him serving in a civilian capacity with the RAF instead, once war was inevitable. This is not fully understood, but is probably related to his being so obviously desperate to be of service, he probably made such a nuisance of himself to the authorities that they tried to fit him in somewhere. Here he is then, looking as proud as can be.....



Having been at RAF Old Sarum, Wiltshire, on 27th August 1939 he transferred to RAF Warmwell, Dorset, a newly established camp. In the flyleaf of his bible he describes himself as “First Airman 61545, ERS RAF” with the date 1917, but this was clearly added later; this is his old Army number and the RAF was not even formed until 1919. (ERS denotes “Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron”). In letters home to my mother he writes as “LAC Powley 61545, reservist” (LAC = Leading Aircraftsman, the next rank above starting level). By the late autumn of 1940 he is still at Warmwell, now “Corporal”, and is clearly very unhappy with the general international situation, and with his own perceived role in it.

By this time both my father and Frank Bull had been posted away in the services, and John’s daughters Connie and Vera were staying together at the house in Fenton Avenue, Staines that was later to become my childhood home. They were there as a result of my parent’s employer, insurance brokers Frizzell & Co, being evacuated from the City of London to the former Ellerslie School, Staines upon the outbreak of war.

In what was to be his last letter to them, written on 12th November 1940, John complains that he was being forced to work outside in all weathers, that his physical health was deteriorating, and of bullying by the younger officers. No sympathy was shown on account of his age or by now quite evident depression, and he feared most of all being put on a charge “for being ill” and reduced in rank.

He had applied for seven days home leave starting on 14th November, but was sure it would be stopped. Evidently he did get away, but presumably now absolutely terrified of having to go back, he was to take his own life at Chingford Mount Road, Walthamstow on Saturday 16th November 1940, at the age of 55. The subsequent Coroner’s inquest recorded a verdict of suicide as a result of severe depression, and it is somewhat heartening to conclude this sorry tale by noting that John was hailed as a hero for his unwavering loyalty and dedication to the cause of his country. It is a great pity he was not able to receive any form of adequate treatment for his illness, in the way that we would nowadays routinely expect.

With John's only son Cecil now also away in the RAF, as a corporal in the accounts section firstly at RAF Langham Holt, Norfolk, then at St Athan, South Wales, it seems that all of the family had left the house at Cornwallis Road, Walthamstow by late 1940.

This is, as it turns out, very fortunate for us all, since in 1944 the whole of this area was totally devastated by a flying bomb, including all the houses numbered above 40, and much of Courtnay Road together with St Paul's Church.



All has since been rebuilt with modern housing, but further along the road, and in Edward Street adjacent, the original Warner Estate houses still survive in largely original condition (externally at least), with their distinctive "W" motif in the gable ends, showing us what they were like and testifying to their sound build quality (picture above right).

To complete this account of my mother's generation, her brother Cecil lived with his sister Vera and her husband Frank Bull at 33 Salisbury Road, Chingford after the war.

On 24th November 1956 when he was 44 he married Lucy Gertrude Schmid (nee Stanley) at Edmonton Registry Office.....



This was the occasion for a large Powley family gathering; in this picture my parents Les and Connie Jagers are at far left, with Connie's sister Vera Bull next to them, her husband Frank is centre, behind Cecil & Lucy.

Eric Lewis John Powley is 4th from right, with his partner Nellie at 2nd right.

I am at the front, self-conscious in regulation school cap and short trousers!

We think some of the others to the right hand side must be Powleys also, but could not put names to them after all these years.



Lucy was born 10th December 1914 at Poplar, East London, the daughter of Thomas Stanley and his wife Elizabeth Florence, and knew Cecil from their schooldays; the 1921 census shows the family 22 Markhouse Road, Walthamstow, with Thomas a permanent staff member at the Port of London Authority

headquarters, 10 Trinity Square in the City. She married a German national, Karl W. Schmid in the autumn of 1935 at Edmonton, when she was 21 years old. In the 1939 ID card index they are shown at 32 Chatsworth Drive, Edmonton, with Karl as a works manager for a clockmaker. However, Herr Schmid was interned in a UK prison shortly afterwards due to the war, and they divorced when he was later returned to Germany.

Lucy lived at 85 Stockport Road, Bredbury in Cheshire from 1948, and continued to stay there with Cecil after their marriage; he worked as a clerk in the Bredbury steel mills until retiring in 1976. This lovely picture shows them at home on the occasion of Cecil's 80th birthday, 14th February 1992.



Sadly he passed away just over one year later, at Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport. Committal was at St Chad, Romiley and Stockport crematorium.

Lucy survived him by almost 10 years, until 25th January 2003, when she was 88 years old.

My mother, Constance Julia Jagers passed away also at Stepping Hill, on 22nd June 1997, aged 83 years.

Frank and Vera Bull moved from Salisbury Road, Chingford to Woodford Green, Essex around 1962. Frank died in November 1976 aged 63, and Vera only a few months later, on 13th May 1977 when she was 61 years old.

Keith A. Jagers

last updated March 2022

Appendix (A) The Hollis family

Ellen Hollis was born in early 1801, the daughter of John (originally of Horning) and Susannah, nee Dunham (born c 1770 at Acle) who were married at the parish church of Thurne with Ashby and Oby on 1st February 1791. They had seven known children, as follows:

Ann Maria	born 20 th Nov, christened 22 Nov 1791 at Thurne
John Page Dunham	born 10 th July, christened 12 th July 1795 “
George	born 13 th May 1797 at Acle
Ellen	christened 5 th February 1801 at Acle
Samuel	born 7 th July, christened 10 th July 1808 at Burgh St Margaret
Job	born 7 th October, christened 15 th Oct 1809 at Burgh
John	born 6 th January, christened ?? Jan 1811 at Burgh

There may possibly have been one or two others born at Acle or Burgh in the period 1803 – 1806, which have not been recorded!

John Page Hollis married **Elizabeth Banham** on 13th September 1819 when they were both aged 24, but they do not appear in the 1841 or later censuses. **George** married a woman called **Sarah** about 1820, and in the 1841 census they are living at Waters Farm, Herringby, with George working as an ag lab. They have a son Robert Hollis with them, a shoemaker's apprentice aged 16.

Job Hollis married a **Frances** about 1831. Frances was born at Bransfield, Suffolk around 1814. Ten years later the first census shows them at Norfolk Buildings, The Denes in Yarmouth, with Job shown as a "grinder", probably a seed grinder. They have two children, Elizabeth 7 and Robert 2. By 1851 they had moved to East Bermondsey Place in the town; Job is now a "cutter", in reality probably a very similar task, daughter Elizabeth shown as born at South Town, Yarmouth is at 18 a silk minder at a factory, and Robert is an errand boy. There is a third child, Benjamin, 9 a scholar.

Appendix (B) Susannah Smyth, Samuel Graver & Cornelius Powley

Matthew Powley married **Susanna Graver** at the parish church of St. Nicholas, Great Yarmouth on Sunday, 12th April 1857. His bride was a widow, born in Yarmouth as Susanna Smyth in February 1805, the daughter of William Smyth, a Master Mariner and his wife Ann, nee Crane and christened at St Nicholas on 12th November 1809 when she was 4 years old. She married Samuel Graver in the same church on 23rd November 1828.

Around about that time rumours about gruesome events at the church began to spread. It turned out the church's vicar had other plans for the bodies he was earlier praying for to rest in peace. He had a nephew at a hospital in London who wanted the cadavers for his anatomy classes. The bodies were snatched from their graves and hidden in a rented room opposite the church. When night fell, they were sneaked across the Market Place, smuggled in barrels which supposedly contained wine. The body snatchers would then ship their grisly cargo down the coast and up along the Thames. Parishioners began to suspect their vicar was occupied with morbid matters rather than the Good Book. In the dead of night one of the locals braved the graveyard to dig up his dead relative to find an empty coffin. The next day the chilling news spread across the market and the families of the people the vicar had buried went to exhume the graves, leaving the consecrated ground looking like a ploughed field. Not surprisingly, the thought of ending up scrutinized on a hospital slab had people scouting for other burial spots. Just behind the Market Place, the dissenters' graveyard contains the bodies of townsfolk who chose to rest for eternity here rather than plumping for St Nicholas' churchyard and risking a visit from the body snatchers.

The 1841 census shows Samuel and Suzanna Graver living at Colby's Gate, Yarmouth, with him also a Master Mariner by then. They appear to have no children of their own, but staying with them was a 13 year old girl, Elizabeth Dubland, and a real surprise, a baby named **Cornelius Powley**, aged only 6 months. According to the IGI index, Cornelius' father was a Richard Powley, who must surely be connected with our family somehow?

Hunt's directory for 1850 lists a "Captain Samuel Graver" at Fuller's Hill, Great Yarmouth. We found Suzanna in the 1851 census staying at 3 Prospect Place, Kirkley, on the outskirts of Lowestoft, with Samuel away at sea that night. Cornelius Powley was still lodging with her, now 10 years old. Samuel Graver died in the spring of 1853 at Lowestoft, aged around 52.

The mysterious Cornelius Richard Powley married Jane McDonald at St Nicholas, Yarmouth on 19th November 1860 when he was 20, but could not be found in any subsequent census. With this unique name we can be quite sure that he was the one who, having doubtless been widowed in the interim, was married again, to Miriam Sophia Coomer on 9th May 1875 at St Mary, Lambeth in South London. However he states in the register that he was a bachelor, aged 34 with father Matthew, a sailor. Cornelius was also then a sailor, resident at Oakley Street, so usually away at sea on the census nights, and since no

death record could be found for him, probably died at sea also. Just as we have seen for John Hollis Powley, the move from Yarmouth to London probably occurred in the early 1860's, and he may even have known well and accompanied the latter on his travels.

Appendix (C) The Durrant Family of Hickling

John Hollis Powley married Eliza Durrant at St. Nicholas, Great Yarmouth on 10th October 1859, when he was 32.

Eliza was the daughter of Charles Augustus Durrant and his wife, also Eliza, and was born at Hickling, north Norfolk sometime in 1838. Charles Durrant was then a farm labourer, shown thus in the 1841 census living at The Green, Hickling. Both Charles and Eliza were born at Hickling, he around 1815 and she about 3 years previously. Staying with them in the census there is a William Durrant aged 6, who in later life becomes known as William Austick, Charles' stepson, so presumably Eliza was previously married to a man named Austick, widowed about 1835 or 6 and married Charles in 1837. The Hickling parish registers are not on IGI, but consulting these at Norwich Record Office would probably fill in more detail here.

Charles and Eliza went on to have 7 known children of their own, all born at Hickling, as follows....

Eliza	born around 1838
Charles	born May 1841
Thomas	born around 1843
James William	born around 1847
Thirza	born in the autumn of 1849
John	born early 1852
Frederick	born in the summer of 1856

the uncertainty of the dates arising from the fact that only the last three births were registered, it not being compulsory then.

By the time of the 1851 census Charles Durrant had become a tenant farmer working 9 acres at Stubb Farm, Hickling. Eliza's son William has reverted to the surname Austick and all the other children are with them there as expected. In 1861 Charles continues as a farmer at Stubb; William Austick and Eliza have married and Thirza has moved away (see below), so there are just the 5 youngest children still at home. Ten years later, the situation is not much changed, but now just the sons James and Frederick remain; no occupations are shown for them, so presumably they helped their father on the farm.

In 1881 Charles Durrant is still farming at Stubb, aged 64, and Eliza is now 68. Daughter Thirza has come back from her travels and is the only child at home, aged 30 and unmarried; she gives her occupation as a dressmaker.

Eliza Durrant died in early 1889 at Hickling, aged 76. The 1891 census shows that Charles has moved to a cottage at Hickling Green, now retired at the age of 75. His daughter Thirza is with him, still a dressmaker but undoubtedly his housekeeper as well. Son Frederick, by now also widowed (see below) and his two sons Thomas & Charles are staying over also at the house on census night.

Charles Augustus Durrant passed away at Hickling in the summer of 1893, aged 78.

Eliza's son **William Austic** (as generally spelled in the later records) married **Anna Maria Howes** in the autumn of 1860 at Yarmouth. Anna was the daughter of Richard Howes, agricultural labourer and his wife Mary Ann, all born at Hickling, and the 1851 census shows Anna aged 9 with her parents living in a cottage at Hickling Heath.

By 1861, William, an ag. lab and Anna have moved back to Hickling, living at a cottage on the Green, and have no children as yet. Anna's father Richard Howes has by now lost his wife, and is staying with the young couple.

William & Anna Austic went on to have a total of 8 children, all born at Hickling, as follows:-

Ann Elizabeth	born in the spring of 1862
William	born late 1863
Cubitt	born around 1865, not registered
Herbert	“ “ 1867 “
Thirza	born spring 1870
Rhoda Beatrice	born early 1875
Walter Ebenezer	born summer 1878
(male)	born summer 1881, died without being named

The 1871 census shows the family back at Hickling Heath; William is a labourer and father-in-law Richard Howes is still boarding with them, also a labourer. Ten years later they are all still there except eldest daughter Ann who seems to have vanished without trace (but she came back to marry locally in 1887) William is a farm labourer, as now are also his three eldest sons, and Richard Howes is still labouring on at the age of 72; he died in early 1884.

By 1891 the Austicks have gone back to Stubb and William is a fully-fledged farmer, presumably having taken on his father-in-law Charles Durrant's holding. Only the 2 youngest children are still at home, Rhoda at 16 employed as a teacher and young Walter still a scholar, probably both at the Hickling village school.

Maria Austick died in late 1896 aged only 54 and her husband William in summer 1897 at 68.

We next look at the subsequent history of Charles and Eliza Durrant's other children. **Charles** junior married **Eliza Mason** in the summer of 1862 when he was 20. Eliza was born in 1843 at Hickling, the daughter of John, a "marshman" and his wife Susan, as shown there in the 1851 census. By 1861 the family were living at Hill Common, Hickling, where John Mason, 60 was working as an ag. lab.

By 1871 Charles and Eliza Durrant had set up home close to his parents at Stubb, and he is working as a labourer. They had 3 children already, and later added another 4 as follows:

Ann Eliza	born early 1864
Charles	born summer 1865
James Henry Herdis	born early 1869
Edith	born autumn 1872
Harriet	born early 1875
John Frederick	born spring 1878
Gertrude May	born spring 1883

By the time of the 1881 census they were living at Catfield Common, where both Charles and his son James were employed as general labourers. Ten years later the family is back at Stubb, Hickling, with Charles still a labourer and only the four youngest children still at home. There is a grand-daughter Gertrude aged 7 staying over with them on census night. 1901 finds them at Hickling Green, with Charles Durrant a corn granary man. The three youngest offspring are with them, John working as an ag. lab, and Gertrude is now calling herself May.

Charles died in the spring of 1915 aged 73 and Eliza about one year later at 71.

Thomas married Ann Elizabeth Tubby in early 1867 when he was 23. Ann was born at Potter Heigham in late 1847, the daughter of John, yet another ag. lab and his wife Sophia. The 1851 census shows them living in a cottage in that village, where Ann is the second youngest of 8 children ranging from 21 years down to 1 month. By 1861 Ann Tubby at 13 is working as a housemaid to Benjamin Rushton, a publican and his family, at 67 North Quay, Great Yarmouth. Rushton was himself born in Potter Heigham and no doubt known to her parents, for a referral.

Thomas & Ann also set up their married home at Stubb, Hickling, and the 1871 census shows them there. Thomas is a labourer and they have 3 children. By 1877 they added 2 more, making their family as follows, all born at Hickling:

Frederick	born in the spring of 1867
Mary Ann	spring 1869
Thomas	March 1871
John	summer 1874
Arthur	summer 1877

Ann died in the summer of 1879 aged only 31. In the 1881 census, Thomas has moved to The Green, Hickling and all the children with him; the eldest working as a farm labourer like his father and the others all shown as scholars. By 1891 he was back at Stubb, still labouring, at a cottage 2 doors away from brother John and 3 doors from Charles. Only the 2 youngest boys are still at home with him. The 1901 census shows Thomas living in a cottage along Stubb Road, employed as a cattle feeder at 56 years old. Alfred Durrant, a nephew aged 7 born at Gorleston, Suffolk is with him, and he has a housekeeper Maria Debbage, a widow aged 50 and her ag lab son George lodging with him. In early 1904, Thomas married a widow, **Hannah Eliza Bishop** nee Flatt. She was born in Ludham in 1852 and married George Bishop at Hickling in 1886, but was widowed by 1901. In 1911 Tom and Hannah are on their own at Stubb, with him working as a farm labourer. Hannah died in 1920, and Thomas Durrant in the autumn of 1923 at Hickling, aged 79; the 1921 census shows him living alone, a retired Marshman at "Stubb Road, Catfield".

James William Durrant married **Joanna Kavanagh** in late 1871 aged 22. Despite her unusual surname in these parts, she was born in Norwich in the autumn of 1850, the daughter of James a gardener born in Gravesend, Kent, and his wife "Jonna" (probably Joanna) a laundress born in Great Yarmouth. The 1861 census shows the family at St Peter's Place, Yarmouth, but the children's birthplaces show that they were living in Norwich for at least the period 1850-56. In April 1871 we find Joanna, at 21 now calling herself Hannah (as she normally did thereafter) working as a cook in the household of John Girling, rector of Holy Trinity, Great Hautbois near Coltishall, and his family, at Victoria House, Jetty Street, Cromer. As his church is some 17 miles away, and closer to Hickling, it would seem the entourage are in fact on holiday at the resort, though the census does not make this clear.

By 1881 James and Hannah are living at Hickling Heath, where James was a brick maker. Their first 5 children are with them; they went on to have a prodigious total of 12 over a 21-year period as follows:

Sarah Edith	born summer 1872 at Great Yarmouth
Ellen Emily	late 1873 at Yarmouth
Emma Mary	spring 1876 at Fleggburgh
Albert	spring 1878 at Hickling
James William	May 1880 at Hickling
Edward Robert	early 1882 at Hickling
Gertrude Violet	spring 1884 at Attleborough, Norfolk
Hannah Ada	late 1885 at Attleborough

Grace Emily	early 1887 at Attleborough
Ernest Arthur	summer 1888 at Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex
Lily Ethel	February 1891 at Hatfield Broad Oak
Florence May	summer 1893 at Sheering Mill near Epping, Essex

In 1891 we find the family as expected, at Great Heath Farm, Hatfield Heath, south-east of Bishop's Stortford, where James Durrant is a foreman maltster and their eldest son Albert is working as a labourer on the farm. The eldest daughter has by now left home, and the two teenage girls have no occupation shown as was customary at the time; the five children from James down to Grace are scholars.

The 1901 census shows the family has moved to south Essex, at Cowper Road, Rainham, with James still working as a foreman maltster. Daughter Ellen Newcomb, since married but recently widowed, has come back to the family fold with her two young daughters. Ten years later the parents are at 67 Pembroke Road, Walthamstow, James being recorded as a foreman labourer; only the two youngest children, Ellen and May are with them by now. And in 1921 they are at 3 Knotts Green Road, Leyton with James of course now retired; daughters Grace & Lily are a nurse and housemaid to a Mr Spielman at 10 Lythamley Road, Stamford Hill, but at home on census night, and "Maisie" (May) is out of employment, but usually seems to work for a Gordon Taylor at Waltham(stow?).

James Durrant appears to be the one who died in that area in late 1925 aged 80 (though the register says 78), with Hannah surviving him for some years further.

Charles & Eliza's daughter **Thirza** Durrant never married. In the 1871 census she is at age 20 a housemaid to Henry Ferrier, clergyman at Prince of Wales Road, Norwich, and as we already saw above, she had returned to live with her parents at home in Hickling by 1881, and is still with her widowed father there ten years later. In 1901 she is staying with her widowed younger brother Frederick, a fisherman and his two sons, as their housekeeper at 4 Fern Cottages, Hickling Green, and she is still with them there in 1911. Ten years later we find her likewise at The Green, Catfield, with Frederick at 64 still employed as a fisherman for a Mr. John George Winterton, though temporarily out of work. His son Frederick is also a fisherman, but with J. Cox at Great Yarmouth, also out of work. Thirza died locally in early 1933 aged 83.

Next in line, **John** Durrant married **Ruth Naomi Bell** at Hickling in early 1878 when he was 26. Naomi (as she was usually known) was born at Hickling in the spring of 1856, daughter of Robert, an ag lab and his wife Ann. In 1861 they are at Hickling Green, where Naomi has 3 older brothers. The 1871 census shows her at 14 working as a stay maker, boarding at the house of Elijah Knight, farmer and his elderly widowed mother at Lower Street, Smallburgh, near Hickling.

John and Naomi were another couple who made their married home back near John's family at Stubb, Hickling, where the 1881 census finds him working as an ag lab. They have 2 children, later adding 3 more, all born at Hickling as follows:

John Frederic	born late 1878
Eliza	born March 1881
Robert	summer 1885
Charles	summer 1888
Edith Mary	spring 1898

(there may have been others in 1883 and between 1890-96 which did not survive infancy?)

In 1891 the family is still at Stubb, but John is now employed as a brick maker. The widow Maria Debbage with her son John George, 4 whom we met above in 1901 at John's brother Thomas's house, is already with John, Ruth and their children at Stubb, employed as their housekeeper. About 1895, John

and his family moved to Potter Heigham, where we find them in 1901 at Bethel Farm, with John and son Robert working as cattlemen and Charles as an ag lab. They are still there in 1911; just the youngest child Edith remains at home. In 1921 just John & Naomi are at Street, Heigham with him still labouring at 69 for farmer W.W. Bell. John died locally in early 1936 aged 84 and Ruth in early 1946 at 89.

The youngest of Charles & Eliza Durrant's children, **Frederick** married local girl **Mary Ann Goose** at Hickling in the spring of 1879 when he was 22. Mary was born in late 1855, daughter of Thomas, yet another ag lab, and his wife Mary. In 1861 they are living at Stubb, with Mary the fifth of seven children.

1881 finds the married couple at Stubb, with Fred of course an ag lab; they have a 1 month old son John. Frederic Thomas followed in late 1883 and Charles in the summer of 1886, but mother Mary passed away in summer 1889, just 33 years old, possibly in childbirth? As we already noted above, in 1891 the widowed Frederick and his sons were staying with his father and sister Thirza at Hickling Green, and by 1901 through to at least 1911 at Fern Cottages there, working as a fisherman. In the latter year, son Frederick, 27 is also a fisherman and Charles, 24 is a farm labourer. Frederick senior died locally in late 1938 aged 82.

Appendix (D) The Ade family

John Alonzo Powley married **Amy Ade** on Sunday 29th July 1883 at St. Andrews, Holborn. Ade is a very unusual surname in England, and is apparently a mediaeval English diminutive of the name Adam, as are the somewhat more common forms Adey, Addy etc. The only significant concentration of people with this spelling of the name up to and in the nineteenth century is found in and around the Sussex towns of Lewes, Brighton and Eastbourne.

Our Ade family forebears can be traced easily on the IGI right back to John Ade born circa 1659 at Piddinghoe, Sussex. He married **Elizabeth Stapley** from Newhaven on the 12th of June 1694 at All Saints, Lewes. Three generations of a son named **Stapley Ade** then followed:

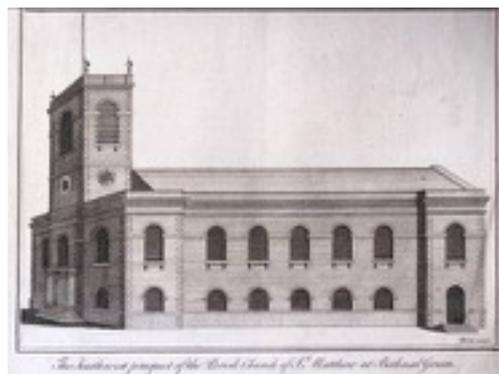
Stapley Ade (I) born 25th December 1698 at Piddinghoe, married **Ann** (or maybe Emily?) **Swift** on 7th April 1735 at the parish church in the village of Ripe, Sussex, when he was 36 years old;

Their son **Stapley Ade (II)** christened 21st April 1746 at St Michael, Newnham, Sussex; married **Ann Morricks** on 24th June 1770 at All Saints, Lewes, when he was 24; he died on 23rd December 1796 at Lewes, aged 50

and their son **Stapley Ade (III)**, born 6th December 1771 and christened on 20th January following, married the splendidly-named **Benedicta Brinkhurst** at All Saints on 26th July 1795 aged 23. Their son **George Ade**, Amy's grandfather, was born to them on 4th November 1797 at Lewes, christened at St Michael's in that town on 3rd December.

This last Stapley survived long enough to be recorded in the first detailed census, in 1841. By that time his wife Benedicta had evidently died, and he was re-married to a woman named Sarah, with another Sarah born about 1813 presumably their daughter. They are living at John Street, Lewes, with Stapley aged around 70 shown with occupation "M.S." denoting a male servant. His wife's age is given precisely as 64, and she was born in Sussex. They could not be found in the 1851 census, but Stapley Ade may be the one who died in early 1855 at Lewes, when he would have been aged 83.

His son **George Ade** in due course went to London, where he married **Hannah Robinson** at St Matthew, Bethnal Green on



Sunday August 6th 1820. According to the 1851 census Hannah was born around 1796 at Billingshurst, Sussex, though there is also a child of that name shown as born 19th August, christened 6th October 1798 at St Thomas in the Cliffs, Lewes.

Their first child, also **George**, was baptized only 5 months after the wedding, at St Clement Dane, Westminster on 14th January 1821. At this time George senior was a baker, and the family were living at 15 Bear Yard, just off the Strand. This family seems to be the only one named Ade in the whole of the capital at that time, which made them very easy to trace. So it is quite possibly our George Ade, “born around 1791” who appeared at the Old Bailey in December 1828, charged with the theft of a bag of chaff, beans and oats from his employer. Despite the case being reported verbatim, no indication of his address or occupation is given. He was found not guilty!

By the 1841 census, the Ade’s had moved to Grange Road, Bermondsey, but son George, aged 19, is not with them. He is found at Devonshire Street, Marylebone, staying in the household of one William Ade aged around 50, presumably an uncle, who was a groom; no occupation is shown for young George, but he probably helped out in the stables.

In 1851, George senior and Hannah were living at 4 Grange Terrace, Bermondsey. They have their grandson, another George aged 5 staying with them on census night (see below).

Hannah died in September 1852 aged 53 “at Grange Road”, and was buried at St James, Bermondsey on the 29th of the month. George then married **Ann Bond** on 11th November 1855 at St Mary, Newington in south London. He is recorded in the register as a baker of Union Row whose father was Stapley Ade, a shoemaker. Ann was born in Shoreditch, east London on 24th January 1821 and christened at St Leonard’s church there on 18th February, daughter of Samuel, another shoemaker & Esther, so at just 34 was all of 23 years younger than George! She was also resident in Union Row at the marriage. George went on to have two children with her.....

Esther Ann	born 11 th September 1856 at Union Row, New Kent Road, Newington but baptized as Sarah Ann at St Mary, Newington on 5 th October (registered as Esther)
Henry George	born 16 th October 1857 at Union Row, baptized on 8 th November at St Mary’s.

In the 1861 census George and Ann are at 10 Warwick Terrace, Bermondsey with their two children. George, now 63 is still working as a baker.

George’s young wife Ann passed away in early 1869 at Bermondsey, aged only 47. The 1871 census shows the widower George by now retired, staying with young Esther and Henry at 39 Fort Road, Bermondsey.

George Ade senior died in late 1877 at Bermondsey, aged 79.

Daughter **Esther Ann** is found in 1881 at 1 Church Road, Hackney, employed as a general servant in the house of George Abrams, “Ostrich Feather Manufacturer” and his family. We meet her again later below!

George’s youngest child **Henry George** Ade married local girl **Mary Ann Holt** on 14th September 1879 at St Philip, Lambeth when they were both aged 22. The register shows Henry as a market porter of 78 Park Street. Mary was born at Kennington, Surrey in 1857, the daughter of Edwin, a tailor from Nottingham and his wife Mary, born in Bristol. In the 1861 census the family are living at 36 William Street in Lambeth, and Mary is the third of 4 children, with 3 brothers aged 12 down to 2, the eldest born in Marylebone and the others locally. By 1871 they were at 74 Park Street, Lambeth, two doors along from Henry, and from where she was married. Maryann at 14 is working as a boot binder, and she now has a young sister Eliza, 6 for company.

In the 1881 census Henry & Mary are living at 18 Balaclava Road, Bermondsey with a 4 month old son Henry; Henry senior is employed as a market porter. By 1891 they have moved to 71 Alderminster Road, Bermondsey with Henry as a fish porter; they now have 4 children, all boys, and Mary's mother, by now widowed and working as a tailoress is staying with them.

A complete change of career finds Henry recorded as a musician in a regimental band by 1901! They are by now living at 112 Pullen's Buildings, Amelia Road in Newington, south London, one of the then-fashionable blocks of low-rent artisan flats appearing all over the capital. Two of the older sons are still living at home, and there is one more, Louis Frank, born around 1895.

In the 1911 census, the family are at 18 Penton Place, Newington, but Henry has reverted to his old job of market porter. His son Henry, by now married then widowed, is an artificial limb maker! The youngest, Arthur at 15 is a grinder, though no indication is given of what sort of things he ground!

1921 finds just Henry & Mary at 48 Harris Street, Camberwell, with him at general labourer at no fixed place, though currently like many others out of work. Mary Ade passed away at Camberwell in late 1927 aged 70, and Henry George there in early 1936 at 78.

Meanwhile **George Ade junior** had become a baker like his father, and married **Emma Leaver Dew** on Christmas Day 1844 at St Mary Magdalene, Bermondsey aged of 23. The register shows him as a baker of Grange Road, his father George also a baker as expected. Emma was the second known child of four born to Francis Dew and Mary Ann, nee Watkins, christened at St John Horslydown in Bermondsey on the 1st of February 1824. By the time of the 1841 census however her parents had moved to James Street, Finsbury St Luke in the City of London, where Francis was a shoemaker. At his daughter's marriage however he is shown as a Hair Dresser; perhaps he did both!

Emma at age 19 was a family servant in the household of Daniel Spence, a carman and his family at Bermondsey Street near to her birthplace. There is an Elizabeth Ade aged 20, another servant just a few doors away who no doubt befriended Emma and possibly led to her introduction to George, but we do not yet know her precise connection with our Ade family. Emma was married from Grange Road. George Ade senior and an Elizabeth Jane Ade, no doubt the same woman, were witnesses.

George and Emma had a total of 9 known children, all born in Bermondsey from 1846 onwards, as follows:

George Francis	born early 1846, christened 8 th Feb at St Mary Magdalene
Caroline Eliza	born summer 1847 but not christened until 20 Jan 1850, at St Mary
Emily Elizabeth	born late 1849, christened jointly with Caroline
Ann Amelia	born 29 th March 1851, christened 4 th May 1851 at St Mary
James Edwin	christened 27 th February 1853 at St Mary, a few days old
Frederick William	born late 1855, christened 6 th Jan 1856 at St Mary
Francis Henry	christened 24 th January 1858 at St Mary, a few days old
Edward	born in late 1859, no baptism record found
Amy	born 23 rd February 1863, baptized 18 th June 1865 at St Mary

From the time of their marriage, George and Emma lived at various houses in and around Grange Walk, Bermondsey, usually in the company of at least one other family. The 1851 census shows them at 2 Grange Walk with the youngest child Ann (here called Fanny) just one day old – the census was taken on 30th March, so that is how we know her birth date!

Not surprisingly, the eldest George by then 5 and no doubt a bundle of mischief has, as we have already seen, been farmed out to the grandparents George & Hannah Ade at 4 Grange Terrace nearby to minimise the chaos at home.

Sadly, young **George** died in June 1854 at Grange Walk aged 8 and was buried at St James, Bermondsey on the 25th of the month. **Frederick** was to follow in late 1859 aged 3 and **Edward** at around the same time, just a few days old and presumably before he could be baptised.

By 1861 the family is shown at 17 Grange Walk, with father George at 40 continuing to work as a baker. Four of the 5 surviving children are at home, and the eldest, **Caroline** at 13 (though claiming to be 15) is already in service at 177 Union Street, Southwark in the household of Henry Hartley, a tripe dresser and his family. They are still at 17 Grange Walk for Amy's baptism in 1865.

By the time of the 1871 census, George and Emma are at 24 Willow Street, off Willow Walk in Bermondsey, and finally have a whole house (though no doubt still somewhat small) to themselves! They were to stay there for the next 20 years or so. Willow Street is nowadays known as Curtis Street; it has been totally redeveloped in recent times.

George is not shown as a baker in his own right in the contemporary London trade directories, so presumably only had a small local business, or was an employee at a larger establishment. Eldest daughter Caroline is back home, working as an "Army Accoutrement Maker". Emily has no occupation shown; James has begun a long career at the General Post Office as an assistant sorter, inland branch, and the two youngest, Francis and Amy are scholars. Francis however died just over a year later, aged 15.

Ann Amelia, 20, could not be found in the 1871 census under either name; she was undoubtedly working in service nearby, and it may be that her employer has forced a change to a "pet name" for her, as some did.

Caroline, Ann and James all married during the following six years; we look briefly at their subsequent histories below. So in the 1881 census at 24 Willow Street, just Emily and Amy remain at home with their parents. Emily is working as a dressmaker and young Amy is a machinist probably assisting her; to help make ends meet. Grand-daughter Emma aged 7 staying over on census night is the eldest child of James Edwin Ade, as we see below, and there is again a second family sharing the house with them.

As we have already noted, Amy Ade married into the Powley family in 1883, and we continue their story in the main article.

George's wife Emma Leaver Ade died in early 1890 aged 65, probably at the Willow Street house. The 1891 census shows that George, 70, has by now retired as a baker and taken one of the new apartments, 508 Hanover Buildings, Tooley Street, Bermondsey; as we have already noted, this was in the same building as his daughter Amy and her husband.

The census shows his sister **Esther** Ade staying with him. With her age given as only 34, we originally doubted that the stated relationship could possibly be true, but upon further investigation, as detailed above, we now understand the circumstances leading to this incredible age difference! At about this time, the criminal registers list a George Ade committed to appear at the Old Bailey for carrying counterfeit coins and forgery of a cheque, but this man was aged only around 20, so is definitely not our man.

There is only one candidate in the registers for the passing of George Ade, in late 1895 at Romford, Essex aged 74, and as expected he does not appear in the 1901 census name index. However, the mystery is why he has had occasion to venture so far away from his native South London, probably for the first time in his adult life?

By 1901 George's sister **Esther** Ade has taken a post as a housekeeper to jeweller & silversmith John Vander at 26 New Bond Street in London's west end, and 10 years later she is still there, but her employer was away from home on census night. She married **George Badger**, a barrister's clerk in that area in the summer of 1913 when she was 56 years old. George was born in Brown Street, Marylebone in March

1856, son of Thomas, a coachman and his wife Ann. Esther & George went to live out in salubrious Hampstead, but Esther unfortunately passed away less than two years later, in the spring of 1915.

Meanwhile, back to the children. **James** Edwin Ade was the first to marry, in the summer of 1872 when he was 19, to **Emma Rose Bryden** at Bermondsey. Emma was born on the 8th July 1856 at Poole, Dorset, so was just 16 at the time of her marriage. Her mother Elizabeth Bryden appears to have been married and widowed at least twice; the 1861 census shows her with six children living at Kerr's Buildings, Poole, with occupation Proprietor of Houses. The 4 eldest aged 16 down to 9 have the surname Kerr, no doubt he of the said buildings, with Emma and her brother William, 6 being Bryden. By 1871 the mother Elizabeth and just the two young Brydens have moved from Dorset to London; the census shows them at 10 Edmond Place, Bermondsey with Elizabeth at 48 working as a dressmaker, William a porter for the General Post Office and Emma still a scholar at 14.

By the time of the 1881 census, James and Emma are living at Flat no. 9, block 2 of Queen's Buildings, Southwark, with James employed as a foreign letter sorter at the GPO. His wife Emma is recorded here as Emily, and there are four children at home, Flora (named Florence Annie in late 1874) and Edwin (Edwin George in summer 1876) born at Newington, plus Marie (Maria in spring 1878) and James (James Frederick in spring 1880) born in the parish of St Bride, Fleet Street, City of London. The last-named died in Camberwell in early 1884, aged just 3 years.

In 1891 the family are at 126 Ridley Road, Forest Gate in east London, with James now promoted to Inspector in the foreign letter section of the GPO. There are two more children, Alice (Alice Louceiro, born spring 1873 at Southwark) and another James, born at Newington in early 1886. Emma Rose has reverted to being called by that name in this census return.

In the following 10 years, the last two children arrived, named Rose Irene (born in the spring of 1894) and Gladys Mildred (early 1898), both at Forest Gate. The 1901 census shows them all at 35 Cranmer Road there, with James at 48 now an "Inspector of Circulation" at the Post Office. There is a long-lost eldest child, Emma Elizabeth born in the summer of 1873 at Bermondsey, with them; strangely she has not been shown at the family home in the previous two censuses! Another surprise was a visitor Edith M. Ade, shown as "daughter-in-law" to James, born in Cape Colony, South Africa in around 1876; we have no idea as yet where she fits in!

By 1911 James and Emma were at 20 Avenue Road, Forest Gate, with the census showing James now Assistant Superintendent of the GPO Foreign Section; daughters Rose and Gladys are still living at home.

Sometime soon afterwards the parents at least moved down to Emma's birthplace of Poole, Dorset, and James Edwin Ade, "retired civil servant" died at West Bay, Longfleet Road there on the 14th December 1916, aged 63 leaving effects £903-5s to his widow Emma Rose. She stayed on in Poole, the 1921 census showing her at 107 Longfleet Road with daughters Rose & Gladys, who were both employed at the Royal Naval Cordite Factory, Holton Heath as a clerk and laboratory assistant respectively. Emma passed away there in early 1935 aged 78.

The next of George and Emma's children to marry was **Ann Amelia**, from 24 Willow Street to local man **Harry Fox** also lodging there, on 8th November 1874 at St James, Bermondsey when she was 23. Her father George Ade and elder sister Caroline Eliza were witnesses. Harry's mother was Mary, a cape maker born at Strood, Kent about 1820; in 1861 her family is living at 2 Salisbury Street, Newington, but her husband was away from home on census night. Harry at 9 was the second of five children with her ranging from 11 down to 2 years old. The marriage register shows his father as Charles Fox, mariner, explaining the absence and Harry himself was by then a grocer.

We find Harry and Ann in the 1881 census at 2 Dyer's Buildings, Holborn, from where, it will be recalled John Alonzo Powley and Amy Ade were to be married just two years later. Harry had by then become a police sergeant, at 29 a year or so younger than Ann, and they have two children, Annie (5) born at West Smithfield, City of London and Francis (3) at Holborn. The baptism records show that their

address in February 1876 was 92 Long Lane EC and in November 1877 at 7 Bull Lane Chambers, Holborn, but both children were baptised at St Mary Magdalene, Bermondsey.

By 1891 Harry has been promoted to Inspector in the City of London police, and the family are living at 22 Grove Terrace, East Ham. There are 2 more children, Arthur (4) and Bertha (3) both born at Holborn, so evidently they had stayed there for some years.

The 1901 census shows that Harry Fox has by now retired from the police service with the rank of inspector, at age of only 49. They have moved to the village of Ashen in north Essex, living on Clare Road; the youngest two children are still with them, Arthur at 14 a carpenter's apprentice.

In that of 10 years later, Ann is visiting her daughter Annie, by now married to Harry Benjamin King, a sergeant in the City of London police, at their home, 18 Lawrence Poulteney Lane E.C. Ann Amelia Fox died at home in Ashen in the summer of 1920 aged 69.

Caroline Eliza Ade married **John Pea** at Bermondsey in late 1878, when she was 31 years old, so here is another daughter keeping a short (and somewhat unusual) surname! So unusual in fact that we could find no trace of them in the 1881 census index, under any conceivable mis-spelling. John was born at Worcester about 1846, and we do find them both alive and well at 29 Maltby Street, Bermondsey in 1891 where John is shown employed as a horse keeper (groom). They have a visitor Frank Fox, a 23 year old unmarried shipping clerk born at Holborn staying with them, who is probably related to Ann's husband Harry.

Caroline and John do not appear to have had any children. By 1901 they had moved down to Sussex and are living at 7 Waterloo Place in Lewes, with Caroline's uncle Edwin Ade, a widower and retired lighter-man aged 85 who was of that generation born in the Lewes area. Caroline is the housekeeper, while her husband John's occupation is somewhat illegible but seems to relate to a "Cart Shop" or some such, "working at house". Caroline Eliza Pea died at Lewes in the spring of 1909, aged 61.

Lastly in this branch of the family, **Emily Elizabeth** Ade never married. By 1891, after the death of her mother, she has moved down to the former Ade family town of Lewes, Sussex, where she is a house servant to Hubert Powell, land agent and his family at Hill Lodge, High Street in the town. In 1901 she is shown at 30 Canterbury Road, West Tarring in Sussex, a ladies companion (one of two) to a Helen Caesar aged 38 born in Southwark who is living there "on her own means". Emily died in the area in early 1905, aged 56.

Appendix (E) The Green Family

John Francis Powley married **Constance Julia (Con) Green** at Tottenham on Saturday 25th March 1911. His bride was the eldest daughter of Edward Arnott Green, then living with her family just two doors along from the Powley family home, at 19 Springfield Road.

Con's grandfather was **Frederick Green**, born in early 1804, the son of Edward Green and Elizabeth, nee Spearing, who were married at St. Dunstan in the East, Fleet Street in the City of London on the 19th of February 1792. He was the third of six known children, all christened at St. Dunstan as follows.....

Edward	born 31 st January 1798
Thomas	born 19 th February 1799
Frederick	christened 21 st March 1804
Charles	born 8 th March 1805
Henry	born 5 th June 1810
Emma	born 19 th June 1811

Frederick married **Lydia Elizabeth Barough** at St Andrew, Holborn on 13th April 1847. The register shows him as a wholesale stationer resident in the tiny city parish of St Michael Bassishaw, Basinghall Street, with father Edward a wine merchant. Lydia was born around 1826 at Islington, so was much younger than him. We know only from the marriage entry that her father was **Francis Barough**, a tea dealer of Hatton Garden, but that information then led us to his marriage on 14th April 1814 to **Lydia Arnitt** at Thirsk, North Yorkshire where both were born, he in 1790 at Burneston nearby and she in 1791.

In the 1841 census Lydia junior is shown resident at a boarding school in Cob's Terrace, Barnsbury Road Islington, her parents no doubt travelling abroad frequently. The 1841 Post Office directory confirms Francis Barough as a grocer and tea dealer at 92 Hatton Garden, with Francis junior (his son) likewise engaged at 65 Lamb's Conduit Street. There is no sign of Frederick Green in London in this census unless he was then working as an undertaker in Clerkenwell - which seems unlikely! - nor of him or his father Edward in the 1841 directory.

Francis Barough senior in 1851 is found living at Tooting Common, Streatham, by now widowed but still working as a tea dealer, accompanied by his daughter Harriet and 2 servants. We then found that his wife Lydia had died in late 1840 aged 49 and was initially buried at St Peter, Great Saffron Hill, Holborn, but was "removed from the vaults" there and re-interred at All Souls cemetery, Kensal Green on 10th March 1843 with "no ceremony". This was due to construction of the new Farringdon Road through the site of the former churchyard, a common enough problem then in congested parts of the City. She and others were more fortunate however than some of those left undisturbed; during construction of the Metropolitan Railway in 1862 there was a great storm and "numerous bodies, or what remained of them" were washed into the trench. The rector of St Peter's stated that they had been "properly cared for".

Francis Barough died at Epping, Essex in the summer of 1855 aged 65.

Frederick Green's younger brothers Charles and Henry are also absent from the 1841 census, and indeed may not have survived into adulthood; Emma was in all probability married by then, and due to the very common surname, we can know nothing with certainty about her later life, nor that of the two elder brothers.

The juniors Frederick and Lydia went first to live in Barnsbury, Islington. They had a total of 6 known children as follows...

Frederick Thomas	born at Richmond Road, Barnsbury, baptized at Islington St Mary on 12 th May 1848, a few days old
Mary Elizabeth	Born at Richmond Road late 1849, baptized at St Mary on 30 th January 1850
Frank Henry (Henry)	born in Kensington in January 1851
Edward Arnott	born at 1 Wellington Terrace, Manor Street, Clapham on 12 th December 1853
Frank William	born at Clapham in spring 1856
Ernest Alfred	born at Clapham in spring 1858

so the family is obviously moving around quite frequently. The origin of Edward's middle name is now clear to us; Arnott is believed to be the correct spelling and is the most prevalent, but Arnitt and Arnett also appear in the records at times, both for him and as his maternal grandmother's maiden surname.

For the first two births at Richmond Road father Frederick's occupation is recorded as "Gentleman", but in the March 1851 census the family are shown living at 2 Seymour Terrace, Kensington, where he is a wholesale stationer (traveller; that is what we would now call a sales rep). They have two house servants living in. After the spell in Clapham they were back in Kensington by 1861, at an altogether smarter-sounding abode, 14 St. James' Square, with Frederick now running his own stationery business.

All six children are shown with their parents there in the census, but they are managing with just the one servant now.

Frederick Green died on 28th January 1869 at St Thomas' Hospital, Lambeth aged 64 and was buried on 2nd February at Nunhead Cemetery, Linden Grove. His last home address was 19 Sharsted Street, Kennington Park; he left no will and Letters of Administration for effects under £450 were granted to his "widow and relict" Lydia on 16th July 1869, by which time she had moved to 61 Lothian Road, Camberwell. She is found there in the census of 1871, with five of her children. The boys Frederick (22) and Edward Arnott (17) were both Ordinary Seamen, presumably sailing out of the Surrey Docks. Henry (20) was a clerk, Ernest (12) still at school and Mary at 21 has no occupation shown. The missing son is Frank, 15, who may also have become a seaman, away on duty on census night.

On Saturday 9th October 1875, **Edward Arnott** Green married **Julia Kate Pike** at St Stephens Church, Lambeth; he was then lodging at 34 Dalyell Road, Stockwell, and by now working as a "traveller" (travelling salesman). His late father is now described as having had the occupation "Gentleman".

Julia was the daughter of Thomas Edward Pike, a Proctor's clerk, later also "Gentleman", and his wife Harriet Louisa, nee Sutton, born 18th September 1849 at 7 Trigon Terrace, Clapham Road, Kennington, thus some four years older than her husband. Her address at marriage was 10, St Stephens Crescent, Lambeth, just a few yards from the church, but in all of the censuses 1851 to 1871 the Pike family were still at Trigon Terrace. Julia was one of six known children born to Thomas and Harriet, all at Lambeth as follows....

Harriet Louisa Johanna	born spring 1846
Emma Augusta	late 1847
Julia Kate	born 18 th September 1849
Ellen Clara	spring 1853
Minnie Letitia	early 1855
Kate Mary	spring 1857

Emma Augusta signed as a witness at Edward & Julia's wedding.

Edward's mother Lydia remained a widow, and in the 1881 census is shown lodging with a dentist, John Mackintosh and his wife, at 75 Osnaburgh Street, near Regents Park, but by 1891 she had moved back to South London, staying at 78, Dalyell Road, Stockwell with her son Frank, who was by now working as a mercantile clerk. Lydia died there in early 1895, aged 68.

Again because of the very common surname, we do not know for sure what happened subsequently to Frederick & Lydia's children **Mary** and **Henry**; we could not identify any of them with certainty in 1881 or any of the subsequent censuses. The two boys probably spent a life away at sea, and Mary surely married during the 1870s, perhaps to a Henry Green (no relation) later in 1871.

Frederick Thomas Green was married late, at age 48 in 1896 to Annie Louise Knight, 6 years his junior, born in Brighton, Sussex. The 1901 census shows that he has retired from the seafaring life, and is now a painter & decorator; they are living in Islington though the address is unclear due to the enumerator's terrible writing; it looks like 108 Gregson Road. Frederick passed away at Rochford, Essex just 3 years later, and his widow Annie married a Walter Cox there in 1905. She died at Fulham, SW London in 1915.

Ernest aged 22 in 1881 appears to be the one living at 104 Queens Road, Bayswater in the house of Edward Marsh, grocer and his family, working as an assistant grocer in the business, but he could not be found in 1891.

His brother **Frank** was in 1881 also employed as a grocer's assistant, but in his native Clapham, at 4 Clapham Park Road, in the house and shop of William Williams from Micheldean, Gloucester and his family. As we saw above, Frank was back with his mother in Stockwell by 1891. After the death of their mother, we find brothers Frank and Ernest, 44 and 41 respectively and both still unmarried, sharing a house at 107 Narbonne Avenue, Clapham, "living on own means", presumably their inheritance from their late father's stationery business. Frank William Green died at Charing Cross hospital on 10th February 1906 aged 49, still resident at Narbonne Avenue. His effects totalling £1373-13s went to brother Ernest, "gentleman" as executor. As we see below, by 1911 Ernest was boarding with his elder brother Edward Arnott Green and his family at 19 Springfield Road, Tottenham, and in 1921 we find him at 32 Elizabeth Road, Tottenham, "retired grocer" with his nephew Harry Nelson Green.

Edward and Julia Green were to have a total of ten children born in the following 18 years after their 1875 marriage, to 1893. My mother and Aunt Nellie Powley compiled a list of eight "familiar" names many years ago (the other two died young so were not recalled by them) but because of the very common surname it was impossible for a long time to identify and date them precisely. Fortunately the 1901 census (published in late 2002) lists the given names in great detail, and very distinctive and unusual they are too! So we can be most grateful to Edward and Julia for their inspired choices, and state with full confidence that *our* Green family (one of at least twenty in this part of South London) was comprised as follows.....

Edward Frederick Alfred (Ted)	born 1876 August 18	at Stockwell
Harry Nelson	" 1878 (winter)	at Brixton
Constance Julia (Con)	" 1880 (winter)	"
Julia Hope	" 1882 (winter)	"
Ernest Clarence (Ernie)	" 1883 (summer)	"
Emmie Lydia (Emily, Evie)	" 1885 July 8 th	"
Albert Stanley Hope (Bert)	born 1887 April 15	at Nunhead
Horace Gordon	" 1889 (winter)	at Lambeth
Ethel Hope (Ethel)	" 1891 April 17	at Edmonton
Harold Victor	" 1893 (winter)	"

Edward was baptised on 27th May 1877 at St Mark, Notting Hill, but with the family abode then recorded as 72 Dalyell Road, Stockwell. Father Edward Arnott's occupation is given as Commercial Traveller. The next seven children were baptised in "batches"; Ernest and Julia on 12th November 1884, and Harry, Constance a few weeks later on 14th January 1885, all at St John the Divine, Kennington, with the family address recorded as 51 Tindal Street (off Camberwell New Road) and fathers occupation again commercial traveller. Emmie, Albert and Horace had to wait until 25th May 1890, at St Mary the Virgin, Lower Edmonton, by which time they were living at 24 Harcourt Terrace there. Meanwhile, Julia Hope had died in the summer of 1885 at Camberwell, aged just three and a half.

The names Edward, Frederick, Julia and Lydia are of obvious direct family derivation, but the origin of Hope is less evident – maybe a spouse surname from an earlier generation? Nelson and Victor are probably after their parents' "Heroes" (the Admiral, and Queen Victoria?); it is perhaps surprising there is no "Florence" (after nurse Nightingale) but then they would probably have thought this rather common – nearly every family had one in the late 1870s!

In the 1881 census, the family is shown living at 10 Mostyn Terrace, in fact part of Lothian Road Camberwell (again), but no occupation is shown for Edward Arnott Green. Son Harry Nelson is shown here as “Henry”.



We have a postcard photograph (right) of “Harry” in army uniform, sent by him to his sister Con from the trenches in France in around 1915, but he looks far too young to be Harry Nelson, so is much more likely to be Harold Victor, hence our confusion as to the identity of the real “Uncle Harry”!

At left is another of the Green brothers (but we don't know which one!) this time a Navy man, with the postcard sent from aboard H.M.S “Excellent” at Portsmouth in July 1917.



By 1887 and Bert's birth, Edward and Julia Green have moved to 13 Banstead Street, Nunhead, but were back in Lambeth again less than two years later. Father Edward is shown as a commercial traveller throughout this period.

The big move to the fresh open spaces of northeast London came as we have seen by around early 1890, some 4 years before the Powleys did likewise. We did wonder whether the Greens had known the Powleys in South London – with perhaps John and Con being school friends – but this is probably unlikely; both families were just following the trend amongst younger “self-improvers” of the time.



The 1891 census shows the Green family as expected at 24 Harcourt Terrace, Fairfield Road, Edmonton, and daughter Ethel was born there just a couple of weeks later. All the older children, from Edward junior aged 14 down to Emmy (shown here as Emily) aged 4 are “scholars”. Edward Arnott Green is now a “Brush Maker”, and this is clarified by the London trade directories for following years: he is an artist's brush manufacturer, sometimes shown also as a General Stationer. The 1891 census also told us for the first time about Edward and Julia's son Horace, who unfortunately died in infancy, aged only 5, in the spring of 1894. The houses in Fairfield Road (above) still exist, but the exact one occupied by our family cannot easily be identified as the terraces do not carry their individual names these days.

By 1897, Green's Artists Brush Manufactory was at 43-45 St. John Street, Clerkenwell, where he was to remain in business until at least 1921 (when he was 67).

This 3-storey block was erected in 1892 (the land is shown as “waste ground” in the 1891 census) and now forms part of the “1892” Clerkenwell conservation area project.

It is on the west side of St John St near its south end – the first building north of Peter’s Lane (south of the Clerkenwell Road), and was shared with two other manufacturers – presumably occupying one floor each. It is the white building to the right in our picture.....



The final house move for the Greens, with their family now complete, came in 1900, to 19 Springfield Road, Tottenham, where they were to remain for many years. This was of course just two doors along from the Powleys, though the latter were not to arrive at no. 15 for another 5 years yet. The Greens were not the very first residents however, as these houses were built on

land previously occupied by somewhat ramshackle “villas” on smallholding plots around 1898. The directories show that the occupant of no 19 until 1900 was one Francis Buckland esq.

By 1901 only the eldest child, **Ted**, has left the family home; he could not be found in the census (he did not marry until 1904). **Harry Nelson Green**, 23, is a Teacher of Music, working from home on his own account. Constance, at 21 has no occupation shown; she most probably helped around the house. Ernest, 17, is a publications clerk and all the younger children are of course still at school.

Of the other children, **Ernest Clarence** married **Eliza Maria Barr** at Edmonton in summer 1909. Eliza was the daughter of Edwin Barr, born at Newington, south London on 20th May 1886. In the 1901 census she is living with her widowed father and 6 siblings at 10 Nelson Road, Tottenham. The children’s birthplaces indicate that they had moved from Newington to Tottenham about 1892, and Edwin’s occupation is a furniture packer, perhaps with the forerunners of the Harris Lebus company.

In the 1911 census, Ernest and his wife are living at 52 Winchelsea Road, Tottenham; for some reason Eliza is recorded here as Lilian, which initially confused us a great deal! He is still a publisher’s clerk. One child, **Moreen Daisy** was born to them in 1917 at Edmonton. In 1921 we find the family on holiday in Margate, with Ernest employed as a printer’s clerk at 7-15 Roseberry Avenue, Clerkenwell. Eliza’s younger brother John Albert Barr is with them; he owns the Printing business. By 1939 they are at 23 Holly Hill, Southgate with Ernest shown as an accounting clerk, and Eliza now recording her correct name!

Eliza died in 1949 in the Wood Green area of London aged 62; **Ernest** then seems to have moved to be near his daughter Moreen at St Albans; he passed on there in 1957, aged 73. **Moreen** had married Reginald Stace in 1941 and gone to live there; she died in 1968 aged just 50.

In 1911 at the same house as Ernest & Eliza, but shown as a separate household is Ernest’s brother **Harry Nelson Green**, now working as a book-keeper. By 1921 as we have seen above, he is at 32 Elizabeth Road, Tottenham, with his uncle Ernest Alfred and employed as an audit clerk with the National Insurance Audit Department, based at Holborn Hall, Gray’s Inn Road in the city. My mother and aunt Nellie thought that he never wed, but in fact he was another late bachelor, marrying **Adeline Blanche Ahrens** at Falmouth, Cornwall in 1926 when he was 48. Adeline was 20 years his junior, and they had presumably met in London. She was however born in Falmouth in 1897 but very unusually somehow avoided the technicality of Civil Registration!. The Ahrens family patriarch was **Paul Ahrens**, Adeline’s grandfather, a mariner from the tiny North Sea island of Heligoland, who arrived in Falmouth around

1860 and married a local girl, Mary in 1862. They later ran the Alexandra Hotel in the town. Their son **Frederick Peter** married Anna Maria Prior in 1891. In the 1901 census, Adeline is with her mother and elder brother Francis at 6 Chapel Road, Falmouth; her father was away at sea on census night. By 1911 she is with her aunt, widowed Laura Webb (nee Prior) at 11 Albany Place in the town, and in 1921 we find her at 3 Tresawna Terrace, Falmouth with her parents; she is an elementary school teacher at Smithick Hill School. Father Frederick is a Merchant Seaman employed by Fox & Co on the town quay. Harry and Adeline had just one child, Peter H. A. in 1934, born at Hendon, Middlesex, but upon the outbreak of the Second World War moved back to the safety of Falmouth, staying at 3, Park Cottages, Clifton Crescent. Harry is listed as a civil servant, and their son is with them. With the return of peace, they were evidently settled in the town; Harry died there in 1954 aged 77 and Adeline in 1972 at 74.

Eldest son **Ted Green** married **Ethel Mary Cook** at St Edmund the King & Martyr, City of London on 23rd July 1904 when he was 27. He was by then a clerk living at 73 George Lane, Wanstead, Essex. Ethel aged 21 was resident at 18 Birchin Lane in the city; she was born in Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire. Ted's father signed his full name as a witness, and his spelling does look like Arnitt here! Ethel's father William George was born at Ivinghoe, Buckinghamshire, and married Mary Godman in summer 1878 at Berkhamstead. By 1891 they had a tailor's shop at 1 Charles Street, Hemel Hempstead, but in 1901 Ethel was working as a governess to Edmund Pawlett, a bank manager & his family at 45 London Road West in Maidstone, Kent. Presumably she had a similar post at Birchin Lane before her marriage.

By 1911 Ted and Ethel have made their home at 3 Welham Road, Streatham, south-east London, with sons Edward 5 and Brian 4, both of whom were born in Wanstead. Ted is working as a clerk, and his youngest brother **Harold**, 18 also a clerk is staying with them on census night. Ten years later we find them at 31 Birchwood Road, Streatham with Edward employed as a book-keeper at De Beers Consolidated Mining Ltd, 15 St Swithins Lane in the City of London. They now have a third child Stella Blanche aged 1. In the 1939 ID card registration, Ted & Ethel are at 2 Milton Avenue, Carshalton, Surrey, with Ted recorded as occupation "Clerk in Mining Coy ret'd"

Harold Victor Green married **Amy Eleanor Nicholas** in the spring of 1917 at Hove, Sussex. Amy was born on 3rd August 1895 at Brighton, and the 1911 census shows her at 10 Lennox Road, Hove with father Thomas a builder's labourer, mother Ellen a laundry ironer and an elder sister Louie, all born in Brighton. However in 1921 we find Harold staying with his sister Ethel Hope's family (below), employed as a clerk with the Liverpool Victoria Assurance Co. at 18 St Andrew's Street, London City, whereas Amy is about 5 miles away at 4 Martin Bowes Road, Eltham with their son Roy Nicholas Donald, born 21st August 1920 at Eltham. In 1939 Harold, Amy and son Roy are at 137 Walton Road, Sidcup together with Amy's parents, but Roy died in the spring of 1941 in the Bromley area, aged just 20, possibly a victim of wartime bombing? At some later stage Harold & Amy moved back to her home area around Hove; Harold died there in the summer of 1962 aged 69, and Amy in late 1976 aged 81.

Ethel Hope Green married **Bertie Williams** at St Mary the Virgin, Lower Edmonton on 1st April 1915 when she was 23, from 80 King's Road. Her father was a witness; this time it looks like Arnett in the register. Bertie, 24 was a Chief Petty Officer in the navy, also of 80 King's Road; his father John, a fitter was by then deceased. Bertie & Ethel had two boys, Guy Norman born 1918 at Friern Barnet, and Denis Hope, 1920 at Beckenham, Kent. The following year's census shows the family at 74 The Avenue, Beckenham, with Bertie employed as a clerk with the Anglo-Saxom Petroleum Company at St Helen's Court., Leadenhall Street in London City. Ethel's brother Harold Victor (above) is with them and there are two servants.

According to the marriage register, **Emmie Lydia** married Ernest Hickling at St Philip the Apostle, South Tottenham on 12th July 1913 when she was 28. At that time she was living with sister Ethel Hope at

80 King's Road Edmonton; her father Edward Arnitt (again!) and Ethel were witnesses. Ernest was a clerk of 1 Keston Road, born on 7th November 1886, son of Herbert Hickling a "salesman".

Curiously, Mum and Nellie both recalled their names as **Tom and Evie!** There was indeed a Thomas Hickling born at Tottenham in early 1885, son of William and Eliza Hickling. William Hickling was a commercial traveller in the grocery trade; he was born at Crowland near Peterborough. His wife came from the village of Parson Drove in Cambridgeshire, but they were married in Hackney in late 1879 and living at Harringay from then until moving to Tottenham in 1884. Herbert Hickling, Ernest's father was also born in Crowland, so Ernest and this Thomas were no doubt distant cousins. Ernest also had an elder brother William Thomas. His family were living at 4 Caroline Terrace, St Ann's Road in Tottenham in 1891, but had only moved there from Crowland a year or so previously. Ernest was the third of five children, all born at Crowland. Ten years on we find them all at 34 Purvey Road, Tottenham St Ann, at least that's what it looks like (the writing is very bad) and this road name has surely been changed in more recent years! Herbert is a master butcher and by now the young brothers William and Ernest are working as clerks in a shipping office, probably in central London.

Ernest and Emmie had three children as follows.....

Doris Eileen	born summer 1915 at Tottenham
Joan Barbara	spring 1919 at Wisbech, Cambridgeshire
Gloria Patricia (Pat)	spring 1923 at Wisbech

The 1921 census shows the family at 27 Lerowe Road, Walsoken near Wisbech, with Ernest the Managing Director of John Gilroy & Sons, fruit merchants at 10 North Brink, Wisbech. They have one general servant living in. For many years Ernest and Emmie ran a smallholding, and in the 1939 ID index we find Ernest & Emmy at Dovecote Farm, Terrington St Clement in the Rural District of Marshland, four miles west of Kings Lynn, with Ernest still Managing Director of a fruit & potato merchants. A few years later, we find them "semi-retired" at "Crowland", 120 North Brink, a couple of miles south of the village of Wisbech St Margaret, Cambridgeshire, named as we see after his birthplace village. They are recalled to have regularly sent generous hampers of produce to the Powleys in London during the dark days of wartime rationing and afterwards, into the 1950's. Mum & Nellie's "Aunt Evie" was eventually widowed, and went to live on the north Norfolk coast at Old Hunstanton. It is not known why they called them Tom & Evie; Nellie did offer to explain this, but sadly she passed away before we were able to talk to her. Ernest Hickling died in the Cambridge area (presumably in hospital there) in late 1977 aged 90 and Emmie in the Spilsby, Lincolnshire area likewise in late 1980 when she was 95.

Albert Stanley Hope Green married **Lily May Moule** in 1909 at West Ham. Lily was born in 1889 in Mile End Old Town, East London, where her father John and mother Lily ran the "Grape Vine" public house at 66 White Horse Lane. They had moved to 276 Queen's Road, West Ham by 1901, and John is now an "electrical operative" in those early days of the industry!

In 1911 we find Albert and Lily at 49 Glasgow Road, Plaistow, Essex, he working as a clerk at a Rubber Manufacturer. They have a 10 month old daughter Lily Julie Hope, born in Clerkenwell. A son Albert Edward John was born in 1914 in the West Ham area, but by 1921 the family had moved out to 37 Arsenal Road, Well Hall, Eltham in Kent, with Albert now employed as a civil servant clerk with the Air Ministry at Kingsway in Central London. In 1939 they are at 132 Eltham Road, Woolwich but Albert however, still at the Air Ministry was living in digs at 25 Gascoigne Crescent, Harrogate, Yorkshire presumably due to wartime requirements. Back in London, Albert was probably the one who died in the Sidcup area of Kent in 1956, aged 69, and Lily in late 1960 at 71

Meanwhile back in Tottenham, Edward Arnott Green's wife **Julia Kate** died on 5th January 1907 at Springfield Road aged 57; in her will she left effects of £113-10s to her husband. In the 1911 census just his daughters Emmie and Ethel are with him at number 19, together with his brother Ernest Alfred as we saw above.

Edward Arnott Green was re-married in early 1918 at the age of 64 to widow **Elizabeth Hill McLachlan**. She was born Elizabeth Neighbour in 1875 at Long Stowe, Cambridge, the daughter of Henry Neighbour & Abigail nee Hill, and married William Campbell McLachlan in Strand, central London in 1899. In 1911 she is staying with her mother at 15a Seaford Road, Enfield and working as a maternity nurse; she has a daughter Marjorie born at Bush Hill Park, Enfield. William McLachlan had died in early 1905 at Lewisham.

The 1921 census shows Edward & Elizabeth at 42 Suffolk Road, Ponders End, Enfield, with Edward still working at his brush manufacturing business in St John street, aged 67 and Elizabeth again as a maternity nurse. Her daughter Marjorie, 16, has changed her name to Green and is a drapery counter hand at Selfridges in Oxford Street. Mother Abigail at 75 looks after the house.

Edward Arnott passed away on 10th November 1929 at Suffolk Road aged 75. In his will he left effects total £556-5s to his widow Elizabeth. It is not known whether the erstwhile family home at 19, Springfield Road was retained by any of the children after his re-marriage, or was then disposed of. Perhaps it was ever only rented, as was still very common then? It still survives, but by March 2006 had been heavily modernised, was somewhat shabby, and for sale. **Elizabeth** died in 1952 in the Edmonton area, aged 77.

K.A. Jagers

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