

The story of our Jagers family

1) Introduction

My parents, Leslie Arthur Jagers and Constance Julia Powley were born and brought up in Walthamstow, the "Healthy" suburb of northeast London. They married there in 1939, after a courtship typically prolonged by the financial insecurity of the times, then sealed by the inevitability of war, with its attendant partings and tragedies. This is the story of their two families, as far as we have been able to ascertain; the one quite "ordinary" but no less interesting for that; the other remaining somewhat mysterious even after much speculation followed by careful investigation.



1.1 "You must be Mick's brother then?"

This was the frequent taunt endured during my teenage school years, as a certain rock group came to prominence in the early 1960s (and also for many years afterwards, occasionally still even now). I readily accepted that we could well have been distantly related, as our surname was far from common and we were both Londoners. Indeed, it positively suited on occasions, in the company of their female fans, not to deny that this was the case! My curiosity was aroused to the extent of going to our local library one Saturday afternoon and consulting a volume on the derivation of English surnames. "Jagers" was not specifically mentioned, but "Jagger" was shown as originating in Yorkshire (where it is still by far most commonly found), denoting a seasonal sheep-drover. I assumed that at some stage a family member had migrated south, and in our case picked up an "s" on the end of his name – and left it at that. The pastime of "Family history research" was practically non-existent then, and very much more difficult to carry out than it is nowadays. In any case, teenagers had many other demands on their time – not least of which was following the activities of the "Rolling Stones" and pursuing their female admirers!

Over the subsequent decades it became more socially acceptable to deny any possible link (though I sometimes wished I had a small share of Mick's money!), but still nothing positive was done. The necessary motivation finally came, as very often seems to be the case, following the death of my mother in 1997. Why this should have been so, after so many years of dis-interest, is difficult to explain. However, the result quickly became clear; that for both my father and myself, the study of our forebears greatly assisted the grieving process by enabling us to see the sad event as just another step in an inevitable ongoing cycle – thus placing things in their correct context. For this, if for no other reason, the activity can be thoroughly recommended.

How did we start? A few months after Mum died, Dad went to London for a few days to see his brother Norman and sister Grace, also my cousins on both sides. He came back full of ideas (and a few names already) for looking at our family history. I thought this was an excellent idea, helping to keep Dad occupied, and suggested that we start with Mum's family. Somewhat surprisingly he said no – he wanted to look into his own – far more interesting he said, and so it eventually turned out. In the event, we did Mum's too as we went along, as he had predicted being a classic "text-book" case, useful to us in "learning the ropes" as it were, and we got back quite comfortably to around 1660 with this in just a few months.

Although Family History research is becoming increasingly easier and very much more popular these days, there still seems to be a lingering prevalent "morbidly" about the whole business – perceived by some to be all about "digging up dead bodies". (Having been offered – and declined – the possibility of a close encounter with the mortal remains of my great-great-grandfather in a church crypt in Dublin, we came somewhat nearer to this than expected!). This attitude must surely discourage some people from ever considering the idea. I can now honestly say that this is not in the least bit what it's all about. Though admittedly it does become necessary on occasion to look at death records, or for headstones in a churchyard, this is just another means of gleaning information – and the appeal of what evolves is a celebration not of death, but of birth and, mainly, of life, and how it has changed from generation to generation.

1.2 "And how far back have you gone?"

This question inevitably always follows any revelation of an interest in family history to friends or work colleagues. So inevitable, that the words just seem to tumble out involuntarily, and it is difficult to suppress a wry smile. Everyone knows someone whose brother-in-law's cousin's friend Fred Bloggs has traced his ancestry back to before the Norman Conquest (most probably encountering Royal blood somewhere along the way) "and it only took him twenty-five years". Then, as we try very hard not to look aghast, "I must ask him to give you a few tips!"

It is well known that by judicious use of statistics, everything can be proved beyond doubt. Every (well almost every) person alive today has two parents, four grandparents, and so on. Thus, 2 to the power N ancestors N

generations back, where 2^N rapidly becomes very large and apparently equal to the total population of the British Isles sometime in the reign of Edward II – “therefore we must all be descended from him”. This is of course rendered patently untrue by intermarriage and immigration, both far more common in olden times than is usually supposed, and in our case at least, in not so olden times too. So, yes, it is embarrassing to have to admit that, unlike Fred Bloggs, we have only (so far) progressed back to the 1820’s with Dad’s family, but it has proved even more interesting than expected in the detail along the way (and also avoided the frustrating complication of poring over quaintly-written documents in Latin or Olde English!) It was surely also not until around 1800 that people generally began to move around more, and to do more interesting things other than digging up turnips? In contrast, the social history of the Victorian era is proving to be more interesting than we could ever have imagined.

Being of a statistical mind, I would then go on to question the patronizing suggestion found in many “Family History for Beginners” books that almost anyone might routinely expect to emulate Fred Bloggs. I wonder firstly, what proportion of researchers starting out so hopefully actually manage to “get back” to say 1066, or even 1566, and secondly, whether they can be *absolutely certain* of all the intermediate links, or is there some element of doubt or guesswork involved? Such issues are not even hinted at in any of the books we consulted – it would not do to discourage their dear readers! At the end of this diatribe, most people probably wish they had never asked “how far back have you got?”

1.3 The first faltering steps

All the books recommend starting off by pumping ones elderly relatives for as much information as possible. In our case that was not a great deal, as unfortunately we had left it 20 years too late for most, and anyway they all seem to have suffered from the universal Victorian parents’ doctrine that children should not ask too many questions, and even if they had tried, very little in the way of illuminating answers would be forthcoming.

Some years ago, my mother and aunt Nellie (a Powley by marriage) put together a Powley “family tree” going back to around 1880, in response to my repeated requests – the children of the large families were of course shown by their familiar names Gwen, Evie etc; so it was quite a revelation to find later that, for instance “Auntie Gwen” was really Gwendoline Pearl Powley, but easier when you get used to it! I also learned for the first time that my mother’s father had committed suicide during the Second World War; though the circumstances were such that he was afterwards acknowledged honourably, the stigma attaching to this probably meant that further probing would bring back too-painful memories.

On dad’s side, there were a total of just three old letters found by my cousin Pat Felgate, and several interesting photographs dating back to around 1890, some kept by her mother Grace Farr (nee Jagggers) and others by my uncle Norman Jagggers. My own personal recollection since childhood has been that my great-grandfather William Jagggers was “coachman to Sir William Waterlow” (of the London-based printing company family), I imagined somewhere out in rural Essex. The letters aroused great curiosity; “Grandfather was Irish, I think”, “he was a bit of a mystery, take too long to explain”, “there were always background rumours of Waterlow family involvement”, “if you look into the records, you can expect a shock or two along the way”. This was of course all totally irresistible! Though he did not admit it, I’m sure it was a little bit of a shock to my father (who thought he was a pure-bred Londoner through and through, and proud of it) to discover that not just one, but *both* his grandfathers were born in Ireland! And that was not the only one by any means, but this is jumping ahead too much.

By now knowing the names of his four grandparents, we were delighted to find that not only was the 1881 census for London available locally (at Stockport library) but also that it was fully name-indexed. This was surely going to be too easy! Elation was short-lived as we only found two of the four – just the husband of one pair and the wife of the other. It was to be some time further before we tracked down the other two; and they had been living in the same house as it happened, but that is all part of the mystery!

One of the most enjoyable aspects of investigating our family history has been to travel around the London area and several other places visiting and photographing the various family houses and workplaces, many of which still survive, though inevitably in some cases very much altered over the years. To savour the individual character of the different areas where they lived, and maybe even walk the very pavements that they walked daily, really served to bring parts of the story to life for us. In order to avoid cluttering up this narrative with references, note that all such relevant detail and supporting evidence is contained in a separate accompanying database. Traditional-style “family-tree” diagrams are also included, for clarity and reference.

2) The Story of our Jagggers Family

2.1 Origin and distribution of the surname

To consider first the origin of our name, the Mormon Church’s International Genealogical Index (IGI) directs us not to the root form “Jagger”, the relatively common Yorkshire surname denoting a herdsman, but unexpectedly to the more

obscure “Giggins”, quite separate, and no doubt an “Americanized” corruption. In this, the name Jagers is grouped together with Jager, Jaeger, Jagers, Geiger etc, versions which are much more common in continental Europe, and all derived from the German “Jager” denoting a hunter or huntsman. So, if we were of English origin, we would all be called “Hunter”, and tracing our family history thereby much more difficult due to the sheer numbers. In some respects, we often had the opposite problem, that of finding anyone at all. The Irish version is Guigan, leading to the common McGuigan over there. Mick Jagger’s origins certainly lie with the Yorkshire version of the name, so straight away we see that there is no connection whatever between our families!

Next, we looked at the distribution of the surname in the British Isles, and it is indeed relatively rare. The 1881 census name-index shows 202 persons with the exact spelling “Jagers” in England and Wales, of which some 160 (or about 30 families) are resident within the modern Greater London “Home Counties” area. By 1901, there are a total 261. Now that all of the censuses 1841 – 1901 inclusive are fully indexed and available on Internet, it is interesting to compare these numbers with the other surnames featuring prominently in our family history, as follows (all data is for England & Wales only):-

Year	Jagers	Jagers *	Jager	Jaeger	Jagger	Hammond	Maskell	Cockram
1841	127	18	49	5	1152	8904	722	734
1851	72	2	59	3	1309	10279	1049	821
1861	151	6	76	19	1574	11463	1129	943
1871	179	15	104	30	1861	13283	1365	1232
1881	202	6	120	37	2352	16836	2103	1019
1891	236	27	82	53	2428	17644	1931	1416
1901	261	9	138	88	2724	19336	2303	1500

* many of these are probably mis-spelling of Jagers, accounting for the erratic variation

Year	Waterlow	Critchett	Fereday	Worts	Powley	Ade	Wilson	Fletcher	Green
1841	32	58	270	104	647	171	51906	17925	47700
1851	58	29	308	128	668	154	58861	19917	53577
1861	64	67	341	136	661	153	68638	23292	60112
1871	80	73	391	186	807	167	81637	26336	70024
1881	105	66	418	218	926	122	100200	32421	82208
1891	86	70	562	221	1098	163	108034	33729	88936
1901	110	76	574	212	1157	145	121365	36807	96730

Note how, in general, the numbers increase at around 10-20% with each decade, indicating increasing life expectancy (especially for infants) due to vast improvements in living conditions during the period. The erratic variation of Jagers in the period 1841-51-61 is strange, and not really understood. We are fortunate that the story also includes several other relatively rare surnames, making them easy to track down with certainty.

The IGI lists parish register entries for many places back to around 1560, and there are several early examples of the name Jagers in Essex. These were no doubt immigrants from mainland Europe who did not move far from where they landed. A recent scan of the Greater London telephone directories showed just 33 entries.

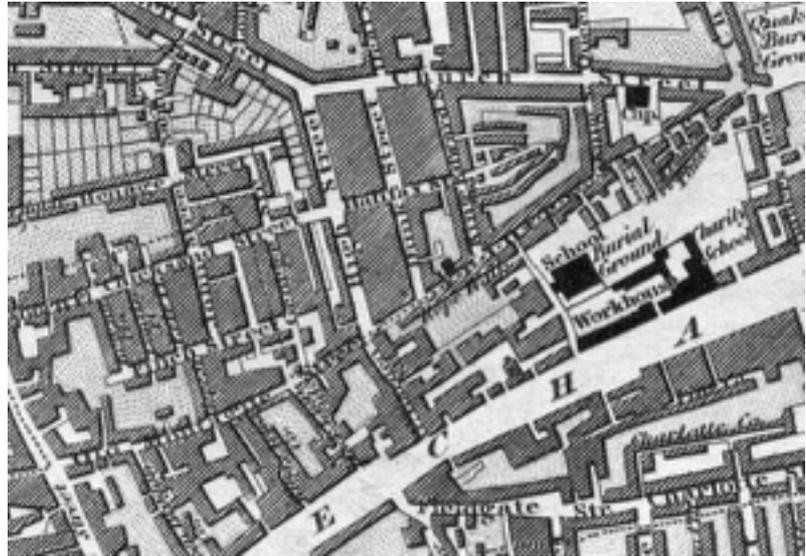
In the period 1841 – 1881, as shown by the censuses and civil registration, by far the majority of “Jagers” are found in the East End of London, in Wapping, Whitechapel, Stepney and Shadwell, which then surely must be regarded as the origin of the name in England. There is also a cluster of families around Ware, Hertfordshire, probably descended from one who had moved there to better himself. There are isolated incidences of individuals found scattered around other places; at Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, South Shields and Ipswich, together with Tregaron in west Wales, and Athy, Dundalk and Londonderry in Ireland. Lastly (and most curiously), there is a long established family unit in the rural district of Tullamore in County Offaly, Ireland. As far as we know, none of these have any direct connection with our family.

2.2 Family History to 1840

The earliest definite reference to a member of our family found so far is for John Jagers – my great-great-grandfather. He was a sugar refiner in East London, and in the spring of 1839 became manager of Ede Tanner’s sugar and treacle works at 17, Old Montague Street, Whitechapel. This very useful information came to us from Michael Shoemaker of Eugene, Oregon, USA, whose wife is a direct descendant of Tanner, as a result of a speculative contact made via his comprehensive family history website. His family has the diaries and a copy of the autobiography of Stanley Ince, great-grandson of Ede Tanner, written in 1903, from which most of the information we have about this period was gleaned. This clearly states that Tanner (or as it is sometimes spelt in the records, Tannen) was a German immigrant in East London, like many others at that time, and went on to build up a very successful business at Old Montague Street. He probably came over from Germany about 1818, and his children were born in Mile End Old Town from 1819 to 1826.

This extract from Greenwood’s 1827 map shows Old Montague Street running from near bottom left to centre, the first narrow thoroughfare north of the Whitechapel Road. No older buildings survive in the street nowadays. The London directories for 1826 show the refinery in the charge of one Frederick Zabel, another German, who moved on to larger premises nearby a couple of years later; Tanner probably took over at Old Montague St then.

However, one day in the spring of 1839 as Ede Tannen/Tanner was driving across London Bridge in a trap, he was thrown out, presumably due to a wheel having gone into a pothole. He broke two ribs and was taken to Bart’s Hospital, but later died there of his injuries. His death is registered with the clear spelling Tannen.



The refinery business was inherited by his daughter, Mary Ann Susanna Tanner, at that time unmarried, who then appointed John Jagers as her manager at the works. According to his age shown at death around 11 years later, he was born in 1817 or 1818 (the 1841 census entry supports this), so was aged around only 21 when he secured the post. We deduce that he must have been already well known to Miss Tanner, so that she could be sure he possessed the necessary skills at this young age. Or maybe he just appeared to be somewhat older and supremely confident, using charm and guile to win her over? In view of what transpires later, he certainly seems to be possessed of these talents, plus the “Gift of the Gab” as they often used to say in East London, in abundance! He was maybe the son of a refiner, and had grown up in the business.

Michael Shoemaker takes this possible connection somewhat further, citing that “Roman Catholic Jaeger, Jaegers and Danner, Dahner families are often found near one another in the late 1700’s around Mannheim in Germany, also near the Dutch border SW of Monchengladbach. It may be that Jagers (i.e. John’s father) was an associate or possibly even a relative of Ede Tanner”

So this raises the possibility that Jagers senior was, like Ede Tanner, a recent German immigrant. Though we have to date found no direct evidence of this, the fact that Jagers is a name of German origin, and as we see below, many German sugar refiners came to London in the early 1800’s, this does seem likely.

We searched in vain for a baptism of our John Jagers in East London in the period 1813 – 1821. Many of the Anglican parish registers for these years have been transcribed onto the IGI index, but there are no candidates for him whatsoever shown. Any possible name mis-spellings were investigated, and in the course of this we noted that some parishes which are claimed to be “on IGI” do in fact have quite large gaps, for instance St George-in-the-East baptisms are not indexed at all for 1815-26, precisely the period of interest to us! This particular omission and others are however covered by the meticulous indexes of the Docklands Family History Society, available on the Internet, but we drew a blank here also. Those remaining original registers such as St Paul, Shadwell and St Anne, Limehouse not yet covered by either IGI or DFHS were examined at the London Metropolitan Archives. Finally, the registers for the German churches in London have also been indexed, available through the Anglo-German Family History Society, but here again there were no candidates for our man. The AGFHS name indexes also cover such topics as shipping and immigration records, charity and poor-law cases etc, but nothing significant for us was found in these either.

This total absence of any information relating to our family in the known surviving records for the whole of East London strongly points toward a German origin, rather than an indigenous East End family unit. When we finally found John Jagers in the 1841 census, this indicates that he was indeed “born in foreign parts”. This being the case, we are unlikely to be able to identify him and his parents uniquely in Germany, as his name was no doubt “Anglicized” after arrival in London, from (Johann or Johannes) Jager or Jaeger, and there are very many candidates for his birth in Germany as such.

2.2.1 The business of Sugar Refining

We looked a little into the early-Victorian sugar industry. One commonly held view seems to be that sugar-making was then a very skilled activity which tended to be carried on within family units, handed down from generation to generation. Thus not apparently something which the average young man, upon waking one morning, might decide upon as a potential lifetime career. However, this was by no means universally true, and by the 1830's in London at least, seems often *not* to be the case. Around that time, sugar refining was just embarking on a period of transition from a typical small-scale domestic set-up to fully industrialized manufacturing process, but this was to occupy most of the ensuing forty years.

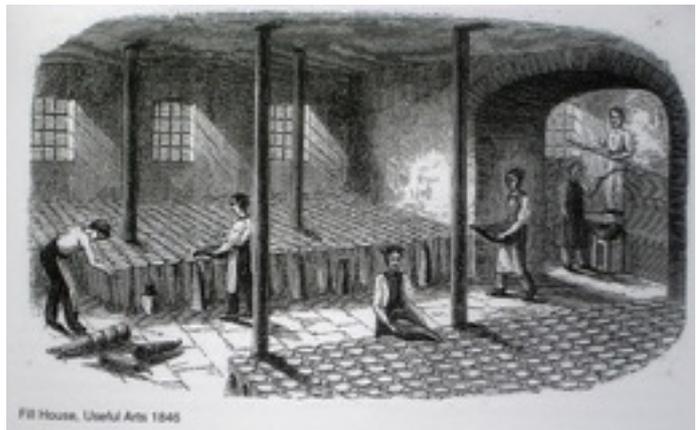
An interesting snippet gleaned from the annals of sugar manufacturing is that a primitive refining process apparently still carried on in parts of rural India and elsewhere is called "Jaggery". Maybe our families' contribution is more than we thought, and thus immortalized? Scope for further interesting research here – but where to start (and how)?



2.2.2 The German Sugar Refiners of East London

A London directory of 1841 lists a total of 42 sugar refiners, all located within an area less than a mile square, north of the Thames and eastwards from the Tower of London, that is in Wapping, Shadwell, Whitechapel and Stepney. Many of the owners have German names. Their forebears had sugar-making businesses in several German towns and cities; there were certainly Jager's so engaged in Hannover and Bremen at least.

What is now called the "Hanoverian Period" of English history started around 1715, when successive Dukes of Hannover became also Kings of England. Apparently they had a sweet tooth and liked their sugar! During this regime, many citizens enjoyed free passage between the two places, and so some of the German refiners came to London and set up their businesses close to the Tower, convenient to supply their royal customers.



Both these and their fellow refiners who stayed in Germany relied of course on a supply of raw cane sugar imported from the West Indies, but this vital supply route to mainland Europe was blockaded by the British as a consequence of the "Revolutionary Wars" waged by Napoleon from 1791 onwards. Most of the remaining German sugar bakers then fled en masse to England in the period 1795 – 1820 in an attempt to preserve their livelihood, and settled mainly here near to their compatriots in Whitechapel. Evidently with superior business acumen, they quickly took over established small refineries from the indigenous owners, and started new, larger ones. Almost to a man, they seem to have wooed and married local girls too, a fairly comprehensive takeover! They are being researched by members of the Anglo-German Family History Society, whose Brian Mawer runs an excellent website. We found to date at least five sugar refiners or bakers with the name Jager (or variants) in the Whitechapel area, as detailed in separate notes, but none can as yet be definitely linked with our family.

2.2.3 So what do we know about John Jagers so far?

We know from the above that he was in East London at least from around 1838 and that as we shall see, both of his future business partners James Worts and Caleb Fereday were also living there then. And that he almost certainly had a younger sister Ann. From his children's naming pattern, his parents were maybe a William and an Elizabeth, who died in the late 1830's possibly leaving John and Ann a fair sum of money.

There is only one William Jagers in the index that fits here, and we obtained the death certificate speculatively. He died on 21st September 1839 at 13 Church Street, Mile End New Town. His widow was indeed an Elizabeth, present at the death. She herself passed away at Church Street just a few months later, on 17th February 1840, aged 60, occupation shown as Shop Keeper. We had hoped that the death registrant would be either a son John or a daughter Ann, but this

was not to be; the informant was the local coroner. Church Street can be seen on the above Greenwood map extract, near top right; no.13 was on the north side, opposite the chapel marked “chp”. William’s age at death was 70, seemingly rather old to be John’s father, but possible as his wife was much younger. There is no record of a birth for him in east London around 1770, nor of a marriage to an Elizabeth. His occupation is stated as a “Floor Cloth Painter”; these were a form of carpeting made from old sail-cloth canvas and decorated with oil paints. Here are a pair of fine examples.....



They were used in houses right across the social spectrum but at this period mainly by the wealthy, and a good artist could command high prices. The Electoral Registers, first produced in 1832 as a result of the Reform Act, also the Land Tax registers list William at Church Street from at least 1831 to 1839. These indicate that he owned the property and that this was rated at more than £10 in annual rent, so he was evidently quite comfortably off. Lastly, it was noted that his abode in Church Street adjoined a sugar refinery on the east side, that of Burnell & Geis (later Richard Burnell & Sons); John Jagers may have learnt the trade there. We can draw no definite conclusions from all this.

Looking at marriages in Germany, the IGI lists two possibilities, both in the Rheinland region of Prussia, around 10-15 miles west of Duisberg, that is, in one of the sugar-refining areas specifically mentioned by Michael Shoemaker. One is of **Wilhelm Jagers to Elisabeth Ter Steegen** at the Evangelisch church, Vluyn on 14th February 1814, which would fit well with our John Jagers being born in 1817. The other is a **Wilhelm Jaegers to Elisabeth Hoeltgens** at Neukirchen Moors on 25th January 1794, surely not “our” Elisabeth at age just 14! Of course, he could have been one and the same man, married in 1794, subsequently widowed and remarried 1814. However, we don’t know how comprehensive or otherwise is the coverage of the IGI index for Germany in this period?

2.2.4 Is this the origin of the Waterlow connection?

There is one other small morsel of speculation, which should be mentioned here. The Waterlow family of printers and stationers in London became closely involved with our family throughout the last 30 years of the nineteenth century, and indeed seem to have shown considerable benevolence towards them. Why might this have been?

In the biography of Sir Sydney Waterlow, onetime Lord Mayor of London, it is recorded that he spent his earliest years living with his paternal grandmother Sarah in Mile End Old Town, Whitechapel. At the tender age of 4 years (around 1826) being evidently already of an inquisitive mind, he wandered un-noticed into a sugar refinery building, and was fortuitously rescued from a certain fate amongst the boiling cauldrons. To the young Sydney this would have seemed just like a wonderful adventure, and probably completely forgotten by the next day. His grandmother, no doubt embarrassed by the incident, may not even have told his parents about it; she was after all still to be entrusted with his care for a further three years.

So who then told this story to the biographer? We think it must surely have been our own Charles Hammond Fletcher, son of John Jagers’ widow, who was Sir Sydney’s faithful butler for over thirty years; there are other anecdotes in the book for which he alone would appear to have been the only one able to supply the information. And how would he have known about the sugar refinery incident more than 80 years previously? Surely only if the story had been handed down through his own family.

According to the land tax records 1822-29 the widowed Sarah Waterlow lived in a house on or near the main Mile End Road, owned by the Governors & Wardens of the Portuguese (Jews) Hospital, which was immediately to the west of Bancroft’s Hospital, about a mile east of Church Street. This extract from Greenwood’s map shows the area.....



There are still some Georgian era town houses here, adjacent to the Half Moon pub, just west of Queen Mary College.

As for the sugar refineries, Pigot’s 1825-26 directory lists a total of 25 refiners in Whitechapel and Mile End. 24 of these are in or to the west of Church Street, up to the boundary with Aldgate. The one exception is Holtzmeyer’s, way out east at Union Row just beyond Bow Church, about 1½ miles from Old Town. So that of Burnell & Geis at 12 Church Street was in fact the nearest to the Waterlow home in 1826, albeit around a mile distant.

2.2.5 Caleb Fereday

Mary Ann Susannah Tannen, born in **Mile End Old Town** on 29th June 1819 to Ede Tannen (or Tanner), sugar baker and his wife Frances, married Caleb Fereday in 1840.

According to the Stanley Ince diaries, this gentleman was born in Birmingham in 1815, thus he was around 2 years older than John Jagers. His surname is quite unusual in England, and indeed the great majority of Feredays were to be found in the West Midlands area, around Wolverhampton and the Black Country. His mother died at his birth, and he was entrusted by his father Thomas into the care of a servant. He was taken to London, and eventually trained as a boot and shoemaker in the East End. This is somewhat at variance with his later census entries, all of which show him

as having been born in the parish of St George in the East (Stepney), but quite possibly he knew no different. “He did not see any of his brothers until age 12, then one of them, John, came to London and found him, the only one he ever saw”. We looked at the Fereday family in some detail, firstly since their story is another interesting window on the social history of the times, and secondly since they also seem to have received the Waterlow family benevolence in their later years. Further detail can be found in Appendix (A) to this document.

Caleb met his future wife Mary Tannen at their local Roman Catholic chapel, but as Catholic marriages had then only recently been made legal and still required special arrangement, they were perforce married in the Anglican church of the Holy Trinity Minories in the Liberty of the Tower of London, in September 1840. The surname of both Mary and her father is shown on the certificate clearly as Tannen. At that time, Caleb was still a shoemaker living in Cable Street, Shadwell. However, in accordance with the law at that time, the legal ownership of the Tanner refinery at Old Montague Street would have passed from Mary to Caleb upon their marriage. So here is one “Sugar refiner” who did not grow up into an established family business!

By the time of the June 1841 census, Caleb is shown with his wife living on the works premises at Old Montague Street. It is surprising in view of the above that Caleb gives his occupation as “scum boiler”, one of the lowlier tasks in the process of sugar refining, then usually carried out by women. No doubt, despite the legal technicalities, his wife effectively “wore the trousers” in this household. Indeed, the Ince diaries tell us that “Fereday did not understand the business”. And this was eventually to be his downfall!

John Jagers is not with them in Whitechapel in the 1841 census. He has already moved on, but for a long time we knew not where to. Perhaps Caleb Fereday, surveying his new inheritance, had decided that he no longer needed the services of Jagers as manager at the refinery, and had dismissed him? If so, and considering the likely character of our man, this would no doubt have given rise to a simmering resentment of the newcomer on “his” patch.

In 1846, the Post Office directory for London records the name of the business at 17 Old Montague Street as “Ferraday & Tanner, Treacle Manufacturer, proprietor Miss Matilda Tanner”. She was Mary’s younger sister, Matilda Sarah Tannen born in **Mile End Old Town** in 1826, interestingly about the same time as the “Waterlow” incident.

2.2.6 Enigmatic Ipswich

One of the first things we learned about my great-grandfather William Jagers (John Jagers’ son) was from his 1881 census entry; it says he was born in Ipswich, Suffolk. Already doubting this, we checked the original, hand-written version, and this too quite clearly says Ipswich. Soon after, we found out that he was in fact born in Dublin, and accordingly wrote in an earlier version of this story:-

“(the 1881 census entry)...caused us to spend a lot of time in this pleasant Suffolk town trying to establish an apparently non-existent connection. We thought that the enumerator was deaf; maybe William had mumbled “Irish” in a thick accent. The 1871 man got it absolutely right as Dublin; a pity we didn’t look at this until some time later!”

So for the next six years or so, we thought that Ipswich was a “red herring”, and on at least two occasions I nearly threw out all our notes relating to that place; however something was telling me that I should keep them! In late 2004, when the searchable name indexes to the 1871 and 1891 censuses became available, we found not just one, but two more clues pointing us back towards Ipswich for at least some part of our family, during the late 1850s to mid 1860s! We then found our people easily in the 1861 census there, and also learned for the first time that John Jagers’ future wife Elizabeth Wilson was born nearby. This then led to the 1841 census, and another surprise find.....

2.3 Ipswich, part 1: 1840 – 1841, and a brief interlude in Norwich

In June 1841, the census shows us that John Jagers’ other later business partner James Worts was living at Bird’s Garden, in the parish of St. Nicholas, Ipswich. He is working as a sugar refiner, and has his family with him. Until finding this, we had absolutely no idea where he came from. At the house next door, as well as James Hawes, a “scum boiler” (refiner’s assistant) and his wife, there is an Ann Jagers, aged between 20 and 24, living on her own means, and who was not born in the county of Suffolk. She must surely be John Jagers’ sister, probably a couple of years younger than him, and evidently quite wealthy. She is not shown as having been born “in foreign parts”, and taking this literally, if John Jagers was born in Germany and Ann in East London, this implies that their parents came to London around 1818. We do not know what subsequently happened to Ann Jagers. There is no record of a marriage or death in Suffolk during the 1840’s, and she does not appear in the 1851 census in England. Perhaps she went to Dublin with the others; one source (as yet unverified) says she died there in 1845, aged 26 and unmarried.

On publication of the 1841 census index in early 2006, we finally found John Jagers himself in Norwich, Norfolk on census night; he is lodging at Lake’s Yard, St Augustine’s Street, occupation “Molasses Manufacturer”. He is sharing the house with one Samuel Lake, proprietor of a bricks business, and after whose family Lake’s Yard is probably named. As Samuel was still there and in business until 1854 at least, we can infer that this man was *not* fleeced of all his money by John Jagers (though he may well have tried, before moving on elsewhere!) Next door there was a Robert Wilson, horse keeper, who is possibly Elizabeth Wilson’s elder brother (see below), and such a connection may then be how John and Elizabeth originally came to know each other.

We look first at James Worts' history. Then following, that of Elizabeth Wilson.....

2.3.1 The family of James Worts

James Worts was born at Lawford near Manningtree in north-east Essex, around six miles south of Ipswich, in early 1806, the eighth and last known child of Robert Worts, grocer and treacle-maker, and his wife Mary nee Cooper. For more detail on the Worts family, see Appendix (B).

By 1827, like so many others, James Worts had come to London to seek his fortune. On 19th April that year he married Mary Ann Bloomfield at St. Pancras Old Church. Mannister Cooper Worts, an elder brother of James, was a witness. Bloomfield is a very common East Anglia surname, but the 1841 census says she was not born in Suffolk, so is probably also from North Essex. Their second child, Elizabeth, was christened at the same church two years later; James' occupation is shown as a baker, and they have by this time moved out to the Whitechapel area of east London.

The "Times" records that James Worts, baker of Whitechapel Road was declared bankrupt on the 19th August 1829, and the London Standard of 2nd October 1830 reports more fully: that as a marriage portion he had received £300 in 1827 with which he opened a baker's shop in Willstead Street, Somer's Town, St Pancras..... He contracted large orders with flour suppliers but paid them little money..... He then moved out to Whitechapel where he carried on in the same way..... In July 1829 he is quoted as saying to a friend that business was very bad, and he threatened to flee to America..... The conversation was reported to a creditor; James was arrested and committed to the debtor's prison, where he was to remain until around April 1832.

By 1836 James and Mary were living in Stepney when fourth known child Mary Ann was christened in April at the Wycliffe Chapel, Philpot Street. Around 1827 this was known as the "Scotch Church" and was later to become Congregational. We purchased the certificate for the next child, Jane, born in April 1838, to obtain an address; it is 10 New Norfolk Street, Stepney, which runs westwards from Philpot St, north of the main Commercial Road, and east of New Road, in the parish of Mile End Old Town. Most interestingly, the father James' occupation is now shown as "Porter", three years at most before he was a sugar refiner, demonstrating that apparently (almost) anyone could become a refiner in those days with suitable motivation and probably numerous peeks into the inner workings of the industry in Stepney in the course of his portage activities.

A further child James was born to James and Mary Ann in July 1840; they were still in Stepney then. So they only moved to Ipswich later that year, or early in 1841. There were already in Ipswich two or three close relatives of James Worts established in various trades in St. Nicholas Street, and it would probably have seemed as good a place as any for James to do likewise. We assume for now that John Jagggers and Ann moved there with him from Stepney at the same time.

We will see that James Worts probably did not initially go to Dublin with John Jagggers in late 1841, but had certainly joined him there by late 1844.

2.3.2 The Wilson and Truss families of Hadleigh, Suffolk

John Jagggers' bride Elizabeth Wilson was the daughter of the delightfully-named Truss Wilson and Hannah, nee Johnson, born in the small village of Layham, 2 miles south of Hadleigh in April 1825. We were led to this by her 1861 census entry; before this we did not have the slightest idea where she had come from. This and her father's unique first name made her family very easy to trace. Truss was of course his mother's maiden surname; both the Wilson and Truss families had lived in Hadleigh since at least around 1700. Elizabeth Wilson's grandparents Thomas Wilson (who had a drapery business in the town) and Elizabeth Truss were married in the parish church there in February 1784. They had seven known children of which Truss was the third (one of twins), born October 1788. For fuller details of the Wilson and Truss families, see Appendix (C).

Truss Wilson in due course met and married Hannah Johnson, the daughter of William Johnson and Mary (nee Last) of Naughton near Hadleigh, in November 1810. They too had seven known children, the first two born in Hadleigh and the rest in Layham, of which Elizabeth was the last. Her baptism record at Layham church gives her father's occupation as "Occupier"!

By 1841, Truss and his family have moved down the road to Ipswich. The census shows them living between Handford Road and the rather insalubrious area known as The Orchard, in the parish of St. Peter, and Truss is now shown having occupation cow-keeper. This abode is only a short distance from where James Worts and Ann Jagggers (and we presume John Jagggers too, at some point) were living, which explains how John and Elizabeth were able to meet. You will note, though, that in June 1841 Elizabeth Wilson was only just over 16 years of age (the census actually shows her as 15)!

2.4 The Dublin Years – 1841 to 1849

There were several small sugar refining businesses in Dublin around 1830, though none are important enough to be mentioned in the trade directories of the time. In August 1833, it is recorded that there was a vast and calamitous fire at the Custom House stores on the North Quay, in which amongst other goods, around 800 hogsheads (casks) of raw sugar were destroyed. This would represent probably one or two shiploads from the West Indies, a few weeks supply of raw material for around four typical small family-run refineries of the time.

From the above, we can see that an enterprising young man, who took the trouble to learn about the latest technological developments and presumably funded by family capital, would be keen to set up a new, modern facility in a city such as Dublin. Sugar there was still a relatively expensive luxury, almost wholly imported from the main centres of UK production – Liverpool, Greenock in Scotland, and – predominantly – the Whitechapel district of London.

How did we first find out that John Jagers went there? A chance find in an 1848 Dublin trade directory at Manchester Central Library, while we were looking for Dad's other grandfather, William Hammond there (the one we were told was "Irish" – and we never did find him!) This was indeed the first of a series of such incidences whereby we came to say "if you want to find Jagers, look for a Hammond" (or vice versa).

1. John Jagers marries, and sets up in business

On the first day of the new year 1842, a Saturday, the minister at the parish church of St. Nicholas Without, Dublin, opened a brand-new register book to record the marriage of John Jagers and his bride Elizabeth Wilson; entry no 1 on the first page. The marriage was by Banns, indicating that John and Elizabeth had arrived in Dublin from Ipswich at least a few weeks earlier, probably in the late autumn of 1841. In view of her young age, it might be that they "eloped" there to avoid the necessity for her parents' consent, which may not have been readily forthcoming, but it seems that in any case the business opportunity enabled them to get away there together. In 1842 the church was situated in the north transept of St Patrick's Cathedral, seen here in 2002.....



Long before we knew about John Jagers' origins in East London, or that Elizabeth Wilson came from Ipswich, we were looking for any evidence of them in Dublin. As an exploratory exercise, we delved further back into the parish registers of St. Nicholas Without. There was nothing of direct interest to us (as we now know anyway, with the benefit of hindsight), but the books provided a fascinating insight into the social conditions of the times. For some reason (maybe connected with its location just outside the old city boundary) there are a disproportionate number of burials compared to baptisms and marriages – maybe five times the number that might be expected. Around 1810, some two-thirds of the burial entries have no names – "a poor man, woman". "A child left onstreet". "A soldier's child". "A body found in the river". "A corpse left at the churchyard gate". "Two bodies put over the churchyard wall". Most of the above were undoubtedly to avoid the burial charges. Only after around 1814 do the majority have names, and many are still infants:- "Brophy's child", "Mulligans child".

As well as the formal registers, there survives a "burials book" started 1817, a notebook full of random jottings, doodles and blots, apparently compiled by an exasperated church clerk. The years are somewhat mixed up, very difficult to read, and the odd marriage or baptism is included amongst the burials. The grim statistics of the time are relieved by a certain humour, as it is apparent the clerk was not being paid by the minister for the burials for some months in 1817 (probably why the notebook was started). Eventually there is an entry: "settled with the Rev. Letham, £21 – 0 – 10d" (a considerable sum then) "Amen says the clerk in the dark, Amen!". Suitably admonished, the minister thereafter records on almost every page: "The minister has settled with the Clarke...."

It was certainly good to find the marriage (in that very same original register rather than on microfilm, and without the usual chore of searching through hundreds of entries) after many months of checking other sources in both London and Dublin. The entry is of interest in several respects: both John *and* Elizabeth are shown as occupation: Sugar Refiner; the latter being most unusual since most women have "none" or "----" shown here then (it has to be said that at the tender age of only 16, and having been brought up in a rural Suffolk farming community, Elizabeth's knowledge of sugar refining was probably very close to zero!). Also, both John and Elizabeth are shown as resident in the same house, 17 Bull Alley, so the whole set-up seems to be quite ahead of the times!

This thoroughfare is nowadays known as Bull Alley Street, directly opposite St. Patrick's Cathedral, and the directories show all the properties in it were occupied by licensed victuallers around 1841, no.17 being "John Jacob". It might be thought that John Jacob sounds a little bit like "John Jagers" so maybe he had two jobs! Otherwise, our people were no doubt renting rooms here, above the commercial premises. We cannot now tell what they were like, as the whole street was completely cleared away and redeveloped in 1901 by the Iveagh Trust.....



Unfortunately, the marriage entry does not give the information we would have most liked to see, the name and occupation of John's father, since this is not generally shown in the Church of Ireland registers until after 1845. Another unusual feature is that there are no witnesses' names. Although subsequent entries generally have them, they are left blank here, possibly forgetfulness on the part of the minister when starting the new book. John's surname is clearly and unambiguously printed as "Jaggers", but his signature looks much more like "Juggins"!

The next register entry we found is for the baptism of John and Elizabeth's first child, son John, at the church of St. Catherine, Thomas St, just a quarter mile or so west of Bull Alley, on 30th November 1844. The picture shows this splendid church in 2002....



Only John is shown as a sugar refiner this time, and the residence is 32, Earl Street. We did not previously know about this child.

Earl-street, South.	
<i>From Meath-street to Thomas-court.</i>	
<i>P. St. Catherine.—St. Catherine's W.</i>	
<i>A Police Division.—City.</i>	
1	Tenements,
2	Tenements,
3	Quinn, Edward, dairv.
↓ ~~~~~ ↓	
28 and 29	Tenements and yards,
30 and 31	Owens, Daniel, provid.
	dealer,
32 and 33,	Worths and Jaggers, sug.
	refiners, 40£, 11
34	Bannon, James, and Co. rectify
	distillers, spirit dealers, and
	dial manufacturers,
35	Fogarty, Edward, starch and far

The first occurrence of the name Jaggers in the Dublin trade directories is about this time, in an 1845 edition (published late 1844), and provides more detail of John's activities: it is for "Worths & Jaggers", sugar manufacturers, at 32, Earl Street South.

This is the only refinery operator in Dublin listed at this time. As his name comes first (though mis-spelt in this and some later directories), James Worths is evidently by now the senior partner, who lived next door at 33 Earl Street.

We think that John Jaggers started the business here and that James Worths came over to join him in 1844. Perhaps the latter's refinery in Ipswich was not doing too well, or, more likely, he had sold up perhaps to a competitor and so was able to invest the proceeds in expanding in Dublin. The Earl Street refinery seems to have been a relatively large business, with the premises attracting a rateable value of £40, higher than most in the area.

The partnership between James Worths and John Jaggers continued, and by late 1848 James was living in a smart house, "Anglesea Lodge", 49 Cork Street, instead of on the works premises. Most of the surviving buildings in Earl St are mid to late Victorian houses, but there is the odd fragment of older grey stone walling which may have been part of the refinery buildings. The relevant part of Cork Street was flattened and redeveloped around the 1950's

About a year after starting the partnership with James Worths, John Jaggers clearly felt able to set up shop on his own account also. The sugar refinery of "John Jaggers & Co", later shown sometimes as "Jaggers & Fereday", appears for the first time in an 1846 directory at 2, Princes Street South, Dublin. These premises had a rateable value of only £12, but were in a relatively poor district close to the City Quay on the River Liffey (directly opposite the Custom House), from where he would receive his raw cane shipments, unloaded directly over the side of the "West Indiamen" into horse-drawn waggons. There are several very evocative paintings and early photographs of the quayside activities here at about this time. This one depicts vessels moored near the end of Princes Street, looking westwards (inland)



The same directory (published late 1845) shows John Jaggers' residence as 49, Great Brunswick Street. This was a main thoroughfare leading eastwards out of the city towards the canal dock and Ringsend, and is nowadays known as Pearse Street. No. 49 was just a few doors along from St. Mark's church, and about 200 yards' walk from the refinery. However, by Autumn 1846 he had moved about half a mile further east along the street to a newly

Prince's-street, South.	
<i>From City-quay to Townsend-street.</i>	
<i>P. St. Mark.—College W.</i>	
<i>B Police Division.—City.</i>	
1	D'Arcy, Peter, and Co. coal office and commission agents, 10£.
2	Jaggers & Fereday, sugar refin. 12£.
<i>...here Gloucester-street, South, intersects..</i>	
3 and 4	Walsh, Mrs. each 10£.
5	Mitchell, Blayne, stores—office, 12£
<i>Abbey-street</i>	
6	Kelly and Wilson, horse shoers
7	Bagot, A. and J. wine, tea, and general merch. & 28 William-st. 43£.
8	7£.



built Georgian-style house at 52, Queens Square East. John and Elizabeth's second child, son William (my great grandfather, and the central figure in our family story for the next sixty years) was born in the new house on 15th October 1846. He was christened at St. Mark's (pictured right) exactly one month later.

In an 1848 directory, John Jagers' other business partner Caleb Fereday is also shown as resident at the Queen's Square house. As we have seen, Caleb would have known John Jagers from their time at Old Montague Street, Whitechapel, and probably James Worts also.

— Thomas, solicitor, 60, Stephen's green, east
 Jager, R. esq. 4 Pembroke street, upper
 Jagers, John, & Co. sugar refiners,—office and works,
 Princes street, south, City quay—residence, 52
 Queen's square, east
 James, Benjamin R. esq. 9 Cavendish row
 — Francis E. esq. 9 Cavendish row
 — George, bootmaker, 7 Trinity street
 — J. esq. 28 Cobourg place
 — James and Thomas, upholsterers, auctioneers, and
 valuator, 65 Capel street

Queen's-square,
 Off Brunswick-street,
 P. St. Mark.—Cath.
 B Police Division.
 43 Malone, John, esq.
 „ Malone, Bernard, esq.
 44 Draper, Carter, chemist
 45 Martin, Peter, builder
 proprietor of Queen's-square
 46 Marani, Augustus
 professor of Italian
 T.C.D.
 47 Rowan, Richard, esq.
 48 Duncan, Mrs.
 49 Rogers, James, prof.
 50 De la Vega, Sig. prof.
 51 Corri, Haydn, prof.
 „ Corri, Henry and Eugene
 and professors of music
 „ Corri, Valentine, artist
 52 Jagers, John, sugar refiner
 „ Fereday, Caleb, sugar refiner
 53 Bouke, Eliza

Caleb & Mary (nee Tanner) Fereday's first child, Mary Ann Susannah was born at Old Montague St, Whitechapel in the autumn of 1843, and the second Matilda Jane in the early part of 1846. So if Caleb joined John Jagers in Dublin by late 1845, he would have gone over alone at first, to be joined there by his family when he had settled. The daughters later recalled living in Ireland when they were very young.

Presumably Caleb and Mary sold their interest in the Whitechapel refinery in around 1846 in order to finance the partnership venture with John Jagers. Certainly by 1851, the Old Montague St business was being run by a German, Claus Henry Bohling. It is tempting to speculate exactly what potential JJ saw in Caleb, who as we have seen had very little experience as a refiner. Perhaps, in view of supposed later events, he just treated him as a gullible source of capital, and Mary was also taken in by his charms!

2.4.2 Brief Prosperity

The business of Jagers & Fereday at Princes Street appears to do well, particularly after 1846; a directory for 1848 shows a second refinery building at 6, Gloucester Street South, on the opposite side of Princes St to the first, at the intersection of these two roads. It is supremely ironic, and a little embarrassing, to note that this time of rapid expansion of the business, providing the luxury sugar for the silver service of his rich customers in their Georgian-square houses of south Dublin city, coincided exactly with the height of the Irish potato famine. This hardly affected the city at all, but devastated the rural areas of the country. Had John cared to peer across the Liffey waters, just 100 yards or so away he would have witnessed harrowing scenes in front of the Custom House, as huddles of starving and weary country folk gathered at the end of a long march on foot to protest about the lack of government support and aid, and plead for alms. Some were literally dying on the spot, in each other's arms. They had come there because the Poor Law administrators were based at the Custom House building. This sad episode is today commemorated in the form of an evocative sculpture on the quayside nearby. Our social conscience may yet prove to be challenged even more; it is quite conceivable that John Jagers' forebears (whoever they were) might have been engaged in the West Indies slave trade!

The birth of John and Elizabeth's third and last child Elizabeth on 27th April 1849 is shown at the Princes Street address. This was presumably a newly built proprietor's residence adjacent to the refinery buildings. Elizabeth was baptized at St. Marks on 3rd June (a Sunday).

2.4.3 A sudden death, and an alleged Ruination

Tragedy was soon to follow; as we read next that John Jagers was buried at St Marks only 9 days after the baptism of his daughter, on 12th June 1849, at the age of just 31. The cause of death is not known; we looked in the Dublin newspapers of the time but found no record of any fire, accident or explosion at the refinery. Such incidents were commonplace then, and any such would surely have been reported in lurid detail. However, it is noted that cholera was rife:- "due to the filthy state of the River Liffey at low water – a horrible nuisance" and "the worst cases of the disease in men originated in drunken-ness" (why? Was the local ale diluted with the Liffey water?) The weekly report of the Cholera Hospital in Great Brunswick Street for 22 May 1849 states: Admitted 26, Total 30, Died 12, Discharged 7.

The trade pages of the newspapers regularly reported activity in the sugar markets, and the 16th June edition states “200 Hogsheads Barbados and St. Lucia were offered at auction, but only 90 were sold” This is an unusual occurrence, and is possibly because the Jagers’ works had shut down unexpectedly. For the average refinery, 200 hogsheads represented about 4-6 weeks supply of raw cane imports, delivered as a vessel-load on a regular basis. The price at this time was around 40 shillings (£2) per hogshead.

In the circumstances, at least one 1850 Dublin trade directory gets a little muddled. The commercial section shows John Jagers & Co’s refinery as still in existence, but the address is now given as 15, Gloucester Street south. This would seem to be a third building, presumably new in early 1849, just before John Jagers’ untimely demise. It was on the south side of Gloucester Street where Princes St crosses, opposite the other two. It may have been a further refinery building, or perhaps just offices and living quarters for the expanding company.

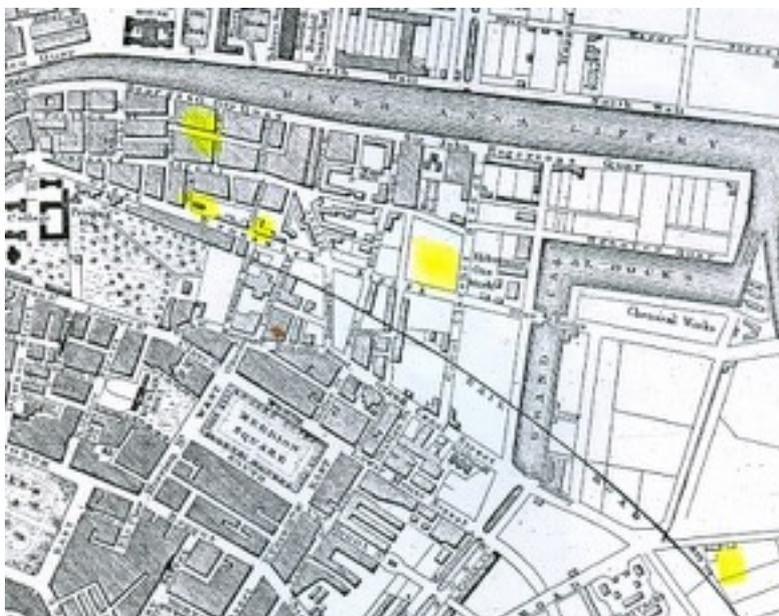
However, in the street directory, 15 Gloucester St S is shown as tenements, and 2 Princes St S as vacant! Perhaps everything was closed and boarded up, and the directory compilers, finding no one to ask, had to use their initiative?

Also in the 1850 directory, there is a “Mrs. E. Jagers” shown for the first time at 3, Vavasour Square South, Ballsbridge, another newly-built Georgian-style residence in an up-and-coming fashionable district about 1 mile to the south-east of the refinery. She must surely be John’s widow, moved here with her three young children?

The company apparently persists at 15 Gloucester St South in some directories for 1851 and 1852, but in others it disappears after 1850; some no doubt revised and updated their entries more frequently than others. “Mrs. E. Jagers” is shown at Vavasour Square likewise until sometime between 1850 and 1853, when she too vanishes. One would have thought that a sugar refinery business of the scale indicated, with its special buildings and equipment, would have been taken on by another refiner, but oddly, this does not seem to be the case; the directories show occupation of the Jagers premises only by various small businesses such as a carter and a cart-maker in subsequent years.

This second 1838 map extract shows the locations (top left to bottom right) of the later refinery buildings in Princes Street & Gloucester Street, St Mark’s church, 49 Great Brunswick Street, and the later sites of Queen’s Square and Vavasour Square.

Trinity College and St Stephen’s Square are on the left hand edge, and the brand-new “Rail Road” from Dun Laoghaire is seen running into its terminus just beyond Westland Row, opposite the church.



Michael Shoemaker tells us what happened to Caleb Fereday. Apparently he was “ruined” in Dublin around 1850, and had to return home to London penniless. But the 1851 and 1861 censuses, and then the birth registers show that his and Mary’s third child, daughter Ellen was born in late 1849 in Stepney, which means that Mary at least had returned to London quite soon after John

Jagers’ death. Michael, in accordance with his family oral legend, initially blamed JJ for ruining Fereday, until I pointed out that he had died a little while previously!

The Stanley Ince diaries refer to our illustrious ancestor as “The Villain Jagers” no less: “(Fereday) did not understand the business. He went into partnership with a villain, Jagers by name, who took him over to Dublin to set up business. The partner mulcted all the money, and left my grandfather a ruined man. He returned to London and set up again as a boot-maker, having had a hard fight to keep his head above water”.

It may be of course that his widow Elizabeth was responsible for the ruination, and the fact that she lies (in the 1861 census) about having been in Dublin at that time might tend to suggest that she was not entirely innocent in the matter.

Otherwise of course, both Elizabeth and Caleb may have been ruined by some other third party as yet unknown. This was the first inkling we had that the family sugar refining interests in Dublin may have been concluded by anything other than a normal straightforward sale, and may be the origin of a much later comment by my great grandmother implying that one of our forebears “had been done out of a lot of money”.

The National Archives in Dublin has registers of all those Bankrupts and Insolvents who were brought before the courts each year. There is no mention of any of our people there in 1850-51, but then these lists show only those who were caught (and they all ended up in the Debtor’s Prison, in Dublin that of the Four Courts Marshalsea, counterpart of the London Marshalsea Gaol made infamous by Dickens in “Little Dorrit”).

If Elizabeth was indeed responsible, it appears that she got away with it, and as we shall see, changed her surname twice in the following three years or so, probably pure coincidence of course, but meaning there is not likely to be any kind of record surviving to show exactly what happened.

Another mystery is what happened to the other refinery, at Earl Street South, and partner James Worts, at this time? The 1849 directory entry is the last for the business; in all but one known 1850 editions and afterwards both the company and James Worts have simply vanished. 32 Earl Street had become a Guinness Co. store, and his residence, 49 Cork Street was occupied by a Mr. Healy. However Henry Shaw's 1850 Dublin City Directory shows James was by then living at 22 Lombard Street.

James Worts next turns up in Limerick, still with occupation sugar refiner, at the time of his daughter Elizabeth's marriage there in April 1856. His daughter Hannah died in May 1870 at 124 George Street, Limerick, aged just 24, occupation Bakershop assistant, then James himself passed on in March 1874 at Bedford Row in the town, now shown as a biscuit baker. His widow Mary Ann then went to live with her daughter Jane and her husband James Allen at Kilrush, County Clare in the remote far west of Ireland. Mary is recorded as dying on 31st May 1891 at Henry Street, Kilrush aged 89; she left effects totaling £59-3s-10d to her daughter Jane. For some reason, probate for James was only belatedly granted at the same time; he left £160 likewise.

We originally suggested that maybe John Jagers had fleeced Worts of all his money, as well as Fereday; it will be recalled that James Worts was a porter in East London when Jagers would have first met him, so he may have been yet another gullible character with some money but no knowledge of the business. However the foregoing shows that he in his younger days at least was every bit as much of a rogue as Jagers, if not more so! We could even speculate that John Jagers may have been *murdered* by one or other of his partners, in a sufficiently clever way that it was not detected as such?

2.4.4 What can be seen in Dublin today?

Our alternative tourist trail, a bureaucratic paperchase, and a few old bones

On a visit to Dublin in June 2002 we were pleasantly surprised to find that two large grey stone buildings still exist at the intersection of Princes St and Gloucester St, occupied by a variety of small businesses. The older one (pictured right) at least certainly looks exactly right for the period, and they fit contemporary descriptions of a typical refinery building of the 1840's admirably, so it is pleasant to think that these are indeed tangible survivors of John Jagers' unfortunately brief business venture in Dublin City.



They appeared to have been altered only in detail, so would be an unusual surviving example of the transition period for sugar refining, from small-scale domestic activity to the later nineteenth-century large factory-based system

As they were seemingly under possible threat of demolition from the advancing Docklands Redevelopment scheme, we enquired about the possibility of securing "listing" or protected status, if this has not already been done.

The e-mail setting out our case was bounced around a large number of different government and heritage offices, translated into Gaelic at some stage, and then apparently disappeared without trace into a black hole after several weeks.

We thought perhaps as the ultimate pipe dream, at least the older and more characterful building might be restored to a hypothetical near-original condition, as a "Museum of the Docklands", a role presently unfulfilled elsewhere in the area.

In view of later events on the ground, it seems though that its fate had already been decided.

On another visit in 2005, we noted that the newer building had received a modern glass and steel "carbuncle" addition in the form of a further storey on top and a new roof, so its future is assured. The picture shows this one in 2002, before it was so despoiled.....



The older building was still intact in 2005 but completely surrounded by redevelopment and according to the tenant remained under threat of demolition. I was able this time to

get a look around the interior, but this has been completely gutted; effectively just the stone shell of the original building remained. The latest satellite pictures (2010) show that this area has now been completely razed to the ground for re-development.



The houses in Queen Square survive largely unaltered; this is now known as Pearse Square and is a conservation area, already protected from the redevelopment scheme. They are much plainer than the famous earlier Georgian terraces nearer the city centre, not on the regular tourist trail but good, solid period residences nonetheless. This is no. 52, decorated for the football World



Cup in June 2002.....

The Vavasour Square houses also still exist (right); these are of a most peculiar design; the standard plain Georgian-style double-fronted ground floor with grand doorway, and a parapet fronting the shallow-pitch slate roof, but are only one storey high. Ideal cottages perhaps as “widow’s retreats”



The house at 49, Great Brunswick St (now Pearse Street) where John Jagers first lodged on coming to this part of town was also once quite grand, but now alas only the entrance steps and door archway survive; the rest (left) appeared in 2002 to have been the victim of a recent gas explosion or some such misfortune! (it remained just the same in 2005, but has since also been demolished and re-developed))

church.

The old stone building was closed down by the Church of Ireland in 1971, but after a period of disuse was re-opened 1986 as a self-funded non-denominational family community church, currently flourishing.

We felt sure that there might be a headstone for John Jagers in the churchyard, possibly showing his birth-date and perhaps also where he came from. Disappointingly, only about 10 stones of perhaps 200-300 originally remain in situ (nothing of interest to us), and no one we spoke to knows of any list being compiled. However, it transpired that many were removed for safety reasons in the 1980’s, and are now stored in the church crypt. Again for safety reasons, we were not allowed to inspect them, probably for the best since we were also gleefully informed that “there are a few skeletons down there, too!” We hoped that we had inspired the keen younger church members to have a thorough look for us, maybe even to catalogue the remaining stones (and bones?) as they go, but heard nothing further since.

5. A return to Ipswich, but when ?

We know that John Jagers’ widow Elizabeth had definitely returned to her former home town of Ipswich by 1860 – she is shown in the 1861 census there with their three children that were born in Dublin, and a further three (from two other different fathers) born subsequently. Two of the latter, Charles and Frederick, state in all of their later adult censuses that they were born in Dublin, and we always believed this was the case. Also it was duly passed on in our family right down to the present that Frederick was of Irish origin. However, we found no record whatsoever of a baptism for any of these later children in Dublin.

There are however at least three good reasons why Elizabeth might have returned to Ipswich as early as 1851-52. Firstly, if she, like Caleb Fereday had been ruined and left penniless in Dublin, she would naturally have wanted to

return to the bosom of her family (and likewise no doubt, if she was responsible for the ruining, and wanted to escape her creditors).

Secondly, her father Truss Wilson died in the early weeks of 1852 – he was buried at St Matthew’s church, Ipswich (pictured) on 26th January, aged 63 (curiously the next entry in the register on 28th January is that for a Hepzibah Wilson aged 10, but she is probably from a different family).



Thirdly, the man who became her third partner, and father of Frederick, has a surname (Hammond) which is very common in Ipswich. Though there were 2 or 3 Hammond families in Dublin around 1850, we could find no obvious candidate for our man there, so conclude that Elizabeth probably would have met him in Ipswich. This does however mean that Frederick would have been born there rather than Dublin, and it seems strange that his step-brother William, who was by then 10 years old, would not have remembered and told him this later in their lives? (unless he was sworn to secrecy by his mother).

One possible explanation, and perhaps the most likely is that Elizabeth had known Hammond since their childhood in Ipswich before she went to Dublin in 1841, and that he came over to join her there about 1853-54.

There are no candidates in the English birth registration for any of Elizabeth’s last three children at Ipswich, but registration was not compulsory then, and she seems generally not inclined to bother with such formalities.

On consideration of all the evidence, recounted in more detail below, we now think that Elizabeth and her 5 eldest children came from Dublin to Ipswich in around 1858, and that the sixth child (Hannah) was in fact born in Ipswich....

2.5.1 An interlude with John Fletcher (1850-51)

A year or so after the supposed ruining of the Dublin business occurred, the above-mentioned child Charles was born. His full name was Charles Thomas Fletcher, and his headstone at Stansted St. Mary, Kent, gives us his exact birth date, 13th May 1851; we have no reason to doubt the accuracy of this. His two marriage certificates name his father as John Fletcher, a sailor, later "captain", surely the worst possible scenario for traceability when combined with the very common surname; needless to say we know absolutely nothing about him!

John Jagers’ widow Elizabeth claims in the 1861 census that Charles is her son, and in view of the fact that he remained very close to our family all his life suggests that this is indeed so. But there is no record of Elizabeth having married a John Fletcher, as either a Jagers or a Wilson, in England/Wales or Ireland. It could of course be that Charles’ real mother died in childbirth or soon after, and Elizabeth “adopted” him (perhaps John Fletcher had also gone missing at sea, or perhaps simply abandoned his child?)

Intriguingly in the 1861 census, there is a John Fletcher, born at Walton-on-Naze, Essex, master of the “William & Mary”, moored up in Ipswich docks on census night, but his is such a common name that there is probably no connection whatsoever.

John Fletcher was probably a friend whom Elizabeth had met in the Dublin docklands near to her Vavasour Square house; it just may be that he posed as Caleb Fereday with Elizabeth in order that the business could be sold with no questions asked. We could probably speculate forever! They do not appear in the 1851 census at Ipswich, taken just a few weeks (31st March) before Charles was born, or indeed anywhere else in England/Wales, so we can be fairly confident that they were still in Dublin then, and that Charles was indeed born there. Elizabeth’s parents, Truss and Hannah Wilson are as expected, still living in Ipswich in 1851 (at 8 Orford Street, St Matthew) but none of their children are with them.

2.5.2 Another partner – another surname - and two more children! (1855-60)

William (or John) Hammond comes onto the scene by 1856, as Elizabeth’s fifth child, Frederick Hammond, was born sometime that year. Once again there is no record of a marriage, as Wilson, Jagers or Fletcher, in either England or Ireland. There is then another gap of some 4 years before her last child, Hannah was born in 1860, also with Hammond as the father. Whereas Charles and Frederick always state their birthplace as Ireland in the later censuses, Hannah is clearly confused, sometimes saying Ipswich and sometimes Ireland!

Why the uncertainty over Hammond’s first name? In the baptism records for Charles and Hannah, also the marriage of William (Jagers) he is called William, but on Frederick and Hannah’s marriage certificates he is John. He may of course have been William John (or vice versa). All these sources, and the 1861 census, agree on one thing, his occupation was a soap boiler, after 1860 at any rate. We have no direct evidence for how old he was, but if our “school friends in Ipswich” theory is correct, he would have been about the same age as Elizabeth, born around 1825. There are

several candidates for him in the 1851 census at Ipswich, but none as a soap boiler or any other vaguely related job. In the 1860's however, the directories show two large soap works in Ipswich, near to where our family lived, so no doubt he worked at one of these. Joshua & Cornelius Clarke operated at Friars Road from at least 1855 – 69, and Gower & Hunt's premises were just along the road in the same period. The proprietor of the latter was one Charles Foote Gower who resided at Nova Scotia House in Stoke township, Ipswich. One source claims that our man is the John Hammond shown as an agricultural labourer living in the village of Lackford near Bury St Edmunds in the 1841 and 1851 censuses, but this is surely incorrect as he was still there in 1871, as a shopkeeper & ag lab, married to Susannah and with several young children.

Our Family legend says (as written in surviving letters between my aunts, circa 1980) that one of the men folk of Hammond's generation "married 3 times, had 3 separate families". The implication was given that this is George Maskell, whom we meet later, but the known facts now show that it was definitely not he; the description now seems instead seem to fit Elizabeth Wilson / Jagers / Fletcher / Hammond well!

2.5.3 Ipswich (part two): 1860 to 1868

The first definite record we found for our people being back in Ipswich is the baptism of Elizabeth's son Charles Thomas Hammond (Fletcher), by then nine years old, at St Matthews Church on the 24th of June 1860. His father is shown incorrectly as William Hammond, whereas we know it was really John Fletcher, but this little white lie no doubt served to keep things simple. Elizabeth is shown as "Hammond" likewise. Their residence is given just as the parish of St Peter (adjacent to St Matthew)

In the 1861 census, Elizabeth (Hammond) is shown resident in Great Gipping Street, Ipswich St. Peter, only around 200 yards away from where she lived with her parents in 1841, so they may well have already been there in 1860. These were newly-built houses then, so probably quite smart compared to others in the area, suggesting that they were certainly not struggling to make ends meet at that time!

Five of her children are with her, all now called Hammond of course, and the remaining one, William is nearby at 26 St. Nicholas Street, at age 14 a house servant to Dr. William Grayson, Physician & Surgeon, and his wife Laura Ann. He gives his birthplace correctly as Ireland, and coincidentally his employer was born there too. By this time, the Worts families, who had various businesses in St Nicholas Street around 1840, had all died or moved away elsewhere. The picture shows the west side of St. Nicholas Street, no. 26 is at centre with the blue-painted shop frontage.



The census entry for Elizabeth Hammond however, is for reasons best known to herself, an almost complete travesty of the truth as we know it. Indeed, but for the fact that by the time we found it, we were fully expecting to find her in Ipswich, we might have had serious doubts as to whether this was our family!

She claims to be married, occupation "Soap boiler's wife". However William/ John Hammond is not there with her, the enumerator has added: "Husband away, n.k." This denotes "not known", perhaps not implying that Elizabeth did not know where he was (although she may conceivably not have done) but merely that the enumerator forgot to ask her.

Of all the 70 or so William or John Hammonds in the 1861 England & Wales census, none have an occupation even remotely connected with soap boiling, so we still know absolutely nothing about him; his age, where born etc. Very few of them though are shown as being married yet not with their wives, as ours would have to be, but of those that are, there is just one very intriguing entry: for a William Hammond, aged 34 born at Ipswich, recorded as a crewman (AB Seaman) aboard the vessel "Veracity" off Lowestoft Light. This man could not be found in any of the 1841, 51 or 71 censuses! Perhaps he is after all Elizabeth's "husband", "moonlighting" at a second job when the opportunity arose; this would certainly explain why she did not know where he was, and also how they would perhaps have met up in Dublin. On the other hand of course he may have been working a late shift at the soap works, or roaming the streets of Ipswich in a state of intoxication, and was missed by the census enumerator.

Elizabeth does give her correct age, 36, and birthplace, Layham, Suffolk, which, knowing this for the first time, enabled us to easily find her baptism there as Elizabeth Wilson, confirming beyond doubt that this was indeed the correct family. But her children are shown with some very strange details; the eldest, John, aged 15 is working as an errand boy, and is shown as being born in Birmingham, as also is Elizabeth, aged 11. Next comes Charles, shown as age 7 though he was really by now 9, apparently born in Manchester! The last two, Frederick and Hannah, are shown with correct ages, 4 and 1 respectively, both born in Dublin, which may or may not turn out to be true.

We don't know exactly when Hannah was born in 1859-60, but taking the record literally implies that this was before Charles was baptized, so it is somewhat strange that she was not also baptized at the same time. If she was born in Dublin, then the family only came to Ipswich sometime in the few months before June 1860. It appears from the census that their mother is trying to cover up for the fact that she was ever in Ireland at all before around 1855.

Elizabeth's mother, Hannah Wilson, is living alone nearby in the 1861 census, at Norwich Road, Ipswich, by now aged 69.

The next event to record in our family is the baptism of Elizabeth's last child, Hannah. This was on September 3rd 1863 at the beautiful and ancient church of St Mary at the Elms, Elm Street, Ipswich (pictured) when she was aged about 3 years. Once again the father is shown as William Hammond, occupation Soap Boiler.

It is likely that they were then still living at Great Gipping Street; although this was in the parish of St Peter, St Mary Elms was the nearest church to their house. Interestingly, the minister's name was one John Fletcher Barrett!



So we have now found baptisms for five of Elizabeth's six children, the last two being somewhat belated, and poor Frederick seems to have missed out altogether, both in Dublin and Ipswich.

During the next few years, we have to record a spate of deaths. Firstly, Elizabeth's eldest son John passed away in January 1864, at the age of only 19, and was buried at St Mary Elms on the 27th of that month, John Fletcher Barrett again conducting the service. Just over four years later, on 21st March 1868, Elizabeth herself died of cancer; she was 43 years old. On the certificate, her demise is recorded as occurring at West's Court, Lady Lane, Ipswich St Matthew, which is not far from Great Gipping Street. This may by now have been the family home, but the event was registered by one Mary Hales, present at the end, presumably a friend and neighbour. We can only guess that all the other members of her family were out at work or living away. Elizabeth was buried alongside her son at St Mary Elms on the 27th of March 1868. No headstone is mentioned in the Memorial Inscriptions index compiled in 1883, and very few, mostly too eroded or damaged to read, now survive in this churchyard.

Lastly, Elizabeth's mother, Hannah Wilson passed on in December 1869 at her home in Norwich Road, and was buried not alongside her husband at St Matthew, but in the then new Ipswich Cemetery on Christmas Eve.

So what became of the mysterious father, William (John) Hammond? We think that he had relatives living in London by this time, possibly uncles or brothers, maybe even his father as he was probably still only in his early to mid forties. It is possible then that he may have gone away to London by 1868, even as early as 1861, which might explain his absence in the census that year, also at the death of his partner. Perhaps he was trying to set up in business there, as we shall see later, and that he died there within the next few years; he does not appear in the 1871 census and there are several possible candidates in the registers in the London area.

The death of their mother might certainly be reason enough for the children also to want to move to London and seek their own fortunes, and they all appear to have gone there together around this time, if not with Hammond, then led by the eldest surviving child, William (Jaggers), now aged 21. His stepbrother Frederick was only 11, and the youngest, Hannah, just 8. We originally thought that some of William's Jaggers forebears might still have been living in the capital, but this idea falls down completely since William Hammond (as he then believed he was) would have known nothing about the Jaggers at that time. A more fanciful notion, but still possible, is that they were "taken under the wing" of Sydney Waterlow, remembering his childhood "rescuers", and having found out what had subsequently happened to them. Perhaps William's mother, on her deathbed, had told him to write to Waterlow explaining their plight, and asking for help, or had done this herself. Whatever the reason, we now follow the fortunes of the five surviving "Hammond" children in the Great Metropolis.....

2.6 William Jaggers in London, 1869 - 1882

From 1869 until at least 1881, William was butler to George Critchett, ophthalmic surgeon, and his family at no. 21 Harley Street, Marylebone. At 22 he appears to be very young to have secured this prestigious post, so presumably came with impeccable references and demeanour, if little experience. This may be another pointer towards sponsorship by the Waterlows, a family the Critchett's would have known well....

2.6.1 The Critchett's of Harley Street

George Critchett was born about 1816 in Highgate, London. An 1841 London trade directory shows him at 9, New Broad Street EC, already practicing as a surgeon. He married Martha Wilson Brooker, who came from Chichester, Sussex, in 1843, and their son George Anderson Critchett was christened at St. Olave, Old Jewry in 1849. There were at least two other children following. From at least 1851 until 1863, the Critchett family lived at 46, Finsbury Square EC. Alfred James Waterlow, with his wife Isabella, family and 7 servants lived next door at no. 47, and Albert Crakell Waterlow, wife Maria and theirs with 3 servants nearby at no. 30. Both these men were brothers of Sydney Hedley Waterlow, and closely involved with the family stationery and printing businesses.

The Critchetts themselves had 4 servants in 1861, but no butler yet; it seems to have been customary for such gentlemen to take a butler from the age of around 50 onwards. For further details of the Critchetts, see Appendix (D).

We know that George Critchett was still at Finsbury Square on the 1st of July 1862, when he was advertising for domestic staff in the “Times”, but around six months later he moved to that already-fashionable area for London medical professionals, Harley Street, first taking what are presumed to be rented consulting rooms and living accommodation at no. 75. The previous occupant had passed away and the Times records that her effects were sold on the 11th December 1862, so the Critchetts probably moved in soon afterwards. Their neighbour at no. 73 for a short while was William Ewart Gladstone, soon afterwards to become Prime Minister. The houses were re-numbered in 1866, the old 75 becoming 29. Critchett moved again, a few doors along to no 21 (old 79) by late 1868 (The “Times” of 12th March 1868 states “The effects of the late Miss Dolby of 21 Harley Street were sold.....”, so they probably took up residence shortly after this). This house was to be his permanent rooms and residence for many years to come.

Also during 1863, Critchett’s friend and former neighbour Alfred Waterlow moved from Finsbury Square to 25, Park Crescent, Marylebone, the imposing and beautiful Nash terrace near to the top end of Harley Street, where he too was to stay for many years.

2.6.2 William Hammond marries, and becomes William Jaggars once more (1869)

William was certainly a butler at the time of his marriage in 1869, and definitely with Critchett by autumn 1870, so it is likely he was engaged thus in the new household at 21 Harley Street from late 1868.

We may assume that his wife-to-be, Louisa Amy Margaret Cockram was also employed by the Critchetts as perhaps a housemaid, or at another similar establishment nearby, of which there were of course many. Their courtship perhaps consisted of occasional nervous clandestine meetings and snatched moments together, out of sight of their employers or fellow servants.

William and Louisa were married on 18th April 1869 at the very fashionable John Nash church of All Souls, Langham Place, just a short stroll from Harley Street. This was a Sunday – perhaps the only day on which both were able to get permission to be absent from work? The engraving (right) shows the church at about the time of the marriage, and the picture below as recently, from the opposite side and now surrounded by modern buildings.....



We were very surprised to learn that the couple were married by licence rather than banns, which is most unusual as it was far more costly. There are stated to be just three common reasons for this: firstly, amongst the very wealthy, as a prestigious public show of their wealth and status; secondly if the groom was serving in the armed forces and had to leave urgently on a dangerous mission abroad; and thirdly if the bride was heavily pregnant and they could not risk waiting the three weeks for banns to be read.

The first two cases clearly do not apply here, so we might assume the latter! Perhaps this was even a hastily “arranged” marriage, in exactly the same circumstances as we shall see later for Frederick Hammond, namely that the woman had been put in child by her employer or one of his sons, and it was necessary to ensure a respectable status for them. It may or may not be significant that the “Times” of 2nd March 1869 carries an advert for a new housemaid and under-housemaid at the Waterlow’s home, 25 Park Crescent? The same paper was also seeking a new parlourmaid and housemaid at 21 Harley Street on Dec 1st of that year.

The marriage certificate makes interesting reading since William still thought that his surname was Hammond (as it would seem to have been since aged around seven or eight) and indeed he signed the licence application personally in this name two days before the marriage. He evidently found out that he was really a Jaggars only later in 1869, and the certificate had then to be duly amended. We do not know *how* he found out; perhaps a note of explanation was found in his late mother’s effects. By then, the only other person possibly still living who might have known was his stepfather, William Hammond. He no doubt wanted to change his name so that his future children would have the correct surname.

We learnt that a suffix “a” after the page number in the civil registers indicates an amended certificate. This is very unusual – affecting only about 1 in 10,000 entries. The Jaggars family accounts for a disproportionately large number of these. In this case, the parish register entry was never amended, and so the IGI index pronounces Louisa’s husband to be William Hammond, sure to cause terminal confusion to any uninitiated searcher!



2.6.3 The Cockram family of Bridgwater, Somerset

Before delving further into William and Louisa's difficult and ultimately tragic married life together, we can pause to look at Louisa Cockram's background.

She was a Somerset lass, born in the town of Bridgwater on 4th July 1848. Her parents were George Cockram, a cordwainer (boot and shoe maker) and his wife Johannah (nee Crocker).

George was born in Bridgwater in 1815, but his family name (a West Country dialect corruption of the more familiar Cochran or Cochrayne) seems to occur mainly around South Molton and Barnstaple in Devon. His wife's father William (variously described as a labourer, "plaisterer" or mason) was one of many Crockers in Bridgwater, a common name in the district. Johannah was the second of twelve children born to him and his wife Jane (nee Haysman) in 1817.

George and Johanna were married in 1838 at Bridgwater St Mary parish church (pictured), and Louisa was the seventh of eleven known children (including at least one pair of twins) born to them in the following twenty years. Though all the other children up to Louisa were born in Bridgwater, the fifth, Emma (1843) is clearly shown in the 1851 census as having been born in Clerkenwell, London – one wonders exactly what the circumstances were for this; there were at the time one or two Cockram families in London, so perhaps they were somehow related and the mother at least had gone to stay with them for a while. As was common at that time, several of the children in these families did not survive beyond infancy. We picked up a lot of detail about the lives of the Cockrams and the Crockers in the course of our searches, and this is shown more fully in Appendices (E) and (F) respectively.



Around 1850, when Louisa was not yet two years old, the Cockram family moved to Bristol, where George continued to work as a shoemaker. We think that he had family (uncles?) living there also, and prospects for business were probably better than in Bridgwater. The 1851 census shows our family living at 2, Garden Court in the St James district of the city, and by 1861 they had moved to 3, West Street nearby..

George Cockram died in the early weeks of 1865, aged 50, in Bristol. What happened to Johanna is a mystery; there is no record of her death, or of re-marrying, and she does not appear in the 1871 census. Probably she just took up with another man and lived together as husband and wife using his surname. Presumably Louisa then decided to come up to London around 1867 at the age of 18 or 19, probably accompanied by some at least of her surviving siblings, to seek a good job in service.

2.6.4 Did Dickens know my great-grandfather?

A central character of Charles Dickens' novel "Great Expectations" is the lawyer Mr. Jaggers. Many of the names he concocted are patently fictitious and often somewhat ridiculous or contrived as well. However, our name is so unusual it is unlikely he would have invented it; far more likely he had heard it somewhere and thought it appropriate for use here. We wondered if he might have crossed paths with William Jaggers at some point, especially as it is known that Dickens moved in the same social circles as the Waterlows and would almost certainly have known Sydney Waterlow personally.

The answer surely has to be no – "Great Expectations" was published in 1861, and as we have seen our family was still in Ipswich then, and was in any case called Hammond. Far more likely then that Dickens got his inspiration from one of the east end Jaggers families during one of his forays into the docklands communities. We should at least be grateful that the name was given to a reasonably respectable, if austere character, rather than one of his many assorted villains or vagabonds!

2.6.5 The Jaggers' married life at Harley Street (and at Paddington, Peckham, Westminster, Old Bailey, Chelsea....!) 1870 - 1881

William and Louisa had four known children, all born in London in the period 1870–78. Nothing at all unusual about this, except that throughout the period William was resident at 21 Harley Street and working for George Critchett, whereas Louisa and the children were staying at a variety of different houses, spread around all over the capital! Evidently his employer did not like the idea of servants' wives and children living under his roof, or even nearby, which seems harsh even by the standards of the day, for a butler (the most senior staff member) at any rate.

Not included amongst the known four is the hypothetical cause of the hastily arranged marriage. This, unless it was adopted by Louisa's employer as their own after a change of heart (and which may indeed be the reason that Louisa was barred from living in the house?) will surely have been registered as a Hammond, and died young (either as a Hammond or a Jaggers); the 1871 census entry for Louisa shows no such child with her then. There are no obvious candidates amongst the London Hammond births registered in the June or September quarters of 1869, nor the baptism registers but the child may have been stillborn, or one of the two or three Hammonds who were registered as born/died un-named.

As a really outrageous thought, we noted that William Waterlow (later Sir William, whom we meet later) was born at around this time, at their Park Crescent house, but all sources of course ascribe his parentage to be of impeccably respectable upper-class origins!

William and Louisa's first known child, son William Charles (my Grandfather) was born at a servants lodging house in Pindock Mews, Maida Vale, in September 1870, and baptized at the local church of St. Saviour, Warwick Avenue four weeks later.

We think that the "Charles" is after William's step-brother Charles Thomas Hammond (Fletcher). The birth certificate is another of our a-suffix ones, this time just to correct the fairly trivial matter that William as informant had spelled his surname as Jagers – an unconscious throwback to German roots? – and presumably Louisa later put him right.

The baptism register is the earliest definite evidence we have for William Jagers living at Harley St. Usefully this (also that of daughter Louisa following) shows the father's residence, whereas the birth registration certificate shows the mother's address as place of birth. But the latter also implies that this is the father's residence too, rather than Harley Street, a little white lie – intentional or otherwise - that should hopefully have been sufficient to circumvent any awkward questions about their peculiar domestic circumstances.

Pindock Mews was a stabling and staff quarters complex serving the "gentlemen's residences" built hereabouts in the years 1830 – 1850, and consisting of around 30 separate units. Most of the inhabitants shown in the 1871 census were single males: coachmen, footmen or grooms, about four living in each unit. Which one Louisa had been staying in is not recorded; just six months or so after her son was born, she has already moved on.

The character of Pindock Mews is largely unaltered to this day, with the stables now converted into garages fronting the cobbled mews yard.....



In the 1871 census, we were very surprised to find Louisa with young William living in Peckham, South London! She is at 144 East Surrey Grove, off the Commercial Road, occupation shown just as "Oil Shop"; presumably she ran one, either at this address or elsewhere locally. Even more interestingly, shown boarding with her is Hannah Hammond, aged 11, "born in Ipswich". She is Frederick's sister, most likely also the infamous Hannah "who later did our family out of a lot of money", and this is the first of the new "Ipswich" clues mentioned previously. Probably the reason that Louisa has moved there is to act as guardian for Hannah. Perhaps the Oil Shop was owned by her father, a Hammond uncle or other relative who had just died?

Now William (John) Hammond, father of Frederick and Hannah, will be recalled as being a "soap boiler", an occupation in those days quite closely connected with candles and also the supply of oil for household lighting purposes. The London directories show, quite disproportionately, five or six Hammonds in London, including at least two Johns, who had oil shops or similar businesses around 1869-71, so this seems to have been a regular family vocation! One of them was a lamp dealer in the Walworth Road in 1869, but has disappeared by the time of the 1871 census, so he may be our man; scope for further investigation here (see Appendix G). Also, a John Horatio Hammond had died in Camberwell registration district (covering this area) in late 1864.

Working from old large scale maps and the trade directories, we found that the road layout of East Surrey Grove in the 19th century was somewhat different from nowadays (the whole area has been comprehensively redeveloped in recent years). It then extended from North Street (which itself was called Rosemary Road after around 1875) in the south up to St Georges Road (now Way), and no 144 was at the extreme southern end, on the west side. By 1881 no.144 had been extended around the corner and re-designated as 66 Rosemary Road. In the census that year it is an Oil & Colour Man's shop run by Joseph Whittingdale aged 30, unmarried and born in London; he is on his own there.

As Louisa had moved back to Central London by late 1872, perhaps Hannah went with her, otherwise we have to presume her welfare had somehow been provided for by other means, and we will see later what happened to her subsequently.

William and Louisa's second child, daughter Louisa Georgina Augusta (the Georgina undoubtedly after Louisa's younger sister) was born in December 1872 at 4, Cannon Row, Westminster, and baptized the following month at the famous church of St. Margaret, right in the shadow of the Abbey. One would have thought it possible for mother Louisa to have obtained good lodgings nearer to Marylebone, so Westminster seems a strange choice.

The Cannon Row houses were just at the west end of Westminster Bridge, adjacent to the then-new District Railway station, on the site now occupied by the infamous "Portcullis House" accommodation for MPs.



So this very familiar view has a family connection; in 1998 the old houses had just been demolished, they were behind the green hoarding to the right of the bus.....



The second picture is of the Embankment in 1871, showing the construction of the District Railway line; the Cannon Row houses are the lower, light-coloured block towards the right. They were mainly civil service apartments, so all the more mystery that Louisa should have been there. The directories and 1871 census list a printer, **Richard Fletcher** as being one of those in residence then, maybe in some way connected with our John Fletcher, but this is a very common surname. He was born around 1816 in Southampton, a sea-faring place of course, and inevitably has a brother John, but he was born as early as 1804 so is probably too old to be our John Fletcher. Messrs **Waterlow** had a law stationery office at no. 5 next door, for whom Richard may have worked – and they too never seem to be far away in our family story!



Advertisements in the “Times” during 1870-72 (but not directories or the census) show a rather shady-sounding character **James Farmer**, property letting agent operating from what is presumably just an office at 4 Cannon Row; he turns up again shortly below....

There appears to be a gap of over five years before the next daughter Gertrude was born, and we thought there would probably have been another in between that died young. This is indeed the case, as son Horatio Edmund George Jagers (maybe named after John Horatio Hammond?) was born on 13th July 1877, in the City of London at no 9, Old Bailey. This was another common lodging house, even further away from Harley Street – however, the proprietor, named **Westcott** was born in Bridgwater, Somerset, so may have known Louisa’s parents. Even more interestingly, the above-mentioned **James Farmer** shows up again in Times adverts during 1877-78 as now operating from 9 Old Bailey! He was still there in 1884, and it is interesting to speculate on what role he may have played in Louisa’s choice of accommodation, or even perhaps in other affairs?

Poor Horatio Jagers died at only a few weeks old; he had been baptized at St Andrew, Holborn on 5th August 1877. The last child Gertrude Amy Margaret was also born at 9, Old Bailey around a year later, in August 1878, and was baptized at St. Bride, Fleet Street (the one with the “wedding-cake” tower) on 1st September.

The births here are interesting, since a long-remembered family legend told to me by my grandfather when I was a boy was that he himself was born at no. 1, Old Bailey! The records show that this is not true, but he would no doubt have remembered something of life in that street when he was aged around six to eight. He often also boasted that he was a “true Cockney” – born within the sound of the bells of St Mary-le-Bow just down the road in Cheapside (though those of intervening St. Paul’s Cathedral were probably louder), but as we see, this honour applies solely to his younger sister. He surely also would have remembered his little brother Horatio, but seemingly never recalled him to anyone in his later life.

We thought perhaps no. 1 Old Bailey might somehow be connected with the Waterlows, but this was in fact a tailor’s shop, so a mere flight of fancy on my grandfather’s part! Nor, fortunately, is there any family connection with the well-known Newgate Prison (or with the Central Criminal Court built later on the same site), which was at the other end of the street. All the older buildings here have long since been demolished and replaced by modern offices, the previous residential character now being totally absent.

Onward another 30 months to the 1881 census; husband William is still at Harley Street, but Louisa and the three surviving children have moved yet again, to 5 Wellington Square, Chelsea, just off the Kings Road and still over two miles distant.....

So that’s five different addresses (at least, those that we know of) in eleven years, none of which remotely resemble a stable family home. The Chelsea house looks to be a lucky break, smarter and larger by far than any of the previous ones, with the possible exception of Cannon Row.

It is still there, and has probably not changed much in character over the years since it was built around 1845; it has four storeys plus a basement, and looks out over the private gardens in the centre of the square. And Louisa (occupation: “Butler’s Wife”) with her children were the only residents on census night.



The 1881 London directories show the house as “unoccupied”. In previous ones (and the 1861, 1871 censuses) it is the long-time family home of architect and surveyor William Simon Leonard and his wife Annie. William had died some years previously, and Annie around 1880.

It is interesting to speculate how Louisa had the good fortune to live in this beautiful house for a little while at least. We note that way back in 1830, a marriage took place between one John Jagers (not ours) and a Mary Leonard at St. George, Hanover Square. We wondered if there was some sort of family connection, but, as yet, are unable to find any direct link; Leonard is in any case a very common surname in London.

This couple emigrated to Australia in 1832, where they brought up twelve children; they are extensively documented on the Internet, where there is also a photograph of this JJ late in his life – and the first thing we noticed was the very prominent “Jagers Nose”!

It is quite possible that William and Louisa had also one, maybe two more children that died very young, in about 1880 and around 1882; however there is nothing shown in the published baptismal or burial registers, and without obtaining the certificates for all the possible candidates in the registration indexes, it is impossible to be absolutely sure. On known form, Louisa could have been living virtually anywhere in London during these years!

After 1881, Louisa and her family disappear once again until 1888, when the next we hear is of her tragic death. Husband William probably also had to leave Harley Street after many years of faithful service to George Critchett, upon the latter’s death in late 1882. But first, there is a family scandal at Harley Street to deal with involving a new name, Rachel Kezia Maskell, who was to become my other great grandmother. And to set the scene we also need to look at what the Hammond boys have been doing in London since they arrived there from Ipswich.....



2.7 The other “Hammond” boys in London from 1871

We find Charles Thomas Hammond (Fletcher), aged 20, and Frederick Hammond his stepbrother aged 14, together at 5, Old Palace Yard, Westminster in the 1871 census. They are both domestic servants to the head of household, so the relationship between them is not given here, and both are shown as born in Dublin.

The Old Palace Yard house is yet another opulent residence right at the heart of things, between the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey. It was the London home of Sir Edward Manningham Buller, aged 70, MP for North Staffordshire, his wife Georgina and stepson Wynne Albert Bankes. Earlier directories indicate that this was in fact the Bankes’ family home rather than Buller’s, who had married Bankes’ widow. They had a total of 14 servants here in 1871, of which Frederick was the most junior – probably the “boots boy”.

Since Wynne Bankes was born at Eaton Place, Belgravia, it is tempting to speculate if his parents knew Edmund Hammond (later Lord Hammond), Sir Sydney Waterlow’s great friend at the Foreign Office who lived there for many years, and whether the latter had any connection whatsoever with our Hammond family (for further detail on him, see our “Waterlow story”).

We were very fortunate to find this census entry, while looking for Louisa Jagers at Cannon Row nearby. Due to early inexperience, we mixed up folio and page numbers and found ourselves staring instead at these familiar Hammond names! (“If you want to find a Hammond, look for a Jagers”).

This fortuitous inexperience was but minor compared to that exhibited by an “expert” researcher whom we engaged (very temporarily) to check such things for us in London, before we were able to get down there ourselves. She looked up Cannon Row in the Westminster Census District street index, and not finding it concluded that it was not yet built in 1871! It is of course in the adjacent St. George Hanover Square index, and we found it easily therein.

We know quite a bit about Charles; he seems to have gone off on his own way about 1874, so it is convenient to deal with him fully first, then return to Frederick afterwards.....



2.7.1 Charles Thomas Hammond and the Waterlows (1874 – 1922)

Charles married a girl from Doncaster, **Emily Williams** on the 22nd March 1874 at Camden Town Parish Church, Camden Street (pictured below). For some further detail of her family, see Appendix (H). Although Charles habitually used the surname Hammond at all other times in London, right up to his death, he married in the name of Charles Hammond Fletcher. Both Charles and Emily were living at 95 Great College Street, Camden (on the west side between Plender St and Platt St – these were rented lodgings, not shown specifically in directories).....



(in our picture, no. 95 is in the centre, below the pediment, with the black front door)

At his marriage, Charles was already a butler, at the age of 22. We think that his employer was probably Philip Hickson Waterlow, who was then living nearby at 240 Camden Road. Also very close by at the end of Great College Street was the “Eagle Tavern” of which we will hear more anon.

William Jagers was a witness at the wedding, as was also an “Elizabeth Jagers”, probably William’s younger sister (we don’t know who else she might be), but as far as we are aware she also normally used the surname Hammond in her everyday life. It would not be Charles’ mother, who as already noted had died some years previously in Ipswich, and would be even more likely to have called herself Hammond. Or maybe she is a spinster sister of John Jagers whom we do not yet know about?

Charles and Emily’s first child, son **Charles Edwin** was born at 25 Vorley Road, Holloway, North London on 16th December 1874 and baptized at St John, Holloway on 14th February 1875. This, like the Great College St house appears to be a common artisan lodging or tenement (it no longer exists), and neither are listed specifically in the directories. The baptismal register records father Charles Hammond Fletcher as a manservant then, with his wife’s name rendered as Emily Williams Fletcher.

By the birth of their second child **Louisa Elizabeth**, christened at St Michael, Highgate on 31st March 1876 they were living at Fairseat House in that village, where Charles was now butler to Sir Sydney Hedley Waterlow. Sadly Louisa died during the summer of 1876 at only a few weeks old. Then followed **Florence Emily**, christened 27th January 1878 at the same church (after Florence Nightingale, a name enjoying unprecedented popularity then) and **Hannah** in 1879. The picture shows Fairseat from the main road; the coach house is the building at extreme right.....



Their fifth child, **Alice**, was also born at Fairseat in early 1881. She was christened as Alice Louisa on 15th May at St Peter, Dartmouth Park Hill. All of these children’s births were registered with surname Hammond, but the baptisms are all as Hammond-Fletcher! On 18th October 1882 at St Peter, the next child was christened **Clara** Hammond Fletcher, but she was registered as Clara Fletcher. The family abode was listed as Fairseat House Stables. Clara died at only a few days old, again registered as Fletcher.

Sir Sydney Waterlow had been Lord Mayor of London 1872-73 and was a fellow MP to Sir Edward Buller, so Charles probably secured his posts with this family by means of the parliamentary “old boy network”.

Waterlow had the house at Fairseat built in 1866 – 67 and laid out its extensive landscaped park with stunning views across and down to the great city “smoke” about 4 miles to the south-east. However, he had tired of it by 1884 and spent the next five years trying to sell up before giving it to the London County Council “for the people”.

The main residence, together with the outbuildings including the coach-house, is now a private school called “Channings” but the grounds are well maintained, open to the public as intended, nowadays of course known as Waterlow Park. Therein may be found a statue of the great man himself, reputedly the only one in London to be depicted carrying an umbrella. In his other hand he once carried the symbolic key to the city, but vandals have broken this off.

Charles accompanied his employer on a tour of the USA in 1883 and probably on other world travels during this period. For full details of these journeys, see the story of the Waterlow family of London, a companion account to this one.

In 1884, Waterlow bought a vast town house at 29 Chesham Place, Belgravia (formerly the Russian Embassy) and moved his family and most of the staff there. This was (and is) one of the most fashionable and expensive properties in London – a neighbouring one was sold for nearly £30 million in 2001.....



However it seems that Emily at least stayed on at Fairseat, probably as caretaker for the property, with Charles travelling back and forth as and when he was able, since their seventh child, Horace Hammond Fletcher was born at Lauderdale House, a fine old property (which is now open to the public) in the grounds of Waterlow Park. He was christened at Highgate St Michael on 8th October 1889. Unfortunately his mother Emily died either in childbirth or shortly afterwards, at the age of only 37, which may have determined Waterlow to finally dispose of his Fairseat estate.

In the 1891 census, Charles is shown as butler at 29 Chesham Place as expected, and as a widower. His children have been sent to live with their aunts, Emily’s sisters; Charles Edwin at 16 is by now using the surname Fletcher and is staying with Aunt Louisa and her husband Thomas Box, a coachman / groom, at Market Mews, Mayfair.

Florence, Hannah and Horace (Hammond) are with their Aunt Florence and her husband John Craig, a police constable born in Ireland, at Miles Buildings, Linton Street, Paddington, one of Sir Sydney Waterlow’s “Improved Industrial Dwellings Company” apartment blocks.

In early June 1893, Charles remarried. His new bride was **Louisa Laughton**, and she was only 22 years old, whereas Charles was by now 42. Louisa was the daughter of George Laughton, an engine fitter, and his wife Charlotte, and was born at 17 Woodfield Place in Paddington in 1870 (further family details at Appendix I).

The 1881 census shows the family living at Queen Street (now Old Queen Street, pictured right) in Westminster, but by 1891 they had moved out to 69 Mallinson Road, Battersea.

Louisa’s occupation in the latter census is shown as a dressmaker, but on the marriage certificate is shown as a Lady’s Maid. Probably she would have met Charles through working for Mrs. Waterlow – an American lady - in either or maybe both capacities at Chesham Place.

Charles humbly shows his occupation as “House Servant” on the certificate. This is yet another of ours appearing in the registers with an a-suffix, and we obtained a copy hoping for some more interesting amendments, but in the event could see nothing obvious that had been changed. None of our family were witnesses on this occasion.



A child was born to Louisa on October 13th 1893, Charles’ eighth, only four months or so after the wedding, at 125 Mallinson Road, Battersea, baptized as Louisa Hammond Fletcher at St Michael nearby on 5th November. Though Charles continued to work at 29, Chesham Place, recorded with occupation “house steward” it appears he has by now set up a home with Louisa near to her parents in Mallinson Road.

Charles' scandalously young bride, together with her child conceived before their marriage, evidently did not go down too well with his children, who after all were only a few years younger than her. In Charles' will, dated 15th July 1895, he leaves everything to his new wife, and none of the children are even mentioned. However, one of the witnesses/executors is William Jagers, so evidently he has not fallen out with all of his family!

By the time of the 1901 census all of his children have changed their surname to Fletcher by adulthood, and are dispersed throughout southeast England. Somewhat surprisingly **Hannah** Elizabeth Hammond Fletcher voyaged from Southampton on 11th June 1908 to New York arriving on 18th June aboard the liner "Majestic", evidently seeking a new life at age 28. She travelled alone, second class and her occupation is recorded as "none"; home address 105 Bennerley Road, Clapham Junction (the next street to Mallinson Road). We don't know what happened to her subsequently; she probably stayed on in the US or Canada and married there.

Her sister **Florence** does not share such good fortune; by some unknown circumstance at the age of 34 in 1911 she has become an inmate at the Ongar Union Workhouse in Essex. Ten years later she is similarly recorded at The Guardian's Institution, The Plain in nearby Epping. There is no record of her death there, but in 1939 there is a Florence E. *Fletcher* with the right birthdate living at 50 Foord's Almshouses Rochester, Kent as an almsperson. She lived to the good age of 88, passing away there in early 1966!

Of the other Hammond-Fletcher children, we know nothing at all about Alice, Charles Edwin or Horace after 1901; perhaps the lads went to sea, or to America like Hannah? The 1911 census records a Charles Edwin Hammond "age 35" at 30 Crawford Street, Camberwell as a sailor (out of work), married to Lizzie for 4 years, with a child Charles William aged 2, which may be him, though shown as born in Battersea.

Meanwhile, Charles and Louisa had their final child **George** Hammond Fletcher in the summer of 1897. George was born at Trottescliffe, Wrotham, Kent, as by now Charles and his employer are spending more and more time at Waterlow's country house, Trosley Towers, in that parish just north of Maidstone.....



None of Charles, Louisa or their employer are listed in the 1901 census name index. They were probably all away in the south of France, since Sir Sydney Waterlow, in delicate health, was by now spending most winter months at his villa, Monterey near Cannes. We know that Charles continued as butler to Sir Sydney until the latter's death in 1906.

They all went down from Chesham Place to Trosley Towers on Tuesday 31st July 1906. Sir Sydney Waterlow died there after a very brief illness on the Friday, 3rd August. Almost his last words to his faithful servant Hammond were "Remember you call me in time Friday morning; there's a meeting of the Chatham & Dover".

This would have been on the Wednesday preceding; presumably the Thursday was Charles' day off. The comment refers to the old London, Chatham & Dover Railway Company; Sir Sydney still evidently called it that from habit, though it had become part of the South Eastern & Chatham Railway joint management committee since 1899. He remained as a director right until the end.

The "Times" of 4th August on first reporting the death said ".....friends wishing to attend the funeral to kindly communicate with Mr. Hammond at Trosley Towers.....". Sir Sydney was buried in the churchyard at nearby Stansted St. Mary.

Charles is mentioned in Waterlow's biography (published 1909), the only one of the servants one to be accorded such an honour, and in the will was left the sum of £200 – a fair fortune then, equivalent to maybe £40,000 nowadays. Charles himself was no doubt able to supply much material and anecdotes to the biographer Smalley, as he had been Sir Sydney's butler for some 30 years.

Charles added a codicil to his will in 1908 concerning the house at Bennerley Road, and as William Jagers was by now dead, Frederick Hammond was appointed as an executor and signs as a witness. Still, Charles does not mention any of his children. By now, Sir Philip Hickson Waterlow, Sir Sydney's son and heir, had come to live at Trosley Towers with his family, and Charles continued to work there as his butler until about 1911, also superintending the staff and managing the house in his absences.

The census that year shows Charles, Louisa and their children Louisa & George living at Holland's Farm, Stansted, but confusingly Kent directories from 1911 to 1922 record Charles at Halden (or Hilden) House. Further investigation shows that these places appear to be one and the same property! It still exists, and is about half a mile west of Stansted St Mary church on Plaxdale Green Road (about 2 miles from Trosley Towers – so he was probably by now in semi-retirement). The 1921 census again shows the family at Holland's Farm, with Charles now a retired butler. They have 2 boarders and 2 visitors on census night, one of the latter being his step-sister Elizabeth Hammond, John Jagers' child born in 1849; she is 72 years old and recorded as a maid at Millfield, Bexhill (see later). However Charles died aged 71 on 26th November 1922 at another property, Lindenwood Villas, only a short distance to the north of the big house on the main road (see map above). This pair of cottages also survives, though nowadays renamed.



Despite Charles' will mentioning that he had brought a grave plot at Highgate cemetery, and that he wished to be buried there with minimal fuss, "funeral expenses not to exceed five pounds", he was in fact accorded the honour of being interred at the local parish church of Stansted St. Mary. His headstone is still to be seen there adjacent to those of Sir Sydney Waterlow and Sir Philip Hickson Waterlow and their wives. It reads:-

"Rest! Thy work is done. In affectionate remembrance of CHARLES HAMMOND FLETCHER a loving husband and father; born May 13th 1851, died Nov 26th 1922 after a life's devotion in the service of Sir Sydney Hedley Waterlow Bart".

We had not previously known Charles' exact birth date. An added kerbstone reads:- *"in loving memory of George Laughton, died Sept 22nd 1920 aged 82 years; Until we meet again"*, this being his father-in-law.

In our picture, Charles' headstone is in the foreground with the secluded and picturesque church behind. The Waterlow graves are just behind us.....

Charles' effects, totalling £472 19s 11d went entirely to his young wife Louisa.

As we have seen, Charles apparently remained good friends with his stepbrothers William Jagers and Frederick Hammond. One of the reasons (indeed maybe the sole one) for any apparent aloofness which developed between our family and Charles Hammond may have been divided Waterlow loyalties. After the death of the patriarch James Waterlow in 1876, his sons had a serious family dispute resulting in the elder son, Alfred forming a separate company together with his three sons and Alfred Layton, called Waterlow Bros & Layton. The other brothers, under the managing directorship of Sir Sydney, continued as Waterlow & Sons Ltd. These two organizations operated in fierce competition with each other, and were not to be reunited until many years later, in 1920. As we will see, William Jagers and his family would have been loyal to Alfred and his sons, whereas Charles was firmly committed to the Sydney Waterlow camp.

Of Charles & Louisa's children; **Louisa** married **Edward William Bagwell** at Stansted in the summer of 1917 at 23 years old. The 1921 census shows them at 3 Afghan Road, Battersea with Edward a chemist assistant with Whiffen & Sons, Chemical Manufacturers at Lombard Road nearby. They have a son Geoffrey George, 2, born at Stansted. In 1939 they are at 8 Welford Villas, Battersea. She died in early 1970 at Taunton, Somerset, aged 76 and Edward also there in late 1972.

In 1921 **George** is lodging at 13 Longbeach Road, Battersea and employed as a fitter & turner at Waterlow & Sons, based at their 15, Appold Street Finsbury works. He married **Emma Beck** at Wandsworth in 1929 at age 32. Emma was born in the autumn of 1893 at Leicester, so 4 years older than George. In 1901 she was with her parents, Frederick, a master builder, and Sarah Jane, the 5th of their 7 children, and ten years later at 25 Kirby Road in the town where she is employed as a clerk/typist to a painter & decorator. In the 1939 register George & Emma are at 4, The Causeway, Sutton in Surrey; he still working at the same job as in 1921.

2.7.2 An update on Frederick – and the Feredays

Meanwhile, back to Frederick Hammond. After 1871, when he was in domestic service with Sir Edward Buller at Old Palace Yard, we have no record of his activities for nearly ten years. In March 1881 he turns up at a common lodging house, 17 Gower Place, Euston, occupation stated as “Insurance Collector”, aged 24. He married **Rachel Kezia Maskell** from there in that month, of which more anon.

If he too had obtained a job via a Waterlow connection, this would most likely have been with one of Sir Sydney’s hospital savings fund schemes lately started; he would have collected weekly premiums door-to-door. Why should we think this likely? The Waterlow family between them were relatively large employers, but in the overall context of the size of London, it must surely be more than coincidence that the name keeps popping up over and over again.....

We saw that Caleb Fereday returned to London “penniless” after the Dublin debacle, and reverted to his first occupation of boot & shoe maker in the east end. His daughter Matilda, after some years eking out the family subsistence by working as a barmaid, made a very good marriage to one Ebenezer Ince in 1868.

To quote the Stanley Ince diaries: “(my other grandfather) Mr. Ince was an outfitter in the town of Clare, Suffolk, who married twice and had 12 children. My father (Ebenezer Hezekiah Ince) came up to London at age 16, obtained a situation at Messrs Waterlow & Sons and stayed there all his life, rising to the head of the Law Stationery department”.

And Fereday’s two sons, Caleb junior and Ernest Edwin both became stationers, no doubt also with the great firm. Caleb senior died in early 1880, but his widow Mary, daughter of the sugar refiner Ede Tanner, continued to run the family boot making shop at 81 Cannon Street Road, Shadwell. She is shown in the 1881 census there, at the age of 61.

2.8 The Maskells of Caversham and West Drayton

To complete setting the domestic scene at Harley Street in 1881, it is necessary to look at the background of the above-mentioned Rachel Kezia Maskell. We studied her family in considerable detail (Appendix J), following up the claim that her father, John George Maskell “married 3 times, had 3 separate families” and that maybe something of unusual interest would come out of this. It seems though that this particular bit of family legend was completely unfounded; as already noted above, probably the gist of it was right, but the name was completely wrong. An understandable confusion perhaps, given the nature of our family! In the event, we struggled for a long time to find even one marriage for this man, never mind three, but the realization (from a census entry) that he was familiarly known as George, rather than John, eventually led to just two, only the first of which bore any children.

Rachel was born at West Drayton, Middlesex in 1860, and like many others seems to have come up to the great metropolis in her mid-teens to seek good employment in service. The Maskells were however at West Drayton for just two generations, having originated some 12 miles westward at Caversham, Oxfordshire, just across the River Thames from Reading. Here, the very common surname Marshall had become corrupted by local dialect to Maskell. John Maskell senior, George’s grandfather, was born about 1775, but we don’t know where. By 1799 though he was living in Caversham, and married Dorothy Reeves, the daughter of John & Dorothy, at Shiplake parish church on 18th April that year. Dorothy was born in Shiplake in late 1778. They had five known children, of which the second, also John, was christened in October 1804 at Caversham. This John in turn married Sarah Jaycock at Langley Marish near Slough in January 1832 and settled just a mile or two away in West Drayton. Both Johns, father and son, were farm labourers.

John and Sarah’s son John George was born exactly a full nine months to the day after the wedding, an entirely honourable achievement which was not common at the time for a first child, either in our family or indeed generally amongst the labouring classes!

Although living at West Drayton, there seems to have been frequent contact with the wider family remaining in the Caversham – Henley area; we can imagine much weary footslogging along the dusty Great West Road between the two. By the 1851 census, we find the young John George, still single, working as a farm labourer at Nettlebed Street, Henley on Thames, living in at the farmhouse and in the employ of Richard Glasspool, along with 16 others on this 1300-acre holding.

2.8.1 My great-great grandmother was definitely a Pratt.....

George’s wife-to-be **Sarah Pratt** was then living nearby as a domestic servant, aged 20, at 79 Bell Street (pictured). She was alone in the house; evidently her employers were away that Easter weekend. Sarah was the fourth of eight known children born to George Pratt, shoemaker of Northfield End, Henley, and his “wife” Kezia Richmond, from whom Rachel evidently derives her middle name. This, now rare, was then quite a common name, of biblical origin from the beautiful second daughter of Job, “born to him late in his life”. It does not, as we first thought, necessarily imply any Jewish family connection. Kezia was the



daughter of Robert and Anne Richmond, christened at Fingest, Buckinghamshire in February 1803, but no record of any marriage to George Pratt could be found, so they appear to be just “common law” husband and wife. For more detail on the Pratt family, see Appendix (K).

.....but not, apparently a Wise Pratt.....

Sarah seems to have preferred living away from the no doubt crowded family home (several children to a bed?), for in the 1841 census at age 9 she is staying nearby with her grandmother (nee Wise) at the church almshouses. She has a younger sister, Rachel Wise Pratt, who re-appears briefly much later on in the Maskell family story at Peckham, South London.

Though they would seem to have first met in Henley, by 1856 George had taken Sarah back to his family home at West Drayton, and they were married at St Martin’s parish church there (pictured) on 5th October that year.



Their daughter Mary Ann was born in late July 1857, followed by Rachel Kezia, their only other child, on 14th March 1860. Both were baptized at St Martin.

On the birth certificates, the mother’s maiden name written in the flamboyant script of the time looks more like Batt than Pratt, so we initially thought that George had married his employers’ daughter (we did not find the marriage record until somewhat later).

The Batt family were well-known landowners in the West Drayton area (they owned most of it!). They lived at the Manor House, of which just the former gatehouse building still survives, adjacent to the church (picture right).....



As farm labourers, George Maskell together with his brothers William, Benjamin and Frederick, also their father John, would all have been employed by the Batts

So it’s all quite clear then. George married a Pratt, and worked for a Batt.

While her elder sister stayed at home, working as a dressmaker, Rachel Kezia had moved up to London by 1880, and was in service at 21, Harley St. under William Jagers, probably as a housemaid or maybe as cook, though she is still a bit young for the latter post.

2.9 What the butler saw?

Festive jollity in Marylebone, Christmas 1880, and a mysterious father

The scene is now fully set: William Jagers and Rachel Kezia Maskell are at Harley Street, working for the Critchets. Frederick Hammond, insurance collector, is nearby at Gower Place. Critchett’s friend Alfred Waterlow is at Park Crescent, with his family and servants.



Frederick Hammond married Rachel Maskell on 12th March 1881 at Marylebone parish church (right).

Rachel was then around 3 months pregnant with her first child, Ethel Margaret, my grandmother. As we have seen, there is nothing particularly unusual about that. But one would have thought that when the pregnancy became apparent, Rachel at least would have been immediately sacked from her job and banished from the district.

Instead, just two weeks after the wedding the census shows the young couple to be newly installed in a palatial house in Albany Street, overlooking Regents Park. This seems a little strange, to say the least.

For further clues as to what is going on here, we need to look at the few snippets of family legend contained in letters written by my father’s aunts (Ethel’s sisters) and aided by his own recollections. These need to be interpreted in the light of the fact that when they were young, children were expected to be seen and not heard, and that even if they had the courage to ask questions, few answers would be either forthcoming or illuminating. They say, in effect, that Frederick was not the real father of the child. One very real fact certainly

supports this. Jumping ahead by some 23 years, the daughter Ethel Margaret Hammond was to marry William Charles Jagers. Since Frederick Hammond and William Jagers were born of the same mother, we can surely assume that they only allowed the marriage to go ahead on the basis that they both *knew* that Frederick was not Ethel's real father?

Frederick and Rachel went on to share a happy marriage, and to have many more children of their own. Ethel's younger sisters certainly thought that she had a different, mysterious father; and she does not look at all like them in photographs. And, as usual, there were persistent rumours of "Waterlow" involvement! If the real father was an "Upstairs" person rather than a servant, this would explain how they came to be well looked after.

So who is the prime suspect? We are unlikely ever to be able to prove anything, so this has to be pure speculation. Starting at home at 21 Harley Street, at first, when we discovered he and Rachel were together there, we thought "William Jagers", but the implications of this are too horrific to contemplate, and it is far more likely that he was the Good Guy, acting as honest broker in arranging the marriage to his step-brother Frederick, since he alone would have known both parties well. He no doubt received a small "consideration" from his employer for his trouble. We later found a piece of evidence however that Frederick Hammond and Rachel Maskell did apparently know each other up to a year or so before their marriage, maybe longer; they were both witnesses at the wedding of Rachel's uncle Frederick Maskell to Ellen White, a servant at 21 Harley Street, on 10th April 1880. Frederick would appear to have no interest whatsoever in this, except in acting as a chaperone to the young Rachel!

Of the other staff at Harley Street, we can surely rule out the young footman, William Webber, aged 24, who still had a job there in the 1881 census. Without the supposed Waterlow connection, the most likely candidate would be Critchett's son, George Anderson Critchett, aged 35, an oculist like his father, and by now widowed. He later remarried, and had more children at the Harley St house.

However, given that the deed appears to have taken place at or very close to Christmas 1880, we can well imagine that the Waterlows threw a grand society house party for their family and friends at Park Crescent (pictured), that the Critchett's were invited, and took with them their retinue of servants to help out alongside Waterlow's own staff of eight. So whom amongst Waterlow's own family might we point the finger at?

Alfred James Waterlow was aged 65 in 1880, and had four sons, though one had died young in 1871. Of the others, Alfred Jameson and Herbert Jameson were both married, and had their own homes and families.

That leaves the youngest, Walter Jameson Waterlow, aged 26, unmarried and still living at home in Park Crescent. We originally thought that he was the only candidate fitting all the evidence (he did not marry until 1882), but publication of the 1901 census revealed that not all was quite as it seemed with the other two sons. In this, *both* of them had acquired "wives" with names different to those they originally married!

Neither had been widowed or divorced, and both the spurned partners have been "set up" in smart houses with servants – while their husbands co-habited elsewhere. We can probably still discount Herbert Jameson Waterlow as Ethel's father, as he was apparently still happily married in 1880; his philandering seems to start only around 8 years later. But the other, Alfred Jameson Waterlow, still childless by his wife of 14 years in 1881, seems to have met his new mistress in Paris that year and fathered several children by her there before returning to London with them some time later. And why might a son of a wealthy family have been packed off abroad in the first place? – most often for getting a servant girl pregnant! So Alfred Waterlow junior thus becomes our new prime suspect, but we must leave it at that. (See also our "Waterlow story" for a full history of this interesting family)



The house in which Frederick and Rachel Hammond were installed after their marriage, 9 Colosseum Terrace, was newly-built in 1880 on the site of the old Royal Colosseum Theatre, Albany Street, on the eastern fringe of Regents Park.....

The 1881-82 directories show it as "unoccupied" so there are no clues here. Perhaps it was just a convenient temporary lodging, quiet and out of the way, while the scandal diminished. Frederick is shown unusually in the census as "Servant (head)" but with his occupation as



"Assurance Collector". Rachel is intriguingly shown with the surname "Kevia" and both are denoted as married, but to

the uninitiated apparently not to each other! This may of course have been just the enumerator's error, given Rachel's unusual middle name, rather than a cunning ploy to disguise identities.

They are alone in this smart, large house, with Rachel's occupation shown as Housekeeper. Colosseum Terrace still exists, the houses beautifully renovated with many original features.

The daughter Ethel Margaret was born innocent of all this on 14th September 1881, not in the Terrace but just across the road at 80 Albany Street. This was a true common lodging house, above a bakery, so it seems that the real father's show of benevolence was already receding somewhat. The baptism was not however at Marylebone, but at Rachel's own birthplace of West Drayton, at St. Martin's parish church on 16th October. We were directed to this by a comment in a letter between two of my aunts written in 1983.

This arrangement was suitably away from the public gaze, and would have enabled Rachel's father and uncles to attend the happy event. However, the same letters suggest that she had fallen out with her family; whether this was because of the circumstances surrounding the birth, or the fact that Frederick was a "mysterious Irishman" who (to them) would seemingly have come into Rachel's life "out of the blue", is not clear. Rachel's father, George Maskell, had certainly attended the wedding back in March at Marylebone – his name appears as one of the witnesses. One can only wonder if he was in on the secret?

All the documentation regarding Ethel's birth and baptism appears to be in normal order, showing Frederick as the father. The baptism entry in the original register is somewhat smudged, maybe indicating a last-minute faltering "in God's presence" but more likely just the vicar's clumsiness.

Frederick and Rachel soon seem to scorn the sordid world of domestic service to the elite of London society in favour of an anonymous artisan lifestyle at various places around the metropolis, as they added to their family over the next 22 years. We return to them (and also to Rachel's father) later, but meanwhile rejoin our hero at Harley Street as he embarks upon yet another difficult period of his chequered life.....

2.10 1882 - 1901

2.10.1 William Jagers moves on – but where?

George Critchett senior died on 1st November 1882 at 21 Harley Street, aged 65. He left no will, so we do not know if William, or indeed Rachel was rewarded in any way for their dedicated service, which as we have seen possibly extended somewhat beyond the normal call of duty.

Anderson Critchett obtained Letters of Administration for his father's estate on 15th March 1883 in the sum of just £9,567-17s- 2d, but this had to be re-sworn on 7th January 1885 for considerably more, £12,945-8s-7d; shades of a failed tax evasion?

He continued to live in the Harley St house with his mother, a new wife, further children and a full retinue of servants (10 in the 1891 census), but presumably at the age of only 37 did not want or could afford the luxury of a butler. Critchett junior successfully built his own practice as an oculist surgeon, and became Sir Anderson in 1903. He stayed on at the Harley Street house until at least 1905, nearly forty years since they had first moved there.

Our picture shows the house towards the end of its extensive renovation, in 1999. The entrance hall and consulting rooms are at ground level and there is a very fine original staircase leading to the family reception rooms on the first floor. Their bedrooms are above, on two floors with the smaller windows, and the servants quarters would have been in the attic.

The builders are enjoying a tea break in the 2nd floor window, and on seeing me taking photographs invited me in to have a look around; I was not allowed to take any pictures inside though.

William Jagers evidently had to move on around Christmas 1882 – but where to? We lose track of him again almost totally until 1891. It seems likely that he was firstly able to move up the street to join the Waterlows at 25 Park Crescent in a similar post, but here the patriarch Alfred James had himself only another four years of his life left. By 1887 this house had been sold, and the rest of the family and servants dispersed; there is no one of interest to us here in the 1891 census.



Our family grapevine says that William was “coachman to Sir William Waterlow”. I can vouch for this personally, as I fondly recall my grandfather telling me this (of his father) just before he died. I retain the pleasant mind-picture that this might have been at some smart stately home somewhere out in rural Essex, but with hindsight this seems to have been pure childhood imagination.

There is only one possible candidate for this Sir William Waterlow, and he was elevated to the baronetcy only in 1930, so what my grandfather presumably would have meant was “coachman to (the man who later became Sir) William Waterlow”- or maybe he just got his Waterlows muddled up?

William Alfred Waterlow was Alfred James’ grandson, born at 25 Park Crescent in 1871, just a few weeks before his father James’ early and untimely death. His mother, uncles and grandparents brought him up but by 1881 he was away at boarding school in Frant, Sussex.

At the time of his grandfather’s death he was still only 15 years old and a scholar at Marlborough, so not in a position to become William’s employer just yet. Our family recollection would perhaps then apply to a later employment, maybe around 1896 – 1900, before William Waterlow married, when as well as coachman he probably acted also as personal manservant, valet and general factotum to the wealthy young barrister. This would be at his home, Elm Hatch, Westfield Park, Hatch End, Middlesex, where he was living with his mother in this period.

It is possible that William Jagers next found employment with one of Alfred Waterlow’s sons. The only likely candidate here would be Herbert Jameson, since the other two do not have butlers in the 1891 census. Indeed, Herbert himself is still rather too young (40) for this, but William may by then have been functioning more as a general manservant / coachman if that was all that was on offer.

Herbert, already an eminent barrister, was living at Victoria Street, SW in 1887, but does not appear in the London directories for subsequent years. As we saw above, the 1901 census suggests that he left his first wife about then, consorted with a younger girl and had several more children. Two of these were born at Marylebone around 1889 and 1893. Others were born in Auckland, New Zealand 1891, and Brussels, Belgium 1896! If, as seems very likely, Herbert Waterlow was abroad from 1887 for a few years, he could well have taken William Jagers with him.

Herbert Waterlow’s nephew William Waterlow meanwhile also studied at the bar, and was admitted in 1891. He would afterwards no doubt be requiring the services of a general manservant too, which fits in neatly with the above hypothesis.

However in late 2018 we finally found an 1891 census entry for William Jagers; a messy original compounded by a careless transcript had him indexed as William Jagger, aged 41, born in Halifax, Nova Scotia! The original clearly shows he is Jagers but the age is indistinct, it could be 41, 44 (correct) or 46; he is by now a widower (see below) and the birthplace (on the census line below) is correctly shown as Dublin, Ireland. He is at a large house, 47 Portchester Terrace, Paddington, butler to Lt-General John Wimburn Laurie, aged 55 and his wife Frances (who *was* born in Nova Scotia). General Laurie was born in London, but spent most of his army career in Oakfield, Nova Scotia, only returning to London in **1889** which is presumably when William Jagers was engaged as butler, perhaps on the recommendation of a Waterlow. Laurie became MP for Pembroke, Wales in 1895, serving until 1906, then was appointed Mayor of Paddington in 1907, but the 1901 and 1911 censuses show that he continued to live at 47, Portchester Terrace throughout this period, though with different butlers. It is thus interesting to speculate why William Jagers had left this prestigious appointment, with six servants under him, perhaps his health was already beginning to fail? The house was on the east side of the Terrace, opposite and just to the north of Portchester Gardens. It no longer exists, lying under the re-sited Leinster Place.

William Jagers was not a witness to the marriage of Charles Hammond Fletcher to Louisa in June 1893. If he was in London at the time, he surely would have been, so this indicates that he was probably away again, perhaps even abroad with his employer. But Charles’ will, dated July 1895, as mentioned above does have William as executor, and so he is by now definitely back in London. It gives his occupation now as just a lowly messenger, address 109 Clifton St, Finsbury. This is in the area of several of Waterlow’s printing works, and no doubt he was employed by them then. This building still exists; it looks to have been newly-built around the



time, probably as staff apartments. One of the contemporary and distinctive printing buildings also survives, on the other side of Scrutton Street, on the right of our picture



In around 1896 however he visited a photographic studio in the Edgware Road to have his portrait taken, along with that of his daughter Gertrude by now aged 18. We still have these photographs. His is the only one to show us what William looked like, and he does indeed have the very prominent nose and lack of hair on top that has persisted down the subsequent generations!

His jacket looks a little scruffy for a once-proud butler. We think that the occasion may have been his 50th birthday, and also that he had just moved from Finsbury, to live with his daughter in a lodging house at 54, Star Street, Paddington, very close to the photographic studio. We will return there later.

But what, in the meantime has become of his sadly neglected family, Louisa and the three children? Unfortunately, the news is not at all good.....

2.10.2 My Great Grandmother was an Alcoholic

On Friday 15th June 1888, an unknown woman of around 40 years collapsed and died at the Eagle Tavern, Great College Street, Camden Town. The cause of death is shown on the certificate as “heart and other diseases *caused by alcoholic intemperance*”. The inevitable report in the snappily-named “Camden and Kentish Town, Hampstead, Highgate & St. Pancras Gazette” in its issue of Saturday 23rd June (page 2) gives more detail:-

“Sudden Death at the Eagle Tavern”

“....by 5.30 in the morning she had been served with several small quantities of drink. When asked to pay, she said she had no money. The barmaid threatened to call a policeman, whereupon the woman fell down in a fit, and expired”

There is obviously nothing whatsoever new about the concept of extended pub opening hours! The modern usage of the term “barmaid” is interesting, as is the apparent ability of a stranger to obtain several drinks on credit.

The burial register of the parish of St Pancras shows that this “Unknown woman of about 40 years brought in by the police” was interred only four days after she died, on 19th June in the burial yard of the Royal Free Hospital, Gray’s Inn Road, as was usual for such cases at the time.

It was not until some weeks later that the woman was identified – as Louisa Jagers, wife of William Jagers, servant, of 12 Raglan Street, Kentish Town, and the death certificate duly amended (another a-suffix for our collection). This fits in with the idea that William was at that time working away from London, probably abroad, for a few years after 1887; he must surely have wondered why his letters remained unanswered, and started to make enquiries. It seems surprising that no one in the locality seems to have known who she was, or where she was living.

12 Raglan Street (pictured above right) is a tiny two-up, two-down early Victorian terraced house off the Kentish Town Road. It is still there, and in largely original condition, externally at least. The 1891 census shows it as occupied by six assorted adults, a railway signaller, porters etc, presumably one or two to each room, a common lodging house clearly of somewhat lower standard than that to which Louisa had previously been accustomed.

From there, on foot, to the Eagle Tavern (pictured right) is just a few yards over half a mile, but passing by no fewer than seven or eight other hostelrys on the way. The great temptation of the Eagle over these seems to lie in the fact that it was a bright, spacious high-Victorian gin palace providing conviviality (even in the small hours!) together unfortunately with anonymity.

The Eagle also survives, in the shadow of the huge black railway bridges at Camden Road station, garishly painted and now called “Rosie O’Grady’s” (Great College St. is nowadays known as Royal College St.). In



1888 the licensee was Henry Sams, and there was a good complement of staff living in and working under him. My cousin Martin Jagers suggested that should we visit and make ourselves known, we are liable to get a bill for several gin and tonics, with over 100 years' interest!

The occupation "servant" shown on the death certificate is ambiguous – it could refer either to Louisa or to William (or of course to both). One wonders how a servant was able to spend most of the night hours in a pub, regularly enough to be to the detriment of her health, though perhaps not about the lack of money.

It is reported by those who claim to know about these things, that some 30% of lone women in London at this time were engaged in the business of prostitution. This was indeed the very year of the "Jack the Ripper" murders in Whitechapel, and the topical press was full of the background social detail and speculation.

We prefer to give poor Louisa the benefit of the doubt in this matter. An interesting aside here is that in the course of our searches, we came across two women living together in the district who quite brazenly and openly stated their occupation to the census enumerator as "Prostitute", duly recorded for posterity. It was usual for the choice of words to be somewhat more subtle.

It is said that most family history researchers can expect to find one such sad incident in their own family, but this one at least has its amusing aspects; we have but to see the funny side at this distance in time! Louisa had obviously fallen victim to the then prevalent "Mother's Ruin" (cheap and freely-available gin) as a result of her husband's enforced long absences. It is no wonder that – as far as my father was aware - she was apparently never spoken of later by any of her children or grandchildren.

Cousin Martin, on reading our account did however recall that his father Bert told a slightly different version of the story, where the inebriated Louisa was run down by a horse and cart upon leaving the pub. This would surely have been mentioned in the contemporary newspaper account, so we conclude that this detail was an "enhancement" to try to maintain some element of respectability, by suggesting that Louisa's demise was not entirely self-inflicted!

We wonder if the incident ever came to the attention of my esteemed Aunt Gladys (Bert and my father's elder sister), who took Holy Orders as a young woman, and otherwise acted as the guardian of the Jagers oral family history, such as it was. Probably not - she would surely have been comprehensively, perhaps terminally, shocked.

But what has happened to Louisa's children? William Charles, by then just eighteen, was away in the army. Louisa, 15, would surely already have been in domestic service. 30 months later we find her in the 1891 census, as servant to Charles Schlessinger, a fire insurance clerk and his wife at 9, Bartholomew Villas, Kentish Town (picture right).

This smart Georgian town house is only a few yards away from Raglan St, across the other side of the Kentish Town Road, so probably she was already living and working there at the time of her mother's death; perhaps it was she, with the help of her employer, who initiated enquiries with the police when she was unable to find her.

Gertrude was only nine, surely too young to fend for herself, but yet old enough to realize and report that something had apparently happened to her mother, had she been with her at Raglan Street. Perhaps she too was staying with Louisa at Bartholomew Villas, or maybe with the Hammonds who were then briefly living out at Forest Gate, Essex.

In fact, the latter seems more than likely, since by 1891 we find Gertrude boarding nearby with another family, John Pipe, a railway inspector, and his wife Emily, with their 4 children, at 46 Armly Road, West Ham.

Why might she have been sent to stay with this apparently unconnected family, about 6 miles away from Central London? The clue must be that the Pipe's came from Ipswich, Suffolk; John Pipe was more or less the same age as William Jagers, and they surely would have known each other there during the 1860's. This was our third hint of an Ipswich connection for our family at that time!

The 1901 census shows that William Jagers is by now living at 54 Star Street, Paddington, as we see above, possibly since 1896 and almost certainly from 1900, perhaps having left William Waterlow's employ about that year. This is a common lodging house (pictured, the centre house with the varnished door), with a total of 11 inhabitants on census night.

William is unexpectedly shown as having occupation "builder's timekeeper". We thought perhaps that this should read "printer's timekeeper" (which he was shortly to become) but the original hand-written version is quite clear.

If he indeed sometime previously worked for William Waterlow, this had clearly ceased by now for some reason, though the latter was not to marry until 1904 (in Edinburgh) and would presumably have needed a personal manservant (and a coachman) at least until then.

Perhaps our William was not by this time in the best of health? His



daughter Gertrude is with him at Star Street, and she is working as a commercial clerk.

2.10.3 More on the Maskells

George Maskell lost his wife Sarah in 1876, when they were both only 44 years old and their daughter Rachel 15. Unlike many men who were widowed young, he did not remarry for a relatively long time and was destined after all not to have any more children, despite the family legend.

The 1881 census shows him living in a cottage at the Green, West Drayton with just his elder daughter Mary Ann, a dressmaker, for company. He is still working as a labourer, but by now in brick making / laying, which appears to be something of a family business in the area. His brothers William and Benjamin are likewise engaged, though living elsewhere in the village with their own young families.

As well as a common or garden agricultural labourer, George had also worked previously as a brewer's labourer so he obviously got around a bit.

The cottages at the Green still retain a pleasant rural character, quite remarkable today for a London suburb; the area cannot have changed all that much down the years.....



Having spent virtually his whole life in West Drayton, it comes as a surprise to find George Maskell embarking upon his second marriage in Peckham, South London; we initially disregarded it as implausible – surely not our man, but another of the same name?

The lucky lady was Fanny Thornhill, nee Bray, a year younger than George, born at Harefield, Middlesex but living at West Drayton with her husband James until his death in 1882. They had at least six children, the youngest only seven then. So they surely knew each other since way back, but how or why did they gravitate to Peckham?

Somewhat unbelievably, this bleak enclave immortalized by “Del Boy” and the Trotters was in 1885 almost as rural as West Drayton, but rapidly succumbing to the spread of suburbia. Both George and Fanny were living at 142 Kender Street at the time of their marriage. This house was newly built, itself part of the enveloping sprawl, so perhaps it was the bricks business that brought George there, in pursuance of work.

The marriage was on Christmas Day 1885 at All Saints Hatcham, New Cross Road. By the 1891 census they are apparently no longer living at Kender St. The house was then occupied by one Joseph Taylor and his wife Rachel, of no obvious interest to us except that she was born at Henley-on-Thames.

She is indeed Rachel Wise Pratt, younger sister of George's late wife Sarah, and had married Joseph at West Drayton in 1861. So all these people knew each other quite well! We think then that George and Fanny were normally still living at the Kender St. house in 1891, but were away at the time of the census at Easter weekend, staying separately with their respective families. We found George at Bethel Place, Hillingdon with his brother William and family, and Fanny nearby at Harlington village with her nephew.

After 1891, we lose track of the Maskells; as indeed we already noted they are said to have become estranged from our family. George's death is probably that registered in Eton, Bucks district (which extends almost to West Drayton) in early 1899, “aged 68”; there are no other obvious candidates anywhere else in southeast England.

His widow Fanny is shown in the 1901 census at 2, Victoria Cottages, near the Green in West Drayton, lodging with her daughter Maria and her family. She died locally in 1914 aged 81.

2.10.4 Harmony at the Hammonds

We left Frederick and Rachel with their young daughter Ethel Margaret at Albany Street in late 1881, contemplating their future.

For a long time we thought there was then a gap of some four years until the birth of their second known child (or rather, perhaps just Frederick's first?), but in 2005 Pat Felgate found our Grandma Ethel's “birthday book” in her mother's effects, and this showed a sister “Lizzie” born on 17th March 1883.

By making a further totally unwarranted assumption that she was probably formally called Elizabeth, we found nothing in the registers, but she is indeed “Lizzie Gertrude”, and it seems somewhat surprising that the registrar allowed that in those straight-laced times. She was baptized at All Saints, Camden Town on 15th April; the register confirms the birth date, gives the family abode as 136 St Paul's Road nearby, and Frederick's occupation as “plumber”!

Grandma's book indicates that she died aged 12, so we wondered why she was not shown in the 1891 census – in fact she passed on in the summer of 1890, aged only 7.

Next child George Frederick Hammond (the George no doubt after Rachel's father) was born at 5 Kingsgate Street, Holborn in January 1885. This street was evidently at that time “sub-standard” housing demolished soon afterwards,

running roughly where Proctor St. now is, northwards from High Holborn. The 1885 directory shows no. 5 as occupied by George Hammerton, ship's chandler, who presumably let out rooms.

Kingsgate Street was immortalized, quite possibly factually, by Dickens in "Martin Chuzzlewit", the home domain of the indomitable Mrs. Gamp and her imaginary friend Mrs. Harris. Frederick's occupation in 1885 is shown as builder's labourer, a bit of a change from collecting insurance premiums.

By autumn 1888 and fourth child Albert's birth, he had progressed to Journeyman (i.e. free-lance, self-employed) Painter – house painter that is, not the artistic sort – and now living at Buckingham Road, Forest Gate, way out east beyond Stratford. These were new terraced houses built for rent in the developing suburbs, and he no doubt worked on these locally for the estate company.

Two years on, Frederick and Rachel have winged their way right back across the capital to 72 Overstone Road, Hammersmith. As already noted, daughter Lizzie passed away there just before their next child's birth, named Gertrude Elizabeth probably in her memory. She was christened at St John the Evangelist, Hammersmith. The birth certificate shows the versatile Fred's occupation as "Manager of an Oyster Bar", probably at one of those then-fashionable establishments down Hammersmith Broadway.

But by the 1891 census a few months later they are lodging at the house next door, 70 Overstone Rd, and he is still a house painter. So the Oyster Bar job was probably just an

evening one, taken to help make ends meet, but sounds impressive. The Overstone Rd. houses are small but neat and pleasant late-Georgian style.....



For the next in their growing family they have moved on yet again, and for the last time, finally settling at 16 Netherwood Street, NW for the next 15 years or so. The sixth child, William Charles (my dad's Uncle Will) was born there on 13th July 1892.

Left is a picture of Rachel, curiously labeled "Miss Hammond" on the reverse, at about this time.

This marks the start of the "Hampstead years" in which the Jagers' join them later. Well Kilburn actually, but its Hampstead registration district and that sounds much better. There must be some as yet unfathomable feature of Kilburn whereby it acted as a magnet for the Irish community in London. Judging by the pub and shop names in the High Road, and listening to the softly lilting brogue of passers-by, this prevails down to the present time.

Netherwood Street, along with Iverson Road and Loveridge Road to the north which we come across soon, are adjacent streets off the east side of the Kilburn High Road. The land here was once part of the Gilbert estate, acquired by the railway companies to protect and expand their main arteries into the capital at this time of fierce competition, then once they had taken what they wanted, the rest sold off in small parcels to developers during the 1870's. The Iverson and Loveridge houses were built by the British Land Co, and Netherwood by the United Land Co. "Built" is used euphemistically here; by all accounts "thrown together" would seem to be more appropriate, and it was perhaps a blessing (aside of the inevitable tragic human loss) that Netherwood should have been virtually obliterated by bombing in World War 2 (not that the 1960's replacements look much better).

When as a young boy I sat on grandma's knee and asked about where she grew up, her reply "a small house beside the railway at Brondesbury station" was referring to 16 Netherwood St. It would have been rented for about 4/- a week. The 1901 census shows a total of 20 people living in the house, including 2 lodgers in their own household and two other complete families!

Frederick was a full-time house painter for all their time there, and Rachel was to complete the family by the addition of Lou, Charlie and Grace over the ten years to 1903. That's a total of "eight young mouths to clothe and feed", one of grandma's stock phrases, but by then of course she was nearly 22 and all of the three eldest will assuredly have been out working and contributing to the household coffers themselves.

2.11 William Charles Jagers – his army career 1885 – 1902

As far as we know, William Jagers' son was a boy cadet from around 1885, and signed up for a commission in the regular army in 1888 at the age of 18; this would be just about the same time as his mother's untimely death.

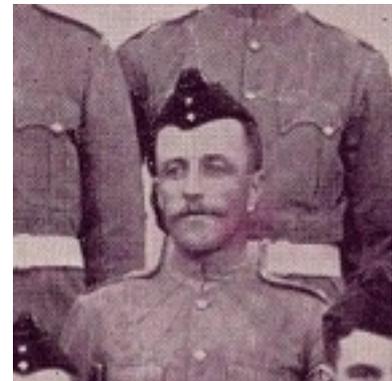
In late 2018 we found a newly-published document, a record of his army attestation interview in London for enlistment in the Durham Light Infantry, dated 8th September 1891, resulting from a letter of recommendation from Sergeant James of the Royal Fusiliers. Interestingly it shows that he had previously served with the 4th East Surrey Regiment, but had purchased his discharge! This would therefore seem to have been his enlistment in 1888 following his cadetship, and he then had to resign following the death of his mother, perhaps to care for his young sister Gertrude until other arrangements could be made. Apparently purchase of discharge at that time cost £18 (but £100 if within 3 months after enlistment): even £18 was a huge sum then, about 4-6 months wages for a labourer, so perhaps this was paid by a Waterlow, maybe his father's employer at the time?

In the 1891 document, he gives his birthplace as "Sheppard's Bush" London and occupation labourer, but no address is shown for him. This led us to another find, in the 1891 census of a few months earlier, where he also gives his birthplace as Shepherd's Bush – interestingly he thinks that, rather than Paddington or Old Bailey, but perhaps he had never seen his birth certificate and relied on hearsay. In April 1891 aged 20 he is a lodger in the house of Francis Chambers, a bricklayer at 13 Vauxhall Walk, Lambeth, occupation also bricklayer, probably as labourer to his landlord. This small terraced house was on the east side of the Walk, just south of the Broad Street junction, it was demolished and replaced by modern housing some years ago.

The attestation shows that William Charles Jagers travelled from London to Newcastle on Tyne, and was enlisted for an initial 7 years in the Durham Light Infantry on 12th September 1891 at the Fenham Barracks there, just 2 weeks or so after his 21st birthday, with service number 4208.

He served at least five years in India with his regiment and was transferred directly from there to South Africa at the start of the Boer War in 1899. There are no medals from this period, indicating that his service in India was in a peace-keeping role only.

The Durham Light Infantry archive at the Durham County Record Office lists a photograph of the men of H half-company, 2nd Battalion taken at Poona, India in February 1897 (Ref D/DLI 7/346/5(27); I am indebted to Gary Jagers (grandson of my father's brother George) who found this and obtained a copy; on enlarging the person indexed as "Jagers" we can see beyond doubt that this is indeed our man!.....



William Charles Jagers was awarded two medals for his service in the Boer War. Queen Victoria's South Africa Medal 1900-01 was granted at Edem's Kop, West Heidelberg on 7th August 1901 by Lt Col N. Fitzgerald, CO of the 1st Bt Durham Light Infantry, with three clasps showing that he participated in the Battle of Tugela Heights, Natal Province from 14th -27th February 1900, followed by the Relief of Ladysmith under General Sir Redvers Buller on 1st March, then transferred to the Transvaal. King Edward's South Africa medal 1902 was granted at Wellington 31st March 1903 also by Lt Col Fitzgerald, with 2 clasps "SA 1901" and "SA 1902". These are the first two medals from the left in the photo on page 41 below.

He probably finally came back home to London in June 1902, after the conclusion of the war by the signing of the Treaty of Vereeniging.

2.11.1 A wedding and two funerals – the Jagers at Hampstead, 1902 – 1905

Ten weeks before the birth of the Hammond's last child, William Jagers' son William Charles married the first, Ethel, at the parish church of St. James, West Hampstead on 14th March 1903. With the very close relationship between the families, he would no doubt have known Ethel since her birth in 1881 (when he was 11), but he had been away in the army until very recently. On being stood down, he had taken a job with – guess who – Waterlows. It was always a family joke that he printed banknotes for a living – quite legally of course! This is what Waterlows did – as well as stamps, share certificates, railway tickets and a host of other commodities, for all the countries in the British Empire and Colonies.

The truth is somewhat more prosaic, as he was a lithographic stone dresser, the man who prepared the stones for the engravers to make the intricate and artistic patterns, for the printers to use. A mere labouring job, though one which would seem to require special skills and patience to achieve the standards of flatness and surface quality needed, together with fast turnround.

He was destined to do this same job for nearly 50 years, interrupted only by further armed service in the trenches in World War 1, not retiring until he was 81 years old! My cousin Pat's recollection is that he was known within the family as "Will", and my father said that to his army pals he was "Bill". We'll refer to him as Will here, to avoid confusion with his father, William.

In 1902, presumably having nowhere else to go, Will Jagers came to lodge with the Hammonds at Netherwood Street, and was married from there. Perversely, and so maintaining the necessary standards of common decency then prevailing, his bride Ethel was not living there with her family, but since at least early 1901 about ½ mile away at a

smart new house, 66 Dennington Park Road, West Hampstead (picture right).

The census shows her to be in service there as parlour maid to Sophia Roberts, a wealthy spinster aged 79, and her cousin Martha. Interestingly her superior, the cook named Acalina Parry, was born in Riga, Russia (now Latvia).

By this time William Jagers had also moved to Hampstead from his digs in Paddington, presumably to be nearer to his son and the Hammonds, and avail of the better air as his health failed. He was evidently unable to find room himself with the Hammonds, and so has taken a lodging nearby at 51 Iverson Road (picture lower right).....

By now age 56, he was employed as a timekeeper at one of the Waterlow print works in the Finsbury area of the City of London. This sounds like a sort of security man on the factory gate, perhaps a job specially created for him by our worthy benefactors in his failing years.

The daily journey from West Hampstead must have been arduous enough though, either about four miles on foot or horse-omnibus, or a slow, jolting ride on a soot-encrusted North London Railway suburban steam train into the Broad Street terminus, depending on the state of his finances.

The Iverson Road house was in somewhat alarming proximity to the railway viaducts carrying the new Great Central main line into Marylebone – from the topmost bedroom windows, one might almost have been able to reach out and touch the passing carriage sides!

The developers had obviously made good use of every little bit of the former railway land. The house still stands, despite the alleged poor build quality, constant rumbling vibrations, and more recent attention from Mr. Hitler resulting in a rebuilt upper storey.



Will and Ethel's marriage was attended by William Jagers; he was one of the witnesses. The other, Lilian Grace Ward was hitherto unknown to us; the 1901 census shows that she was born in Camden Town about 1865 and was by then working as a general servant at Antrim Mansions, Haverstock Hill, so was presumably a family friend. Frederick Hammond was also undoubtedly present at the wedding, but we do not get to know. As already noted, since the fathers William Jagers and Frederick are step-brothers we can be quite certain that they only allowed the marriage to go ahead on the basis that both knew Frederick was not Ethel's real father.

We do not know either if Will Jagers' younger sister Gertrude was able to attend, but tragedy was to strike just eight days later, when she died suddenly of peritonitis at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington. She was only 24, and unmarried.

Apart from the photograph taken at Percival's studio in the Edgware Road with that of her father around 1896 (right) and the 1901 census entry we know nothing of her life since she was quite young.



By the time of her death, she too has moved from the Star Street digs and was working as secretary to a dental practice at 19 Howley Place, Paddington, a smart Regency-style villa where she also lived in.



This house no longer exists; our picture shows no.18 on the other side of the road, and 19 was probably of similar style, though contemporary maps show it as somewhat smaller. Her elder sister Louisa was present at the death and registered same. Will and Ethel had possibly managed to get away for a few days' well-earned honeymoon break – perhaps at Southend – and came back to this.

We know little either of Louisa's life since 1891, and despite the fact that she lived to a good age (78) we have no known photographs of her at all. She never married, but was an excellent cook and always in good service in London.

From 1901 to at least 1911 she was living at apartment 8c, Bickenhall Mansions, Baker Street (right) in the home and employ of Mary Burnett, a wealthy middle-aged spinster. However by 1918 unit 8c is shown in directories as in the occupation of an Alfred Hughes.

These apartments were built in 1898-99, at the height of the fashion for such in the West End; Miss Burnett was not the first occupant, this being a Charles Loibl up to around late 1900.

The number (between 1 and 8) refers to the block, and the letter to the unit within it, from a up to v or w. Our picture shows blocks 5-8 (1-4 are on the opposite side of the road); block 8 being the right-most 4 bays. We think 8c is on the first floor, above the entrance.

Though there is no clear connection in this case, we were not at all surprised to find some Waterlows in close proximity once more – Walter Jameson Waterlow, a wealthy barrister like so many others of his family but by now widowed, had at least 2, possibly 3 adjoining units elsewhere within the same buildings by 1901. In these he had installed a “lady friend” (whom he was to marry later that year) and a very large retinue of servants!

In 1921 Louisa was cook and one of five servants in the household of Charles Gordon Moore, a Physician & his family, at 90 Knightsbridge in London’s west end but by late 1939, she had moved to Somerset, where she was employed as cook to Walter Lindley, a retired County Court Judge, and his family at Corfe House, Corfe, near Taunton; she had probably been with them in London previously

Will and Ethel Jagers started their married life at 9 Loveridge Road, Kilburn, the adjacent street to Iverson Road; indeed the small back garden/yard abutted almost directly onto that of no 51. It is a three-storey terraced house, according to the directories then in the occupation of one Charles Wickens (picture right).

He no doubt rented out rooms in the upper storeys, and the Jagers probably shared the facilities with at least one other family. Their first child Gladys Louisa was born there on 26th May 1904, and there were evidently still there when these proud pictures were taken a few months later....



The duty fell again to Will’s sister Louisa to be present at the death of their father William at the Iverson Rd. house on 27th October 1905. He had just turned 59; evidently the toils, travels and trials of his hard life had taken their toll, but his reputed love of the pipe tobacco as something of an antidote probably played a major part in the final diagnosis.

He was employed as a timekeeper at Waterlows until the last; his daughter in law Ethel later described him as a lovely man, and his passing certainly marks the end of an era in our family history.

Louisa paid for a “family grave” at Hampstead Cemetery and William was interred there on 1st November. No doubt she intended eventually to be buried alongside him, but with the passage of over forty years and two World Wars, by the time she herself passed on in 1951 this had long been forgotten – the cemetery records show that the second space remains unoccupied to this day.

While in the area with some time to spare, I paid a lone visit to the sprawling cemetery in Fortune Green Road in April 1998, on an appropriately dull and misty afternoon.

I did not have a copy of our notes with me, and could not remember the plot number. My father was elsewhere in London and not contactable; my wife Elizabeth was out, so the phone at home remained unanswered. So near, yet so far! Eventually, upon quiet contemplation, the number somehow came to me clearly: G5-130! After a lot of searching, I finally found the correct headstone, totally obscured by dense undergrowth and covered in ivy.

Borrowing some tools from a friendly council gardener working nearby enabled this to be cleared away so that the stone could be seen properly for the first time in very many years.

When it was as tidy as could be managed in the time available, I took a couple of photographs for the record just as the threatening heavens finally opened. The powers that be obviously resented this intrusion into William’s peace and tranquility!



It seems that Will and Ethel moved into his late father's rooms in Iverson Road shortly after his death; maybe there was more space here than at Loveridge Road. Their second child, George William, was born there a couple of months later on 9th January 1906.



2.12 And so to

Walthamstow.....

After their two sad losses in two years, it is perhaps understandable that Will and Ethel Jagers should want to start a new life with their young family, and go in search of stability and security.

Where better than to the "Healthiest Suburb" – Walthamstow, in northeast London? Thus was it promoted by the property developers, probably somewhat more believable then than now; my father recalled plenty of green fields all around even as late as the 1920's.

They moved into no. 9 Rensburg Road, off Coppermill Lane around 1907. These narrow-fronted but "deceptively spacious" terraced houses in the characteristic east London yellow brick had been put up in 1903, and were always rented, not by the well-known and pervasive Warner Estate but by another small local developer.

Our picture does not show no.9, which has been brutally modernized, but an identical house, no. 29 (with the red door) further along the street. No. 31 to the right still retains its original front door, and both show the distinctive brickwork as we remember it.



Will would have appreciated the name Rensburg, commemorating as it did a major battle of the Boer War in which he had served so recently. The house was within a few minutes walk of the peaceful Walthamstow Marshes and the River Lea, the Elms playing fields, and for St. James Street station with its frequent and quick steam trains direct into London Liverpool St, thence a short stroll to his workplace at Waterlow's Blomfield House on London Wall.

Here is the 1911 census entry for our family, in Will's very own neat handwriting.....

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the leaflets of the Census. The entries should be written in ink.

The names of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Great care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, or in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND BIRTHDAY	RELATIONSHIP TO HEAD OF FAMILY	AGE	SEX	MARRIAGE	MARRIAGE IN CONNECTION OF FATHER AND HIS FIRST AND SECOND WIVES		EDUCATION	OCCUPATION
					First Marriage	Second Marriage		
William Jaggan	Head	42	Male	Married			Labourer	London, Ashington
Edith Jaggan	Wife	23	Female	Married				London, Ashington
Walter Jaggan	Daughter	6	Female				School	London, Ashington
George Jaggan	Son	5	Male				School	London, Ashington
Lucas Jaggan	Daughter	2	Female					London, Ashington
Arthur Jaggan	Son	1	Male					London, Ashington

I declare that the Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

William Jaggan
res. care of Ashington Road, Ashington

Since his release from full-time army service in 1902, Will had remained a reservist and so was called to arms again on the 3rd of May 1915, despite being 44 years of age. **So not an “Old Contemptible” (they were in from the start in August 1914) but certainly Old! His regiment was now the King’s Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, service number 22691** and he served more than two years without leave in the trenches of West Belgium and northern France when he was badly injured by flying shrapnel. He was not found for three days (which probably means that most of his colleagues nearby had perished), and was taken to the field hospital. He made a full recovery, but to his wife’s dismay was not given any home leave whatsoever, instead being sent straight back to the trenches as soon as he was fit enough.

We don’t know whether it was this incident, or another, of which my cousin Pat Felgate recalls being told that his life was saved by the Bible he carried in his breast pocket, when it deflected a stray bullet.

His three Great War medals are at centre and right of the photo.....

In the centre is the 1914-15 Star for service in France and Belgium between 5th August 1914 and 31st December 1915. William Charles unsurprisingly apparently hated his initials “W.C.”; this medal is inscribed “C.W” instead, probably for this reason.



Next is the



British War Medal 1914-18 (the General Service Medal), showing that by 1918 he had reverted to the Durham Light Infantry, but with a different service number, 10421. This is perhaps because a great many men in KOYLI perished in the fighting, as evidenced by frequency of names on headstones and memorials on the battlefields, and some re-grouping was necessary.

On the right is the Allied Victory Medal 1914-1919 with the same service number as the British War Medal.

After the Armistice Will was moved from his regiment into the Labour Corps **dealing with the aftermath (service number 18848, yet another one to remember!)** and was eventually discharged from the Army on the 3rd of March 1919, returning home to Rensburg Road at the age of 48!

We tried to locate his army records to fill out more detail, but it seems that these were mostly destroyed, along with many others, ironically by bombing in the London blitz of the Second World War.

My father Leslie Arthur Jagers was born at the Rensburg Road house in October 1913, the fifth of Will and Ethel's six children. This lovely picture shows the family in 1919, probably commemorating Will's demob. With Will and Ethel are (left to right) Gladys aged 14, my father (5), Albert Charles (Bert, 9) then Grace (11) and George (13).



The sixth child, Norman Edward was born in the Rensburg Road house on 5th February 1920.

After the Great War was over, they all enjoyed a happy and harmonious family life there; Ethel often later said that the 1920's were the happiest days of her life, with all the family still at home. The pay at Waterlows was not brilliant, but they were considered very fair employers, offering pension, sickness and other benefit and savings schemes long before these became generally common. They seem to have been just comfortable, but always with little to spare. The 1921 census indeed confirms the whole family at

Rensburg Road, with occupations largely confirming dad's recollections. Father Will is of course a lithographic stone preparer at Waterlow's, but apparently based at 26-27 Winchester Street rather than nearby Blomfield Street. Gladys is an insurance clerk with the Mutual Property Insurance Company at 159-161 great Portland Street in the West End, and George is a plumber's mate with the Law Land building company, Pretoria Avenue, Walthamstow.

Since my father's parents were to stay here, well settled, for around half a century, my cousins and I also came to know them, their house and their lifestyle well. For a full description of 9, Rensburg Road see the companion article "Our Walthamstow House"; this also contains some reminiscences of home life there. It remains therefore to bring the Jagers family story briefly up to date, firstly for Will and Ethel, then for each of their children in turn.....

It appears from these pictures that Will affected a somewhat stylish and carefree outlook on life in the 1930s.....



We think the left hand image was taken on a day trip to Southend around 1933, with him and Ethel accompanied by her sister Gert, on the left. The right hand one shows them strolling in the Kilburn area about the same year, with probably Gert or another sister operating the camera.

This one shows Ethel with sisters Gert and Grace, probably at Margate, Kent, in around 1938 and taken by Will.....



Five of Will and Ethel's six children had married and left home by 1942, as described below. Daughter Gladys took Holy Orders and moved into a convent.

After the war, son Norman and his wife lived with them at Rensburg Road for a year or so until they were able to find a home for themselves, then Will's spinster sister Louisa came to stay around 1948. She died there on 27th March 1951 aged 78 and was interred at Chingford Mount cemetery.

Her effects totaling £150-2s-11d passed to her brother Will, "retired lithographer". In fact, he had only retired from Waterlows very recently then, on or just after his 80th birthday!

William Charles Jagers himself was the next to pass on, on 15th May 1955 at the age of 84:



His widow Ethel stayed on at Rensburg Road for a few months, then moved in with her daughter Grace at 32 Sunnydene Avenue, Higham's Park. The old house was then cleared and "modernized" by the property company, as were most of the others in the road around that time. This involved stripping out the old range and providing a bathroom for the

first time, amongst other changes.

Ethel Margaret Jagers survived her husband for no less than 17 years, and her 80th, 85th and 90th birthdays were celebrated with family gatherings.

Here is the 80th, on 14th September 1961 at the Empire Rooms, Leicester Square in central London. "Gran" Ethel is at back centre with her younger sisters. My parents are at front right, with me behind, in best school uniform jacket! Most of the rest of the Jagers clan is here, with the exception of Gladys (Sister Ethelburga) who presumably could not get leave of absence from her convent.



All her life, like others of her generation Gran was terrified of using telephones, and of escalators & tube trains, so our cross-London journeys with her were always using the Circle and Metropolitan lines.

Five years later, we gathered at Uncle Norman Jagers' bungalow in Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire; I am by now taller than my dad (and everyone else there)! Bert took the picture, and all five of Ethel's children were there this time.....



Gran remained fit and well almost to her 90th birthday; here she is with mum at Windsor Great Park around 1968:



Her 90th birthday in 1971 was spent relatively quietly at home in Higham's Park, accompanied by children, grand-children and 2 great-grand-children just a few months old.....

Grandma Ethel passed away on 15th January 1973 at Whipp's Cross Hospital, Leyton, aged 91.



Of her children, here (left) is Gladys



at around 20 years old, circa 1924.

At that time she was working at the Mutual & Municipal Insurance Co. offices in Whitehall, where she stayed until 1938.

During that year she gave up everything and became a novice nun at the Convent of Reparation, Rushworth Street, Southwark, my father said “due to an unrequited love”. Probably the threat of another World War also influenced her decision; she had always claimed that there would never be another such war, but unfortunately she was to be proved wrong.

In 1941 Gladys became a full Sister, taking the name Ethelburga after her mother, and her convent was evacuated to the Holy Cross mission house in Coston’s Lane, Greenford, Middlesex. They returned to Southwark in 1945, and stayed there until around 1962, then moving out to the Windsor area, at the Convent of St John the Baptist, Hatch Lane in Clewer village. Gladys passed away there on 24th February 1991, aged 86 years

Second child **George William**, born at Iverson Road, Kilburn on 9th January 1906, became a Master Plumber. On 6th July 1929 he married **Rose Grace Colbron** (known as **Grace**) at Walthamstow Parish Church, and they are seen here after the ceremony in the rear garden of her parent’s house at 21 Countess

Road.....



The Colbron family is somewhat confusing, as there were two families, headed by father and son, both called Richard, living in Walthamstow, and having children at the same time with a similar range of names (for full details, refer to the database accompanying this article). In the 1911 census our Grace is with father Richard senior, a house painter, mother Clara and 4 siblings at 64 Lynmouth Road, Walthamstow. By 1921 Richard has passed on, and widow Clara is at 33 Arkley Crescent nearby with a stepson from Christopher’s first marriage, 4 of her own children and a grandson. Grace at 15 is employed as a Micanite plate layer at Messrs Micanite Insulators Ltd of Hooles Road, Blackhorse Lane.

George and Grace went to live at 115 Mersey Road,

Walthamstow, one of many Warner Estates properties in the area,

and George was by now working for that company. They had two children, Doreen Ethel and Derek George Charles Jagers.

As a result of the London Blitz of 1940, George was seconded to government duty on search and rescue missions at major bomb sites. Unfortunately he contracted a lung disease during demolition work at an air-raid site in the East End of London, and died on 21st October 1941 at the Middlesex County Sanatorium, Harefield, Uxbridge aged only 35. He was buried at Chingford Mount cemetery. His widow, always known in our family as “George’s Grace” to distinguish her from at least two other Grace’s, lived latterly at Brighton, Sussex and died there in 1980 aged 75.

Grace Ethel Jagers (Little Grace), the first of Will & Ethel’s children born at Rensburg Road, on 10th January 1908 married **Harry John Farr** on 16th June 1934 when she was 26 and he 24.

The strange-looking character on the left is apparently the curate. Rachel Kezia Hammond is on the right, then Gladys with Ethel & William Jagers.....

Harry, born on 31st October 1910 at 155 Gladstone Road, Wimbledon was the son of Walter William H. Farr, a policeman born in Colchester and his wife May W. (born Mary Selina Willsher at Biggleswade, Bedfordshire). The 1911 census shows the family there, but by 1920 they had moved to 6 Enkel Street, Holloway in North London, no doubt due to Walter’s job with “The Met”; the 1921 census shows that he has been promoted to sergeant and that Harry now has a sister Mavis G aged 1.



From around 1937 to 1940 Grace and Harry lived at 340, Markhouse Road, Walthamstow; Harry was a Master Painter & Decorator.

Grace Farr was also sadly to lose her husband during World War II: on 26th October 1940 about noon he was working in the basement of Curzon Street House, Mayfair, when a bomb came straight down the lift shaft. He was just 29 years old and, along with others, was never found. Ironically the work he was engaged upon is thought to have been

to create an emergency bomb-proof bunker complex for government staff. He was posthumously made a Freeman of the City of London, commemorated on a plaque in St Paul's Cathedral.

After the war Grace went to live at 32, Sunnydene Avenue and was employed as Chief Cashier at British Xylonite (Hallex Ltd) at Higham's Park for many years. She passed away locally on 30th December 2003, at the age of nearly 96 the longest-lived of our family.

Fourth child **Albert Charles Jagers** (Bert) was born on 3rd October 1909 at Rensburg Road. He married at the age of 25 Maude Ashenden of Amherst Road, Hackney, on 29th August 1935. Maude was the daughter of Christopher William Alfred Ashenden, a joiner born in 1879 at Islington and his wife Daisy Edith Muriel nee Banks. In 1921 she is with her parents at 73 Carsland Road, Hackney, with father Christopher employed on the maintenance staff of Messrs A. Hunkill, drain-pipe manufacturers. Bert trained as an Incorporated Accountant and they lived at 32 Durham Avenue, Woodford Green, Essex before the war. They moved out to Swindon, Wiltshire, living at Victoria Road then Croft Road there, before retiring to Kingsley Avenue, Wootton Bassett. Bert passed away on 6th May 1992 aged 82 years, Maude surviving him by almost ten years, to March 2002 when she was 91.

My father **Leslie Arthur Jagers** (Les) was born at Rensburg Road on 10th October 1913. He tells his story elsewhere on our web page. He married **Constance Julia Powley** (Connie) in June 1939 at St Paul's church, Courtenay Road, Walthamstow (picture right); the certificate says on the 18th of the month, the date upon which they always celebrated their wedding anniversary. However, the 18th was definitely a Sunday, and he was always adamant that they were married on a Saturday, no doubt the 17th. This little mystery was never satisfactorily resolved!

They went to live initially in a Warner flat, 37 Badlis Road, Walthamstow. However his employer, insurance brokers Norman Frizzell & Partners, evacuated their City of London offices to Staines, Middlesex, soon afterwards, so Les and Connie set up home there, initially in a flat above a shop in the Broadway, Kingston Road, by late 1939 at 43 Petersfield Road, and by April 1940 moving to 20 Fenton Avenue nearby, where they were to stay for the next 30 years. Initially renting, they were able to buy the house outright for £400 in 1946 when the owner defaulted on his mortgage.

Les served in the RAF from 1940-46, mainly in India – his story of those wartime years as told in a separate article on this webpage. Before he left the UK however, he managed a weekend visit to his Aunt Louie Mullins (nee Hammond) house in Ashill, Somerset, where his parents Will and Ethel were then staying; these pictures show them there.

The right hand view shows also Louie's mother Rachel Hammond at front (with cat) and daughter Marjorie (dad's cousin) at front right.

Dad recalled that he marched in his uniform on that hot summer day from Taunton station, missed his way, and had to cover about 10 miles more than expected to reach Ashill.

After spells working as an accounts clerk at Chase Protected Cultivation Ltd, The Grange,

Chertsey from 1946-54 (starting salary £6-10s weekly) then as cost accountant at Aircraft General Supplies & Petronic, of Bell Works, Hanworth (a big jump to £10-10s!), Les returned to Frizzells in late 1955 as Personnel Manager.

In the spring of 1970, Frizzells moved their headquarters from the City of London to County Gates, Poole in Dorset under the then governments "Relocation of Offices" scheme, and Les and Connie moved into a smart bungalow, 25 Craigmoor Avenue, Queens Park in Bournemouth. Les was now Office General Manager of the new Poole site, until retirement in 1978.

They continued to live at Craigmoor Avenue until 1994, then bought a flat at Willow Court, Gatley in Cheshire, moving in the year after their 80th birthdays. Connie passed away at Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport on 22nd June 1997, aged 83 and Les at Wythenshawe Hospital almost exactly five years later, on 20th June 2002 aged 89. Both were committed at St James, Gatley then Manchester Crematorium, Barlow Moor Road.

Norman Edward, the youngest of Will & Ethel's six children, born in 1920 worked at Torino Ltd, engineering fittings manufacturer before the war, but was called up into the army. While posted on the south coast, he met and married **Mary Bentley**, on 15th July 1944 at Fairlight church, Sussex. Mary was the elder child of Francis W.G. Bentley and his wife Ellen M nee Short, born at Greenwich in the spring of 1923. She had two younger brothers, Kenneth born 1925 and Ronald 1926, both at Bromley in Kent.

After the war Norman & Mary lived for a while with his parents at 9 Rensburg Road, while he was working at Regent's Park Cyclo, an early manufacturer of photocopying machines.

They then spent about a year each at the former Colbron family home of 21 Countess Road, Walthamstow and a flat at 16 Grove Hill, Woodford, Essex. About 1949 he rejoined Torino Ltd, becoming office manager, and they went to live





in a flat at Gainsborough Court, North Finchley, staying there for about 14 years.

In 1963 Norman tired of office life, and went back on the road as southern area sales rep for Torino, covering the whole area from Cornwall to Suffolk. During this period they lived first at 6 Maltings Close, Wheathampstead, then from around 1968 to 1979 at 32 Courtlands, Teston,

Maidstone, and to 1982 at 14 High Street, Lee on Solent, Hampshire. On retirement they moved back to Mary's home village of Fairlight, Sussex, living in a bungalow, "Miramar" on Farley Way.

Norman died at Hastings in March 2001 aged 81 and Mary in April 2003 at around 80.



2.13 A Hammond Epilogue (1905 – 1944)

Frederick, Rachel and their family lived at Netherwood St, Kilburn until around 1906, when the house was taken over for commercial use by John George Lane & sons, furniture removers.



They went to no. 33 and then along to no. 27 Gowan Road, Willesden Green, for a brief spell around 1908 to 1912. These are "standard" late Victorian 2-up, 2-down terraced houses undoubtedly rented and probably shared with at least one other family. In the picture (left), no.27 is immediately right of the telegraph pole, and 33 behind the parking restriction sign.

However by late 1916 at least the Hammonds were at "a small flat next door to a dairy", 4 Cleveland Mansions, Willesden Lane, just a few yards off the Kilburn High Road (picture right)



Frederick was of course too old to serve in the armed forces in the Great War. Of their four sons, Charlie and Will both worked for the railways in essential, "protected" roles, so were not called up.

Bert was later recalled as the "black sheep" of the family; we know little about him, but it is interesting to note that the Cleveland Mansions flat is shown in the directories in his name (rather than his father's) so it seems likely that he somehow managed to avoid the call to arms, and became poorly-regarded as a result.

That leaves **George Frederick** who in 1901 at 16 was also working on the railways, as a junior clerk. However by 1911 he was a clerk at a joint stock company, probably in the City of London, still living at home. Later that year he married **May Rogers** in Ilford, Essex, having moved there a few weeks beforehand presumably to set up their new home. Father Frederick is described on the certificate as a "House Agent" and brother Albert was a witness.

May (familiarily always known as Maimie) was born in St Pancras, London, in the summer of 1892, and the 1901 census shows the family at 1, Crowndale Road there, with father Stephen Clement a chemist & druggist who was born in the Tynemouth area of Northumberland, mother Harriet and several siblings. That house no longer exists; there are modern flats on the site. By 1911, the family had moved out to the fresh pastures of Ilford, at 88 Wanstead Park Road, and May at 18 is now employed as a telephone operator at the Cortell (or Cortele) Company; no details are known of this concern, but it was probably in the City of London, perhaps where she and George first met. Two children were born them in Ilford, Eric in autumn 1912 and Geoffrey in late 1914.

Our pictures (right) show George in army uniform, probably in 1914, and Maimie about 1910 (this one kindly sent by grandson Chris Hammond Harvey). George is recorded as 12154 Army Cyclist Corps, but the cap badge looks like that of the Royal Fusiliers (London Regiment), a largely volunteer force formed in 1908 from territorial units; the 5th to 7th Battalions comprising men who worked in the City of London. The Cyclists did reconnaissance work in the UK during World War 1, and it is in this that he probably learnt signalling, and was then deployed into the Royal Warwickshire's as the fighting in northern France intensified.

George was to give his life in the trenches, along with many others, during the brutal 2nd Battle of Bullecourt (The "Blood Tub") on Friday 4th May 1917, the second day of fighting. He was 32 years old; recorded as Private G.F.

Hammond 20669, Signaller, 2nd Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment. His body was never found, but he is commemorated at the Faubourg D'Amiens war memorial in Arras. His mother Rachel had a premonition about his death, and announced it to the family at the dinner table some hours before the dreaded telegram arrived. Probate was granted on 29th October 1917 to his widow May, by then living at 64 Charlwood Street, Pimlico, Westminster with effects totaling £398-17s-8d.



Maimie then went to Exeter to train as a secretary, leaving her two boys in the care of relatives probably in the Ilford area. She met **Wilfred Harvey** from Crediton, Devon at the college, and re-married quickly, in early 1918 at Exeter. This was despite initial opposition from his family, since she was older than him and had two sons. They later adopted the surname Harvey, and retained Hammond as a middle name, the significance of which only became apparent to them in later adult life. The 1921 census shows Wilfred & May at 12 Cotham Gardens, Bristol with him as an auditor at Curtis Jenkins & Co, Chartered Accountants of Corn Street in the city. Eric & Geoffrey are there, along with new daughter Betty Jean, 2 and Wilfred's sister Mertie Lily Emma Harvey. In 1939 they are at The Chase, Winsley near Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire; Betty is there with them, while Eric is now a newly married Barrister at 28 Sneed Park Avenue, Bristol.

Wilfred went on to become very successful in the printing industry, having joined Purnell's, a firm in Shepton Mallet, Somerset, as a clerk. He rose through the ranks to become Chairman of the company, about the time that it became the nucleus of the future British Printing Company (of Robert Maxwell fame). Ironically considering our other family connections, his first acquisition was **Waterlow's**, in 1960! Only the latter's Dunstable, Bedfordshire operation was retained, the rest being quickly sold off to the De La Rue organization. By further coincidence, both George Frederick's grandson and great-granddaughter attended schools with members of the Waterlow family. Maimie died in September 1978, in Bath, Somerset.

George Frederick was the only loss in our families as a direct result of the conflict, but his father Frederick was unfortunately to succumb to the great influenza scourge of autumn 1918 which for many families very unfairly prolonged and compounded the misery of the recent war. He passed away on 9th November 1918 at Willesden Infirmary, aged 62, and Rachel registered his death on Armistice Day. The last occupation of this versatile artisan is given as "Estate Agent", probably not so much in the modern sense, but more likely as administrator and rent-collector for the Cleveland Mansions apartments, plus other rented properties in the area. The apartment block still exists, with its name prominent above the main door, at 44-46 Willesden Lane.

In the 1921 census at 4 Cleveland Mansions, Willesden we find Rachel, now 61 with son Charles Edward and daughter Grace Mary for company; as we see below, daughter Louisa Mullins and her husband are living in other rooms in the same apartment. Charles, 20 is working as a booking clerk for the Metropolitan Railway at Liverpool Street station, and Grace, 18 is a mail order clerk at the famous Selfridge & Co. store in Oxford Street, where she was to remain for many years.

Rachel Kezia Hammond continued to live in the flat for some years, and dad recalled family visits to her there in the early 1920's, traveling upstairs on the open-topped buses all the way from Walthamstow, and peering down from the lounge window at the traffic –

apparently quite heavy even then - passing by on Willesden Lane. Her love of cats was legendary, and she was rarely seen without a companion in her lap.

There are several pictures in this period.....

Firstly we have "the glums" - Rachel with her daughters Gert and Grace (left), about 1925, then the same trio at Margate circa 1935, looking somewhat happier on a day out.....



At left is a good-sized family gathering probably in the dairy yard at



Cleveland Mansions about 1932. Rachel (with cat) is in the centre; at the back, from left are daughters Grace and Louie, with Louie's husband Henry Mullins behind, then Will and Ethel Jagers and their daughter Gladys. In front are Henry & Louie's children Marjorie and Eric, then Rachel's daughter Gert. The other portraits were made in a local studio about 1930 (a formidable woman then!) and 1935 respectively.....

By 1938, with the threat once again of war, Rachel moved out to Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, then Southend (see below) but around 1940 was becoming frail and losing her sight. Her last years were spent with daughter Gert at Rottingdean, Sussex, and she died there in May 1944, aged 84. In 1943, she had been very keen that her grand-daughter, my Aunt Gladys, should go to West Drayton church and look at the baptism record for her first child Ethel. Though Gladys was then living and working in a convent at nearby Greenford, because of wartime travel restrictions and being subject also to the attire and discipline of her calling, she was unable ever to make the journey.

The secret of the identity of Ethel's true father appears to have been lost forever with Rachel's passing. Her sisters in turn took great delight in gossiping about this at Ethel's own funeral in 1973; it appears that throughout her long life, she had never been told anything about her true parentage. The last survivor Gert came tantalizingly close to revealing more in her letter to my aunt Grace Farr in 1984: "it is impossible for me to write about it, take too long". She herself passed away only 3 weeks later.

To conclude the story of Frederick & Rachel's other children, the directories show that **Albert**'s abode from 1917 to 1920 was at 4 Cleveland Mansions, though his mother at least was also there with him, but he has moved on by the time of the 1921 census. Due to his fairly common name, we have so far not definitely identified him in this; he is certainly **not** the one who married a Mary Vittone nee Napier in 1917 and living at 101 Brondesbury Villas four years later. However, he did marry at some stage between 1921 and 1935, and was widowed by the latter year. The England-Wales registers show a total of 31 Alberts (with no second forename) marrying in that period, with 5 in the London area alone!

What we do know is that the widower Albert married **Jeanette Van Gele nee Demortier** by licence on 21st October 1936 at the Hampstead Register Office. Jeanette was born in Philadelphia, USA on 1st March 1894, so 5 years younger than Albert. Her father was Florent Demortier, "of independent means" but formerly a restaurant proprietor, deceased by 1936. They are both shown as resident at 33 South End Road, Hampstead, where Albert was a Newsagent & Tobacconist, living "above the shop".

Jeanette's first marriage was on 7th November 1914 to **Rodolphe Francois Clement Van Gele**, a Belgian national aged 22, in the St Pancras register office. They are both shown as resident at 22 Fitzroy Square, a smart 4-storey house with Rodolphe a "grocer", perhaps a wholesale importer?. However the 1921 census records Jeanette at 135a Sutherland Avenue, Paddington, with just one servant for company; her husband was evidently away abroad, so we know nothing more about him as yet and they had divorced by 1936.

The 1939 register shows that Alfred & Jeanette are by now running a boarding house at 1 Wave Crest, on the seafront at Whitstable in Kent, presumably they left soon after due to wartime issues on this vulnerable coast. Jeanette died back in Westminster in 1943 aged 49; we have no idea what became of Albert; grandma's birthday/address book records "lost contact in 1939-45 war".

In the 1911 census, **Gertrude** aged 20 is shown at 38 Christ Church Avenue, Brondesbury in North West London, general servant and cook to Marcus Harris, fancy goods merchant and his family. Ten years later she is a cook in the household of Samuel James, a broker & his family at 110 Brondesbury Park, Willesden. She later found a good post with the Liverman family, of whom the head, Maurice was a director of a cardboard box manufacturing company, through to 1939 at 13 Coverdale Road, Brondesbury. She was treated very kindly, almost becoming one of the family, and during the war years stayed at their country home, firstly 19 Bazehill Road, Brighton then later at Brookside, Steyning Road, Rottingdean in Sussex. About 1950 she retired to 6 Park Crescent, Brighton, subsequently living at Warleigh Road and Beaconsfield Villas in that resort. She died there on 7th February 1974, aged 83.

William Charles Hammond (Dad's Uncle Will) married Lillie Alice Jutson (Lily) on 26th September 1918 at St Luke, West Kilburn, when he was 25. My father said that Will was employed on the railways, a protected occupation during the First World War, but the register entry records him as "Private; R.F." (Royal Fusiliers); he married from the family home of 4 Cleveland Mansions.

Lillie (as she was registered) was born in Lambeth in the spring of 1893. Her father was Joseph, a harness maker, and she was married from 150 Portnall Road, Kilburn. In 1901 her family were at 14 Buckingham Cottages, Petty France in Westminster, and Lily's elder brother Joseph is shown as born in Australia in 1890!

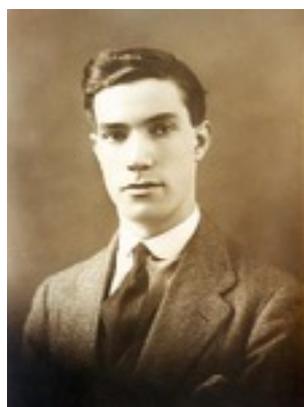
The 1921 census shows William and Lily staying with her parents at 150 Portnall Road, Paddington, but Will is by now a bacon salesman for butchers Scotts Ltd. Joseph Hobbs Jutson is a harness maker for the well-known local firm of Rawle Ltd.

Here are Will and Lily with their daughter Eileen in around 1923.....

In the 1939 ID card registration Will & Lily are shown at 42, Okehampton Road, Willesden, with Will working as a Charcutier (meat chef) in a local hotel. Will died on 24th November 1963 at Willesden, and Lily in early 1972.

Louisa Kate (Louie) married **William Henry Mullins** (Henry), a widower, at Willesden on 6th September 1919 when she was 24. In 1921 they are in separate rooms to her mother Rachel at 4 Cleveland Mansions, Willesden, with him employed as a railway police constable with the South Eastern & Chatham company at their Bricklayer's Arms goods depot, South London. They have a daughter Peggy Doreen aged just 4 months, but she sadly died less than two years later at Fulham.

The 1939 register shows Henry, by now a corporation road surveyor, Louisa and daughter Marjorie Patricia aged 16 living with Louisa's mother Rachel and sister Grace at 240 Hamlet Court Road, Southend on Sea. They moved to Ashill near Taunton, Somerset in around 1940, and Louie died there on 10th February 1957 aged 62.



In the records there is some confusion about the marriage of **Charles Edward Hammond** (Dad's Uncle Charlie, pictured left), caused by the fact that son Edgar's birth register entry shows his mother's maiden name as James. This led us to a Beatrice M. *James* who married a Charles Hammond in Paddington district in the summer of 1922. However the family of **Alice Pattie Jones** have shown that it was in fact her that married *our* Charles Hammond, on 6th October 1923 at Kilburn, so this seems to be a rare transcription error in the registers. Our confusion was not helped by the fact that in our family, she was always known only as Dolly! Alice was born on 4th August 1901 at Kilburn, northwest London and in the 1921 census she is with her father, William John, born in Torrington, Devon, a timekeeper with H. Sabay's furniture depository, 31 Priory Park Road, Kilburn, and mother Sarah born Welling in Hertfordshire. They are apparently living on the depository premises; Alice is employed as a millinery assistant at the shop "Louise", 396 Oxford Street in the west end. My father said that Charles was later working for the LMS Railway Co, based at Willesden depot.

The second picture (left) shows Charlie & Dolly with their young son Edgar in the autumn of 1926.



They lived at 99 Vivian Avenue, Wembley for many years; the 1939 register shows Alice and Edgar there, but Charles is absent; probably already signed up to the wartime armed forces or temporary moved elsewhere by the Railway Co. to cover an urgent need. Edgar is newly employed by the London Passenger Transport Board at Willesden bus garage. Charles and Alice retired post-war to 13 Glynne Drive, Bexhill on Sea, Sussex; he died there on 27th February 1975, aged 74, and Alice in early 1985 aged 83.

Frederick & Rachel Hammond's youngest child, **Grace Mary** ("Big Grace") worked at Messrs Selfridges store in Oxford Street, London for many years prior to the second World War. She was married relatively late, to **James Walter Harman** in the autumn of 1942 at Brighton, Sussex, when she was 39. Widowed in 1952, she went to live at 21 Ely Crescent, Rottingdean, Sussex, and married **Arthur Cosham** in early 1958 at Brighton. Later living in a flat at 15 Stafford Road, Brighton, she was widowed for a second time in 1979. Grace Cosham was in a residential home at St David's Lodge, 5 Temple Gardens, Brighton when she passed away on 6th March 1984, at 80 years of age.



Lastly we have this picture (right), which was included with the others and so presumed to be another of the Hammond boys, but which one? Assuming it to have been taken at around the end of WW1 he looks older than the others then, maybe around 27 to 30? He is a sergeant and the cap badge appears to be that of the Royal Field Artillery. From what we know, it seems unlikely to be Bert (Albert), or is it? Can anyone identify him, to complete our record of this family?

2.14 What happened to the infamous Hannah Hammond?

We left Hannah, aged 11, in 1871 under the guardianship of Louisa Jagers in Peckham, and thought that the “Oil shop” business there may have been the issue over which Rachel Kezia Hammond later complained that “a sister Hannah had done our family out of a lot of money”

Hannah Hammond married Edward Lake Hughes, a 32 year old carpenter born in Halstead, Essex, in December 1879 at St. Michael’s Chapel, Highgate. Though still only 19 she states her age as 22, no doubt lying to avoid any complications about guardians’ permission. However there were no less than four witnesses, all from our family; William Jagers, Charles and Elizabeth Hammond (Hannah’s step-siblings) and Florence Williams, Charles’ sister-in-law. Intriguingly the certificate implies that her father William Hammond was still alive then, and still working as a soap boiler, but this seems unlikely. If Hannah still claimed ownership of any part of a family business, this would have passed automatically to her husband upon marriage, according to the law at that time, so perhaps this is how it was lost to the others, who probably felt it should have been sold, and the proceeds divided amongst them.

Edward was the son of Robert Columbus Hughes, the Postmaster at Halstead, and Jane, nee Lake. Jane was born in Exeter in 1808, and her parents were William and Mary, so she is not related to the Samuel Lake of Norwich, whom we met in 1841. Robert & Jane married at Ipswich St Margaret on 8th January 1833 but moved to Halstead by the following year so did not know our family in Ipswich. We look briefly at the Hughes family in Appendix (L).

In the 1881 census, Hannah is still lying about her age, claiming to be 24. They were then living at Kiver Road, Upper Holloway, quite close to both Charles and Elizabeth, and had as yet no children. By 1891, they had moved out to a relatively new house in Selby Road, Cann Hall estate, Leytonstone. This was part of the development that brother Frederick Hammond had helped to build when he was living nearby at Buckingham Road in 1888. Edward Hughes is now a Printer’s Reader, and they have 4 children. Hannah gives her age correctly as 31, but now states her birthplace as Ireland! Perhaps it was deemed fashionable to say this then, but maybe she really was born there like all her brothers and sisters, and only remembered Ipswich from very young, say 1862 – 68 or thereabouts.

In 1901, the Hughes family were still at Selby Road, Cann Hall, now with 6 children. The two elder boys are now also employed in the printing trade, and Caleb Fereday’s son, also Caleb, was living nearby with his family. He too was a stationer, as was his brother and sister, and no doubt all of these, in both families were working for Waterlows, as usual!

Edward Lake Hughes died in the Spring of 1902, aged 55. Hannah being still young no doubt later remarried; there are several candidates for her in the West Ham registration district (covering the Cann Hall area) alone in the period 1904 – 1912. One source says that she died (as Hannah C. Hughes) at 34 Brighton Road, Rathgar, Dublin on 14th September 1908, leaving the not inconsiderable sum then of £574-7s-6d, “assets in England” to main beneficiary Alfred. This is quite possible of course; maybe she had gone back to Ireland to try to trace her family roots; however we have no record of her with a middle initial C, nor of a family member called Alfred.

2.15 And finally – the mysterious Aunt Lizzie.....

My father and his elder sister Gladys both separately recalled that one day around 1920 a little old lady dressed from head to toe entirely in black called unexpectedly at their parents’ house in Rensburg Road, and announced herself as dad’s (i.e. Will Jagers’) aunt. This was a great surprise to all concerned, as it appears no one knew of her existence. Upon what business she had come, from where, or how she had tracked down the family, was not known.

She would be Elizabeth Jagers, the sister to William born in Dublin in April 1849, just before their father John’s death. Like William, she came to London from Ipswich around 1868 believing that her surname was Hammond, but unlike him would have had no reason to change it back to Jagers when they learned the circumstances, unless she so wished.

In the 1871 census she is shown as housemaid to Algernon Stewart, a widower aged 60, at 14 Sussex Gardens, Paddington. This smart large Georgian town house still exists, currently as the “Ventures Hotel”, a hostel for young visitors to the metropolis (picture above right)

By coincidence, I stayed there for a few nights when I first came back to London to work in October 1972, not then knowing anything of the previous family connection of course.

In the 1881 census Elizabeth is shown as a servant to David Collet Thomas, East India merchant, ship owner, broker and insurer, at his home in Muswell Hill Road, only about ½ mile away from Charles Hammond then at Fairseat House, Highgate. And by 1891 she has moved right away from London, down to Bournemouth as housemaid to retired merchant John Grey and his wife at their large house in Manor Road, East Cliff. John Grey had previously lived at Clarence Terrace, Baker Street in London, and Elizabeth probably moved to the south coast with him during the mid 1880’s. By 1901 though, John Grey has no doubt passed on, and David Thomas meanwhile had retired from business and moved with his family to Hove, Sussex.



Elizabeth has re-joined him there, and is recorded in the 1901 census at 21, Second Avenue, a spacious new terraced residence set just back from the seafront behind King's Lawns, still as housemaid though now by far the eldest of the six domestic servants there at age 51.

Intriguingly in 1911 aged 62 and "living on own means" she is found lodging in the same house as Emily Ann Pipe, the widow of John Pipe and her son Frederick at 98 Brookscroft Road, Walthamstow; she has one room and the family the other 4. Perhaps she was just visiting for the Easter weekend and maybe already then looking for her nephew. In 1921 as we have already seen, Elizabeth is staying with her step-brother Charles Hammond-Fletcher in Stansted, Kent. The enumerator has written in that her normal residence was Millfield, Bexhill in Sussex; this large house was the residence of wealthy spinster Ann Scrivens, 68, the last surviving child of accountant Samuel Scrivens, whose family home this had been for many years. She has 3 servants in 1921; Elizabeth was no doubt a "retainer" servant there at 72, after years of service. Evidently she is allowed (and no doubt enabled) to travel frequently!

In all the censuses her name is recorded as Elizabeth Hammond. Therein undoubtedly lies the great mystery – why on earth should the spinster sister of Will Jagggers' father be calling herself Lizzie Hammond, his dear wife's maiden surname? At last, we now know the answer, but her hapless nephew evidently did not.

Having presumably travelled up to London from Bexhill by train, she left the Rensburg Road house that evening as mysteriously as she had come, and was apparently never heard of again. Perhaps knowing that she did not have much time left, she had come to explain and reconcile, also maybe to pass on a few family trinkets (though none such appear to have survived). Gran's birthday book gets a little muddled about her, giving her birth year as 1846 (should be 1849) and her death as 1942, when she would have been an unlikely 93 years old – and surely my father and his brothers and sisters would have recalled her much more clearly had this really been the case? There are in fact several candidates for her passing, in early 1923 at West Ham (most likely?), Willesden in 1928, Kensington in 1935 and Ipswich in 1937. If the first, we can date her visit remembered by my father and Gladys quite precisely as 1921-22.

How might Aunt Lizzie have found Will at Walthamstow? She probably lost touch with her brother William in 1886, when he had to go off on his travels with his employer; she herself probably went to Bournemouth around this time, and would have had no contacts in London for very many years. Perhaps she just thought: "Maybe I should ask after him at Waterlows". Obvious really, isn't it?

Keith A. Jagggers

Original text August 2002; last revised and updated in March 2022.

Appendices These give more detail on the families of those who worked with or married a Jagggers, in the order they are mentioned in the text:

(A) The Fereday family of Birmingham and London

Mary Ann Susannah Tannen (or Tanner), the late Ede Tanner's daughter, married **Caleb Fereday** in 1840. His surname is quite unusual in England; the great majority of Feredays were to be found in the West Midlands area, around Wolverhampton and the Black Country. Caleb's father was **Thomas Fereday**, christened 16th March 1778 at St. Philips, Birmingham; he married **Jane Walker** on 18th December 1799 at St Martin's church in that city, at the age of 21.

Thomas was a gun-maker; he and Jane had four known children, all boys, as follows, all born in Birmingham:

James	born around 1801	William	around 1806
John	around 1808	Caleb	in 1815

The Stanley Ince diaries tell us that Caleb's mother Jane died at his birth, and he was then entrusted by his father into the care of a servant. He was taken to London, and eventually trained as a boot and shoemaker in the East End. "He did not see any of his brothers until age 12, then one of them, John, came to London and found him, the only one he ever saw". Thomas Fereday died about 1835 in Birmingham, aged around 57.

James Fereday married a woman called **Eliza Mary Ann** around 1825; she was also born in Birmingham in 1800. In the 1841 census they are shown living at Brewery Street in the parish of St. George, Birmingham, with James working as a gun-finisher, so presumably continuing in his late father's business. They have 5 children with them:

Elizabeth	aged 12	Caroline	10	Edwin	7
John	5	Emma	1	(all born in Birmingham)	

By 1851 the family had moved to 2 Lower Tower Street in the St. Stephen's district of Birmingham, and all the children except John are still at home; James is now shown as a gun-maker. Daughter Elizabeth is working in a warehouse, Caroline as a dressmaker; Edwin is shown as a jeweller and Emma at 12 is at school.

James Fereday died in Birmingham in early 1860, aged 59

William Fereday in 1841 was living at Dudley Street, Birmingham at the house of John Frankly, a baker and his wife, and working as a gilder. He was married quite late in life, to a Mary “around 1849”; the only candidate in the registers is a **Mary Ann Turner**, at Wolverhampton in early 1851, when he was 45 and she only 24. They could not be identified in the 1851 census, but appear in 1861 at 35 Railway Terrace, Aston, Birmingham, with William working as a labourer. Mary is shown as born at Hanley, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire around 1827. They have two children with them, John aged 10 born in Birmingham working as an errand boy, and Thomas, 5 born in Camberwell, south London, also a lodger, an unmarried 52 year old cotton weaver from Banbury. The family could not be found in the 1871 census, so it is likely that William was one of those who died in Birmingham, either in early 1862 or early 1865; Mary being only young doubtless later re-married.

We know a little bit more about **John** Fereday, the one who visited his long-lost brother Caleb in London about 1827. He married **Hephzibah Lawden** on 3rd December 1835 at Harborne parish church, Birmingham when he was 27. Hephzibah was the third of nine known children born to Thomas Lawden & Susanna (nee Allen) in the period 1801 – 1821; her parents were married on 4th May 1800 at St Martin, Birmingham, but all the children were christened at Cannon Street Baptist meeting house there, Hephzibah on 4th September 1807.

John & Hephzibah had 4 known children, as follows:

Suzannah Elizabeth	born in Birmingham on 9 th November 1836
Jane Lawden	ditto in early 1840
Sarah Ann	ditto in the spring of 1843
Hephzibah	born in Chorlton, Manchester in late 1849

The 1841 census shows the family living at Hamstead Row, Handsworth, Staffs with John employed as an “engraver VC”. They have one house servant, a 14 year old girl. By 1851, as expected from their fourth child’s birthplace, they are now in the Manchester area, at 3 Boddon Place, Rusholme, in the SW suburbs of that city. John at 43 is now a copper-plate engraver, but there are no servants shown with them.

In the 1861 census John has progressed to “stationer” as well as copper-plate engraver, so probably has his own business. They are living at 13 Stockport Road, Chorlton and all four children are still at home, with Jane and Sarah still shown as scholars at 21 and 18 respectively – presumably at Manchester University? Ten years later, they have progressed further up the social scale, to Brooklands Villa, Marsland Road, Sale, with John still recorded as an engraver. All the 4 girls are also still with them, and have no occupations shown – no doubt genteel “Ladies of Leisure”? But their mother Hephzibah died there just a few weeks later in the spring of 1871 aged 64.

John did not remarry. The 1881 census shows him still at Brooklands Villa, and still working as an “artisan engraver” at 73 years old. All four of his spinster daughters are with him at the house, and again none have occupations shown, so presumably he was well and comfortably looked after. However he died at Ormskirk, Lancashire in late 1887 aged 80, so presumably he had moved there to partake of the sea air in his later years? His daughter Susanna Elizabeth evidently remained in south Manchester though, and died at Stockport just a few months later, in the spring of 1888. The other three remained as spinsters and in 1901 were “living on their own means” at Birkdale, near Ormskirk. Hephzibah died there in the summer of 1902, Sarah in late 1911 and Jane in early 1927, aged 88.

And that leaves our Caleb. It seems he did not have any more contact with the rest of his family after the 1827 meeting with his brother John in London. An 1839 directory shows him living and working as a bootmaker at 1 Philip Street, Commercial Road, Whitechapel. However it is possible he could have seen William during the latter’s brief spell in Camberwell around 1855. Our main story records his marriage to Mary Ann Susannah Tanner in September 1840, and their 1841 census entry at Old Montague Street, Whitechapel. They went on to have seven known children, as follows:

Mary Ann Susannah	born summer 1843 at Whitechapel
Matilda Jane	early 1846 ditto
	<i>There then followed the interlude with John Jagers in Dublin 1846 - 49;</i>
Ellen	born late 1849 St George in the East, Stepney
Susannah Ann	early 1852, ditto
Caleb	spring 1854, ditto
Harriet	early 1859, ditto
Ernest Edwin	late 1863, ditto

In 1851 the family was living at 3 Cannon Street Road, St George in the East, with Caleb back at his old trade of boot maker. The 1861 census shows they have moved down the street to no. 81 Cannon Street Road, where they were to stay for many years. The then six children are all at home, the eldest, Mary at 17 working as an envelope folder and the three youngest are scholars. Caleb has another boot maker assisting in the business and they have one apprentice, both living in, so it looks as though things are going well for them at this time. However, their daughter **Ellen** died in late 1864 aged only 14.

Eldest daughter **Mary** married **Francis Potter** locally in the summer of 1866 when she was 23, and **Matilda** married **Ebenezer Hezekiah Ince** at 22 around 2 years later, again in the parish of St George. We continue their stories below.

Thus in 1871 only the 4 youngest children are still at home in Cannon Street Road; Susannah has taken over from her sister as envelope folder at 19 and her brother Caleb 16 is apprenticed to a stationer – we think probably at Waterlows. **Susannah** was the next to marry, to **William Craufuird McNaghton Dickey** in spring 1878 at Bethnal Green, then **Caleb** to **Sarah Ann Boswell** in early 1880 at Mile End. About the same time, Caleb senior passed away at Cannon Street Road, aged 65, and was interred at the City of London & Tower Hamlets Cemetery.

The widow Mary Ann Susannah Fereday carried on the boot shop business at no. 81 for some years; the 1881 census shows her there, with two boot makers employed as her staff and just her two youngest, Harriet & Ernest for company. In the continuing family tradition, Harriet is now the envelope folder and Ernest the stationer's apprentice!

Ernest Edwin Fereday married **Elizabeth Emma Boswell**, the younger sister of Sarah Ann, on 21st June 1890 at St Mary, Whitechapel when he was 26. The register records him as a stationer of 52 Great Alie Street and Emma was resident at 10 Well Street, off Wellclose Square.



By the time of the 1891 census Mary had retired and sold the boot shop and moved out to a new house at 31 Vansittart Road, West Ham; she is "living on own means", and has her daughter Harriet, still folding envelopes, with her. Her son Caleb and his family were living a few doors along at no. 19 at this time.

Mary Ann Susannah evidently moved even further out into the green suburbs, as she died at Billericay, Essex in early 1898, aged 78. Harriet in 1901 is staying with her sister Matilda and her family in Hackney (see below) and she was still there in 1911. She died in Bromley, Kent in early 1935.

Mary's husband Francis Potter was born at St George in the East, Stepney in early 1844. They could not be found in the 1871 census, but their children's births show they were still living in that area until about 1873. They then moved to Croydon, Surrey where in 1881 they are living on the main Brighton Road, above the drapery shop business run by Francis. They had one live-in servant. Their seven children were:

Edith born summer 1870 at St George in the East
Alice Ann born late 1874 at Croydon
Ernest Samuel late 1878 at Croydon
Gertrude Mabel late 1881 ditto

Ellen Mary late 1872, ditto
Charles Francis early 1877, Croydon
Harold Godwin spring 1880, ditto

The 1891 census gives the address more precisely as 61 Brighton Road; all the children are at home with the eldest Edith shown as a board school teacher. By 1901 however Francis Potter has undergone a big career change, and is now running a photographic studio business at 125 Oakfield Road, Penge, south London; presumably this new fangled technological venture is far more lucrative than drapery! Edith is now a lady of leisure, Alice is a photographic retoucher. Charles is a stationer's clerk, and Gertrude a stationer's book-keeper, both these perhaps as a sideline to the photography business, and Harold is an accountant's clerk. Only Ernest is not at home; he is working as a baker and still living in Croydon. Ten years on, the situation is little changed in the 1911 census. Mary Ann Susannah Potter died in late 1915 at Croydon, aged 72.

Matilda's husband Ebenezer Hezekiah Ince was born in Clare, Suffolk about 1845. His father William Ince was a wool draper & tailor in that town, and in the 1851 census the family was living at Dragon Hill, near the Bell Inn. William and his wife Sarah, a straw hat maker, were both born in Clare about 1812. They have five children with them: William John at 15 is an assistant in the drapery shop, with James 13, Hephzibah 10, Harriet 6 and Ebenezer 5 all shown as scholars and also all born in Clare. By 1861 however, Ebenezer has moved to east London and is staying with his uncle Samuel Ince, his wife Amy and their family at Montague House, Commercial Street, Whitechapel, where Samuel is an umbrella maker employing 2 men and one boy. Ebenezer at 15 is working as a commercial clerk, probably already at Waterlow's offices on London Wall, City.

After their marriage in the summer of 1868 at Whitechapel, Ebenezer & Matilda went to live in Old Ford, Bethnal Green, where the 1871 census finds them at 9 Kenilworth Road, with Ebenezer still working as a commercial clerk. Their children were as follows:

Harry Clare born in late 1869 at Bethnal Green
Herbert Arthur late 1872 at Mile End
Frederick spring 1880 ditto

Helen Jessie early 1871 ditto
Percy Charles summer 1877 at Mile End
Stanley Edward early 1885 at Hackney

the latter of course being the originator of the "Stanley Ince Diaries" already referred to. Harry Clare Ince died in the spring of 1872 at Mile End, aged just 2.

The 1881 census entry shows the family at 94 Clinton Road, Mile End Old Town, where they had probably been since around late 1871. Ebenezer is now shown as a stationer's clerk and his much younger brother Hezekiah, at 16 a solicitor's clerk from Clare is staying with them. There is one servant. Ten years Ebenezer, Matilda and all five children are at 44 Groombridge Road, Hackney, with the father now a stationer's manager and eldest son Herbert a county court clerk. They are still at this house in 1901 but only the three youngest boys are at home; Percy is a banker's clerk and Fred likewise in insurance, but nothing is shown for Stanley at 16. Matilda's sister Harriet is shown living with them at this time.

Sometime after 1911 the family moved from Groombridge Road to the West Ham area; Matilda Jane Ince passed away there in late 1914 aged 68 and Ebenezer Hezekiah in early 1921 at 75.

Susannah and her husband **William Craufuird McNaghton Dickey** lived initially at Victoria Park, Hackney but by 1881 had moved across to west London, at 3 Daphne Terrace, Chiswick. He is a dental surgeon and strangely gives his birthplace as Ireland (he was born on 19th July 1853 at Chiswick, the son of Adam N. McNaghten Dickey and Sarah nee Harding). Ten years later they are at 352 High Street, Chiswick, where William has his practice, and in 1901 the address is rendered as 354 High Road, probably the same premises? In 1891 he gives his birthplace correctly as Chiswick (but erroneously lists his whole family thus!) and in 1901 as St Pancras!

William & Suzannah's known children were as follows.....

Blanche McNaghten	born early 1879 at Victoria Park
Susie Lilian McNaghten	early 1881 ditto
William Craufuird McNaghten	spring 1883 at Chiswick
May McNaghten	summer 1885 ditto
Daisy McNaghten	early 1887 ditto



We can imagine that Daisy Dickey was taunted mercilessly over her name at school! By 1901 son William at 18 was training as a student of dentistry, probably with his father. They are all still at 354 High Road in 1911, with May now the family housekeeper and Daisy a dental assistant to her father. Ten years later we find them at Homeside, Bellinge Road, Herne Bay in Kent, where William at 67 is still working as a dentist; just daughter Susie is with them there. Susannah Ann Dickey died in 1942 at Newton Abbot, Devon, aged 90.

The **Boswell** sisters' parents were John, a wheelwright born in Spitalfields in 1827, and Sarah, nee Marchant a few months younger from Mile End New Town; they were married in the spring of 1852 at Shoreditch and at the time of the 1861 census were living at 25 Beaver Street, Bethnal Green. Their children were as follows:

Susan	born in spring 1846 at Bethnal Green, presumably Sarah being the mother, then...
John	summer 1853 at Bethnal Green
Joseph Charles	spring 1855, ditto
Sarah Ann	summer 1856 at Newington, Surrey
Harry George	spring 1859 at Bethnal Green
Charles Peter	early 1861 at Bethnal Green
Elizabeth Emma	spring 1865, ditto

By 1871 the family was at 121 Back Church Lane in Whitechapel, with eldest son John a wheelwright in his father's business and Joseph a harness maker. Daughter Susan had left home by then, the other two plus the two youngest boys are all shown as scholars.

As we have seen, Sarah married Caleb Fereday in 1880 and Joseph had also left home by 1881 so in the census that year, still at Back Church Lane, just three boys and Elizabeth are at home with their parents; John is a smith-wheelwright, Harry a blacksmith and Charles a painter.

Caleb & Sarah Ann Fereday made their first marital home at 48 Grafton Street, Mile End Old Town, where they are shown in the 1881 census with Caleb employed as a stationer. Their children were:

Charles Caleb	born February 1881 at Mile End	Leonard John	spring 1882, ditto
Florence Sarah	late 1884, ditto	Ethel Boswell	early 1889 at West Ham

As indicated by the births, the family moved to West Ham around 1886-7 and the 1891 census finds them at 19 Vansittart Road, Forest Gate, just a few doors along from Caleb's mother Mary and sister Harriet at no. 31. By 1901 they had moved to a new house at 63 Borthwick Road on the Cann Hall Estate nearby; all four children are still at home, with Charles a clerk at a distillery, Leonard described as a "mechanical dentist" (ouch!) and Florence a law typist, while young Ethel is shown as a scholar. They have two live-in house servants. By 1911 the family had moved to 30 Leybourne Road, Leytonstone, and ten years later still there, with Caleb, 67 recorded as a stationer's assistant, not with Waterlow's but at Messrs Whitehead Morris Ltd, 9-10 Fenchurch Street in London City.

Caleb Fereday died in the West Ham area in late 1929 aged 75 and Sarah in late 1935 aged 38.

Ernest Edwin and **Elizabeth Emma Fereday** are living at 3 Wragby Road, Leytonstone, Essex in the 1891 census, with Ernest like his brother Caleb working as a stationer's assistant. Their children were all born at Wragby Road as follows....

Ernest Boswell	spring 1891	Leslie Herbert	summer 1896
Doris Lizzie	summer 1899		

and they were all still at no. 3 in 1901 and 1911. Ernest Edwin Fereday passed away locally in the spring of 1919 aged 55; in 1921 Elizabeth is still at Wragby Road with son Ernest a stockbroker clerk with Messrs Hace & Son, 24 Throgmorton Street in the City, and Doris Lizzie a shorthand typist with Beith, Schiess & Felstead Ltd, Australian Merchants at 47 Aldermanbury, EC. Elizabeth never remarried and was still in the Leytonstone area when she died in early 1953 aged 87.

Finally, **Harriet Fereday** never married; in 1921 at age 63 is lodging on her own at 380 Grove Green, Leyton, with no occupation shown.

(B) The **Worts** family of Manningtree and Ipswich

We originally thought that our James Worts was the son of William Worts and his wife Jemima (nee Fulcher), born at Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, in April 1800. However I am indebted to Susan Anderson, whose husband is a Worts descendant, for the information (part of an extensive tree compiled by Brian Worts) that he was in fact the son of Robert Worts and his wife Mary (nee Cooper), born 1806 in the Manningtree area of Essex, around six miles south of Ipswich.

The surname sounds “European” and it is suggested that they were originally wealthy cloth makers who had come over from Flanders before 1500 to retire on their fortune, settling initially at Trunch, Norfolk, and with their descendants gradually moving southwards. In the usual way of officialdom writing down what they heard, it is sometimes rendered in the baptism etc records as “Watts”.

By 1610 a branch of the family was established at Barking, south-west of Needham Market in Suffolk, headed by a **William Worts**. Marriages with the Cooper and Manister families followed, and there are gravestones at Sproughton, west of Ipswich, where the family later farmed.

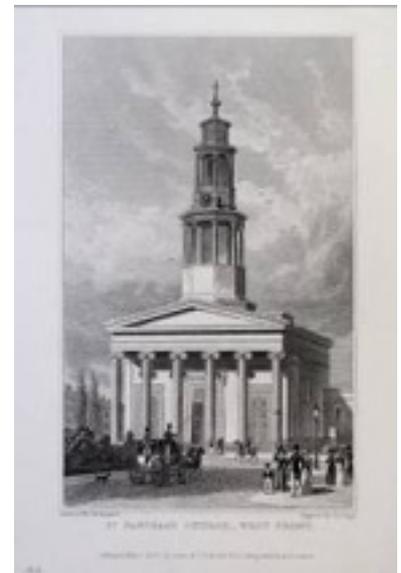
By 1821 a **Robert Worts** was farming at Little Bentley, south of Manningtree in Essex; he died in that year leaving an explicit will detailing his children and grandchildren who were alive at that time. His unmarried daughter **Ann**, and son **William** of Manningtree, a plumber and glazier were appointed executors; the former received the substantial sum of £1000 plus half the residue of the estate, the other half going to son **Robert**. The other sons William, Manister and Benjamin were excluded as they had already had monies advanced during their father’s lifetime. Grandson Frederick was assisted in his apprenticeship. The children of his deceased son **Freeman** Worts, namely Freeman, Robert, Maria, James and Mary Ann were to receive £10 each when they reached the age of 21. Many of these names will be encountered later in Ipswich; meanwhile Robert’s above mentioned son **Robert** continues our family line; he was born in 1774 and married Mary Cooper in about 1793. They had eight known children, all baptized at the ancient parish church of St Mary the Virgin, Lawford (pictured; just to the west of Manningtree) as follows:



Robert, born in 1795 and received into the church 26th February 1797; **Mary Ann**, baptized 26th February 1797; **Henry** (6th June 1798); **Charles** (10th December 1799); **Mannister Cooper** (12th June 1801); **William** (baptized privately – i.e. at home – 30th December 1802, and who was buried at Lawford just six weeks later on 13th February 1803); **Elizabeth** (baptized 29th April 1804) and **James** (7th March 1806).

Robert’s wife **Mary** died in 1834 at Mistley and is buried at Manningtree. Robert then married **Hannah Gibling** in the Manningtree area in 1840, and in the 1841 census is shown as a grocer. He had two more children, and by 1851 had moved to Green Hills, Norwich, where the census shows him as a retired treacle maker. Robert, Hannah and their two children all died in the Norwich area during 1857.

Robert and Mary’s eighth child **James** continues our family line, below. Of their other six surviving children, **Robert** married Caroline Benge on 17th May 1835 at St George the Martyr, Southwark, London (right). They had 2 children, and all 4 died young. **Mary Ann** married Benjamin Long at Mistley in 1823 and had 4 known children.



Henry became a plumber, and married Elizabeth Hurrin in 1822; there were 3 known children. They possibly moved over to Ireland after 1841, as a Henry Worts is shown in the 1851 Griffith’s Land Valuation at Dolphins Barn Lane, Dublin, a “house and small garden” rated at £14. Nothing further is known about **Charles**.

Mannister Cooper Worts, a baker, married Hannah Smyth on 15th January 1825 at St Dunstan in the West, City of London. They had 3 or 4 boys and

emigrated to America in 1830. **Elizabeth** died unmarried in the spring of 1877 at Ipswich, aged 73.

As noted in our main story **James** Worts married **Mary Ann Bloomfield** on 19th April 1827 at St. Pancras Church (pictured above right) when he was 21. His subsequent adventures are detailed in our main text, so it remains to list here their seven known children as follows...

Charles Blomfield	born August 1827 at Wilstead Street, St Pancras and christened at the parish church on 7 th October. Father's occupation baker. He was buried there on 8 th July 1828 aged just 11 months
Elizabeth	born 27 th March, baptized 7 th June 1829 at St Pancras Old Church, father's occupation baker, residence Whitechapel.
James	born 9 th July at Commercial Road, Whitechapel, baptized 17 th August 1834 at St Pancras Old Church, father's occupation baker. He died before 1840.
Mary Ann	born 6 th March, baptized 5 th June 1836 at Wycliffe Chapel, Philpot Street, Mile End Old Town
Jane	born 21 st April 1838 at 10 New Norfolk Street, Mile End Old Town; father's occupation porter
James	born in September 1840 at Stepney, east London
Hannah	born 1846 in Dublin, Ireland

The **1841 census** shows that James and his family have by now moved to Ipswich, Suffolk where he has set up as a sugar refiner. They are living at Bird's Garden, which was the middle section of what is nowadays Princes Street, between Friar's Street and Franciscan Way. All four surviving children are at home, as also is James' elder sister Elizabeth who is working as a "Gofferer" (a skilled laundress of fancy linen).

As already mentioned there were in Ipswich around this time two or three other related Worts families established in various trades: **Frederick**, the son of Freeman Worts and his wife Maria born at Mistley in 1806 was a tailor and linen draper, later also a "proprietor of houses" at 40 St. Nicholas Street. Very confusingly for us, he also married a Mary Ann Bloomfield, and his second son named **John Bloomfield** Worts became a cabinet maker in the same street. Elder son **Frederick Freeman** Worts was also a cabinet maker there, with sidelines as upholsterer and undertaker! **Joseph** from Manningtree was a solicitor's clerk at Foundation Street, and **William** a law writer at 5 Orford Street. **Elizabeth** born at Lawford was a milliner at 6 Cardinal Street, all in central Ipswich. The Worts family vault at St Nicholas church is beside the main entrance, in the foreground of our picture (right).



We know that James Worts went to Dublin to join John Jagers sometime during 1842-44 as recorded in the main story. He probably went alone initially, followed there later by his wife and children. Their known subsequent history is as follows:

Elizabeth married firstly William Stewart (born 1808) on 26th April 1856 at Limerick City Presbyterian Church. He died in 1873; she married secondly Hugh Bryson (1815-87) at Limerick in 1878. In 1901 Elizabeth was at Church Street in the city; she died 9th February 1915 at Villier's Buildings, Limerick, aged 85. Nothing further is known about **Mary Ann**.

Jane married James Allen (circa 1830-1918) at Kilrush, County Clare in 1869. They were at Henry Street in that town when her mother died there in 1891, and in the 1901 and 1911 censuses, where James is shown as a Cartwright and Carpenter respectively. Jane died at Kilrush in September 1927, aged 89.

Nothing further is known about **James**. **Hannah**, a baker shop assistant probably in her father's shop, died unmarried, at 124 George Street, Limerick on 7th May 1870, aged around 24.

(C) The **Wilson** and **Truss** families of Hadleigh and Ipswich, Suffolk

Both the Wilson and Truss families lived in Hadleigh since at least around 1725. Elizabeth Wilson's great-great-grandfather was **John Wilson**, born around 1655 probably at Saxmundham, Suffolk who married **Ann Robinson** in the parish church there in 1682. Their son **Thomas** was baptized at the parish church of Kelsale nearby on 6th September 1690 but married **Elizabeth Deeks** at Stratford St Mary, 6 miles south of Hadleigh, on 6th June 1725. They set up home in Hadleigh town and son **William** was born the following year, baptized at the parish church there on 19th August. He in turn married **Ann Covell** in the same church on 2nd September 1760 when he was 34.

William & Ann's son, predictably named **Thomas**, was baptized at Hadleigh on the 20th July 1766 and married **Elizabeth Truss** there on 22nd February 1784 when he was just 17 years old.

The Truss family had been in Hadleigh even longer than the Wilsons. Elizabeth's grandfather was **William Truss**, born there about 1695, who married **Sarah Grimsey** in the parish church on 6th February 1721. Their son **William** was baptized in the same church on 14th April 1726, and he married **Barbara Wells** there on 30th December 1746, aged 20. Their daughter **Elizabeth** was in turn baptized there on 28th March 1758, so she was eight years older than Thoams Wilson when she married him.

This Thomas Wilson is the one recorded as having a drapery business in the town of Hadleigh at around the time of his marriage. Thomas and Elizabeth had seven known children as follows.....

Sarah	baptized 12 th October 1786 at Hadleigh parish church
William	twin, baptized 10 th October 1788 ditto, but presumably died in infancy?
Truss	twin, baptized with William
Thomas	maybe a twin, baptized 19 th October 1791 at Hadleigh, but maybe already 1-2 years old?
William	ditto, baptized with Thomas
Robert	baptized 1 st May 1797 at Hadleigh
Anne	ditto 2 nd October 1799

Truss Wilson continues our family line, below. Of the others, **Thomas** is shown in the 1851 census as a widowed corn merchant living at Angel Street, Hadleigh, with a daughter Anna M. aged 27 who was born in the town. In 1861 he is still there, still working at age 71, but on his own now. He died in Hadleigh in the summer of 1867.

Robert married a girl called Mary Ann of Hadleigh some seven years younger than him; in 1841 they are at Flowton, Suffolk where he is a farmer, and in 1851 he is an "East India Oil Manufacturer" at Norwich Road, Ipswich St Matthew. Of the other brothers & sisters we know nothing as yet.

Thomas Wilson the elder, draper of Hadleigh, left a will dated 26th December 1832 and proved at London on 5th November 1833, indicating that he died aged around 67 years. He owned much property; as well as the drapery shop & house he also had a maltsters' business in George Street, Hadleigh and a farm at Layham nearby. Most of the estate was left to his sons (and executors) Thomas and Robert, including the farm which was then occupied by son Truss and his family and which was to be sold off as soon as possible. Truss also was to receive only a token £5 of his father's largesse; the other son William and daughter Ann (by now Mrs. Edward Towell) got £340 each and even Truss's son Thomas (aged 17) had £50! We can only guess at how Truss had managed to so antagonize his father; he may have made a poor marriage in his eyes, refused to work in the family businesses, let the farm go to wrack and ruin, or perhaps a combination of all these?....

Truss Wilson had met and married **Hannah Johnson**, the daughter of William Johnson and Mary (nee Last) of Naughton near Hadleigh, on 27th November 1810 at Hadleigh parish church. Hannah was baptized at Naughton on 11th August 1793, so was wed at 17 years old. Truss and Hannah had seven children, as follows:

William Truss	baptized 1 st September 1811 at Hadleigh parish church
Thomas	ditto on 4 th June 1816
Samuel	baptized 17 th July 1818 at the parish church of St Andrew, Layham , Suffolk
Robert	ditto, on 2 nd April 1820
Sarah	ditto, on 27 th March 1821
Ann Bridge	ditto, 21 st June 1823
Elizabeth	ditto, 30 th April 1825; father's occupation shown as "Occupier" (!)

Samuel appears to have died young. The eldest, **William**, died on 20th July 1831 and was buried in Layham churchyard on the 28th; he was just 19 years old. That should of course have been the end of the story, but therein lies an unfathomable mystery: a **Truss William Wilson** born in the Hadleigh area circa 1811, "son of Truss Wilson of Flowton, farmer" surfaces soon afterwards, in London! There is no sign of a baptism for him anywhere in the Hadleigh area parishes. Jan Cater has researched this fellow in detail, and we are indebted to her for the following information:-

July 1834 as Truss Wilson; Acquitted of assault at Guildhall London, July sessions

10 Dec 1835: Truss is granted the Freedom of the City of London, having made application in the name of Truss Wilson age 23, son of Truss Wilson of Flowton, farmer, and giving his address as The Bell, Addle Hill Road, Doctor's Commons, Castle Baynard London, occupation victualler. It is believed that he was at that time living with his uncle Samuel Johnson (his mother Hannah's brother) who was also at The Bell at about the same time. 1836 - Samuel Johnson is made bankrupt and spends time in the London debtor's prison.

1839 Robson's Directory for Jersey, Truss is shown at the Weigh Bridge Inn and Jersey Packet Office for Plymouth, 2 Nelson Place, North Pier, St Helier. 1841; Jersey Archive shows Amelia Johnson bought the Weighbridge Inn.

In the 1841 census Truss is at Nelson Place, St Helier Jersey, occupation innkeeper, age given as 30, born England. At the same address is Amelia Johnson, wife of Samuel Johnson, age given as 40, born England, independent. Samuel Johnson is not there, although there is a Samuel Johnson age 50, male servant at Garden Lane St Helier; born in England. Are Truss and Amelia in a relationship, or is she merely working with him? If working for him, why is she described as Independent means in the census? In 1843 Amelia Johnson sold the Weighbridge Inn.

December 1846 - Truss is convicted of the burglary and theft of many items from premises occupied by a Mademoiselle Amelia E Morgan, (her maiden name). He gets away with a fine and suspended sentence. Many of the items taken are suggestive of a personal nature, i.e. pillows, mirrors, chairs, and a quilt. Is this a regular theft, or is Truss taking back what he thinks is his property? Why is Amelia named in the Court record as though she is single?

In the 1851 census he is now calling himself William Wilson born c1811 Hadleigh, master house painter, he is with 'wife' Mary Ann at Hastings St, St Pancras, London. Mary Ann was born c1826 Petherton Somerset. There was a Mary Ann Edmonds in St Helier Jersey age 15 in the 1841 census. A son, Truss William Wilson was born to 'William' and Mary Ann later in 1851, and the birth certificate names the parents as Truss William Wilson and Mary Ann nee Edmonds. They may have married in Jersey? Also on the 1851 census is a daughter, Elizabeth age 7 born Yeovil, Somerset. Is this 'William's daughter, or a child born to Mary Ann before she met 'William'?

1861 census at 3 George's Place Islington: William Wilson age 50 house painter born Hadleigh, Mary Wilson age 38 born South Petherton Somerset, William Wilson age 9 born Bloomsbury Middlesex, Samuel Wilson age 8 born St Pancras, Mary Ann Wilson age 6 born St Pancras, Alfred Wilson age 3 born St Pancras, Jane Wilson age 1 born St Pancras. No sign of the daughter Elizabeth in this census.

Dec 1863, Mary Ann dies in mysterious circumstances. There was an inquest, as the coroner was the informant on the death certificate. Mary Ann is described on the certificate as 'housekeeper' to William rather than his wife. Was Mary Ann murdered by William? If so, he would appear to have got away with it, as there's no evidence of criminal proceedings.

1871 census at 2 Fuller's Square, Kingston on Thames: William Wilson age 61, widower, painter born Hadleigh, Samuel Wilson age 16, labourer born St Pancras, Alfred Wilson age 13 born St Pancras, Jane Wilson age 11 born St Pancras.

1881 census at Brick Lane Kingston: William Wilson age 70, widower, greengrocer (!) born Hadleigh.

1891 census: now in Kingston Union workhouse, William Wilson age 81, widowed, retired painter, born Hadleigh.

Late 1895 death of William Wilson age 85 at Kingston on Thames.

All in all quite a rogue, but who is he? Almost certainly a close family member, probably born William Wilson, and to give him the benefit of the doubt, perhaps he simply "adopted" the name Truss in memory of his recently deceased relative, possibly a cousin? If however he had committed a crime or crimes locally around Layham just about the time of "our" William Truss Wilson's death 1831 or soon after, he would surely feel the need to flee to big, anonymous London under another identity. If this is the case, I fear we have little hope of finding out much more about him.

Meanwhile, back to Truss and Hannah's story.....

After his eviction from Layham, Truss may have stayed for a while with his brother Robert at Flowton, but by 1841 he and his family have moved down the road to Ipswich. The census shows them living in "Minor Street" (which it may indeed have been called, or perhaps it was just small and un-named?) between Handford Road and the rather insalubrious area known as The Orchard, in the parish of St. Peter, and Truss is now shown having the lowly occupation of cow-keeper. Three children, Thomas, Anna and Elizabeth are at home with them. **Robert** as we see in the main story was possibly the horse keeper at Lake's Yard, St Augustine's Street, Norwich on census night.

Ten years later, Truss and Hannah are living at 8 Orford Street, Ipswich, and none of their children remain with them. Truss at 62 is still working as a labourer; he died there in January 1852 and was buried at St Matthew's church on the 26th of that month. His widow Hannah in 1861 is living alone in Norwich Road, Ipswich. She died in December 1869 at her son Thomas's house in Bramford Road and was buried in the new Ipswich Cemetery on Christmas Eve, "aged 80"

Youngest daughter Elizabeth is of course the one who eloped to Dublin in late 1841 with John Jagers and married him there; her story is continued in the main text. Of the others, we know that **Thomas** Wilson married **Mary Ann Gorham** at Ipswich in late 1849 when he was 33. Mary was born in Bramley, Suffolk about 1820 and was a widow; in 1841 she is living with husband William Gorham, an ag lab, in the village of Trimley St Mary near Felixstowe, with two children Eliza, 2 and Sarah, 1 month old. Thomas and Mary made their marital home at 109 Globe Lane, Ipswich St Margaret, where we find them in the 1851 census with him working as a scum boiler in a sugar refinery, though evidently by then not connected in any way with the former activities of John Jagers or James Worts in the town! There is another scum boiler, James Whitehead living next door in Globe Lane. Going forward 10 years, Thomas and Mary have moved to 86 Bramford Road, Ipswich St Matthew, where his occupations are listed as "cow keeper & scum boiler"; they have no children, but one servant is employed as a dairymaid. By 1871 the obviously versatile Thomas Wilson is running a pub, the "Spotted Cow" at the same premises on Bramford Road, again assisted by one servant. "Thomas Truss Wilson" is recorded as passing away in Ipswich in late 1877 aged 61.

Robert Wilson married **Elizabeth Cocks** in Ipswich in the summer of 1849. She could not be found in the 1841 census, but gives her birthplace as Cape of Good Hope around 1825 in the later ones. They lived in Bramford Road, Ipswich where Robert was a labourer and Elizabeth a tailoress in 1851. By 1861 they had gone to Waddington Place, West Ham in east London. Robert's sister **Ann** married a William Butcher and they too were in West Ham, at 38 Waddington Road by 1871.

Sarah Wilson married a **Frederick Hammond**, but extensive investigation showed that he was *not* related to our William/John Hammond !

(D) The **Critchett** family of London

William Jagers' employer **George Critchett** was born in Highgate, London around 1815. An 1841 London trade directory shows him at 9, New Broad Street EC, already practicing as a surgeon. He married Martha **Wilson Brooker** on 15th October 1843 at St Gregory by St Paul's, City of London. His father is named as Richard, "Gentleman". Martha was born in Chichester, Sussex in 1817; her father Nathaniel was a naval officer and her address at marriage was Great Carter Lane. They had three known children, as follows.....

George Anderson	born early 1846 at 9 Old Broad Street, baptized 9 th July 1849 at St. Olave, Old Jewry
Amy Eliza	born summer 1851 at Finsbury St Luke
Richard Claude	born 10 th May 1856 at 46 Finsbury Square, baptized 2 nd April 1862 at St Margaret Lothbury

The family could not be found in either the 1841 or 1851 censuses, so were evidently away on holiday on both occasions, however from directory entries and "Times" announcements we know that from at least 1851 until late 1862, the Critchett family lived at 46, Finsbury Square EC. The 1861 census shows the parents and all the children at home there, with George senior listed as an oculist surgeon. They have a Mr & Mrs James Havers lodging with them, James being a wholesale warehouseman & traveler, and there are four house servants. From a later census we learn that Mary Havers was George Critchett's sister.

We know that George Critchett was still at Finsbury Square on the 1st of July 1862, when he was advertising for domestic staff in the "Times", but around six months later he moved to that already-fashionable area for London medical professionals, Harley Street, first taking what are presumed to be rented consulting rooms and living accommodation at no. 75. The previous occupant had passed away and the Times records that her effects were sold on the 11th December 1862, so the Critchetts probably moved in soon afterwards. Their neighbour at no. 73 for a short while was William Ewart Gladstone, soon afterwards to become Prime Minister. The houses were re-numbered in 1866, the old 75 becoming 29. The Critchetts moved again, a few doors along to no 21 (old 79) by late 1868 (The "Times" of 12th March 1868 states "The effects of the late Miss Dolby of 21 Harley Street were sold.....", so they probably took up residence shortly after this). This house was to be his permanent rooms and residence for many years to come.

George **Anderson Critchett** married the exquisitely-named **Maria Amalia Carneiro Lins D'Albuquerque** at their local church, All Souls Langham Place on 16th September 1869 when he was 23. This marriage has the unusual distinction of appearing twice in the register, on two separate widely-spaced pages, for some unknown reason. Maria was born in Brazil about 1851, daughter of Mansel Carneiro Lins D'Albuquerque, gentleman of the parish of St Marylebone, but had become a naturalized British citizen. Anderson and Maria had a son **George D'Albuquerque Critchett**, born 1st September 1870 and christened on 14th January 1871 at All Souls, Langham Place, with father recorded as "Gentleman" of 3 Duke Street, Portland Place. In the 1871 census they are shown there with George now giving his occupation "B.A" having presumably just graduated and being very proud of it. Their son is erroneously recorded as *Gordon D'A. Critchett*. However no further trace is found of either him or his mother Maria; perhaps they returned to Brazil at some point and died there?

Amy Eliza Critchett married **Edward Claude Henri Boursot**, a wine merchant, at All Souls in the spring of 1870 at just 18; he was 26 and despite his name was born in London.

In the 1871 census at 21 Harley Street, George and Martha have their younger son Richard, 14 still at home as a student, and Amy and her husband are staying with them over the Easter weekend. There are 4 servants under William Jagers as butler.

Richard, who became an actor married actress **Katherine Julia Mackenzie** in the spring of 1876 at Wandsworth when he was 20 and she some 7 years older. In 1881 they are living at 100 Great Russell Street, London with a daughter Lenore aged 4 and 2 servants.

In the same census at 21 Harley Street, the widowed George Anderson Critchett is back with his parents, and has become an Oculist like his father. James and Mary Havers are once again visiting, along with a musician Lucy Kaptur who was born on the Greek island of Corfu. There are again 5 servants including William Jagers.

George Critchett senior died at Harley Street on 1st November 1882 aged 65 and his wife Martha Wilson Critchett in late 1887 aged 70.

In the summer of 1883 we find Anderson Critchett marrying for a second time at the age of 34, to **Agnes Ann Dunphie**. A son **George Montague** was born to them in the spring of 1884. Two girls, **Dora Sybil** and **Violet Nita** followed in 1888 and early 1891 respectively, the latter baptized at St Andrew, Marylebone on 19th May 1891.

The 1891 census shows them all at 21 Harley Street, together with Agnes' mother Jane Dunphie, 61, born in Barking, Essex, and no fewer than 10 servants. George and Agnes could not be found in the 1901 census, being presumably on holiday abroad over for Easter weekend. The three children are all at Eastbourne, Sussex with the eldest, here shown as "Montague G." at boarding school, and the other two lodging with their grandmother Jane Dunphie at the seaside resort. There are just servants looking after the Harley Street house on census night.

George junior successfully retained and expanded his father's practice as an oculist surgeon and became Sir Anderson Critchett in 1903. He stayed on at the Harley Street house and died there in early 1925 aged 79, nearly sixty years since they had first moved there.

(E) The **Cockram** family of Bridgwater, Somerset and Bristol

Louisa Cockram's grandfather was **John Cockram**, possibly with full name Frederick John, born around 1790 probably at Bridgwater in Somerset. He married a Mary there in about 1813 and their son **George** was baptized on 26th February 1815 at Bridgwater St Mary, with father John shown as a labourer. A second son **John** is recorded at the same church on 25th January 1818, but nothing further is known of him.

George Cockram married **Johannah Crocker** on 25th January 1838 at St Mary's, when he was 22 years old. We look in detail at Johannah's family in the next section following. George is recorded with occupation Cordwainer (Boot & Shoemaker) and residence Eastover, Bridgwater, with father's name John, a groom.

George and Johannah had a total of eleven known children during the following 20 years.....

Anna Maria	twin, baptized 11 th November 1838 at Bridgwater St Mary
Elizabeth Jane	twin, baptized with Anna Maria
Frederick Cecil	born spring 1839 at Bridgwater, no baptism found, probably died in infancy
Edward John	born early 1841, ditto
Emma	born 24 th April 1843 at Clerkenwell, London, but baptized at Bridgwater St Mary on 6 th December 1846 aged 3 years
George	born at North Street, Bridgwater, baptized 22 nd April 1845 at St Mary
Louisa Amy Margaret	born 4 th July 1848 at West Street, Bridgwater; no baptism found.
Mary Ann	born January 1851 at Bristol
William	born spring 1853 at Bristol
Georgina Laura	born late 1855 at Bristol & baptized 30 th Sept 1859 at Bristol St James aged 3
Frederick Henry	born late 1858 at Bristol & baptized with Georgina Laura

Frederick Cecil and Edward John are both thought to have died in infancy, but no record of this was found. In the **1841 census**, George & Johannah are at James' Buildings, West Street, Bridgwater with just their twin 2-year old girls. George is a shoemaker and they have one lodger at the house. In the death registers there is a Frederick John Cockram who passed on at Bridgwater about this time; we think this may possibly be George's father, but there is no burial shown at St Mary's church. We do know that George junior died aged 1 in late 1846; he was buried at St Mary on 4th December.

Around 1850 the family moved to Bristol, as expected from the births. This was maybe an attempt by George to find better work; he may possibly have had an uncle in the city who recommended it. The **1851 census** finds the family at 2 Garden Court in the St James district of Bristol, with him having occupation "cordwainer" again. The five surviving children are with them, of whom Elizabeth at 12 is shown as a Tailoress.

The eldest twin girls both married in 1860 at the age of 21, **Anna Maria** to **Henry Howell** early in the year and **Elizabeth Jane** to **John Metcalf** at Bristol St James on 17th August. However, neither couple could be found in the following year's census; Anna Howell died at Clifton in early 1861, most probably in childbirth. No further record of Elizabeth and John could be found; perhaps they emigrated to the USA or Canada as was then becoming common?

George's wife Johannah is not shown at home on the **1861 census** night, and could not be found anywhere else in the country. George's status is not clear on the original image, it could be either "Mar" or "Wid". However no record of Johannah's passing or a remarriage after George's death could be found. Possibly she just took up with another man and lived together as husband and wife using his surname. There is however a "Hannah Cockram" listed in the death register for March quarter 1861 at Bristol, and this could well be her, she would have been 44 years old.

In the census George and his five youngest children are living at 3 West Street, Bristol St James, with just the 2 eldest shown as scholars at 12 and 10; presumably he could not afford to send William or Georgina as well. However the 10 year old **Mary** died in the early weeks of 1862.

There are two candidates in the registers for George Cockram's death, in early 1865 at Clifton when he would have been 50, or summer 1870 at Bristol, "aged 52"; the former is perhaps the more likely. As the eldest surviving child, **Louisa** would have probably inherited what little he had, and perhaps sold off the goodwill and tools of his trade for a nominal sum, thus enabling her to go to London about 1866 and find a good job in service; we chart her marriage to **William Jagers** and subsequent story there in the main body of the text.

It appears that the other three younger children were abandoned in Bristol and left to fend for themselves. In the **1871 census** **William**, by now 18 is boarding at the house of a George Williams at 15 Lower Culver Street in the city, and working as a labourer. He seems to have been the luckier of the three, but there is no trace of him 10 years later, so is presumed to have died quite young. **Laura** is in the St Peter's workhouse aged 15, and 12 year old **Frederick** in the main Bristol City workhouse at Stapleton. By **1881** Laura has been committed to the City of Bristol Lunatic Asylum,

also at Stapleton with occupation “unknown”; she died there in summer 1883 aged 28. We know nothing more about the subsequent fate of Frederick, he probably also died in the later 1870s.

(F) The **Crocker** family of Bridgwater, Somerset

George Cockram’s bride Johannah was one of many Crockers in Bridgwater, a common name in the district. Her grandfather **William Crocker** was born around 1768, probably at or near North Petherton, a village some 3 miles south of the town. He married **Jane Tratt** at the parish church there on 15th March 1792, and their son **William** was baptized there also, on 7th February 1796.

William married **Jane Haysman** on 19th November 1815 at Bridgwater St Mary when he was 19. Jane, born in Bridgwater was also 19. They had 12 known children, all born at Bridgwater and baptized at St Mary’s in the period up to 1839, as follows. The date is that of the baptism, and the father William’s occupation is shown.....

Johanna	13 th May 1814; labourer	Johanna	2 nd February 1817, plaisterer
William	15 th November 1818, mason	Edward	18 th March 1821, labourer
John	29 th June 1823, labourer	George	14 th July 1824, labourer
Samuel	22 nd September 1827, labourer	Robert	30 th May 1830, labourer
Jane	4 th September 1831, plaisterer	Jane Anne	19 th May 1834, plaisterer
Hugh Charles	31 st July 1836, mason	Robert	14 th June 1839, plaisterer

“Plaisterer” is an old spelling of “plasterer”. The first **Johanna** was clearly born out of wedlock, but no mention of this is made in the register; she died at age 18 months and was buried on 3rd January 1816 at St Mary’s.

The first **Jane** was buried there on 14th April 1833 at 20 months. The first **Robert** also presumably died young, but no record was found for him.

The second Johanna married George Cockram in 1838, she is shown as then of residence Eastover, Bridgwater and occupation Binder (most probably of boots and shoes, rather than books); see the section above for her subsequent history.

William could not be found in the 1841, 51 or 61 censuses; perhaps he went to sea? The engraving (right) shows that Bridgwater was at the time a thriving river port.....



He finally resurfaces in 1871; we return to him below.

In the **1841** census, the Crocker family are at West Street, Bridgwater, with William shown as a plasterer. His father, also William is staying with them; he passed on around 2 years later, aged 75. The remaining seven children are all at home; the eldest, Edward and also young Samuel are tailor’s assistants, John is a shoemaker and George a labourer.

By **1851** William & Jane have moved to Ham Street, Bridgwater, and he is still working as a plasterer. Just the 2 youngest boys Charles and Robert are still at home, both employed as labourers. Sons Edward and John have married, we continue their stories below. George could not be found from 1851 through to 1871, but he reappears in 1881.

Samuel in 1851 is lodging at the house of James Owens, brickyard labourer and his family, in Roper’s Lane, Bridgwater, and is working as a labourer in a limekiln. No doubt this arduous task contributed to his early demise a couple of years or so later, in his 20s. Lastly Jane Ann, here known as **Ann** is found in Bridgwater High Street, housemaid to Joseph Smith, pawnbroker and his family there.

Onward 10 years, and the **1861** census finds William and Jane at Sealy’s Court, St Mary’s Street in Bridgwater, shown in the engraving of about that period, with the church in the background

William is still working as a plasterer and tiler at age 64. All their children have by now fled the family nest; Ann and Hugh have married, and **Robert** has moved to Weston-super-Mare, where he is lodging with John Bellinger, a stone mason born at Bridgwater and his family at Great Orchard Street; Robert is also working as a stonemason.

William Crocker died at Bridgwater in early 1863 aged 67 and his wife Jane early the following year at 66.



Edward Crocker married **Jane James** at Bridgwater in late 1848 when he was 27. Jane was born at Clayhanger, Somerset in around 1829, so was some 8 years younger. They moved to Bristol, and in **1851** are at Upper Maudlin Street there, with Edward a journeyman tailor. They have a young daughter Emma Jane aged 1 who was born in Bridgwater indicating that the move was then quite recent. There is an Ellen James, 17, perhaps Jane's sister, visiting and the family have one domestic servant living in.

However, they very soon afterwards moved their tailoring business back to Bridgwater, in **1861** they are at Preece's Court, St Mary Street there with 3 more daughters all born in the town, the eldest in late 1851. **1871** finds them still at the same address, and a total of six children, the eldest being a tailoress and the second a tailor's apprentice, both in the family business.

By **1881** they are living at Hamp Cottages, just outside Bridgwater, presumably having expanded the business in the town to the exclusion of residential space there. Five children are still at home but none are now working at the shop; the two girls are house servants, and the oldest boy a painter & plumber at 14 years old. Edward Crocker died in late 1886 at Bridgwater aged 65 and his wife Jane a few weeks later at only 57.

The missing son **William** was the next to marry, in late 1851 at Chard, Somerset to **Ann Lawrance** when he was 33. Ann was born at nearby Ilminster in around 1820. They reappear in the 1871 census at West Street, Bridgwater where William is a worker in a brickyard and Ann a charwoman. They have no children of their own at home, but a **William Searle** aged 22 is shown with them, as William's "stepson" also working in the brickyard. He is presumably Ann's son, so the different surname is a bit of a mystery, unless Ann was married and widowed twice in quick succession!

1881 shows William, still labouring in the brickyard & Ann now on their own at West Street. William died in the spring of 1884 at Bridgwater aged 63, and Ann, having moved to Wellington, Somerset passed away there in late 1899 at 77.

William & Jane's next son **John** married **Emma Fowler** in late 1845 at Bridgwater, when he was 22. Emma was born at Fairford, Gloucestershire in the summer of 1826, the daughter of John and Mary Anne, and was baptized in the parish church there on 13th August that year. John and Emma moved first to London, where their daughter Mary Ann and son Harry were born in 1846 at St Giles and 1848 at St James, Westminster respectively. However by 1851 they were in Bristol; the census shows them at 32 Montague Street, St James in the city, with John working as a shoemaker. In 1861 they are at 34 Hill Street, Bristol St Paul, and have five children, the birthplaces indicating that they moved house around 1854. The two eldest boys at 12 and 9 are clearly shown working as "Errant Boys", not quite what was intended but possibly nearer the truth! John died in Bristol in early 1865 aged 41, and Emma being only 38 then was probably the one who remarried in the city in 1868.

George as we saw above is absent from all the censuses 1851 – 1871. He re-appears in 1881 at Cardiff Docks, an unmarried Able Seaman aboard the SS "Bristol Packet" aged 55, so this explains the previous omissions. There is then no further record of him, so he probably died at sea.

Jane Anne Crocker married **John Fackrell** at Bridgwater in the spring of 1857 when she was 23. John was born at North Petherton in 1833 and baptized there on 28th July that year, son of John and Frances (Fanny) nee Day. In 1851 they are at North Street in the village, with both father and son working as journeymen Basket Makers. After their marriage John & Jane lived at Angel Crescent, Bridgwater, where the 1861 census finds them with a 1 year old daughter Rhoda. By 1871 the family with their basket making business are at 1 Back Street, by 53 High Street in the town, with 4 children and ten years later still there with four more, though 3 of the older ones have by now left home. The eldest daughter Henrietta at 19 is "domestic assistant" to the household. The 1891 census shows they have moved to Clare Street in Bridgwater. John is still turning out the baskets but his sons have not joined him in the business; only four daughters are now at home, working as a photographer's assistant, a dressmaker and an apprentice ditto, and the youngest still a scholar. In 1901 John and Jane are still at Clare Street and John is still working, but now they have just three grandchildren for company on census night. They were all born in Battersea, London with surname Ham, one of the girls having the very unusual name Huberta. John Fackrell died at Bridgwater on 26th April 1908 aged 74. His widow Jane is shown in the 1911 census at 16 Dampert Street, Bridgwater, an old age pensioner. She passed away there in the summer of 1915 aged 78.

Hugh Charles Crocker married **Martha Date** in the summer of 1860 at Bridgwater when he was 24. Martha was born in March 1841 at Williton, Somerset. In the census of June that year she is living with her grandparents, John & Charity Date at Sampford Brett, Williton, where John was a farm labourer. In 1851 the abode there is named as "Tucker's" and she is still with them, so we do not know who her parents were or what happened to them. The 1861 census shows Hugh and Martha lodging in Bristol Road, Bridgwater with John Bellingham, a stonemason and his family, and Hugh is also working as a stonemason. They have a 9-month old daughter Rosa who was born at Sampford Brett; this would seem to have been just a few weeks either side of their marriage!

Like many others in our Cockram & Crocker families, Hugh and Martha moved to Bristol about 1865; in the 1871 census they are living at 3 Farley Square, Bedminster St Paul, with Hugh shown as a Mason; they now have three children. Hugh Charles Crocker died in the spring of 1878 at Bedminster, aged 42. His wife Martha never remarried and in 1881 is still living in Farley Square, but now at no. 14. She is a tailoress and has a cousin and one of her daughters as house servants. An elder son is an errand boy, and her four youngest are all scholars. 1891 finds the widow Martha at 13 Queen Street, Bedminster and three children are still with her, one daughter employed as a "Tobacconer Servant". In 1901, still at Queen Street, Martha seems to have retired from tailoring at 60 and just her youngest daughter Rosa, 22 is still at home; she has become a Cigarette Maker. Ten years on, they are at 12 Morley Road,

Southville, Bristol, and son William has returned; both he and Rosa are working for a tobacco company. Martha Crocker died in Bristol in late 1915 aged 74.

We left the youngest of William & Jane Crocker's 12 children, **Robert** in Weston-super-Mare in 1861, 22 years old, unmarried and working as a stonemason. By 1871 he too has moved to Bedminster, and has apparently married an Elizabeth Jane, one year his junior and also born in Bridgwater, in around 1864 but no record of this could be found. They have two daughters born there and moved to the Bristol area around 1868. They are living at 12 Victoria Place, Bedminster St Luke in April 1871 with Robert a stone & marble mason, and have one further daughter aged 1.

1881 finds them still at the same house, now with 4 daughters and a son but by 1891 they have moved to 24 Warriner Gardens, Battersea in London, where Robert is still working as a mason. They have one daughter with them, 21 year old Kate, employed as a dress mantle maker. Robert died in London in 1898.

(G) **Hammonds**, oil shop proprietors in London, 1860's

The London directories show, quite disproportionately, five or six Hammonds in London, including at least two Johns, who had oil shops or similar businesses around 1869-71. We gathered some information from the 1871 census and contemporary trade directories to try to gain some further insight about our John/William Hammond, and the East Surrey Grove oil-shop connection. This is inevitably an ongoing process, with no breakthroughs as yet. So far.....

- 1) A **Thomas Hammond**, Oil and Colourman at 175 Hoxton Street, Shoreditch from at least 1869-71. He was born in Islington around 1832 and has a wife Suzanna J. and 4 children. By 1881 however they had moved to 232 Cable Street, Stepney where Thomas was a licensed victualler and inn barman!
- 2) Another **Thomas**, Oil & Colourman at 26 Little Newport Street, Soho St Anne from at least 1869-1881. He was born in Hoxton around 1835 and has a wife Sarah with 4, later 5 children.
- 3) In 1881 a third **Thomas**, plate enameller (manufacturer) at 3 Charles Cottages, Lambeth, born at Westminster about 1833, with a wife Rebecca.
- 4) Yet another **Thomas**, a lamp dealer at 20 Gloucester Row in the Walworth Road in an 1869 directory, but has disappeared by the time of the 1871 census; he could be the one who died at Newington in early 1869 aged 30, or maybe at St Olave in summer 1870 aged 81
- 5) **John Hammond**, in 1871 at 9 Pound's Buildings, Shoreditch and in 1881 at no. 6, Warehouseman (porter) born in Hoxton-Shoreditch area around 1846, with wife Eliza and 3, later 5 children.
- 6) Another **John**, from at least 1869-71 at 90 Shepherdess Walk, Shoreditch, Oil & Colourman, born Islington around 1836, with wife Sarah and 2 children.

(H) The **Williams** family of Doncaster & London

Charles Hammond's first wife **Emily Williams** was born in late 1851 at East Retford, Nottinghamshire, the daughter of Alfred Williams, a stoker (fireman) on the Great Northern Railway, born in Tiverton, Devon about 1828, and his wife Elizabeth from London.

About 1853 they moved to Doncaster, South Yorkshire, and the 1861 census shows the family now at 30 John Street in that town, with Alfred now an engine driver on the railway. Five children are shown with Emily the eldest, then Louisa 6, James 4, Florence 3 and Susannah 1. Alfred Williams died in the summer of 1862 aged only 33 and his widow Elizabeth remarried in late 1865 at Doncaster.

By 1871 Emily, Florence and Louisa at least had moved to London; in the census **Emily** seems to be the one staying as a visitor at the house of George Wallace, letter carrier and his wife at 3 Brown's Buildings, Liberty of the Rolls, Finsbury, though no clue is given as to what she would be doing there. Her story after marriage in 1874 is continued in the main text.

Louisa Williams in 1871 is at 67 Princes Gate, Kensington, scullery maid to a Miss Millicent Kerryfield. She married **Thomas Box**, a coachman of Christchurch parish, Mayfair on 25th May 1876 at St Michael, Highgate when she was 22. There was a good turnout from our Hammond family as witnesses with Charles, Elizabeth and Hannah all signing, together with Louisa's sister Susannah Williams.

In the 1881 census Louisa & Thomas are at 13 Market Mews, Mayfair in London's West End, with Thomas again shown as a coachman; he was born at Blockley, Worcestershire about 1851 so was 3 years older than his wife. They have two children, Alfred 3 and Emily 2.

Ten years later they are still at Market Mews but shown now as no. 12; Thomas is a coachman & groom. They have another son, Thomas, aged 9 and as noted in the main text are also looking after Charles Hammond's son Charles Edwin aged 16 (Louisa's nephew) after he was widowed.

In 1901 Louisa & Thomas are at no. 15 Market Mews and Alfred & Emily are still living at home, working as a GPO letter sorter and an assistant schoolteacher respectively. They continued to live in the West End and Louisa died there in the spring of 1929 aged 75.

Meanwhile **Florence** was in service in 1871 at age only 12 as nursemaid to Sarah Jackson at 2 New Quebec Street, Marylebone. She married **John Craig** at St Mary, Paddington Green on 21st November 1880, when she was resident in the parish of Holy Trinity, Paddington. John was a police constable from Dudley Grove. In contrast to Louisa's wedding, there were no Hammond witnesses at all this time, surely not because of John's occupation!

The 1881 census finds them at 15 Hampden Street (nowadays Hampden Crescent) in Paddington. John is shown as born in Ireland around 1856. By 1891 they were at 182 Miles Buildings (one of Sydney Waterlow's showpiece IIDC housing developments, nowadays called Penfold Place), Linton Street, Paddington. They have no children of their own, but now have custody of Charles Hammond's other three children, Florence, Hannah & Horace. John and Florence could not be found in the 1901 census, and nothing further is known about their subsequent fate; he could have been posted anywhere in the country, or might even have gone back to Ireland.

(I) The **Laughton** family of London

Charles Hammond's second wife Louisa Laughton was born at 17 Woodfield Place, Paddington, London in September 1870 and was baptized on 30th October at St Peter's church there. Her parents were George, born Paddington in 1840 and Charlotte at Norwich in 1841. In the 1871 census they were at 17 Woodfield Place, Paddington with George having occupation "iron founder's engine fitter". Louisa is 7 months old, recorded as "dumb from birth". There are two other families living in the same house.

A second child, son William was born in 1874 at Kilburn. By 1881 the family had moved to 13 Little Queen Street (nowadays Old Queen Street), Westminster; George Laughton is employed as an engine fitter and Charlotte is housekeeper, with both the children at school.

1891 finds the family at 69 Mallinson Road, Battersea, with George an Engineer. Louisa is a dressmaker and her brother William a commercial clerk. Charlotte died in Battersea in late 1898 aged 58 and George eventually moved down to Stansted, Kent, near to his daughter Louisa and husband Charles Hammond. He died there on 22nd September 1920, as commemorated on the Hammond headstone in Stansted St Mary churchyard.

(J) The **Maskell** family of Caversham, Oxon and West Drayton, Middlesex

John George Maskell's grandfather John **Maskell** was born around 1775, most probably in Oxfordshire or Berkshire, but we know not exactly where as this is a very common surname in these parts. No record of John Maskell's christening was found at Caversham or any of the 20 or so surrounding parishes. Indeed there are no Maskell baptisms at Caversham prior to 1800. There are however a few marriages there (back to 1690) and burials (from 1741), but none that can yet be linked to our family. There are also many at Sonning nearby. He possibly came from further afield, such as Burghfield or Hampstead Norris, to the west in Berkshire? Some possibilities for John's parents are the following marriages found in the 1757-1775 period:

4th Sept 1757, John Mascal of Burghfield to Jane Slater at Sonning Parish church
14th February 1763, Matthew Maskell to Sarah Iton, at Sonning, both of that parish
4th October 1766, Richard Maskell to Mary Money, at Sonning, ditto, witness John Maskell.

Some possibilities for his birth/christening (IGI) are

John Maskall, 24 Jan 1762 at Reading St Mary, parents John & Jenny
John Mascal, 12 June 1763 at Winterbourne, Newbury, Berks, father John
John Maschel, 16 Sep 1764 at Cookham, Berks, parents William & Martha
John Maskel, 10 Nov 1769 at Reading St Giles, parents ? (illegible) Maskell, Sarah May
John Maskell, 28 Oct 1770 at Hampstead Norris, parents James & Sarah.
John Maskal, 17th Jan 1779 at Chieveley, Newbury, Berks, parents Thomas & Anne

Given that his first-born son was named James, this was possibly the name of his father and also that he had a daughter Sarah, the one at Hampstead Norris looks most likely, though the above list is not exhaustive.

We do know however that our "John Mascal" married **Dorothy Reeves** at Shiplake parish church on 18th April 1799, by license rather than banns, and he is described them as "of Caversham", the small village on the River Thames just opposite Reading but in the county of Oxon. Both had to make their mark 'X' in the register, not being able to sign their names. The witnesses were Ralph Bitmead and Thomas Bailey. Dorothy was baptized in the same church on 19th November 1778, the daughter of John & Dorothy Reves. Her second son John Maskell was probably named after her father?

John and Dorothy had five known children, all born at Caversham and baptized at the parish church of St Peter there on the dates shown.....

James	30 th May 1802	John	7 th October 1804
Lydia	15 th March 1807	Sarah	19 th March 1809
Benjamin	21 st April 1816; father's occupation shown as a labourer		

Their mother Dorothy died in March 1819 aged 40 and was buried at St Peter on the 18th of that month.

Son **James** Maskell married **Mary Lewis** at Caversham St Peter (pictured) on 15th April 1826 when he was 23 years old.

Mary was born in Caversham and was baptized at St Peter on 10th February 1805, the daughter of Michael and Sarah. They continued to live at Caversham and had their family there, but James passed away in October 1840 and was buried at St Peter on the 18th of that month, aged just 38.

His widow Mary never remarried, and outlived him by over 40 years; we find her in the June 1841 census living at Toker's Green, Caversham with her widowed father Michael Lewis, still working as a farm labourer at age 65, and seven of her children still at home.

They are George 12 and Joseph 10, both already working as ag. labs, then Mary, Elizabeth, Ellen and Daniel born at 2-year intervals, down to Charlotte, aged 1, born just before her father died.

Ten years later they are still at Toker's Green, and Mary's father is now shown working as a farm bailiff. She herself is the housekeeper, and her four youngest children are with her, but curiously shown in the census return as "visitors".

In 1861 the address is further clarified as "2nd Farm, Tokers Green" and Mary now just has her daughter Charlotte, 21 for company. She could not be found in the 1871 census return, but is surely normally staying at Toker's Green, though possibly away visiting one of her children at the Easter weekend.

In 1881 she is still at her long-term home, at 76 somewhat unnecessarily described as "unemployed", and daughter Charlotte is still with her, albeit now with a husband, farm labourer George Janes and their four children in tow. Mary Lewis Maskell died however at Henley on Thames, around a year later in the spring of 1882 aged 77.

We know nothing further about the lives of **Lydia**, **Sarah** or **Benjamin**. They may have died young or otherwise the two girls would surely have married by 1841, and Benjamin could not be found in the first census that year.

No record of John Maskell's demise was found at Caversham or any of the surrounding parishes. It is quite possible he outlived his wife Dorothy by some time, and maybe remarried, moving away to another area. Some candidates for a remarriage are:-

to Sarah Drew of Sonning, 19 January 1829
to Mary Chapman of Sonning, 4th October 1829
to Amelia Knight of Tilehurst, 23 July 1826
to Jeanne Sims, qtr Sept 1838, Bradfield 6 171.
to Louise Lambourne 1832 at Reading St Lawrence
to Sarah Randall 1839 at Reading St Lawrence
to Elizabeth Greener 1833 at Reading St Lawrence
to Elizabeth Church (Widow), 13 Oct 1834 at Harpsden parish church, witness Ann Maskell.

There are no clear candidates for John Maskell born c.1775 in either the 1841 or 1851 censuses. Therefore we might suppose he died in period 1837-1841, but the only candidate is in London, so this seems unlikely. No ages are given in civil registration before 1866, so this is of no help to identify the correct person.

John Maskell junior born in 1804 forms the continuation of our family line. On the 14th January 1832 at the age of 27 he married Sarah Jaycock at Langley Marish parish church near Slough, Buckinghamshire.

Sarah was born in Langley village in 1806. Her father John Jaycock married Elizabeth Grantham there on 28th October 1789 and their five known children were all baptized in the same church, as follows.....

Mary Ann	18 th July 1790	Ann	19 th August 1792
William	10 th November 1799	Hannah	26 th September 1802
and lastly Sarah on 21 st September 1806.			

John and Sarah Maskell made their new home at West Drayton, Middlesex, and five known children were born to them there, baptized at the local parish church of St Martin as follows...

John George	born 14 th October 1832, baptized on the 16 th
Sarah Elizabeth	born 8 th December 1834, baptized 4 th January 1835



William	born 19 th March 1837, baptized 9 th April
Benjamin	born 8 th August 1840, baptized 29 th August
Frederick James	born 20 th June 1843, baptized 9 th July

In all five cases the father John's occupation is shown as a labourer but their exact place of abode in the village is not stated. The 1841 census does not give any clue to this either; John is an ag. lab. here, and their then 4 children are shown as expected. Mother Sarah Maskell died at West Drayton in late 1847 aged 41, possibly in childbirth; she was buried at St Martin on the 5th December.

1851 finds the widower John living in a cottage at West Drayton village with his four youngest children, still labouring on the Manor farm, as are also now sons William & Benjamin, at 14 and just 10 years old respectively. Daughter Sarah at 16 is no doubt responsible for the housework. Eldest son **George** (as he is by now known) is away in Henley-on-Thames; he forms the continuation of our family line, with his subsequent story summarized below and in the main text.

In 1861 John is at Thatcher's Farm, West Drayton, in a cottage shared with his sons George and Frederick, also George's wife Sarah and their two children. All three men are working as farm labourers.

After 18 years of widowhood, on 5th November 1865 John married for a second time, at the age of 61. This was at West Drayton St Martin, to a widow, **Anna Maria Darbon**.

Anna was born about 1811 in Chelsea, London, to **Samuel Clarke**, a labourer and his wife, name unknown. She had married **Daniel Darbon**, another labourer, around 1831. Daniel was the son of Joseph & Deborah Darbon, baptized at Harmondsworth St Mary, Middlesex on 11th December 1803.

They made their married home at Longford near West Drayton, and the 1841 census shows them living in that village with children James, Daniel & John aged 8, 7 and 1 respectively. Ten years later they are at Mere lane, Harmondsworth, with son Daniel still at home also working as an ag lab and 3 additions to their family, John 10, Joshua 6 and Mary 3, all born at Harmondsworth. However Daniel senior died in the Staines area in September 1857 and was buried at Harmondsworth St Mary on the 17th of that month, aged 43.

In 1861 the widow Anna was living in Yiewsley village with her son Daniel and his wife Rebecca, also her son John and daughter Mary. Both sons were labourers at an oil mill.

John and Anna Maskell made their home in a cottage near "The Bells" public house in Mill Road, West Drayton, where they are shown in the 1871 census, sharing the accommodation with his son Frederick and his wife Agnes. Son George and his family are nearby at 21 Mill Road.

Anna Maria died in late 1877 in the High Wycombe area aged 66, leaving John a widower for the second time. In 1881 at the age of 77 he is lodging with Richard and Hannah Downham at Old Farm, West Drayton. He died there three years later, in the first week of 1885 at the age of 80 and was buried at St Martin on the 8th January.

Sarah Elizabeth Maskell married **Joseph Smith** at West Drayton in summer 1859 when she was 24; however she could not be found in the 1861 census so is likely to be the one recorded as passing away there in the spring of 1860, probably in childbirth.

Her brother **William** was the next to marry, at Harmondsworth parish church on 11th February 1860 to **Mary Ann Evans**, who was born there about 1837. Her father was Edward Evans, a labourer and there were no Maskell witnesses. They are shown continuing to live in that village in the following year's census, but Mary died there in early 1863 aged just 25.

Only a few months later on 6th June that year William married **Elizabeth Blazdell** at West Drayton St Martin. According to the later censuses Elizabeth was born at Cowley, Middlesex about 1834, but does not seem to appear in any of those for 1841, 51 or 61, even accounting for the likely gross mis-spellings of her surname! Furthermore, neither William nor Elizabeth could be found in 1871; perhaps they deliberately hid from the enumerator on principle?

In 1881 though they were captured for posterity at Bonsey's Yard, Bethel Place, Hillingdon St Andrew where William is employed as a farm labourer. They have two children, Julia 15 and Louisa 12, both scholars born in the Uxbridge area, so had not strayed far in the intervening period.

1891 finds William and Eliza (as she now calls herself) still at Bethel Place – now shown as cottage no. 5 – with William a jobbing gardener, but the two girls have left home. William's brother George is staying with them over the Easter weekend. Ten years on finds William, still gardening, and Eliza again at 5 Bethel Place, with Eliza inexplicably stating her birthplace as Cannon Street, London, perhaps the enumerator's error in transcription? They have a grandson Albert Maskell, a 10 year old scholar born at Hillingdon staying with them, so evidently they also had a son born around 1865 who had left the family home by 1881.

William Maskell died at Hillingdon in the spring of 1916, aged 79.

Benjamin Maskell married **Mary Ann Hillyer** at West Drayton St Martin on 29th December 1866 when he was 26 and working as a labourer. Mary was born at Hillingdon in 1844, but her family could not be found in the 1851 census. In 1861 she seems to be the one at age 17 working as a domestic servant to Henry Chittenden and his family at 20 Kent Villas, Hackney in east London. Benjamin and Mary are found in 1871 living in a cottage near to the "Swan" tavern in West Drayton, where he is yet another farm labourer. They have two sons, Frederick aged 3 born at Lower Marsh, Lambeth (around the back of Waterloo station), and Benjamin, 15 months, in the rural tranquility of West Drayton.

In 1881 they are living in another cottage on the north side of The Green in the village (possibly one of those pictured) with Benjamin still laboring.

Mary's mother Elizabeth Hillier is staying with them, aged 71, born in Uxbridge and by now widowed. Four more children have been added to their family, making six in all; George is 6, Joseph 5, Anne 2, and an as yet un-named daughter aged 1 month; all were born at West Drayton.



Forward to 1891 and the family are now at 3 Elton's Cottages, Church Road nearby. Benjamin is a general labourer as is his son Frederick; George is a butcher's assistant and Joseph an errand boy. Annie and the daughter who became Eliza are scholars, and three new additions are Thomas 7, Florence 5 and William 3.

The family could not be located in the 1901 census, but are still in West Drayton in 1911 (no address given) with Benjamin working as a roadman for the Uxbridge Rural District Council and son Thomas as a general labourer. They clearly stayed in the same area for the rest of their days; Mary Ann Maskell passed on there in early 1921 aged 77 and in the 1921 census a few months later Benjamin aged 80 is still working as a labourer/road surveyor for Uxbridge Rural District Council; he is living at Winship Cottages, Church Road in West Drayton. Son Thomas, a builder's labourer is with him, also a grandson Stanley Watts, 17, an agricultural labourer. Benjamin died in early 1927 at the good age of 86, the healthy yet strenuous outdoor life having evidently done him no harm at all!

Lastly **Frederick** James Maskell married **Agnes Emma Thatcher** on 10th May 1868 at St Martin's when he was 24. Agnes was born at Long Wittenham, Buckinghamshire around 1848, and the marriage register entry gives her father's name as Stephen, a labourer, but this family could not be found in either of the 1851 or 1861 censuses.

By 1871 Frederick & Agnes were living near "The Bells" tavern in West Drayton with his father John Maskell and his new wife Anna Maria. No occupation is shown for Frederick, and they have a young son George Frederick aged 5 months born in the village. Agnes died there in late 1872 aged only 24, probably again in childbirth.

Frederick then married **Ellen White** on 10th April 1880 at the parish church of St Marylebone, London, when he was 36. Her address at marriage came as quite a surprise to us – it is 21 Harley Street! Furthermore the witnesses were "F. Hammond" and "R. Maskell", surely our Frederick and Rachel, and although Ellen has no occupation shown she no doubt worked with Rachel under William Jagers there, and Rachel would have introduced her to her widowed uncle Fred. Ellen was born in the Drummond Crescent area of Euston, London about 1853, so was some 9 years younger than her husband. Her father was Henry White, a marine store dealer deceased by 1880.

In the 1881 census Frederick and Ellen were living at a cottage on the north side of The Green at West Drayton, very close to that of his brother Benjamin and his family, with Frederick shown as a bricklayer's labourer. His only child with Agnes, son George is with them, a scholar.

Ten years later they are at 6 Fraysbrook Cottages, Old Farm Road, West Drayton with Frederick working as a gardening labourer (employed). Son George has by now left home, but there are 3 additions to the family, Edith 10, Charles 7 and John 4, all born in the village and attending school there. A niece Ellenor Fowler aged 3 born in London is staying with them on census night.

A further child Ellen S. was born later in 1891 but Frederick was widowed again in September 1894 with the loss of Ellen senior aged 41; she was buried at St Martin on the 13th of the month.

In 1901 he is shown at no. 7 Fraysbrook Cottages, at 57 employed as a jobbing gardener. Edith, John and Ellen are with him, John at 14 working as a porter and gate boy at a local millboard factory. Frederick James Maskell died at West Drayton in early 1909 aged 65 years.

Returning to John & Sarah's eldest son John **George** Maskell, in the 1851 census at the age of 19 he is living at the farmhouse of Richard Glasspool on Nettlebed Street, Henley-on-Thames; one of 13 men and 4 boys employed as labourers on this very large farm of 1300 acres. During this period he evidently met his future wife **Sarah Pratt** who was born at Henley in 1832 and shown in service at 79 Bell Street nearby in the same census (her family story up to this point is told in the following section).

George married Sarah on 5th October 1856 at West Drayton St Martin when he was 23 and she 24 years old. They had just two children, both born at West Drayton.....

Mary Ann born 29th July 1857, baptized 23rd August at St Martin
Rachel Kezia born 14th March 1860, baptized 8th April ditto

with their father George shown as an ag lab in both cases. In 1861 as already noted above, the four of them are living at Thatcher's Farm with his widowed father John.

Ten years on in 1871 George has become a brewer's labourer and they are living at 21 Mill Road, West Drayton; the 2 girls are both attending school.

Sarah Maskell passed away in early 1876 aged 44, and as we see in our main story, **Rachel** Kezia Maskell married **Frederick Hammond** at Marylebone parish church, London on 12th March 1881, witnesses by her father.

So in the 1881 census 3 weeks later George has just his elder daughter Mary Ann for company; they are by now living in a cottage on The Green with George shown as a bricklayer's labourer and Mary a dressmaker no doubt

working at home. On 9th September 1882 **Mary** married **Henry Lewis Keen** at St Thomas, Camden Town, when she was 25. Henry is described in the register as a foreman of 136 St Paul's Road in that locality; his father was Daniel Keen, a manager. Mary gives the same address, and her father John George Maskell signed as a witness. He is recorded as a "horse keeper" here. We continue Henry & Mary's story below.

After nearly 10 years of widowhood John **George** Maskell married **Fanny Thornhill** at All Saints Hatcham, New Cross Road, Peckham on Christmas Day 1885. She was a widow, born Fanny Bray at Harefield, Middlesex in 1833; her father Joseph was a labourer.

The 1851 census shows her working in service at the house of Thomas Pither, a licensed victualler and his family in nearby Bedfont village. She married **James Thornhill** on 6th September 1857 at his birthplace of West Drayton, and by the time of the 1861 census they were living at Thornhill's Yard, near to the Swan Inn in that village. Though the Yard is no doubt named after one of his forebears or current family, James was merely another agricultural labourer. James and Fanny have two children, James 2 and Harriet 8 months.

1871 finds the family still "near the Swan", with five additions to their family: Henry 8, George 6, Samuel 4, Mary 3 and Frederick 1. Ten years later shows little change; some of the older children have left home but there are 3 more additions, Lizzie, Maria and Alice, 9, 7 and 6 respectively.

James Thornhill died around the end of March 1882 aged 55 and was buried at St Martin, West Drayton on 8th April. Just a month previously his son Henry had died aged only 19; he was interred there on 6th March.

At the time of their marriage both George Maskell and Fanny Thornhill are shown living at 142 Kender Street, Peckham, with George working as a general labourer. We think that this continued to be their normal residence, but in the census taken at the Easter weekend of 1891 they are separately visiting their respective relatives back in the West Drayton area; George is at 5 Bethel Place, Hillingdon with his brother William and his wife Eliza (see above), and Fanny at Harlington village with her nephew Robert Whenman and his family. George is once again working as a farm labourer and Fanny lists her occupation as a housekeeper.

John George Maskell died in early 1899 in the Eton registration district, which is adjacent to the West Drayton area on its eastern fringe. He was 68 years old.

His widow Fanny is found in the 1901 census staying at 2 Victoria Cottages, West Drayton, the home of her daughter Maria who had married Walter White Stevens, a journeyman butcher, in October 1897 at Hampstead.

Ten years later she is at 6 Birch's Cottages, Old Farm Road in the village, with just a grandson William with her; he is a railway parcel porter. Fanny died in the area in late 1914, aged 81.

Finally, George's elder daughter **Mary** Ann and her husband **Henry** Lewis Keen went to live in Borden, near Sittingbourne in Kent; in 1891 they are at 29 Mill Lane in that village, with Henry aged 30 a brickfield labourer. He too was born in West Drayton, and they had no doubt moved to find steadier or better-paid work. They have 4 children, the eldest of whom, Millicent Flora was born at West Drayton in the spring of 1883 and the rest at Borden; they are Herbert Henry in spring 1885, Percy George in early 1887 and Florence Mary in January 1891. George Frederick was added in 1894.

The family was still at Borden in 1901, but by 1911 had come back to west London, residing at 44 Walthew Road, Southall in the census; ten years later Mary by now widowed is at No. 29 in the same road, with son George Frederick, a wood cutting machinist at the Army & Vincent joinery works. Mary like her sister Rachel lived to a good age; she passed away in the Uxbridge area in late 1938, aged 81.

(K) The **Pratt** family of Henley-on-Thames

Sarah Pratt's grandfather **William** was born in Henley-on-Thames about 1765 and married **Martha Wise** at St Mary's church there on 5th April 1790. Martha was born around 1768, probably also at Henley. William and Martha had six known children, all born at Henley as follows:

William	born 1 st June 1792	James	baptized 11 th Dec 1796 at St Mary
Mary	born 24 th June, baptized 21 st July 1799	George	born 22 nd February 1804
Thomas	born 14 th December 1806	Henry	born 14 th June 1809

William senior died before the start of Civil Registration in 1837, and we find his widow Martha in the 1841 census living at the almshouses in Church Lane, Henley. Her grand-daughter Sarah (George's daughter) aged 9 is staying with her on census night. Martha Wise Pratt died in late 1846 at Henley, aged 78.

Of their children, **George** continues our direct family line, below. **William** married a girl called **Rebecca**, born in Henley and about 3 years older than him, around 1812. In the 1841 census they are living at Gravel Hill, Henley, where William is a shoemaker and they have two children with them, William 15 and Caroline 12. A third child James 9 shown with them is actually their grandson, so evidently some older children have already married and left home by about 1831. By 1851 William has moved his home and business to the High Street in Henley, and there are just two grandchildren with them, James again, now an apprentice Wheelwright who was born in Henley, and Emma R., 3, born in Islington, London. 1861 however finds William and Rebecca back at Gravel Hill where he is still making shoes at 69. Just Emma is with them this time, a scholar. Ten years later they are in the same house, and William amazingly is still working! Rebecca died there in early 1873 aged 84 and William in late 1880 at 89 years.

James Pratt married a Mary, around one year his senior, around 1820; she was born in Portsea, Hampshire. In the 1841 census they are at Northfield End, Henley, with James working as a bricklayer. They have seven children at home with them, all born at Henley. The eldest, George at 18 is a whitesmith; the others are Harriet 12, William 10, Eliza 8, James 7, Richard 5 and Caroline just 3 months. Ten years on, the address is further clarified as Bell Pits, Northfield End where James is still a bricklayer, now assisted by his sons William, James and Richard, the latter two as apprentices. The two younger girls Eliza and Caroline are also still at home, but Harriet has presumably married by now. James Pratt died in early 1860 at Henley, aged 63. His widow Mary is still at Bell Pits in 1861, and has a grand-daughter Caroline, 12 staying with her on census night.

We know nothing further about William & Martha's daughter Mary; she presumably married or died before 1837. Their sons Thomas and Henry also appear to have died relatively young; they do not seem to appear in the 1841 census.

George Pratt's partner was Keziah Richmond, baptized at Fingest, Buckinghamshire on 6th February 1803, the daughter of Robert and Anne. They would surely have been married around 1824, but we could not find any record at Fingest, Henley or the surrounding areas. All their known children were born at Henley, from 1826 onwards. They are....



- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Lucy | born 30 th January, baptized 26 th February 1826 at Henley St. Mary (right); she was buried there on 4 th December 1827 |
| Lucy Ann | born 20 th December 1827, baptized 6 th January 1828 at St Mary. |
| George | baptized 6 th December 1829, ditto |
| Sarah | baptized 11 th March 1832, ditto |
| Thomas | baptized 25 th December 1833, ditto |
| Mary | baptized 13 th January 1836, ditto |
| Rachel Wise | born 5 th December 1838, baptized 2 nd January 1839, ditto |
| Martha | born 27 th March, baptized 4 th May 1842, ditto |

In all cases except the last, the father's occupation is shown as shoemaker or cordwainer, but for Martha he is simply "labourer". In the 1841 census the family are like several of the other Pratts living at Northfield End, Henley; this is one of about 10 cottages here then, not separately identified. George Pratt is as expected a shoemaker here. The only child missing is Sarah, who as we have already seen was staying with her grandmother at the church almshouses on census night. In 1851 the situation is much the same, with just Thomas and Sarah away from home; Thomas could not be found in the census index. Elder son George at 21 has become a tailor. **Sarah** is found in service at 79 Bell Street nearby, but her employers are away on this Easter weekend and she is alone in the house. She married **John George Maskell** on 5th October 1856 at West Drayton St Martin when she was 25, and we continue her story in the main text. **Lucy, Thomas, Mary** and **Rachel** all married during the decade up to the 1861 census, and we look at them further below. **Martha** died at Henley in early 1854 aged just 11. Nothing further is known about **George**, so we can probably conclude he is the one who died at Henley in early 1855; he would have been 25 years old. So in 1861 at Northfield End, George and Kezia have just a grandson, Henry W. D. Pratt aged 9 for company. Kezia passed away at Henley in late 1865 aged 62 and George in the spring of the following year, also 62.

Mary was the first of the 4 above children to marry, in late 1855 to **Augustus Reeves** at Henley when she was 19. Augustus was born at Shiplake near Henley around 1833, thus 2 years or so older than Mary. In 1861 they were living at one of the cottages at Northfield End, with Augustus working as a sawyer. They have a young son, George aged 3. Ten years on they are still there, with Augustus demoted to "sawyer's labourer". Son George is missing, presumed died, but they have a daughter Emma aged 7, and the above-mentioned Henry D, at 19 now a shoemaker is staying with them. 1881 finds Augustus further demoted to plain "labourer" and they now have 3 (different) children with them, Charles 9, Alfred 7 and Elizabeth 4. Finally in 1891 (back to sawyer again!) just a grandson, William Meddock aged 17 and still shown as a scholar, is with Augustus and Mary. Mary Reeves died at Northfield End in early 1900, aged 65.

Thomas Pratt married **Mary Ann Chapman** at St Peter, Islington, London on Boxing Day 1857 when he was 24. Thomas is recorded in the register as a boot and shoemaker, both he and Mary giving their residence as 10 Baldwin Cottages, Islington. Mary was born at Abingdon, Berkshire in the spring of 1841, daughter of Richard, a tailor and his wife Harriet. She presumably went up to London to find a job in service, but was only 17 when she married. In the 1861 census Thomas and Mary are yet another couple to be found back at Northfield End, Henley and Thomas is yet another shoemaker there, presumably all co-operating in the same business rather than in competition with each other! They have two daughters, Fanny Kezia aged 2 and Ellen, 8 months. 10 years later they have another, Emily, 5, but Fanny is staying with her grandmother, Harriet Chapman, a widow at 46 and a tailoress, at Bix Hill, Bix, Oxfordshire.

Around 1874 Thomas, Mary and their family moved to Deptford, South London, in company with several of the other Pratts and Maskells. The 1881 census shows them at 110 Kender Street, Hatcham All Saints. Thomas is still a boot & shoemaker; Mary's mother Harriet Chapman the tailoress is living with them, Fanny K. has by now married Samuel Harley a brewer's workman and they are also staying over at the house with their 2 year old son Edward. Ellen, now at 20 working as a dressmaker is also at home, and there are two more children, Frederick Henry, 9 born at Henley and Ada, 6 at Deptford. Thomas Pratt died in neighbouring Greenwich in early 1882 aged 48 and his widow Mary still only 40 probably re-married a couple of years later.

Lucy Ann Pratt married **William Langford** in summer 1859 at Henley, when she was 21. However there are two baptisms of illegitimate children shown for her at Henley St Mary; a daughter Caroline on 24th July 1854 and son Thomas Stephen on 5th March 1857, the father not being named in either case. The 1861 census shows us that William was born at Hambledon, Oxon and was a coal labourer, some ten years older than Lucy. They are yet another couple living at Northfield End, Henley, but the two above-named children are not with them.

Our pictures (below) show cottages and houses, some being obviously former shop premises, at Northfield End.....



Ten years later they are shown at nearby Hag Lane, where William is now an ag. lab. and Lucy a laundress. They have one child, a son James H. aged 7. William Langford died in late 1876 aged 59, and Lucy then had to go into the Henley Workhouse. We find her there in the 1881 census and she died there in late 1883 aged 55. In the same census, their son James is staying at Northfield End with his aunt Mary Reeves, husband Augustus and their family, and working as a railway servant presumably at Henley station on the Great Western Railway.

Finally, **Rachel** Wise Pratt married **Joseph Taylor** at West Drayton St Martin on 10th February 1861. Joseph was born in the Charing Cross district of London about 1836 so was about 2 years older than Rachel. George Maskell and Rachel's sister Martha Pratt signed the register as witnesses. A few weeks later the census shows them living at Cop's Corner, Wise Lane, West Drayton, with Joseph working as a bricklayer's labourer. They moved to Deptford about 1864 and in 1871 are at 8 Georgina Terrace, Kender Street there, a popular locality for our family! Joseph is now a basket maker's labourer and they have two children, Edward Augustus aged 9 born at Henley and Rhoda Eliza 5 at Deptford. 1881 finds the family at 1 Albert Cottages, Deptford with Joseph still laboring at the basket works; son Edward at 19 is already a fully-fledged basket-maker there. Rhoda is not with them, but there are two additions, Ada aged 9 and Sarah 5. Ten years later they are back in Kender Street, living at no. 142, with Edward and Sarah still at home. Rachel Wise Taylor died in the Greenwich district in the summer of 1900 aged 62.

(L) The Hughes family of Halstead, Essex and London

Hannah Hammond's husband **Edward Lake Hughes** was born in late 1846 at Halstead, Essex. His parents were Robert Columbus Hughes and his wife Jane, nee Lake. Robert was born in Halstead in around 1803, and Jane was baptized at St John, Exeter, Devon on 17th April 1808, her parents being William & Mary Lake. Jane became a schoolmistress in Ipswich, and married Robert at St Margaret's church in that town on 8th January 1833. By late 1834 however they had made their home at Halstead, and their seven children were born there, given some "interesting" names as follows.....

Jane Lake	born 3 rd Oct 1833 (maybe at Ipswich?), but baptized 6 th Jan 1835 at Halstead
Robert Theophilus Lake	born 8 th April 1836, baptized 8 th January 1837 ditto
George Washington Lake	born early 1838
John Lake	summer 1839
Mary Lake	late 1841
Edward Lake	late 1846
Henry Lake	summer 1848

In 1851 the family were living at 35 Chapel Street, Halstead, with Robert a stationer and accountant, Jane a schoolmistress and eldest daughter Jane a school assistant, no doubt at the same institution. Son Robert at 15 was a solicitor's writing clerk.