

Those Who Went Before Me

Introduction: My Journey into the Past

Part 1 - The Path to My Father

Part 1a – The Gates Line (1750-1917)

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Some of the reproductions of the original documents in the printed version may be difficult to read and decipher. However, they are visible in the pdf version.

Introduction – My Journey into my Past

These four volumes are my attempt to document the history of my family and to appreciate my past. Given that a genealogical family tree is two dimensional along the two axes of time and family, writing a narrative is always a problem of organisation. To solve that problem, I have decided to focus on “lines” (paternal and maternal) and “generations”.

The two fundamental lines I use are my paternal line, the Gates line (Part 1), and my maternal line, the Robinson line (Part 2). In the third part I follow the story onward. The three parts are:

Part 1 - The Path to My Father

This first part follows the paternal line of my family

- **Part 1a** follows my father’s paternal Gates line from around 1750 up to the marriage of my paternal grandparents in 1917;
- **Part 1b** follows my father’s maternal Evans line from around 1780 up to the marriage of my own parents in 1951.

Part 2 - The Path to My Mother

This second part follows the maternal line of my family

- **Part 2a** follows my mother’s paternal Robinson line from 1780 up to the marriage of my maternal grandparents in 1896;
- **Part 2b** follows my mother’s maternal Philpott line from 1780 up to the marriage of my own parents in 1951.

Part 3 - The Path to The Future

This final part brings us up to the present, beginning with the marriage of my parents Charles Edward Gates and Maud Robinson in 1951, and moving forward to myself and my own family.

Building a Family History

Of course, family trees bifurcate each generation, so consist of sub-lines of other families. In my case the paternal line consists of: Gates, Humphrey, Page, Evans, Summer, Finnis, Packer, Fitzsimmons, Sanders, Huddleston, Tisdale, Gyde, Spyer, Nolder, Forster and Sparkes – at least back to around 1750. The maternal line consists of Robinson, Philpott, Mount, Beale, Fagg, Snoad, Burgess, Surridge.

In family history research in the UK, 1840 was a key moment because it marks the beginning of UK official registration of births deaths and marriages on 1st July 1837, and the first national census in 1841, the first to focus on individuals. Prior to this, most records were kept by the church consisting of baptisms (some of which included dates of birth), marriages and burials. Hence anything which took place before then remain somewhat elusive and fragmentary.

Not surprisingly, I had no idea about most of these people before I began searching out my family history, and I do not think anyone else in my family did either. Their lives only now existed hidden in the documentary records. However, the official on-line records can only provide a sparse and meagre account of their lives. The 250 years covering their lives between 1750 and 1900 are indeed a very different world, where they did things very differently.

“The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there” is a quote from L.P. Hartley's 1953 novel *The Go-Between*. The quote is often used as a metaphor to describe how the past is something we can never fully know, even though we can study it and although there is a vast amount of information I have processed, the details of their daily lives remain hidden.

Most of those living I write about never experienced the things I take for granted: electricity, cars, trains, tarmacked roads, TV, cinema; radio transmission began only in 1922 with the birth of my parents.

That is why working on this history of their lives has been fascinating. There is of course still much more to uncover, so many questions – though some information might not be recorded anywhere and, with the death of all concerned, might never be known. Like most people who

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get into family history, I just wish I had asked many more questions when they were alive. However, even had I asked, little would have been known this far back. I hope this might keep their memory alive. But more importantly, people may not have wanted to talk about their past, or it just wasn't "what you do".

I have not undertaken the necessary research work to reliably map my family history much before 1750. This I have taken as my cut-off, and feel comfortable with this. I did this because my particular interest was in the stories I could reconstruct; the stories of people and their lives that were lying in the documentary records waiting to be uncovered. I do realise that my family history reaches way back to the dawn of human civilisation and before. My ancestors were somewhere at the time of the Saxon and Viking invasions of England, and the Norman conquest – though on which side of the channel I cannot know apart from the Finnis line, which seems to have come from France. Some are likely to have experienced the Great Fire of London, others the plague possibly in rural parts of Essex and Kent. There is possibly some evidence lying in parish records, but my gut feeling is that this would take years to explore, and then with doubtful reliability. So, I offer my apologies to those I have not uncovered and to whom I owe my existence. Maybe someone in the future might continue this work, but like all those I write about, my time is running out.

Whilst I have looked into the families of my own direct ancestors, I have not undertaken this research up to the present day, but stopped sometime around the 1920s, at the same time as when my parents were born. My intention here was to provide a broader perspective of life and lives in the 19th and 20th centuries for the sort of people who were my ancestors. This has provided me with a number of surprising stories.

My journey through this research

I began to get particularly interested in family history around 2020. I have always had an interest in the lives of my direct relatives, but a conversation with Tricia King, a work colleague of 25 years, sparked my interest further. I joined Ancestry (later FindMyPast too) and off I went. It has been a six-year roller coaster of emotion. Partial stories I vaguely remembered came to life and in some cases left me speechless.

I knew the story that my maternal grandmother had had 13 children and that my mother was the last. But I only knew four – so what happened to the others. One day searching through the GRO records I found out. There were seven dead babies, all named, all presumably buried before their 3rd birthday. One, Frederick, seemed to be on lots of people's Ancestry tree as dying in 1975, so how come I never knew this uncle? I suspected it was the wrong Frederick – and I was right. I did not discover this until 2024 when my cousin (Christine Panter) gave me her mother's (Edith Titchen) dementia diary which spoke of her brother going off to fight in WWI in 1917, then dying in 1919. It didn't take me long to discover his service records. He lied about his age and enlisted at age 17, then died on the Western Front in 1919 just a few weeks before the end of the war. He is buried in a small village near Lille. He was the only child who survived infancy. So maybe that was why my grandmother seemed to shed a tear each Remembrance Sunday.

Child mortality and changing birth rates

The sheer number of records now available on-line from around 1840 show the high birth rates of the times where it was not unusual – at least in some of my ancestors' families – to have between 8 and upwards of 12-14 children. All born at home, though thankfully it seems none of the mothers died in childbirth – which was unusual for the time.

However, before 1837, births were only registered as baptisms in the parish church registers. So, unless burial records were also checked, it is possible to overlook early deaths. Which took place before baptism. Hence for those ancestors having children prior to 1837, it is possible that post-partum deaths may have been overlooked. This may explain why often the number of births recorded pre-1837 is significantly lower than post-1837.

A further issue was the occurrence of stillbirths. Stillbirths only began to be officially registered in the UK on 1st July 1927 after the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1926 came into effect. Prior to this, a declaration of stillbirth was required to prevent live-born infants from being buried

as stillborn, but these declarations were not centrally recorded, and there was no formal register for stillbirths.

Around the 1930s and certainly after WWII with the establishment of the NHS, it was common for there to be more medical involvement and anti-natal surveillance pushing more and more births into hospitals. Since at least the 1960s births in hospital has been justified on the grounds of safety.

Learning about the past

Working on family history one can't avoid being faced with social, political and economic change. The number of people unable to sign their names on marriage certificates indicated to some extent the level of illiteracy, but this raises questions about education. Where did the children attend school – indeed did they? How does this change with subsequent education acts? Why did families repeatedly move house? Who owned the houses? How did people get to work, or move large distances? These questions got me researching housing, education and transport, resulting in several short articles of historical background. I have put these together in the "*Historical Background*" section where 15 brief chapters cover some of the contextual social and political issues I encountered.

Researching the Gates line caused me to need to look into why they lived where they did in Shoreditch for generations. Only to find it was the centre of the London furniture trade; they were for generations cabinet makers, bedstead makers. The Evans were staunchly Bethnal Green families.

Yet researching the Robinson and Philpott lines very quickly too me back to rural Essex and Kent respectively, to agricultural workers, brickfield labourers, and other associated trades. How much are they likely to have earned? What was the nature of their employment? Where exactly are they likely to have worked given the lack of transport?

This pointed me to look into the agricultural economy, and the brickfields around Faversham and north Kent. The shortage of employment in the Kent brickfields caused one ancestor Edwin Philpott to move his entire family from Teynham in Kent to Edmonton. Additionally, the shortage of employment in Essex led Leonard Victor Robinson, my maternal grandfather, to up sticks at a young age and move away from his family in a small village in Essex, also to Edmonton which was rapidly expanding. It also caused another. Those two totally independent moves, eventually resulted in the birth of my mother.

However, the birth of my parents signified another major social change – the change in the birth rate. When mapping families, one further aspect became stark – the changing birth-rates. My great grandparents' generation had very large families – in some cases 10-14 children, not all of whom survived. Yet this was changing. By the time we get to my parent's generation – born in the 1920, this begins to change. The four families in my parent's generation, had 0, 1, 2, 3 children. This will undoubtedly have come about through the widespread availability of contraception. Condoms have existed in some form in Europe since at least the 16th–17th centuries, but their availability and affordability in England followed a clear timeline. However, for ordinary working-class Britons, condoms became genuinely cheap and easy to get in the late 1920s–1930s. So, looking into what bought this about led me to look a little into the influence of contraception and I have a short historical background note.

Serendipity seems to be a feature of extensive genealogical research. Take for example the case of Henry Finis who moved his family from east Kent to East London, and Eli Forster who moved his family from the other side of the country in Cornwall to East London. They both ended up living in the same street, and their children marrying to produce my 2xgreat grandmother, Elizabeth Finnis. Of course, had these events changed very slightly, I would not be here to be writing this.

But so also does coincidence play a part. For example, in 1883 both my paternal grandfather (Charles Gates) and my maternal grandmother (Harriet Philpott) lived in the same street as children. Did they even know that, when 70 years later their own children married.

Sources

Most information here was obtained either from original documentation or on-line. Copies of UK Census information came from Ancestry. Birth, death and marriage certificates are either original in my possession or from the Government Register Office (<https://www.gro.gov.uk/>).

Reference to official birth, marriage and death certificates is given in the form: (1842, Mar, Hackney, 3, 135), meaning the event was registered in 1842, sometime in the first quarter (Jan, Feb, Mar), in the registration district of Hackney, to be found in volume 3, page 135 of the register. Though some in lists and tables have the form: (MAR 1842 HACKNEY 3 135)

Some of the narrative history of the Gates family here has come from Charles Parry who is also researching his family which includes a Gates line. Those names marked in the text with an asterisk are direct ancestors.

With the advent of Artificial Intelligent, I found this useful too and have incorporated material gained from ChatGPT. Significantly I used both Ancestry, and the Government Record Office.

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Historical Background

In researching one's family history back through time, one encounters several important social and political issues which influence the context in which people lived out their lives. Since this transcends individual families and generations, I have included this section at the very beginning to provide a background, when required, to provide texture to the descriptions of family histories.

Hence, here I look at the provision of services: electricity, water, and railways. I look at some specific occupations which play a key part particularly in the Gates family: silk weaving around the first half of the 19th century, and thereafter furniture making. I explore the brickmaking and farming industries of the Philpotts and Robinsons in Part 2.

Furthermore, there are some other social questions: how did people meet, where and when did they go to school, how did they occupy their housing. In terms of personal health and relationships, what issues were there in inter-marriage, when did contraception become widely available, how was death from pneumonia and bronchitis – which is widespread in these chapters – influenced by social class. Finally, politically, who had a voice; who voted and when did this change, who fought in the two World Wars through which which many people here lived.

The 15 brief chapters in this section cover some of this. Notwithstanding there are still some very family specific issues which I retained in the relevant chapters. For example, the Faversham explosives industry, which affects only one family, comes up in Part 2.

These are fascinating questions which arise naturally in family history research because they matter to people's lives on a daily basis. It is sobering to remember that during lifetimes of many people here, there was no electricity – an innovation took off toward the end of the 19th century. Hence the lives here were a world away from our own. There were also no trains, no cars, roads were not tarmacked, although the canal age was well under way.

1 - Timeline of the UK electricity supply industry¹

It is sobering to remember that during lifetimes of my 3xgreat grandparents, there was no electricity. This innovation took off some years after their deaths. Hence their lives were a world away from our own. There were also no trains, no cars, although the canal age was well under way. My 2xgreat grandparents however will have witnessed the introduction of electricity.

This timeline outlines the key developments in the United Kingdom electricity industry from the start of electricity supplies in the 1870s to the present day. It identifies significant developments in technology for the generation, transmission and use of electricity; outlines developments in the structure of the industry including key organisations and facilities; and records the legislation and regulations that have governed the UK electricity industry. The following is a list of significant events in the history of the electricity sector in the United Kingdom.

Year	Event
1860s–70s	Public demonstrations of electric lighting in Britain stimulate interest in the new technology, such as the temporary illumination of Clifton Suspension Bridge in December 1864 to mark its opening.
1879	The Liverpool (Corporation) Electric Lighting Act 1879 -the first electric lighting act in the UK, it gave the Liverpool Corporation powers to light streets by electricity.
1882	The Electric Lighting Act 1882 (repealed 1989) allowed the setting up of supply systems by persons, companies or local authorities. Local authorities had the right to take over the assets of companies in their area after 21 years
	The Edison Electric Light Station opened as the world's first coal power station at 57 Holborn Viaduct London producing 110-volt DC and was used for street lighting. It ran at a loss and closed in 1886
1888	The Electric Lighting Act 1888 (repealed 1989) amended the 1882 Act making the setting up of a supply company easier and extended the reversion to local authority period to 42 years, with optional 10-year extensions.
1890	The <i>Belfast Electric Lighting Order 1890</i> , confirmed by the Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 7) Act 1890 gave the County Borough of Belfast the authority to generate and sell electricity throughout the city.
	The Electric Lighting (Scotland) Act 1890
1891	London Electric Supply Corporation (LESCo) opened Deptford Power Station, UK's first (single-phase) AC power system, designed by Sebastian Ziani de Ferranti.
1893	Bristol Corporation Electricity Committee, opens its first generating station, located at Temple Back, on 28 August
1899	The Electric Lighting (Clauses) Act 1899 (repealed 1989) introduced common principles for provisional orders; prohibited the amalgamation of undertakings and the supply of electricity outside a prescribed area
1901	Newcastle upon Tyne Electric Supply Company (NESCo) opened Neptune Bank Power Station, the first in the UK to supply three-phase electric power.

¹ From Wikipedia:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_UK_electricity_supply_industry

2 - London's Water Supply

How my ancestors lived on a day-to-day basis without electricity for example, is a sobering thought. Yet there were other facilities they did not have access to and which we take for granted, such as running water and sanitation. The supply of water to London was not a recent phenomenon in the 19th Century; there had been attempts to provide water since the 16th and 17th century. What marks out the 19th century is the scale and the shift towards creating an infrastructure, as well as the creation of two water companies: *The New River Company*, and *The London Bridge Waterworks*. Before the Great Fire in 1666 London was similar to other cities "aqueducts bringing water to public fountains; and local pumps and wells. People fetched water from these sources, or had water-carriers do the job for them" (Tomoroy 2015, p. 704).

Whilst the New River Company was providing piped water between 1606 and 1650, the residents of London were rather reluctant to take up direct water connections to houses. Paradoxically it was the Great Fire in 1666 which began to change this. The fire wiped out the supply of the London Bridge Company but the New River was left unscathed. With the necessity of rebuilding large parts of London, the number of connections increased considerably. By 1720 it had been argued that there is not a street in London where water did not run in underground pipes and in smaller tenements there was generally a tap common to the inhabitants (Tomoroy 2015, p. 813). By 1843 it has been estimated that 70% of houses in Southwark for example had piped water (Hardy 1991, p. 78).

By 1750, The New River company was supplying water to 700,000 homes (Tomoroy, 2015, p, 713) as the necessity of infrastructure integration came clear.

A new network model had been established by private water companies, chiefly the New River Company. This model consisted of water drawn from plentiful sources - Hertfordshire springs and the River Lea in New River's case - and distributed through a network of wooden pipes directly into tens of thousands of houses in London. Large numbers of customers came to expect and rely upon water in their homes to an extent that had never previously been the case. Water-carriers, who had been a feature of urban life for centuries, were uncommon in London by the 1760s. The village pump, or the ritual of people lining up to collect water from a common source, was no longer important for a fair proportion of London's population. Their in-house water connections became part of their daily lives and built environment. (Tomoroy 2015, p. 705)

The significant development here was the building of networks – as part of an integrated infrastructure. "The period from 1850 to 1900 was the first era of urban network development, when "small, fragmented islands of infrastructure were joined up, integrated and consolidated towards standardized regulated networks designed to deliver dependable services across the metropolis." (Graham and Marvin 2001, p. 40)

By 1800, London's water supply was already impressive; it had after all been under construction for over a century. "The builders of London's water infrastructure, therefore, provided a working model of a centralized and integrated urban network, one that inspired other networks" (Tomoroy 2015, p. 707).

London's early nineteenth-century water supply network was exceptional in terms of size and scale. Unlike other major European cities such as Paris, this network reached individual private houses, and by 1820 about 85 per cent of London houses received piped water. Tomory shows how these networks grew organically over time, often without a clear strategic plan. Tomory (2015) weaves the development of new technologies, the consumer revolution, network management, demand factors, evolving corporate finances, and changeable political and institutional support into his narrative on how London's water supply developed into an integrated urban infrastructure network that became an example to the nineteenth-century network city. (van Lieshout, 2018, p. 317)

Indoor loos were limited before the 1860s. Few families had their own water supply and instead relied on communal water pumps and small outhouses called cesspools,

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which were poorly maintained and often overflowed. Solid waste was collected at night by poorly paid workers who distributed it to the gardens and farmland surrounding the cities. Waste water seeped into the ground or flowed into rivers.

The rise of flush toilets amongst the middle classes in the mid-1800s didn't improve the situation at first – it actually worsened it. Wealthy households could now flush their waste directly into rivers, leading to groundwater contamination. Consuming contaminated water led to recurring epidemics of cholera, which killed 23,000 people in 1853-54, 10,000 of which were in London.

The situation was particularly acute in London and other industrial cities in Britain. The summer of 1858 in particular represented a pivotal moment in the move towards modern plumbing. Hot weather exacerbated the smell of untreated sewage in the river, bringing the city to a standstill. The government could barely function and people avoided leaving their homes, demanding urgent action. Unlike the Elizabethans, the Victorians had connected the dots between unsanitary living conditions and the spread of disease. But the government still had considerable problems connecting each household to a wider, modern system. The "force of sheer stench", as the Times described it, prompted the government to accept Joseph Bazalgette's proposal of a modern sewer network. (Rapid Transition Alliance)

Tomoroy's work is extremely useful in understanding the development of the networked water infrastructure.

East London Waterworks Company

*The **East London Waterworks Company** was one of eight private water companies in London absorbed by the Metropolitan Water Board in 1904.*

The company was founded by Act of Parliament in 1806, and in 1845 the limits of supply were described as "all those portions of the Metropolis, and its suburbs, which lie to the east of the city, Shoreditch, the Kingsland Road, and Dalston; extending their mains even across the river Lea into Essex, as far as West Ham."

The water supplied by the company was taken from the Lea, with waterworks on 30 acres (0.12 km²) of land at Old Ford. The company also acquired existing waterworks at Shadwell (dating from 1660) Lea Bridge (pre-1767) and West Ham (1743). Although the legislation that established the London water companies intended that they would compete for customers, in 1815 the East London company drew up a legal agreement with the New River Company defining a boundary between their areas of supply.

In 1829, the source of water was moved further up river to Lea Bridge as a result of pollution caused by population growth. In 1770, the Hackney Cut, had been built across Hackney Marshes to avoid a 2 miles (3.2 km) meander of the natural river course; clean water was now abstracted from the natural channel to a new reservoir at Old Ford. In 1830 the company gained a lease on the existing reservoir at Clapton. This was replaced by a new reservoir at Stamford Hill in 1891

In 1841 the company supplied 36,916 houses. By 1903 this figure had risen to 223,891 houses, with the area of supply having a population of 1,482,156

In 1866, during a cholera pandemic outbreak, where 5,973 Londoners perished, the East London Water Company was found guilty of supplying contaminated water taken from River Lea and stored into open reservoirs. Dead eels were found in water pipes, and foul water taken from the reservoirs and pumped into the main supply

The Metropolis Water Act 1902 amalgamated the eight private water companies into the Metropolitan Water Board, whose members were chosen by the various local authorities of the metropolitan area. (Wikipedia)

Whilst we cannot be certain that the homes that my family inhabited in the 18th century had their own individual water supply, we can be fairly certain that they did at least have access to

a shared facility with running water, albeit in some cases suffering from the ingress of local pollution.

Whatever the source, all houses of the middle classes and above had access to a piped supply from one of the London water companies. The poor were served by common pumps in the courts and alleys and by-streets. The supply to everyone was intermittent, households storing their water in lead cisterns usually in the basement. No city in the world it was thought was better supplied with water than London. (White, 2012, p. 13)

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3 - Silk Weaving in East London

For a few generations, the Gates family were heavily involved in the silk weaving industry in parts of London possibly bought over by the French Huguenots towards the end of the 17th century and this is likely to have had an influence on where they settled.

"The origin of this important industry as located in Spitalfields dates from the revocation of the Edict of Nantes by Louis XIV in 1685, when the French Protestants, driven by persecution from their own country, took refuge in England in large numbers. During the reign of Elizabeth, French and Flemish refugees had crowded into England, but do not appear to have settled in Spitalfields and Bethnal Green, which were at that time mere country hamlets. A great body of the refugees of 1685 occupied a large district which is usually called Spitalfields, but which includes also large portions of Bethnal Green, Shoreditch, Whitechapel, and Mile End New Town. The great majority brought with them little beyond the knowledge of their occupations, and being in great necessity, subscriptions for their immediate relief were procured to a large amount by means of the King's Briefs.

(Source: <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/middx/vol2/pp132-137>)

Silk Weaving in Shoreditch (1660-1860)

Silk weaving in Shoreditch, a district located in the East End of London, played a pivotal role in the development of the British textile industry between 1660 and 1860. Over these two centuries, Shoreditch emerged as a hub for silk production, catering to domestic and international markets, and influencing broader economic, social, and technological trends in England. This explores the history, impact, and evolution of silk weaving in Shoreditch during this period, examining the industry's beginnings, key players, innovations, and eventual decline, along with the socio-economic conditions that shaped it.

Introduction: Setting the Stage for Silk Weaving in Shoreditch

The period between 1660 and 1860 in England witnessed dramatic shifts in industrialization, urbanization, and the evolution of the British economy. Shoreditch, an area once characterized by farming and small villages, underwent significant transformation as a key centre of textile production. By the mid-17th century, London had already established itself as a significant player in the textile trade, and Shoreditch, situated near the heart of the capital, was ideally placed to capitalize on these growing markets. While woollen and linen weaving were already well-established industries in England, silk weaving - imported largely from Italy and France - emerged as a specialized trade in the city and particularly in Shoreditch.

Protestants had been persecuted in France for more than a century before their limited privileges were finally removed by the revocation of the edict of Nantes in 1685. For 20 years before that migration of the Huguenots from their settlements near the extremities of France had bought a trickle to England. After 1685 it became a torrent that continued less swiftly into the early years of the 18th century the Huguenots made two London districts peculiarly their own. In the west Soho but also in Spittlefields in the east. This last was the second great area of settlement on the eastern border of the city of London, a largely plebeian colony of artisans and journeyman silk weavers. The Huguenots didn't bring silk weaving to Spittlefields but their skills in fashionable fine French silks transformed the industry into one of the great forces in London manufacturing. In 1705 many hundreds of these weavers were getting charitable relief of one kind or another especially in northwest Spittlefields around Wheeler Street, Brick Lane, Petticoat Lane and Browns Lane. Some resentment was initially felt by English weavers in the East End. (White, 2012, p. 137-138)

Shoreditch, with its proximity to London's commercial centres, offered an ideal location for silk weavers, thanks to its extensive network of skilled artisans, access to raw materials, and a thriving market for luxury goods. The demand for silk textiles rose throughout the 17th and 18th

centuries as a result of growing wealth, increased trade, and the rising popularity of fashion, particularly among the upper classes.

The Rise of Silk Weaving in Shoreditch

The early history of silk weaving in Shoreditch is closely tied to the broader history of London's silk trade. Silk weaving first took hold in England in the 16th century, with Italian immigrants bringing their skills to London. The industry flourished in London's "Silk Quarter," an area that included the neighbourhoods of Spitalfields and Shoreditch. By 1660, silk weaving in Shoreditch was well-established, with numerous workshops and artisan families contributing to the area's reputation as a centre for silk production.

Shoreditch's strategic location within London made it an ideal setting for the silk weaving industry. The district was close to the River Thames, which allowed for easier transportation of raw materials and finished products. Moreover, Shoreditch was a working-class area, with a population that was already skilled in various forms of manual labour, such as weaving wool and linen. This existing labour force provided a pool of workers who could transition to the more specialized craft of silk weaving.

By the mid-17th century, demand for silk products - particularly luxury items such as dresses, ribbons, and brocades - was growing, fuelled by a flourishing domestic economy and international trade. The social changes brought about by the English Restoration and the rise of fashionable court attire had further fuelled the demand for silk, which became a symbol of status and refinement among the elite.

Technological Innovation and Advances in Silk Weaving

One of the key factors behind the success of silk weaving in Shoreditch during this period was technological innovation. The development of new machinery and weaving techniques revolutionized the production of silk textiles, making it more efficient and cost-effective. A significant advancement in this regard was the introduction of the Jacquard loom in the early 19th century.

The Jacquard loom, which allowed for the automatic production of complex patterns, had a profound impact on the silk weaving industry. This invention, attributed to Joseph Marie Jacquard in 1801, greatly increased the speed and accuracy of weaving. Before its introduction, weaving intricate patterns by hand was a time-consuming and labour-intensive process. The Jacquard loom automated this process by using a series of punch cards that controlled the lifting and lowering of threads, making it possible to produce highly detailed patterns at a much faster rate.

Shoreditch, as a centre of silk weaving, was quick to adopt the Jacquard loom, and its introduction marked a new era in the industry. Not only did it increase production, but it also allowed weavers to create more intricate designs that could cater to the growing demand for luxury fabrics. The resulting silk textiles were used in the fashion industry, as well as for upholstery and interior decoration, helping to cement Shoreditch's status as a key player in the global silk trade.

The Social and Economic Context of Silk Weaving

The growth of the silk weaving industry in Shoreditch was shaped by a variety of social and economic factors. The 17th and 18th centuries saw a growing middle class in England, many of whom sought to emulate the fashion and luxury of the aristocracy. This increased demand for silk textiles, particularly from London's burgeoning consumer market, fuelled the expansion of the industry.

At the same time, the demand for silk was driven by the fashion industry, which placed a premium on quality and variety. High-society fashion trends, often influenced by the royal court, were characterized by the widespread use of elaborate silk garments. The luxury of silk was not confined to clothing; it was also used in the production of curtains, upholstery, and decorative textiles for affluent households.

As silk weaving became an increasingly lucrative trade, many artisans in Shoreditch found work as weavers, pattern designers, dyers, and finishers. Despite the technical advances of the

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Jacquard loom, silk weaving was still a labour-intensive craft, and many of those involved in the industry worked in small family-run workshops or in their own homes. These small-scale enterprises were vital to the production process, as artisans and labourers would often rely on the work of family members or apprentices to meet growing demand.

Economic factors such as trade routes, the expansion of the British Empire, and the availability of raw materials also influenced the growth of the silk industry in Shoreditch. The availability of imported raw silk from Asia and the Americas played a crucial role in making silk weaving a viable industry in England. In particular, the East India Company facilitated the import of silk from China, India, and other parts of Asia, where the craft had been practiced for centuries.

However, the silk weaving industry was not immune to the effects of global trade and competition. The rise of cheaper silk production in other parts of the world, particularly in India and China, eventually put pressure on the Shoreditch silk industry. These external economic forces would contribute to the decline of the industry in the 19th century, as British weavers struggled to compete with lower-cost imports.

The Decline of Silk Weaving in Shoreditch

By the early 19th century, the once-thriving silk weaving industry in Shoreditch began to face increasing challenges. Several factors contributed to the decline of the industry, including competition from other textile industries, the rise of industrialized mass production, and changing patterns in fashion and consumption.

One of the primary factors in the decline of silk weaving in Shoreditch was the increasing competition from industrialized textile mills in the North of England, which were able to produce textiles more cheaply and efficiently. These mills, such as those in Manchester and Lancashire, employed mechanized looms and mass production techniques, which reduced the need for skilled artisans.

Additionally, the economic changes of the early 19th century, including the effects of the Napoleonic Wars and the subsequent financial crises, led to fluctuations in the availability of raw materials. The British government imposed high taxes on imported raw silk, which added to the costs of production. At the same time, the demand for luxury silk textiles began to decline as a result of changing fashions and the increasing availability of synthetic fabrics.

The social and political climate also contributed to the decline of the silk weaving industry in Shoreditch. As the Industrial Revolution took hold in Britain, many skilled artisans were displaced by mechanized production methods. The rise of factory work led to the concentration of labour in industrial hubs, and the skilled labour force that had once populated Shoreditch began to migrate elsewhere in search of new opportunities.

By the mid-19th century, the silk weaving industry in Shoreditch was in sharp decline. The area, once known for its silken creations, was gradually overtaken by other industries, including furniture making and garment manufacturing. As the focus of industry shifted, Shoreditch experienced a transformation, with many workshops closing or relocating.

Conclusion: The Legacy of Silk Weaving in Shoreditch

Silk weaving in Shoreditch, spanning from 1660 to 1860, represents a crucial chapter in the history of British industrialization and textile production. The district played a central role in the growth of the silk industry, from its early days as a centre for luxury goods to its technological innovations in weaving. Through its network of skilled artisans and entrepreneurs, Shoreditch became one of the most significant locations for silk production in London, and its influence extended throughout the British Empire.

The technological advancements, particularly the introduction of the Jacquard loom, marked a turning point in the industry, allowing for more intricate and varied designs, which contributed to the global demand for British silk. However, the industry's decline in the 19th century reflects broader economic and social shifts, including industrialization, competition from cheaper foreign imports, and changing tastes in fashion.

Today, Shoreditch is no longer a centre of silk weaving, but its legacy as a historical epicentre of craftsmanship, innovation, and textile production endures. The story of silk weaving in Shoreditch is a testament to the region's role in shaping the textile industry and its larger influence on the economic and cultural development of London and Britain.

Silk Weaving in Spitalfields, 1660-1860

A History of Innovation, Struggle, and Decline

The district of Spitalfields in East London, once the heart of the English silk weaving industry, has a rich and complex history spanning from 1660 to 1860. During this period, the silk trade in Spitalfields grew from humble beginnings to a vital and internationally renowned industry, only to experience a slow but irreversible decline by the mid-19th century. The weaving of silk in Spitalfields is a story of economic transformation, social struggle, technological advancement, and the complex interplay between labour, industry, and commerce. This essay explores the history of silk weaving in Spitalfields during this period, examining its origins, economic impact, labour conditions, technological changes, and eventual decline.

The Birth of the Spitalfields Silk Industry (1660-1700)

The origins of Spitalfields' silk weaving industry can be traced to the restoration of the English monarchy under King Charles II in 1660. Charles II's reign marked a period of cultural renaissance and renewed interest in luxury and fashion. Having spent significant time in France during his exile, the king was influenced by the opulent court life he had experienced, including the high-end textiles and silk garments worn by the French aristocracy. Determined to boost England's domestic manufacturing and reduce reliance on foreign imports, Charles II introduced several initiatives aimed at encouraging the growth of England's textile industries, particularly silk weaving.

One of the most significant steps was the royal invitation to French Huguenot refugees to settle in England. The Huguenots, a Protestant minority group persecuted in Catholic France, were skilled artisans and tradespeople, many of whom specialized in the craft of silk weaving. Faced with religious and political persecution, many Huguenot families fled to England after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685, which had previously granted them religious freedom. Spitalfields, located in the East End of London, became a key settlement area for these refugees. By the late 17th century, the area had become home to a large community of Huguenot silk weavers, who brought with them advanced techniques of weaving and dyeing that elevated the quality of English-made silk.

The Rise of the Spitalfields Silk Industry (1700-1750)

As the Huguenot community settled in Spitalfields, the area quickly became the epicentre of English silk weaving. The French weavers were instrumental in introducing high-quality silk fabrics such as brocades, damasks, and velvets, which were in high demand among the English elite. The luxury of silk textiles became a symbol of status, and the aristocracy, along with the growing bourgeoisie, were eager consumers of Spitalfields silks.

Spitalfields' silk industry was not only marked by the skills of its Huguenot workers but also by the increasing demand for luxury fabrics throughout Europe. As the English economy grew, there was a rising appetite for fine textiles that could match those produced in France and Italy. The silk industry became central to London's economy, and Spitalfields, in particular, was at the heart of this transformation. By the early 18th century, silk weaving in Spitalfields was one of the most important industries in the capital, providing jobs to thousands of workers.

The success of the silk industry in Spitalfields was not just about luxury textiles; it was also a catalyst for innovation and technical advancement. Weaving techniques were refined, and improvements in loom technology allowed for the production of more intricate and higher-quality patterns. This period also saw the rise of the first silk factories in the area. These early factories were small-scale operations that employed a combination of skilled artisans and apprentices. They produced fine silks, particularly for the fashion industry, which continued to grow in significance in the 18th century.

The Social and Economic Impact of the Silk Industry (1750-1800)

The growth of the Spitalfields silk industry had a profound impact on the local economy and society. The weavers of Spitalfields were employed in a variety of settings. Some worked in family-run workshops or “lofts,” where they produced silk textiles on handlooms. Others worked in larger, factory-like establishments where power looms and mechanized processes were beginning to replace traditional handweaving methods. By the second half of the 18th century, the industry had expanded to such an extent that it employed tens of thousands of people, including men, women, and children. The scale of production and the quality of the textiles made Spitalfields a major player in the European silk trade.

The silk industry also brought considerable wealth to Spitalfields. Merchants, traders, and manufacturers profited greatly from the sale of silk, both domestically and abroad. Spitalfields became a thriving commercial district, with its residents benefiting from the industry’s success. However, the wealth generated by silk weaving was not equally distributed. While some factory owners and merchants made significant profits, the conditions for the workers, particularly the weavers, were often harsh. Many silk weavers in Spitalfields faced long working hours, low wages, and poor living conditions. Workers were paid by the piece, which meant their income fluctuated depending on how much they could produce. This system incentivized long hours and created intense competition among workers. Moreover, many weavers were employed on a temporary or piecework basis, which made their economic security precarious. The system of handloom weaving also led to poor working conditions. Weavers worked in cramped, poorly ventilated spaces, often for twelve hours a day or more, and their health suffered as a result.

Despite these challenges, the 18th century was a period of relative prosperity for Spitalfields' silk industry. Silk remained a luxury good, and its production continued to thrive. By the end of the century, however, the increasing cost of raw materials and the rise of new industrial technologies would begin to threaten the traditional methods of silk weaving.

Social Unrest and the Struggle for Better Conditions (1800-1850)

By the early 19th century, the Spitalfields silk industry faced significant challenges. The introduction of mechanized looms, particularly power looms, began to transform the production process. The efficiency and speed of mechanized looms allowed factories to produce silk at a much lower cost than traditional handweaving methods. However, these technological advancements also posed a direct threat to the livelihood of skilled handloom weavers. The rise of mechanized weaving led to widespread job losses among handloom weavers, who were unable to compete with the machines in terms of speed and cost-effectiveness.

The mechanization of silk weaving in Spitalfields was part of a broader trend associated with the Industrial Revolution. The increased use of machinery and factory-based production systems was transforming industries across Britain. While mechanization led to greater production and lower costs, it also led to significant social upheaval. Many handloom weavers in Spitalfields saw their traditional ways of working under threat, and the growing disparity between factory owners and workers created tensions. One of the most notable responses to these changes was the series of strikes and protests that took place in the early 19th century. Weavers in Spitalfields organized protests to demand higher wages, better working conditions, and protection against the rise of mechanized looms. In 1768, the Spitalfields Weavers' Riot occurred when workers protested against wage reductions and the increasing use of mechanized looms. This riot was part of a larger movement of protest in the textile industry, which saw workers across Britain pushing back against the dehumanizing effects of mechanization.

The tension between traditional handloom weavers and factory owners continued throughout the early 19th century. The introduction of the Spitalfields Weavers' Act in 1773 was an attempt by the British government to stabilize the industry and ensure that weavers were paid a fair wage. The act set minimum wage rates for silk weavers, but enforcement was difficult, and many weavers found that the wages they were promised did not adequately compensate for the cost of living. Furthermore, the rapid growth of mechanized weaving undermined the effectiveness of the act, as factory owners increasingly favoured machines over human labour.

Technological Innovation and the Decline of Handloom Weaving (1850-1860)

By the mid-19th century, the Spitalfields silk industry was in steep decline. The increasing use of mechanized looms, particularly power looms, led to the centralization of silk production in large factories, often located outside of London. These factories were able to produce silk more efficiently and at a lower cost, undermining the traditional handloom weaving industry that had once flourished in Spitalfields.

The decline of Spitalfields' handloom weaving industry was also compounded by increasing competition from cheaper foreign imports. Silk fabrics produced in countries like France, Italy, and China became more readily available, and these imports were often cheaper than those produced in Spitalfields. The growing availability of cheaper silk, combined with the shift toward mechanized production, led to a collapse in demand for locally produced silks.

By 1860, the Spitalfields silk industry had been virtually wiped out. Many of the once-thriving workshops were closed, and many of the skilled workers who had once toiled in the district found themselves out of work. The silk trade that had once brought wealth and prestige to Spitalfields was now a shadow of its former self. The shift away from handloom weaving was a key feature of the broader industrialization process that had reshaped Britain during the 19th century.

Conclusion

The history of silk weaving in Spitalfields from 1660 to 1860 is a tale of innovation, prosperity, and decline. The district's silk industry began as a modest effort to revive domestic production of luxury textiles, only to grow into one of the most important textile industries in Britain. The influx of skilled Huguenot weavers from France played a pivotal role in the industry's early success, as their advanced weaving techniques and craftsmanship raised the quality of English silks to an international standard.

However, the prosperity of Spitalfields was not without its costs. Weavers faced long hours, low wages, and poor working conditions, and as the industry expanded, social unrest and strikes became more common. The introduction of mechanized looms in the early 19th century posed a direct threat to the livelihoods of traditional handloom weavers, and by the mid-19th century, the decline of the industry was inevitable.

The rise of Spitalfields as a centre of silk production and its subsequent decline reflect broader patterns of industrialization and labour struggles in 18th- and 19th-century Britain. Today, the legacy of Spitalfields' silk weaving industry lives on in the district's historical buildings, in the textile traditions of the area, and in the lasting influence of the Huguenot community on English craft and culture. The story of Spitalfields silk weaving is not just one of economic triumph and collapse, but also a testament to the resilience and adaptability of workers in the face of profound social and technological change.

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4 - The History and Character of Mile End and Bethnal Green²

The Gates and Evans lines of my family were rooted in London's East End, notable Bethnal Green and Mile End.

Mile End



Mile End sits in that liminal band of London where the old City once stopped and the suburbs began. Today it is firmly part of the East End and the borough of Tower Hamlets, but its identity was shaped for centuries by the fact that it was just outside - a place on the road out of town, on common land, used in turn for recreation, musters, protest, cheap housing and, eventually, reform.

The name itself is wonderfully literal. Mile End is first recorded in 1288 as *La Mile ende*, from Middle English words meaning simply 'the hamlet a mile away'. The distance was reckoned from Aldgate, the eastern gate in the city wall, along the main road to Essex and Colchester. In medieval documents that road was known as Aldgate Street, later the Great Essex Road, and only with time did the stretch across the hamlet become Mile End Road. A later antiquarian suggested that the name came from a green a mile long, but modern place-name scholarship treats that as a romantic afterthought: the straightforward 'place a mile away' fits both the language and the geography.³

For much of the Middle Ages this was open country. Archaeology suggests sparse settlement before 1300, the landscape mostly fields flanking the highway. Yet the very emptiness was important. Mile End Green, a wide common beside the road, provided precious open space just beyond the City's crowded streets. It acquired a mixed reputation: on the one hand a training ground for the citizen militia, and a site for fairs and outdoor entertainments, on the other a haunt of highway robbers, a place for a lazaret house and for criminals to be hung in chains. Londoners came here to drill, to stroll, to gossip and to gawk, already giving the area something of the boisterous, public character it would retain.⁴

Mile End also has a small but memorable cameo in national history. During the Peasants' Revolt of 1381, the rebel host from Kent and Essex camped on the road out at Mile End before marching into the city, and one of the dramatic meetings between Richard II and the rebels is traditionally

² From Chat GPT and Wikipedia

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mile_End; https://gropedia.com/page/Mile_End

⁴ <https://mapoflondon.uvic.ca/MILE2.htm>

placed here. Later chroniclers embellished the scene, but the choice of location makes sense: it was far enough from the city walls to be outside their control, yet close enough to be deeply threatening.

Through the 16th and 17th centuries the hamlet grew from a scatter of houses along the highway into one of London's earliest true suburbs. Speculative building nibbled away at the fields, and cabins and cottages appeared beside more respectable villas and brick houses for merchants who liked a semi-rural address within easy reach of Aldgate. Mile End became part of the great ribbons of development that crept east along the roads to Stepney and Bow: solid terraces facing the main road, courts and alleys behind, and, still, odd pockets of market gardens and pasture.

By around 1691 the older settlement out on the Essex Road had to distinguish itself from a newer namesake nearer town. A compact district had developed just east of Spitalfields, across Whitechapel High Street, and it came to be known as Mile End New Town. The original suburb, on the main Essex Road and much closer to Stepney, was thenceforward often labelled Mile End Old Town. The names confuse many modern readers, not least because Old and New Town were never adjacent. Between them lay the whole of Whitechapel.

Mile End New Town deserves a brief digression, because it illustrates the social pressures driving development in the East End. The land that became the hamlet was sold off from Stepney manor in the mid-17th century, and within a few decades it had filled with small houses and workshops.⁵ Bounded roughly by Old Montague Street to the south and the later railway cutting to the north and east, the parish was tiny - only about 42 acres - but densely populated. It was formally recognised as a separate hamlet of Stepney by agreement in 1690, then gained its own ecclesiastical parish in 1841 and civil parish status in 1866, before being folded into the Whitechapel district and eventually the Metropolitan Borough of Stepney. In social terms it merged with Spitalfields and Whitechapel: poor, heavily built-up, increasingly a centre of migrant life, especially for Jewish families in the late 19th century. It shares the Mile End name, but its story is really bound up with those neighbouring districts.

Mile End Old Town, by contrast, looked eastwards as much as west. It formed part of the ancient parish of Stepney, its territory stretching along Mile End Road and around Stepney Green. In the 18th century parts of it were still surprisingly genteel: Stepney Green itself was lined with good houses, some of which survive, such as the late 17th-century Trinity Alms-houses and early 18th-century terraces tucked behind modern blocks. Merchants, shipowners and professionals lived here, travelling daily into the City or to the riverside yards.

This respectability co-existed with the grittier realities of an expanding port city. By the early 19th century, as London ballooned eastwards to house dockworkers, labourers and artisans, the streets behind Mile End Road filled with close-packed housing for the working poor. Stepney and Mile End acquired a reputation for overcrowding, poverty and radical politics.⁶ A strip of common land along the roadside, known as Mile End Waste, remained a vital public space. Here, on bare ground edged by small shops and pubs, open-air meetings were held on everything from Chartism to local grievances, a tradition that continued into the early 20th century.

Institutions grew up to manage and, in some eyes, to redeem this population. A new workhouse and infirmary for the poor of Mile End Old Town was built off Bancroft Road in 1858-59, on a seven-acre site beside a Jewish burial ground.⁷ The infirmary evolved into Mile End Hospital, rebuilt in the 1880s and later used as a military hospital in the First World War before becoming a general hospital and, in due course, an NHS facility.⁸ Nearby, Jewish cemeteries and Nonconformist chapels testified to the religious diversity of the area.

The most famous civic project was the People's Palace on Mile End Road. Conceived by the novelist Walter Besant and others as a 'palace of delights' for East Enders, it was opened by Queen Victoria in 1887.⁹ complex offered a great hall for concerts and lectures, technical schools,

⁵ <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/survey-london/vol27/pp265-288>

⁶ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stepney>

⁷ <https://www.workhouses.org.uk/MileEndOldTown>

⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mile_End_Hospital

⁹ <https://www.onlondon.co.uk/vic-keegans-lost-london-221-mile-ends-peoples-palace>

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a library, swimming baths and a winter garden - a striking attempt to provide culture, education and wholesome amusement in a district routinely described in contemporary journalism as squalid. The original palace was largely destroyed by fire in 1931, but a new hall, also known as the People's Palace, rose alongside in the late 1930s, and the whole site was eventually absorbed into Queen Mary College.¹⁰

By the later 19th century, the social character of Mile End Old Town had shifted decisively towards the working class, though with a strong lower-middle-class fringe along the main roads and around Stepney Green. Much of the housing stock consisted of two- and three-storey terraces, many already subdivided, along with courts and alleys of smaller houses. Industrially it was a landscape of small workshops, factories and breweries threaded among dwellings. The wider East End, including Mile End, became a magnet for migrants from within Britain and from overseas - Irish labourers, Jewish refugees from the Russian Empire, and later other groups - looking for cheap lodgings and access to casual work. In streets around Mile End Road one might have heard Yiddish and English mingling with a variety of European accents, alongside the unmistakable local Cockney.

Despite the poverty, there was a strong sense of neighbourhood. Memoirs and oral histories of the East End dwell on the dense web of family ties, the informality of street life and the tough but often affectionate culture that outsiders labelled 'East End'. Small corner shops, costermongers' barrows, pubs and mission halls gave social focus; so did the local schools and charitable clubs. The Ragged School in Copperfield Road, founded in the 1870s in old canal-side warehouses, took in some of the poorest children of Mile End and Stepney, offering free education and meals. The building later became the Ragged School Museum, preserving that philanthropic legacy.

Up to the 1930s the physical fabric of Mile End was still largely that of Victorian and, in some pockets, Georgian development. The First World War brought disruption but not wholesale destruction. The workhouse-hospital complex, the People's Palace, the big Board Schools and the grid of terraces formed a recognisable townscape. What was changing was the politics and the outlook of its residents. Poplar and Stepney became bywords for militant municipal socialism - the 'Poplarism' of the 1920s, with councillors refusing to levy unfair rates, echoed across Mile End. Campaigns for better housing, higher wages and against fascism all found an audience here, and Mile End Waste and other open spaces continued to host speakers and demonstrations.

At the same time, there was a slow if uneven process of improvement. Some of the worst courts were cleared, model dwellings erected, and modest council estates appeared on bomb-cleared or slum-cleared sites just before and after the Second World War. But if one walked along Mile End Road in, say, 1935, much of what you would have seen - the mixture of modest shops, pubs, chapels, schools, and the looming blocks of the hospital and the People's Palace - would still have been recognisable to a Victorian.

So the character of Mile End up to the 1930s can be thought of as a set of overlapping contrasts. It was historically both Old Town and new arrivals' quarter; once semi-rural and respectable, later dense and poor but full of institutional energy. It owed its name to being 'the place a mile away', yet by the early 20th century it was deeply woven into the urban fabric of London. Its common lands and open spaces had hosted royal musters, rebels, preachers and political agitators. Its streets were home to generations of working Londoners whose lives were shaped by proximity to the docks, the city and to one another. In that sense Mile End is quintessentially East End: a threshold district, never quite at the centre of things and yet, repeatedly, the stage on which wider London dramas have played out.

Bethnal Green

Bethnal Green is one of those East End names that seems to carry a whole cluster of images with it: tight little brick terraces, washing strung across narrow yards, a pub on the corner, and behind it all a reputation for poverty, toughness and a certain rough pride. Yet, like many London

¹⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Palace%2C_Mile_End

districts, its origins lie in fields, woods and a scatter of gentry houses on the edge of the medieval metropolis.



The name itself has long puzzled antiquarians. Early spellings in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries include Blithehale and Blythenhale, forms usually interpreted as meaning something like "happy corner" or "pleasant nook", from Old English blithe and heal.¹¹ Over time the name shifted through Blethenal Green and Bethan Hall Green to the modern Bethnal Green, probably helped along by local h-dropping that blurred "hall" and "hale" into "nal". A later tradition, much repeated, connects it with "Bathon Hall" or "Bathan Hall", supposedly a manor house on the green, and suggests that Bethnal Green is simply a corruption of "Bethan Hall Green".¹²

Modern place-name scholars tend to see the older "happy corner" root as more convincing, with the "hall" explanation as a kind of retrospective folk etymology

that neatly fits the presence of a substantial house.

In any case, what is clear is that Bethnal Green began as just that: a green, a patch of open ground in the wide manor of Stepney. Stepney was the ancient parish that stretched over much of what is now Tower Hamlets, and Bethnal Green formed one of its outlying hamlets. By the early thirteenth century the bishops of London had a manor house here, later known as Bishop's Hall, in grounds that would much later be occupied by the London Chest Hospital.¹³ Around the green itself, cottages clustered, and nearby lay Cambridge Heath, a tract of common land used for grazing. Records from the thirteenth century already mention pasture and at least one house on the heath. One has to imagine a landscape of meadows, hedges, a few lanes threading through woodland and marsh - a decidedly rural scene, despite its position only a couple of miles from Bishopsgate.

By the sixteenth century Bethnal Green was a modest but attractive country retreat for some of London's middling and higher sort. The manor house and a handful of larger dwellings around the green offered semi-rural living within reasonable distance of the City. It is about this period that the local legend of the Blind Beggar of Bethnal Green begins to attach itself to the place. The story, popularised later in ballads and chapbooks, tells of a nobleman, Henry de Montfort, blinded at the Battle of Evesham, who lived as a beggar at Bethnal Green, his daughter finally revealed as an heiress. Whether or not the tale has any historical foundation, it helped fix Bethnal Green in the national imagination as a place of picturesque poverty and hidden virtue.

Administratively, Bethnal Green emerged as a distinct entity from the seventeenth century. It developed as a hamlet of Stepney, with a chapel of ease, and in 1743 it became a separate parish, St Matthew Bethnal Green, with its own vestry and benefice. This formal recognition reflected the fact that the population was booming. London was pressing outwards. Fields were being let for building, and speculative developers were laying out streets and terraces on former market gardens. The air of a quiet country hamlet was disappearing.

Industry, particularly textile work, played a big part in that growth. As Huguenot and other silk weavers who had first settled in Spitalfields spilled north and east, Bethnal Green became home to a dense population of weavers and related trades. Many of the houses built in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries incorporated large upper windows to catch as much light as possible for loom work. At the same time, the area attracted small craftsmen and labourers connected to the river, the docks and the building trades. The green itself was preserved from building by a local trust set up in the late seventeenth century, which kept it as open space and

¹¹ https://wikishire.co.uk/wiki/Bethnal_Green

¹² <https://www.eastlondonhistory.co.uk/visit-bethnal-green-east-london>

¹³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bethnal_Green

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used rents from the Poor's Land for the benefit of local poor. Around it, though, the streets thickened.

Standard economic histories dealing with the silk-weaving industry in nineteenth-century Spitalfields and Bethnal Green have conventionally told of a slow and terminal decline. These accounts have also informed and reflected influential social and cultural histories of East London that tell similar tales of a community experiencing massive discontinuity, deprivation and decay.

Hilda Kean¹⁴ and Bruce Wheeler critically examine such narratives through a study of census returns for a number of streets in a small area of nineteenth-century Bethnal Green and augmenting them through detailed readings of a range of other contemporary institutional and administrative records for the same area. From these materials they have been able to construct an intriguing series of individual and family stories, many of which tend to challenge and disrupt much that has been written about the area and its inhabitants. Rather than endorsing conventional accounts of industrial decline, demographic instability and social dislocation, these new narratives often depict a highly cohesive and stable community, with strong social and cultural ties and traditions, and a remarkable consistency in both its employment and geographical attachment. The authors suggest that their approach provides a basis for constructing new maps and stories of lives in nineteenth-century Bethnal Green. In a more general sense, the article also demonstrates how relatively under-utilized materials such as the census can be used imaginatively and creatively in constructing narratives of communities and areas in the past.¹⁵

By the early Victorian period, Bethnal Green was one of the archetypal poor districts of London. The Victoria County History describes in careful detail the spread of terraces, courts and narrow alleys from the 1830s onwards, with builders often throwing up cheap houses at high density.¹⁶ Some of the worst conditions were found in the area known as the Old Nichol, technically just across the border in Shoreditch but intimately associated with Bethnal Green in the public mind. That warren of courts and yards was notorious for overcrowding, disease and crime, and became the subject of Arthur Morrison's grim novel *A Child of the Jago* in 1896. Bethnal Green had its own equivalent slums, and in the later nineteenth century social investigators repeatedly identified it as a centre of urban deprivation, a place where casual labour, low wages and precarious piece-work combined to keep families constantly on the edge.

Yet even in the midst of the worst housing, there were threads of continuity with an older, slightly more genteel Bethnal Green. Certain streets around the green and towards Cambridge Heath retained respectable houses; the presence of institutions such as Bethnal House (used for various purposes over time, including as a private asylum) reminded observers of a past in which the district had offered quiet retreats to the prosperous. The result was a startling social patchwork: a few substantial houses, an increasing number of shops along Bethnal Green Road and Cambridge Heath Road, and behind them a maze of courts with outside privies and standpipes.

The later nineteenth century also saw the rise of philanthropic and municipal efforts to improve conditions. The Boundary Street Estate, built between 1890 and 1900 by the newly energetic London County Council on the cleared site of the Old Nichol, stood just to the west, offering model flats in tall blocks, wide streets and open squares. Though technically in Shoreditch, it bore directly on Bethnal Green by rehousing - and displacing - some of the local population and setting a visible example of a different kind of built environment. Within Bethnal Green itself, various small schemes of model dwellings and improved housing appeared, but a great many of the old terraces and cottages survived well into the twentieth century.

Bethnal Green's character up to the 1930s was shaped not only by its housing but by its people. It was a district of artisans, labourers and small shopkeepers, with a particularly strong emphasis

¹⁴ <https://hildakean.com/>

¹⁵ <https://academic.oup.com/hwj/article/56/1/217/563404>

Keen, H. and Wheeler, B (2003) "Making History in Bethnal Green: Different Stories of Nineteenth-Century Silk Weavers", *History Workshop Journal*, 56(1), pps 217-230.

¹⁶ <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/middx/vol11/pp120-126>

on home-based or small-workshop trades: silk and later cotton weaving, cabinet making and furniture work, boot and shoe making, and all the host of casual jobs that supported dockland and City. Wages were typically low, employment insecure. But, as numerous memoirs and later social histories have stressed, there was also a thick fabric of local sociability. Pubs, mission halls, friendly societies, boxing clubs and street markets all provided occasions to meet and talk. York Hall, opened in 1929, became famous as a boxing venue as well as a public baths complex - a place where working-class Bethnal Green asserted its prowess and community on its own terms.

The cultural identity of the area was deeply East End. Strong family networks, a distinctive accent, and a no-nonsense ethos of mutual assistance and sharp humour are recurring themes in accounts of life here. At the same time, Bethnal Green, like the rest of the East End, was a place of migration and mixture. Irish migrants, Jews moving eastwards from Spitalfields and Whitechapel, and later other groups, all left their mark on its streets and institutions. By the early twentieth century, synagogues and Jewish social clubs stood alongside Anglican churches and Nonconformist chapels.¹⁷

Politically, Bethnal Green was fertile ground for radicalism. Anger at landlords, at poor housing and at the inequities of the Poor Law fed into support for socialist and later Labour candidates. The wider East End produced high-profile campaigns such as the Poplar Rates Rebellion; Bethnal Green shared the same environment of political debate, pamphleteering and open-air meetings. Street corners and open spaces, including parts of the old green and nearby parks, became regular venues for speakers. This gave the district a reputation, in some quarters, as troublesome; in others, as admirably self-assertive.

By the 1930s, much of the physical Bethnal Green that had grown up in the nineteenth century was still in place. Long terraces of two-storey and three-storey houses lined the streets, some already sub-divided into lodgings or multi-occupied tenements. Narrow passages led to small back courts. Shops along Bethnal Green Road and Cambridge Heath Road provided everyday necessities: greengrocers, butchers, small clothing shops, tobacconists. The Town Hall, completed in 1910, gave a somewhat grander civic face to the area, its Baroque façade an expression of municipal pride in what was otherwise widely described as one of London's poorest boroughs.

Life for many residents remained hard, with high unemployment in the inter-war years and chronic overcrowding. But equally, people remembered a close-knit world in which neighbours knew one another and the street was an extension of the home. Children played in the road; women leaned across doorsteps to talk; men crowded into pubs or gathered at corners. It was an urban village of sorts, albeit one cramped and frayed at the edges. Later, the horrors of the Second World War - including the terrible Bethnal Green Tube disaster of 1943, outside your requested period - would sear the place into national consciousness once again as a site of suffering and stoicism.¹⁸

So, Bethnal Green's origin as a "happy corner" on the edge of Stepney, with a manor house and a green, sits in ironic tension with its later image as a byword for slum housing and social reform. Yet that original sense of a distinct nook of territory, slightly apart yet closely bound to the life of London, persisted. Up to the 1930s it was a district of marked contrasts: lingering traces of country and gentility overshadowed by dense streets of workers' housing; severe poverty alongside strong institutional and communal life; a small patch of open green administered for the poor amid miles of brick. All of these layers together produced the particular character that people have in mind when they talk about "Bethnal Green" - not just a spot on the Underground map, but a place with its own stories, pride and memories.

¹⁷ Gray, Audrey, "The 'Happiest Corner' of London: Bethnal Green, 1881-1951" (2014). LSU Master's Theses. 2504.

https://repository.lsu.edu/gradschool_theses/2504

¹⁸ <https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofBritain/Bethnal-Green-Tube-Disaster/>

5 - How Young People Met

In the early 1800s, most people in their late teens/early 20s met future spouses through the tight mesh of work, neighbourhood, worship, and local leisure. For working people especially, courtship was often local and practical - you met someone you already had reason to see repeatedly, and whose reputation could be checked by family, neighbours, or workmates. Later 19th-century evidence suggests many urban courtships were strongly neighbourhood-based, which fits what we'd expect for the earlier decades too.¹⁹

Clerkenwell and St Luke, Old Street

This area was dense with craft and small workshop life, which meant lots of young adults circulating through the same streets, premises, and connected trades.

Work and apprenticeship were huge. Clerkenwell was a major centre of clock- and watch-making and related skilled trades from the 18th century into the 19th. That kind of clustered craft economy naturally produced social overlap - apprentices, journeymen, shop assistants, suppliers, and the families who often lived near or above workshops. (That inference follows from the documented concentration of trades.)²⁰

Parish and nonconformist networks around Old Street and City Road mattered. St Luke's was a long-standing parish church, and the area also had major Methodist presence such as Wesley's Chapel on City Road. These settings created "respectable" ways to meet, be introduced, and be seen.²¹

Pubs, coffee houses, and local clubs would have been everyday social spaces for men - with women's access shaped by respectability and family oversight.

Local leisure wasn't a nightclub scene, but it was real. North Clerkenwell and neighbouring Islington had a tradition of spas and pleasure-garden-style entertainments. Sadler's Wells, with roots as a pleasure garden and then a theatre, was a major nearby draw with seasonal opening patterns noted in early 19th-century descriptions. These venues offered occasions to socialise in groups and to notice potential partners.

Bethnal Green and Mile End

Here, the mix leaned even more towards home-based and neighbourhood-based social life anchored in local industry and streetside commerce.

Work and household economies again matter first. Bethnal Green was long associated with silk weaving, and although the trade faced pressure in the 19th century, it still shaped community structure and local identity in the early to mid-1800s.²² Where production was close to home, social worlds were intensely local.

Churches and chapels - Anglican and dissenting - provided another respectable meeting circuit, plus introductions through family and neighbours. (Even if overall working-class churchgoing varied, religious networks still functioned as social infrastructure.)

Markets and street life were important social stages. While the big, well-documented expansion of East End street markets is especially clear by the mid-19th century, the main roads into Mile End and Whitechapel were already becoming strong centres of everyday trading and gathering.²³

Walking out - the public, recognised practice of courting via walks - fits this kind of environment well. Couples could be visible to the community, signalling seriousness while staying within the

¹⁹ King Steven and Shephard, Mark (Courtship and the Remarrying Man in Late-Victorian England, *Journal of Family history*, 37(3), <https://doi.org/10.1177/0363199012439006>

²⁰ <https://125-anniversary.city.ac.uk/city-clock-making-and-clerkenwell>

²¹ <https://atom.aim25.com/index.php/saint-luke-finsbury-old-street-islington>

²² <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/middx/vol11/pp120-126>

²³ <https://surveyoflondon.org/map/feature/1698/detail/>

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bounds of local norms. (This is better documented later in the century, but the practice likely has earlier roots.)

If you're imagining a young watchmaker in Clerkenwell or a young weaver's daughter in Bethnal Green circa 1810-1830, the "pipeline" to marriage was mostly - same neighbourhood, same or adjacent trades, known families, church/chapel or respectable leisure, courtship walks and visits, marriage

So, whilst there was not a modern-style nightlife, there was still a lively, very local social world. It just ran on proximity, repetition, and reputation rather than on purpose-built dating venues.

6 - Education 1830-1880

Developments in the provision of education in the UK took place between 1830 and 1880. There would have impacted on the lives of Charles, Ellen, Leonard and Harriet as they grew up. Changes to the education system in the middle of the 19th century came as a result of the acceptance by various governments that the state had a responsibility for educating children. Previously this had been seen as the responsibility of the church or charitable foundations.

The 1868 general election was the first after passage of the Reform Act 1867, which enfranchised many male householders, thus greatly increasing the number of men who could vote in elections in the United Kingdom. It was the first election held in the United Kingdom in which more than a million votes were cast; nearly triple the number of votes were cast compared to the previous election in 1865. The Liberals, led by William Gladstone, won 387 seats, and increased their majority over Benjamin Disraeli's Conservatives who won 271 to more than 100 seats.

In 1870, the Liberal, William Gladstone, was Prime Minister and his MP for Bradford, William Forster was brought into Gladstone's Liberal Party cabinet - he had been an advocate for working class education for many years. He introduced the **Elementary Education Act (1870)** in 1870 (9th August) to "cover the country with good schools" and "to get parents to send their children to school". He did not specifically intend to radically change the current system rather to fill gaps in the voluntary provision. The 1870 Act set up Local Education Boards which were given the power to make school attendance compulsory up to age 10- – and many did. In London, the London School Board which covered the entire city, insisted on regular attendance for all children between 5 and 13 though those above 10 who had passed "Standard V" were exempt.

The 1870 Act was passed partly in response to political factors, such as the need to educate the citizens who were recently enfranchised by the Reform Act 1867 to vote "wisely". It also came about due to demands for reform from industrialists, who feared that Britain's competitive status in world trade, manufacture and improvement was being threatened by the lack of an effective education system. There were objections to the concept of universal education. One was that many people remained hostile to the idea of mass education. They claimed it would make labouring classes 'think' and thus attain class consciousness, possibly encouraging them to revolt. Others feared that handing children to a central authority could lead to indoctrination. Some poor people feared that mass education would equip people to defraud or mislead those without an education. Another reason was the vested interests of the Church and other social groups. The churches were funded by the state with public money to provide education for the poor and did not want to lose that influence on youth. (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elementary_Education_Act_1870)

In 1874, Gladstone called a general election. The Conservatives under Disraeli won the general election overthrowing Gladstone's Liberal landslide of 1868. One contributory factor appears to have been the **1870 Education Act**. The compromises in the Education Act, which were necessary to sustain the church schools, distressed non-conformists who continued to organise campaigns for the complete separation of Church and State. They introduced the **Sandon Act of 1876** which set up school attendance committees and forbade companies to employ children under 10. Children between 10 and 14 could apply for a certificate to work once they had achieved "Standard II" (1877), which rose to Standard III in 1879, and to Standard IV thereafter.

In 1880, Gladstone again won the general election for the liberals. Anthony John Mundella was a Liberal MP and was appointed as a member of the Cabinet. As Education Minister he established universal compulsory education in Britain and played the major part in building the state education system. At the Board of Trade, he was instrumental in the reduction of working hours and the raising of minimum ages in the employment of children and young people. Mundella introduced the **1880 Education Act**, making school attendance compulsory between 5 and 10 (raised to 12 in 1899), though some attended up to age 14. No child could leave school before age 13 until they had achieved the standard set down by local by-laws.

7 - The coming of the railways 1830–1890²⁴

The invention of the railways brought about a massive physical, social and economic change in London; most notably in the appearance and layout of the city, but also in the fortunes of its population. Not only did it open up and unify the country through faster travel, but it brought about greater exploitation of the working class whose homes were commandeered and demolished to make way for tracks and stations. At the same time, it opened up possibilities for employment. The first route opened on 14th December 1836 between London Bridge and Greenwich just four miles away, demolishing most houses in its path. This exploited the areas with cheapest housing. So, Shoreditch where the Gates and Page families lived for a time became a terminus for the Great Eastern Railway in July 1840. Very quickly a railway mania was created, mirroring the canal mania of the 1760s, with rail companies setting up and requesting permission to build across the city. A Royal Commission rejected 17 of 19 proposals and set out boundaries which ring-fenced some area as off-limits to railway development and rejected a proposal for one super London terminus.

Paddington Station opened in 1838, extended in 1854, and given the dangers of too many railway lines across the city, there was a plan to build a line underground - which was approved in 1854 – called the Metropolitan Railway. Building began in 1859, and after 4 years, the first underground railway in the world was opened on 10th January 1863, between Paddington and Farringdon Street. 50,000 people turned up. Once opened it carried 26,000 passengers a day. It was extended to Moorgate in 1865. Victoria Station opened in 1860.

But there were human consequences for those who lived in the city.

The sheer chaos of the 1860s and 1870s, the havoc that has been made during this time by the railways which have entered and intersected the metropolis was far greater than could have been imagined. London has become a city of hoardings, houses destroyed, odd bits of streets snapped off ... shapeless scraps of land, unneeded by the railway, and unavailable for other purposes ... the abominable bridges ... the viaducts that provide dry arches for the congregation and accommodation of street Arabs and gutter children ... the colossal sheds of stations that mar the river's banks. Then there were the human consequences. We will never know how many people lost their homes during what seemed like some pitiless Armageddon. (White, p47)

It was during these times our story in this chapter unfolds. This was still some years before cars were common on London's streets. London's transport therefore would have been horse drawn throughout this period.

By the end of 1895, it was estimated there were 14 or 15 cars on British roads, a figure which increased dramatically by 1900 to 700-800.

(<https://nationalmotormuseum.org.uk/story-of-motoring/motoring-firsts>.)

²⁴ Taken from: *London in the 19th Century* by Jerry White, pps 44-47

See also TFL: <https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/about-tfl/culture-and-heritage/londons-transport-a-history/london-underground>)

8 - Property Ownership

The families I focus on in this chapter all experienced frequent changes of address and this poses a number of questions about working-class housing between around 1850 to around 1920 when both Charles and Ellen, and Leonard and Harriet seem to have settled into the same house for extensive period of time. Why did they move, sometimes short distances, sometimes up to 10 miles away? Why did they move so often? Why did this all seem to stop after World War I? How did they arrange accommodation? When did they join the property-owning class? A question I must admit I previously gave little thought to is about how people arranged their accommodation in the 19th and early 20th centuries, particularly in the fast developing yet overcrowded areas of London.

Property ownership and renting in London during the 19th century underwent significant changes due to urbanization, industrialization, and social shifts. Much of the land in London during the 19th century was owned by aristocratic families or wealthy landowners. These individuals often held vast estates, which included both urban and rural land. The 19th century saw the rise of the middle class, who increasingly became property owners. With the growth of industry and commerce, many middle-class individuals acquired wealth and invested in property, including townhouses and suburban villas. Property ownership in London was often divided between leasehold and freehold. Freehold ownership meant owning the property and the land outright, while leasehold ownership involved leasing the land from a landlord for a specified period. The 19th century witnessed significant property development in London, with new neighbourhoods and suburbs being built to accommodate the city's growing population. Property developers played a crucial role in transforming undeveloped land into residential and commercial areas.

Much property was rented. In the early 19th century, much of London's working-class population lived in overcrowded and unsanitary tenement housing. These buildings were often owned by wealthy landlords and rented out to multiple families, sometimes in appalling conditions. The Victorian era saw the construction of terraced houses, which became a common form of housing for both renters and homeowners. These houses were typically built in rows and rented out to middle-class families. Landlords had considerable power over tenants in the 19th century. They were responsible for maintaining the property, collecting rent, and enforcing tenancy agreements. Disputes between landlords and tenants were not uncommon, and tenant rights were limited compared to modern standards. Although there were no formal rent controls in place during much of the 19th century, some attempts were made to regulate the rental market in response to housing shortages and poor living conditions. However, these regulations were often inadequate and inconsistently enforced. For many working-class families, renting property in London during the 19th century was precarious. Evictions were common, especially for those who fell behind on rent payments or violated tenancy agreements. This instability contributed to social unrest and housing activism during the period.

In the 19th century, finding rental properties in London relied on a combination of methods, some of which were quite different from modern practices. One of the most common methods was through word of mouth. People often relied on recommendations from friends, family, or acquaintances who were familiar with available rental properties in the area. Newspapers played a crucial role in advertising rental properties. Landlords and letting agents would place advertisements describing available properties, including details such as location, size, amenities, and rent. Prospective tenants would scan these ads and respond to ones that suited their needs. Some people would simply walk or ride around neighbourhoods they were interested in, looking for "To Let" signs on properties. Landlords would often display signs outside their properties indicating they were available for rent. Community notice boards, such as those found in churches, town halls, or marketplaces, sometimes displayed rental advertisements. These boards served as a means of communication within the local community and were used for various purposes, including advertising rental properties. Similar to word of mouth, personal networks and social circles played a significant role in finding rental properties. People often relied on their connections within the community to learn about available rental opportunities. In some cases, prospective tenants would approach landlords directly to inquire about available properties. This method was more common for smaller landlords who owned a limited number of properties.

These methods varied in effectiveness depending on factors such as social status, access to information, and personal networks. Overall, finding a rental property in 19th century London required a mix of proactive searching, networking, and reliance on available resources such as newspapers and community notice boards.

In the competitive capitalist economy of late nineteenth-century Britain, housing was generally rented from private landlords rather than bought. The housing market was structured around the renting of accommodation; it was seen as the 'normal' means of obtaining somewhere to live. However, it is clear that some sections of society did desire to own the home in which they lived. As late as 1914, approximately 90% of all houses were rented from private landlords, most of the remainder being occupied by their owners (DoE, 1977)

House prices were very high in relation to general wage levels and as compared to most other 'necessities' of life, particularly for the working class. Consequently, few people could afford to buy their accommodation outright from income. The urban working class moved frequently and generally over quite short distances. As Common was later to recall: "At that time [1900s] people were always moving. There were houses to let everywhere" (Byrne and Darner, 1980, p. 67)

In large towns in England and Wales, the ordinary holding of the working class was a weekly tenancy, though monthly and quarterly tenancies were not uncommon amongst the better paid and more regularly employed. Middle-class households often held yearly leases, whereas so-called 'occupation lease. (Kemp, 1982, pp 1437-8)

Housing Organization Before 1914

Prior to 1914, housing in London was predominantly rented rather than owned. The housing market was divided along class lines, with different social groups experiencing vastly different living conditions.

- **Private Landlords and Tenants:** The vast majority of people in London, particularly the working and lower-middle classes, rented their homes from private landlords. Long-term ownership of property was largely restricted to the wealthy.
- **Slum Housing and Tenements:** The working classes often lived in overcrowded, poorly maintained rental properties known as "slums" or "rookeries," particularly in areas like Whitechapel, Southwark, and the East End. These properties were typically owned by landlords who invested little in maintenance.
- **Middle and Upper-Class Housing:** The middle classes often lived in terraced or semi-detached houses in suburbs such as Clapham, Islington, and Kensington. Some middle-class families owned their homes, but many still rented from private landlords on long leases. The wealthy lived in large townhouses in areas such as Mayfair or Belgravia, often owning multiple properties.
- **Philanthropic and Social Housing Efforts:** Some organizations, such as the Peabody Trust (founded in 1862) and the London County Council (LCC), built model housing estates aimed at improving conditions for the working class, but these made up only a small portion of total housing.

What Changed in 1914?

- **World War I (1914–1918):** The outbreak of war dramatically disrupted the housing market.
 - **Building Slowdown:** With manpower and materials redirected to the war effort, new housing construction ground to a halt.
 - **Rent Controls Introduced:** To protect tenants from landlords exploiting housing shortages, the British government introduced the **Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (War Restrictions) Act 1915**, which froze rents at pre-war levels and restricted evictions.
 - **Decline in Private Renting Viability:** With capped rents, landlords found it less profitable to maintain properties, leading to long-term deterioration in the rental sector.

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- **Long-Term Impact:**

- Rent controls remained in place after the war, setting the stage for further state intervention in housing.
- The government took on a greater role in housing provision, leading to the **Housing Act of 1919** (also known as the Addison Act), which introduced large-scale **council housing** for the first time.
- Homeownership remained limited, but by the 1920s and 1930s, mortgages became more accessible to the middle class, leading to the growth of suburban homeownership.

In short, before 1914, London was overwhelmingly a rental city dominated by private landlords. The outbreak of WWI led to government intervention in the housing market, beginning a shift toward state involvement and, later, increased homeownership.

Prior to 1914, property ownership in London was heavily concentrated in the hands of a relatively small elite, including aristocratic families, large estates, institutional landowners, and some middle-class homeowners. Here's a breakdown of who owned property in London before World War I:

1. Aristocratic and Noble Families

A significant portion of London's land and housing was owned by a small number of aristocratic families who had controlled vast estates for centuries. These families leased land and buildings to developers and landlords rather than selling them outright. Key landowning families included:

- The Grosvenors (Dukes of Westminster) – Owned much of Mayfair and Belgravia.
- The Cadogans – Controlled large parts of Chelsea.
- The Portmans – Owned land around Marylebone.
- The Bedfords – Held property in Bloomsbury.
- The Howards (Dukes of Norfolk) – Owned land in South London.

These estates typically operated on a **leasehold system**, where properties were leased for decades (often 99 years) rather than sold outright, ensuring land remained under aristocratic control.

2. The Church and Other Institutions

- **The Church of England** was a major landowner, holding property through institutions like the **Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey** and the **Bishopric of London**.
- **Oxford and Cambridge Colleges** owned properties in London, using rental income to fund university operations.
- **The Crown Estate** controlled land in areas like **Regent's Park and parts of St. James's**, with properties leased out rather than sold.

3. Wealthy Private Investors and Landlords

A growing number of wealthy investors and landlords, including members of the rising middle class, owned rental properties. These included:

- **Developers who had bought land from aristocratic estates** and built terraces or apartment blocks.
- **Private landlords who purchased smaller-scale properties** and let them out to working-class tenants.
- **Corporate landowners**, such as railway companies, which owned land around new railway hubs.

4. Middle-Class and Some Working-Class Homeowners

- **Middle-Class Homeownership:** By the late 19th century, some middle-class professionals (such as lawyers, doctors, and merchants) owned their homes, particularly in the suburbs, such as Clapham, Dulwich, and Hampstead. However, many still rented under long leases.
- **Working-Class Homeownership:** Very rare before 1914, as most working-class families rented from private landlords or lived in slum conditions. Some **building societies** (early

mortgage providers) helped a small number of working-class people buy homes, but this was the exception rather than the norm.

Housing in Edmonton 1880-1930²⁵

Leonard Robinson and the Philpott family each settled in Edmonton around the time it was undergoing rapid development. Originally open fields within the county of Middlesex, it came to be seen as a future suburb of London. This was no doubt a reason why both migrated there. Being labourers and brickmakers there must have been employment opportunities as large estates of the landed gentry were gradually sold off for development. The Gates family and the Titchens also gravitated to Edmonton a little later.

Victorian estates of mass-housing were intended as state-of-the-art rented accommodation for the working-classes, with facilities that were modern at the time, close to shops and within walking distance of a school. The accommodation was small, but comfortable and the housing was very much in demand with long waiting lists. To avoid confusion if these mass-housing estates were being built today, we would call them 'affordable housing', but these houses were rented, not bought. Long blocks of houses were the norm for these mass-housing estates. The houses were terraced, i.e. all joined together, and the roads were laid out on a grid, all straight unless there was good reason for the occasional curve. These estates developed over time as the experience of the Huxley Estate shows. On the Huxley Estate, building started in the late 1800s and went on into the early 1900s. The Huxley Estate in Edmonton was owned by various trusts which took care of the outside maintenance. The same was probably true of similar estates. The rest of the Huxley estate, including the farm and fields north of Hedge Lane and east of Great Cambridge Road, was sold in lots in 1930-32 and built up shortly afterwards. Residents rented their houses, and, in time, were able to buy them. When the Trust which owned the Huxley Estate was wound up in the early 1970s, all were offered to purchase their homes as sitting tenants. (Source: <https://www.1900s.org.uk/1900s-victorian-terraces.htm>).

Ughtred James Kay-Shuttleworth gave a detailed speech in the House of Commons in 1874 on the dwellings of working people in London.

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²⁵ Material here is developed from the websites www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/middx/vol5 and www.1900s.org.uk.

9 – The availability of contraception

However, the birth of my parent' generations in the 1920s signified another major social change – the change in the birth rate. When mapping families, one further aspect became stark – the changing birth-rates. My great grandparents' generation had very large families – in some cases 10-14 children, not all of whom survived. Yet this was changing. By the time we get to my parent's generation – born in the 1920, this begins to change. The four families in my parent's generation, had 0, 1, 2, 3 children. This will undoubtedly have come about through the widespread availability of contraception. Condoms have existed in some form in Europe since at least the 16th–17th centuries, but their availability and affordability in England followed a clear timeline. However, for ordinary working-class Britons, condoms became genuinely cheap and easy to get in the late 1920s–1930s.

- **In the 1600s–1700s**, condoms (often linen sheaths tied with a ribbon, later animal intestine) were sold in barber shops, apothecaries, and from street vendors in London. They were expensive luxury items, mainly used by wealthy men to avoid venereal disease, not for birth control.
- **In the early 1800s**, mass production began after improvements in processing animal membranes. Condoms were still relatively costly and reused multiple times.
- In the 1840s onward, the vulcanisation of rubber (patented by Charles Goodyear in 1844) made rubber condoms possible. These were reusable, more durable, and slowly reduced prices.
- **In the late 1800s**, rubber condoms were being manufactured and sold more widely in England. However, the Obscene Publications Act of 1857 and later restrictions meant they were often sold discreetly, through chemists or by mail order, rather than openly advertised.
- **In the early 1900s**, with industrial-scale manufacturing (especially by companies like Julius Schmid in the U.S. and British firms soon after), condoms became much cheaper. In England, by the 1920s–1930s, condoms were both affordable and readily available through chemists and mail order, despite lingering social stigma.
- **Post–World War II**, by the late 1940s–1950s, condoms in England were inexpensive, widely accessible, and heavily promoted by family planning groups and, eventually, the NHS (founded in 1948).

However, for ordinary working-class Britons, condoms became genuinely cheap and easy to get in the late 1920s–1930s. That is when latex and assembly-line production slashed prices, small chemists/tobacconists and mail-order sold them widely, and even vending machines appeared outside shops. The tipping point came in the Late 1920s–1930s when latex replaces thick rubber; mass production cuts costs and boosts supply. London Rubber Co. (later called Durex) begins UK latex manufacturing in 1932. The London Rubber Company (LRC) was founded in 1915 by Lionel Alfred Jackson, initially selling imported condoms and barber supplies.

The Durex brand itself was introduced in 1929, and the name stood for **D**urability, **R**eliability, and **E**xcellence. For many decades after, LRC remained the company name, with Durex as its best-known product brand. Condom vending appears; working-class households increasingly prefer condoms to female caps/diaphragms.

Availability was uneven but growing. Big chains like Boots sometimes refused to stock them in the 1920s, so sales flowed through smaller chemists - barbers, tobacconists, and mail-order. After 1967/1974, legislation allowed local authorities to offer contraception on the NHS (1967), and from 1974 all NHS contraception - including condoms - was free, cementing affordability and access nationwide. So, while condoms were around long before, the working-class "readily available & affordable" moment is late-1920s to 1930s, with universal low-cost access effectively guaranteed only after NHS changes in the late 1960s–1970s.

10 - Marriage and Consanguinity²⁶

For England & Wales, c.1850) marriage between nephew–aunt or niece–uncle was prohibited and void; first-cousin marriages were lawful. This was because there were “Prohibited degrees” of consanguinity. The Church of England’s Table of Kindred and Affinity expressly forbids marrying an aunt/uncle (and many in-law relations), but it does not list first cousins - so cousin marriages were allowed.

Aunt/nephew and uncle/niece marriages were made void in civil law from 31st August 1835 with Lord Lyndhurst’s Marriage Act 1835 which declared that any future marriage within the “prohibited degrees of consanguinity or affinity” was “absolutely null and void.” The Act also validated such unions if celebrated before 31 Aug 1835.). Earlier, such marriages were generally voidable and annulled only via ecclesiastical courts during both spouses’ lifetimes, which is why Parliament tightened the rule in 1835.

Marriage between cousins remained lawful. Scholarly overviews note that first-cousin marriage has long been legal in England, including throughout the 19th century. In England & Wales it’s still unlawful for an aunt to marry her nephew (and for an uncle to marry a niece). The same ban applies to civil partnerships.

Marriage: The Marriage Act 1949 makes marriages within the prohibited degrees of kindred void. That list (Schedule 1) includes aunts/uncles with nieces/nephews.

Civil partnerships: The Civil Partnership Act 2004 uses an almost identical prohibited-degrees list for who can register; aunts/uncles with nieces/nephews are barred. Government guidance for caseworkers confirms these are absolute prohibitions for both marriage and civil partnership (it lists “parent’s sibling” and “sibling’s child”).

For context: first cousins may still marry or form a civil partnership in England and Wales - the prohibited list does not include cousins.

Related note: regardless of marital status, sexual activity between adult aunts/uncles and their adult nieces/nephews is a criminal offence under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (sections on “sex with an adult relative”)

(www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1949/76/pdfs/ukpga_19490076_en.pdf)

The rationale is most marriage laws rest on two different logics - not just genetics.

Genetics (consanguinity):

Where blood is involved, an aunt/uncle with a niece/nephew could potentially share about 25% of their genes (similar to half-siblings), whereas first cousins share about 12.5%. So, on genetic grounds alone, avuncular unions with the relational aunt/uncle carry a much higher risk than cousin unions. That’s why many systems ban the former but permit the latter. However, an aunt/uncle by marriage can share zero DNA. The reason many systems still restrict (or historically restricted) those unions isn’t genetics - it’s affinity and safeguarding.

Power/role in the family (affinity):

Relationships that go “up or down” a generation (parent/child, step-parent/step-child, aunt/uncle–niece/nephew) are treated as close-kin family-role relationships. The law worries about authority, dependency, and the risk of grooming or coercion inside the family. Because that concern isn’t about DNA, it often applies even when the tie is only by marriage (no blood). Power & role, not DNA. “Up-and-down” family links (parent/child, step-relations, aunt/uncle ↔ niece/nephew) can involve authority, caretaking, and dependency. Lawmakers worry about grooming/pressure within the family. Because it’s hard to check case-by-case whether there was a caregiving or power dynamic, the law often uses a bright-line ban for these relationships - even when the tie is only by marriage. Same-generation vs cross-generation. Cousins are peers; there’s usually no built-in authority relationship. So the main concern there is genetic risk, which

²⁶ Obtained through interaction with ChatGPT

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is lower (about 12.5% shared DNA for first cousins) than avuncular blood ties (about 25%). Many places therefore permit cousin marriage but bar aunt/uncle–niece/nephew pairings.

Public-policy housekeeping:

Bans on vertical/authority-laden relationships help preserve clear family roles, reduce household conflict, and simplify safeguarding rules. Cousins, by contrast, are same-generation peers, so the authority concern is far weaker.

Finally, laws do vary:

Some places ban cousin marriage; some allow narrowly defined exceptions for certain “in-law” relationships; others are stricter. But the core logic is (a) protect against power abuse inside the family and (b) manage genetic risk - and those two logics point in opposite directions for “aunt/uncle vs cousin.”

History & housekeeping. Western rules grew out of religious/canonical “prohibited degrees,” which treated certain affinal ties like blood ties, to keep family roles clear and avoid conflicts inside households.

11 - Electoral Registration in the UK: from property to (near) universal suffrage²⁷

We start with considering how electoral registration has evolved - what counted as a qualification, how those rules changed, and how women moved from exclusion to equal voting rights. I've added a short timeline and today's picture of registration at the end. Sources are linked inline.

For much of the 19th century, the right to vote (and to be on the register) was tied to property and residence rules set out in successive Reform Acts. The Reform Act 1832 standardised property-based franchises and created a formal registration process; it also explicitly framed voters as "male persons", excluding women from parliamentary elections.

The Second Reform Act 1867 further enlarged the electorate - granting the borough vote to most householders and some lodgers - and roughly doubled the number of voters in England and Wales. This expansion owed a lot to agitation by the Reform League and huge public demonstrations (notably the Hyde Park protests of 1866-67).

The Third Reform Act 1884 (with the 1885 Redistribution Act) extended similar qualifications to the counties and redrew constituencies towards equal sizes, pulling rural working men into the electorate.

One parallel change that mattered for registration was the Ballot Act 1872, which introduced the secret ballot - reducing intimidation and bribery and helping make registration lists a more meaningful record of individual voters.

1918: mass enfranchisement and a new registration regime

The Representation of the People Act 1918 (RPA 1918) transformed both who could vote and how registers were compiled. It abolished most male property qualifications (enfranchising men aged 21+) and enfranchised women aged 30+ who met certain property or educational tests. Administratively, it created an expanded registration system, including two registers per year (a "spring" and an "autumn" register) and special absent voters' provisions for servicemen and others away from home after the First World War.

Women could also, for the first time, stand for Parliament under the Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act 1918.

In 1928, the Equal Franchise Act finally equalised the parliamentary franchise: women gained the vote on the same terms as men at 21.

Later, the Representation of the People Act 1948 eliminated university and business plural voting and ended most multi-member seats, aligning registration to a clearer "one person, one vote" principle.

In 1969, the voting age for UK parliamentary and local elections fell from 21 to 18 (Representation of the People Act 1969), widening eligibility and, in turn, the registration base.

The position of women: from local footholds to equal franchise

Long before 1918, women made earlier gains in local government. From 1869 many single women ratepayers could vote in municipal elections; through the late 19th century, married women gained local voting and candidacy rights in parish and district councils. These local footholds, plus decades of pressure from constitutional suffragists (NUWSS) and militant suffragettes (WSPU), kept the issue on the agenda. The First World War accelerated reform by making existing residence/property rules untenable and by shifting public and parliamentary

²⁷ From ChatGPT

(<https://www.electoralregisters.org.uk/codes>)

([https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-](https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/evolutionofparliament/houseofcommons/reformacts/overview/one-man-one-vote)

[heritage/evolutionofparliament/houseofcommons/reformacts/overview/one-man-one-vote](https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/evolutionofparliament/houseofcommons/reformacts/overview/one-man-one-vote))

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attitudes. The 1918 settlement still left many younger and poorer women without the parliamentary vote; national campaigning continued until equal terms arrived in 1928.

Why governments changed the law (the pressure)

There were several reasons for changes.

- **Mass movements and protest.** Chartism in the 1830s–40s pressed six core demands (including secret ballots and equal districts), shaping later reforms; 1860s–70s mobilisation by the Reform League (Hyde Park demonstrations) helped force the 1867 Act.
- **Anti-corruption and electoral integrity.** The secret ballot (1872) was a response to bribery, coercion and “open voting”, strengthening the legitimacy of registers and results.
- **Industrialisation and urbanisation.** Demographic and economic change made unreformed, property-skewed franchises untenable - pushing the 1867 and 1884 Acts.
- **War and social change.** The First World War disrupted residence-based qualifications and broadened views about citizenship and service, directly prompting the RPA 1918.
- **Ongoing women’s suffrage activism.** Sustained pressure from NUWSS/WSPU and allies delivered the 1918 breakthrough and 1928 equalisation.

Registration since 2000: from household forms to individual responsibility

Two modern reforms changed how people get onto the register:

- **Rolling registration and easier absent voting (2000).** The Representation of the People Act 2000 introduced “rolling” updates alongside the annual canvass and made postal voting on demand available in Great Britain.
- **Individual Electoral Registration (IER).** Great Britain moved from the old household-head model to individual registration under the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, implemented from 2014 (Northern Ireland had moved earlier in 2002). Under IER, you must register yourself; EROs still run an annual canvass to maintain accuracy.

The Elections Act 2022 and very recent changes

- **Photo ID in Great Britain.** From May 2023 all in-person voters in GB must show accepted photo ID at polling stations (Northern Ireland has required ID since the 2000s).
- **Overseas electors.** Since 16 January 2024 the old 15-year limit has been removed; British citizens abroad with a past UK registration/residence can register and must renew every three years.
- **Postal/proxy safeguards.** New identity checks for absent voting and limits on handling postal packs have been phased in.

Looking ahead (2025 policy direction)

The UK Government has announced plans to lower the voting age to 16 for all UK elections and to move towards automated voter registration (bringing England and Northern Ireland into line with Scotland/Wales on franchise age if legislated). These proposals are set out in Restoring trust in our democracy (July 2025).

Who could register & vote - key dates

- 1832 Reform Act formalised registration; parliamentary franchise limited and male.
- 1869–1894 Many single/widowed women ratepayers gained local government votes and candidacy in parish/district bodies.
- 1918 Representation of the People Act: men 21+; women 30+ who met property/education tests (or via husband’s qualification). Introduced absent voters.
- 1928 Equal Franchise Act: women on same terms as men at 21.
- 1948: Abolished most plural/business/university votes → towards one person, one vote.
- 1969: Voting age lowered to 18.
- 2000: Rolling registration; postal voting on demand (GB).
- 2014: Individual Electoral Registration (IER) replaces household model (GB).
- 2023–24: Photo ID (GB); 15-year limit for overseas electors removed.
- 2025 (proposal): Votes at 16; steps toward automated registration

Electoral Registers

In general, one register was produced each year although none were produced during the war years 1915 (Scotland), 1916, 1917 and 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944.

There were two registers a year in 1868 and in 1885, also between 1919 and 1926 (sometimes called the spring and autumn registers), and also two in 1945 and two in 1946.

There were two key dates the "qualification date" which was the date when the voter had to qualify to be added to the register and the "effective date", the date when the register came into effect for any elections from that date on.

Between 1832 and 1915, qualification date was in July with an effective date of the beginning of December up to 1867 and then the 1st of January.

From 1918 to 1926 when there were two registers a year, the spring registers had a qualification date of 15 January with an effective date of 15 April and for the autumn registers, the two dates were 15 July and 15 October. After 1928 until 1939 the dates were 1 June and 15 October.

In the late 1940s to take 1948 as an example, the register was drawn up based on the National Identity Card register on 30th June, was published on August 9th with two weeks available to appeal if your name was omitted. The register came into force on 15th October 1948.

People had the right to vote through certain residential qualifications. Note occupation means occupation of a property, nothing to do with employment. Until 1948 when a simple one person, one vote finally arrived, the electoral registers usually contained a reason or reason codes against electors showing the basis on which they qualified for the vote.

1885

There is usually a description of what entitles the person to be on the electoral register. This may include extra information such as for lodgers the landlord's or landlady's name, the weekly rent and how many rooms were rented. Where someone had moved house during the last 12 months, the word "successive" often appears followed by their previous address to show that each was of a sufficient rateable value to qualify its occupier to vote.

1918

Against each person are two codes, the first giving the qualification for Parliamentary Elections, and the second for Local Elections. Where there is a dash the voter could not vote in that election.

- R: Residence qualification
- BP: Business premises qualification
- O: Occupational qualification
- HO: Qualification through husband's occupation
- NM: Naval or military voter

Parliamentary qualification

- HO = Husband's occupational qualification (the wife was registered via her husband's occupation of qualifying premises).
- R = Residence qualification (qualified by residence).

Local government

- O = Occupational qualification (occupier of qualifying premises).
- HC = Husband's qualification (local government) - i.e., a married woman registered through her husband's local-government qualifying occupation/premises. Terminology wasn't fully standardised, so some registers used D/Dw ("spouse's occupation") for the same idea; HC appears in some registers as a variant. This "on her husband's qualification" concept is explicit in debates around the 1918 franchise

1928

Against each person are two codes, the first giving the qualification for Parliamentary Elections, and the second for Local Elections. Where there is a dash, the voter could not vote in that

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election. Women were identified with the suffix "w" after the code. Against names, the following extra codes can sometimes be seen

- J: Eligible to serve as juror
- SJ: Eligible to serve as special juror
- A: Absent voter

1945

Further codes added:

- BP: Business premises register
- CI: Civilian residence register
- SE: Service register
- RR: Ratepayers register

12 - Conscription for WWI

There was conscription in the First World War, though it depended on the country. I'll focus on Britain, since that is usually what people mean by this question.

At the start of the war (1914) there was no conscription in Britain - recruitment was entirely voluntary. Conscription was brought in later when voluntary enlistment no longer provided enough men.

Conscription was introduced by the Military Service Act (January 1916). The first people conscripted at (from March 1916) were single men aged 18 to 41 in Great Britain (Ireland was not included)

This was later changed in May 1916 - extended to married men as well. Again in 1918 the upper age limit was raised to 51, so men 18-51 could in principle be called up

However, there were many under-age men enlisting as soldiers. In law, you had to be at least 18 to enlist and 19 to serve overseas, but many under-18s lied about their age and got in anyway.

There were some exemptions:

- Those in vital war industries
- Medically unfit
- Certain family circumstances
- Conscientious objectors (though they often faced tribunals and could be given non-combatant roles or imprisoned)

13 - Nineteenth-Century Pneumonia and Bronchitis Mortality

Uncovering death certificates have identified a high frequency of deaths from pneumonia and bronchitis. Possibly the most frequent cause of death of my ancestors particularly in Bethnal Green, Shoreditch, Mile End etc. Was there a social class difference in the deaths from pneumonia and bronchitis in the 19th century? The short answer: yes - very much so. In nineteenth-century Britain, deaths from the chest diseases bronchitis and pneumonia were markedly higher among the urban working classes than among the well-to-do. Several strands of evidence point the same way:

- Urban/"poor" districts had far higher mortality, and respiratory disease was a big part of that gap. William Farr's analyses for the Registrar General showed a persistent "urban mortality penalty"; his "healthy districts" (more rural/affluent) consistently had much lower death rates than national averages. (Lewis-Fanning, 1930)
- Bronchitis in particular exploded as Britain industrialised - rising from ~0.6% of all deaths (1838) to ~14% (1879) - and contemporary/modern research links that surge to coal smoke, crowding and damp housing that disproportionately affected the working poor in industrial towns. (Widdicombe, 1982)
- Industrial pollution explains a large share of excess urban mortality in the 1850s-1900, with respiratory deaths (bronchitis, etc.) especially impacted - again concentrating risk in working-class, industrial locales. (Walker Hanlon, 2015)
- Occupational data from the turn of the century (continuing nineteenth-century patterns) show steep class/occupation gradients for pneumonia and other respiratory causes - very low among professionals (e.g., clergy) and much higher in heavy industry. (Toren et al., 2022)
- More broadly, historians of infectious disease note that pronounced social-class mortality differences emerge in the nineteenth century, as urbanisation, overcrowding and poverty shaped exposure and susceptibility to infections including pneumonia. (Shaw-Taylor, 2020)

So, while precise "class-labelled" cause-of-death tables are sparse before 1900, the triangulating evidence - Farr's district statistics, the industrial pollution findings, and early occupational mortality - shows a clear social-class gradient: working-class, urban, and industrial populations bore the brunt of fatal bronchitis and (to a lesser-documented but consistent extent) pneumonia in the nineteenth century. (Walker Hanlon, 2015) Looking at London specifically? if you zoom in on East-End London, the pattern is stark in exactly Shoreditch, Bethnal Green and Mile End.

Bethnal Green (parish of St Matthew), 1864

The Medical Officer of Health recorded 615 deaths from "Bronchitis, Pleuritis, and Pneumonia" out of 3,050 total deaths (~20% of all deaths that year). Quarterly totals show very heavy winter peaks.

Mile End Old Town, year to 30 Mar 1867

The annual cause table lists 188 deaths from "Bronchitis, Pleuritis, and Pneumonia" plus 133 deaths from "Bronchitis and Pneumonia of infants under 3 years" - that's 321 chest-disease deaths in total. With the report's own population estimate of ~85,000, that's roughly 3.8 per 1,000 in a single year.

Shoreditch (parish of St Leonard), 1856

The parish table (1855-56) shows, for 1856 alone, Bronchitis 191, Pleurisy 4, Pneumonia 231 (i.e., 426 deaths from these causes), making chest disease one of the single largest cause-groups recorded.

These are overwhelmingly working-class, densely crowded districts, and contemporary observers repeatedly linked their excess mortality to overcrowding, cold, damp housing and smoke/fog - conditions that hit respiratory disease especially hard. (For context on East-End overcrowding - including Shoreditch and Bethnal Green - see Benjamin; for the broader London smog/respiratory link, see Hanlon.)

How the references fit the East-End evidence

Benchmarking against Farr’s “healthy districts”

Farr’s framework (from the 1850s onward) shows substantially lower mortality in rural/affluent districts. Your East-End rates for bronchitis and pneumonia sit well above those benchmarks, reinforcing a clear urban social-class gradient rather than a London-wide norm.

Urban penalty clarified

Davenport’s recent re-work on nineteenth-century urban mortality supports the persistence of a strong urban penalty through the mid-century, precisely when your parish reports show heavy winter respiratory peaks. This helps interpret Shoreditch/Bethnal Green excesses as structural, not episodic.

Air pollution as a proximate driver

Hanlon’s quasi-experimental work and Bailey’s anthropometric/pollution analysis show that coal smoke and soot exposure raised respiratory mortality in industrial/urban settings. That maps neatly onto your districts’ fog-smog complaints and the bronchitis surge in winter quarters.

Occupational gradients (class mechanism)

The Registrar-General’s Decennial Supplements (Ogle; later occupational reports) document steep cause-specific mortality by occupation - professionals low, heavy/manual workers high - for respiratory diseases too. That offers a direct class pathway consistent with East-End occupational profiles (dock, craft, labouring trades).

Household crowding and damp housing

Contemporary MOH narratives from your parishes, read alongside Hardy/Wohl, emphasise overcrowding, dampness, and poor heating - all intensifying winter bronchitis/pneumonia risk among the working poor. This complements the pollution mechanism with an indoor exposure/susceptibility channel.

Age structure and vulnerability

The East-End returns often split out infants and the elderly; pairing that with Woods et al. (1988) and later class-mortality work shows very high infant bronchitis/pneumonia and frailty among older adults - groups over-represented in poor housing and subject to smoky indoor fuels.

Seasonality as corroboration

Your quarterly tables’ winter spikes match nineteenth-century national patterns and strengthen the pollution + cold + crowding interpretation (viral circulation plus smoke-laden fogs).

Consistency across metrics

Whether expressed as cause shares of all deaths, cause-specific death rates per 1,000, or excess over healthy-district baselines, the signal is the same: working-class East-End neighbourhoods bore disproportionate respiratory mortality.

Limits and cautions

Diagnostic categories (bronchitis vs. pneumonia), registration quality, and cause-of-death shifting can blur exact splits; but triangulating parish MOH returns, Farr’s district method, occupational mortality, and pollution studies gives robust convergence on classed risk.

Summary

Set against Farr’s low-mortality “healthy districts”, the East-End parishes you’ve compiled - Shoreditch, Bethnal Green, Mile End - show persistently elevated nineteenth-century deaths from bronchitis and pneumonia. Modern re-analyses (Davenport) confirm a durable urban penalty; pollution studies (Hanlon, Bailey) supply a strong proximate cause; and the occupational records (Ogle; decennial supplements) reveal the class gradient linking manual work to respiratory risk. Coupled with crowding, damp housing, cold weather, and winter smog, these factors coherently explain the social-class difference in chest-disease mortality that your London data so clearly display.

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Vestry of St Leonard, Shoreditch

Vestry of St Leonard, Shoreditch. (1855). *Annual report of the Sanitary Committee, parish of St Leonard, Shoreditch, for the year 1855*. London: Vestry of St Leonard, Shoreditch.

Plus other up to

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Vestry of Mile End Old Town

Vestry of Mile End Old Town. (1866). *Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ending 30 March 1866*. London: Vestry of Mile End Old Town.

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Vestry of St Matthew, Bethnal Green

Vestry of St Matthew, Bethnal Green. (1860). *Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1860*. London: Vestry of St Matthew, Bethnal Green.

Plus others up to

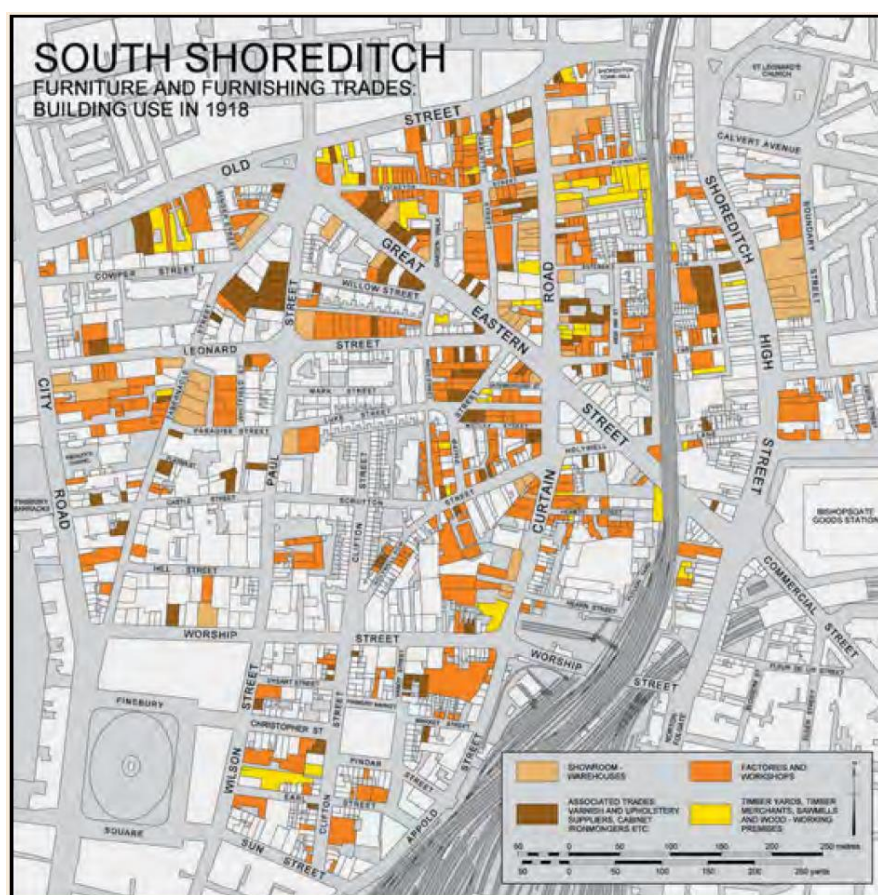
Vestry of St Matthew, Bethnal Green. (1865). *Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1865*. London: Vestry of St Matthew, Bethnal Green.

14 - Furniture Manufacture and Distribution in Shoreditch

(Much here is taken from Smith, Joanna and Rodgers, Ray (2006) *Behind the Veneer. The South Shoreditch Furniture Trade and Its Buildings*. English Heritage, Swindon)

The area around south Shoreditch became the centre of London's furniture trade in the latter part of the 19th century, and affected the architecture of many buildings – some of which are still in existence. Warehouses and workshops were scattered around Curtain Road, Old Street, Shoreditch High Street, Great Eastern Street, Leonard Street, Kingsland Street, Appold Street, Tabernacle Street, Rivington Street.

Both Thomas Gates Snr. and James Lewis Page were cabinet makers by trade living around Shoreditch and Curtain Road in particular, where in addition Thomas Humphreys also lived and probably worked as a cabinet maker. Subsequently, after Thomas Humphreys and Emma moved to Edmonton, their son, also Thomas Humphreys Gates, was working in south Shoreditch as a cabinet maker at times commuting back there for work when for example in the 1921 census, he lived in Brettenham Road, Edmonton, but worked for Herman Phillips, Kingsland Road, Shoreditch.



Certain areas in the East End became associated with a specific trade, e.g., Whitechapel became known for its tailoring businesses. However, Shoreditch became known for woodworking. A trade which changed a lot due to industrialisation. Furniture became simpler in design and was easier to build, hence it became a lot more affordable. But, in the 19th century, some people associated East End furniture with cheap quality and dismissed it as "Curtain Road stuff". However, this did not reflect reality: you were able to find a whole range of products, varying from low quality to high quality. Many of the workers were underpaid and had to work long hours. An issue which was not only present in woodworking but in many other trades as well. (Smith and Rodgers, p. 16)

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

In Curtain Road from Old Street to Great Eastern Street, at one time every shop save four was a wholesale furniture warehouse. At any time during the week, from the purlieus of Haxton, Bethnal Green to the byways of Shoreditch could be seen vans and weird piles of furniture in unpolished or skeleton form. (Layers of London)

South Shoreditch 1799 from Richard Horwood's map



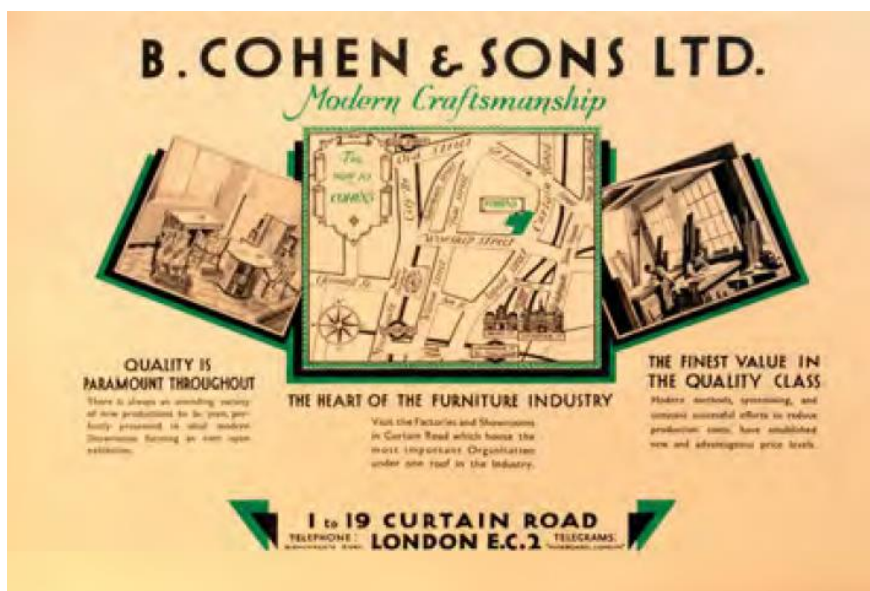
"The furniture trade required different types of facility – for manufacturing, storage and distribution. Furthermore, a significant residential population had to be accommodated and space found for new civic facilities such as schools, churches, council buildings police stations, and law courts." (Smith and Rodgers, 2006, pps 3-5)

C & R Light was one of the beset known Shoreditch furniture dealers and manufacturers. Their substantial, showrooms at 134-146 Curtain Road were built between 1881 and 1887. The building still dominates the south end of the street.

The best quality goods were often displayed on the ground or first floors, and the bigger firms such as C&R Light, had fully furnished rooms so retailers could bring their friends to see such finished furnishings complete, even down to the books on the table. (Smith and Rodgers, p. 28)



Fig 19 William Bailey's trade card of c1870 depicts their newly built showroom-warehouse on Curtain Road. This building remained firmly in the tradition of a combined shop-and-dwelling, with a domestic appearance to the upper floors. (Hackney Archives Department)



1-19 Curtain Road

B. Cohen & Sons, factories dominated the southern end of Curtain Road from 1880s to 1940s.



Fig 21 13–19 Curtain Road, built in 1861 for J B Richards, is one of the earliest examples of a fully developed showroom-warehouse. In 1881 the building became the showrooms and offices of B Cohen and Sons, one of the leading wholesale manufacturers and exporters in the district.

86-90 Curtain Road

Gates, Edward (1871-1892)

Edward Gates was recorded as a looking glass maker at 15 Praed Street in the 1871 Post Office Directory and as a cabinet maker and looking glass manufacturer at 61 Curtain Road in the *Furniture Gazette: Classified List of the Furniture, Upholstery, and Allied Trades* (1886). In 1892 he developed four showroom-warehouses at 86-90 Curtain Road. A plan of this development is in *Smith & Rogers* (2006), p. 27.

The block was built by Edward Gates, a furniture wholesaler and manufacturer, on a site already associated with the furniture trade. In 1898 Amos Oakden and Sons, cabinet ironmongers, who manufactured and supplied hardware to the furniture and upholstery industries, occupied Number 90 and by 1936 the whole building.

https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=1479440&resourceID=19191

The building still exists but is now Foxtons Estate Agents.



101 Curtain Road

W. Swain, Chair & Cabinet Manufacturer, 101 Curtain Road, Shoreditch, London.

135-139 Curtain Road

135-139 was built in 1877 Saul Moss and son, wholesale Furniture Manufacturers, later Beresford and Hicks.

Great Eastern Street



Fig 22 One of the largest speculative developments on Great Eastern Street, 76–82, built for Charles Bryant and William King between 1882 and 1884. Such lofty buildings, sometimes more impressive in scale than in detail, line the main roads of the district while the side-street premises are generally lower in height.

Jewish Immigrants and the London Furniture Trade

Thomas Humphreys' grandson, Charles Edward Gates, often spoke kindly of the Jewish influence in North London, having worked for IB Nathans furniture makers in Edmonton early on. But it seems Jewish immigrants played a large part in the growth of the industry. They were also quite radical.

Jewish immigrants were involved in the British furniture industry from the early decades of the 19th century. Louis Lebus, for instance, came to Hull from Germany in the 1840s and set up a cabinet making workshop. The firm later moved to London and was taken over by his son, Harris. By 1900, Lebus was the largest furniture manufacturer in the country and employed about a thousand workers most of whom were Jewish immigrants. Between 1881 and 1914, somewhere in the region of 150,000 Jews came to Britain - primarily to London - from eastern Europe. Many were cabinet makers and carpenters. By 1901, between 5-10% of Britain's Jewish population is estimated to have worked in the furniture industry, mostly in small East London firms that employed between three to six men. (Taylor 2022)

15 - Registration of births, deaths and marriages

The Registration Act 1836²⁸ (also known as the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1836) established the system of civil registration for births, deaths, and marriages in England and Wales. Taking effect on 1 July 1837, it moved the responsibility for maintaining vital records from the Church of England to a new state-run department. Prior to this, registration was undertaken through the various denominations of the church through Parish Records. Martin James a Professional Genealogist posted the following on his blog²⁹:

England & Wales were divided into Registration Districts, each under the control of a Superintendent Registrar. Registrars issued certificates for births and deaths which occurred in their area, it was their duty to actively collect the information and they were paid according to their success. Between 1837 and 1875 there was no penalty for not registering a birth or death, so records from this period are incomplete, and up to a third of the population maybe missing from these early records, something bear in mind when searching the registers. When the local registers became full, they were sent to the Superintendent Registrar who produced local indexes of events and 4 times a year sent copies to the Registrar General in London.

Births

Parents were not obliged to give information on a birth, unless requested by the Registrar. Parents had to pay if the registration was made more than 6 weeks after the birth, so parents were not always truthful about the date of birth of their offspring.

Marriages

From 1837, marriages could take place in a local register office, instead of a church, as a result a new type of marriage register was introduced for all marriage ceremonies. The Church of England, Jews and Quakers were able to conduct and register their own marriage ceremonies, 2 registers were completed, one for the church the other for the state. Other denominations (Methodists, Baptists, etc) had to apply for their chapels to be licensed to conduct marriages and a ceremony could only take place there if, in addition to the minister, a Registrar was also present to record the events in a Register Office marriage register. This procedure did not change until 1898.

1874 Onwards

From 1874 registration became compulsory for births and deaths. The onus for registration of a birth was passed to the parents, or the occupier of the house where a birth took place. The birth had to be registered within 42 days or a £2.00 fine was imposed. Many parents still believed that baptism registered the birth, also if the parents missed the 42-day deadline, they would then either lie about the date of birth or simply not register and hope not to get caught.

The responsibility for recording a death was placed on a relation of the deceased. Registration of a death had to be supported by a certificate signed by a doctor, and the death had to be registered within 5 days of it occurring.

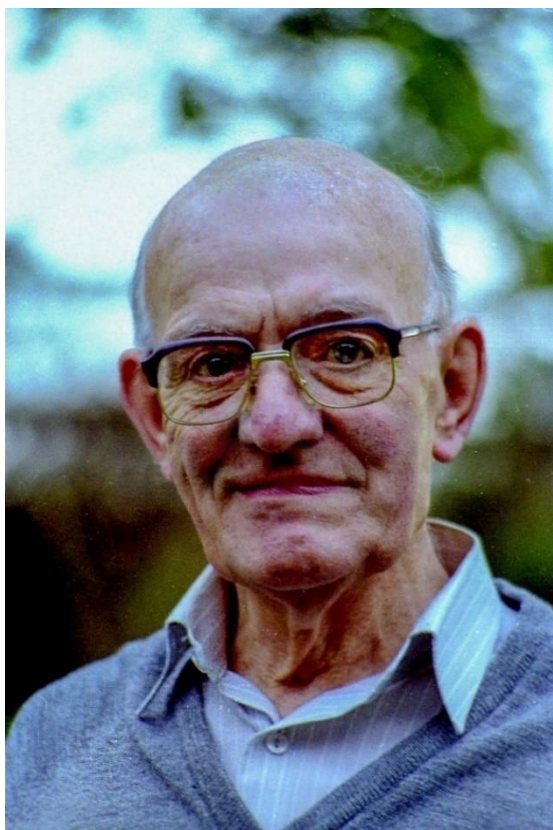
From 1926 to prevent the irregular disposal of bodies, it became a requirement for a registrar's certificate or coroner's order to be produced before a burial or cremation could take place. It also required a notice of burial or cremation to be sent to the registrar after the funeral had taken place.

Also, in 1926 registration was introduced for stillborn children. In 1929 the age of marriage with consent of parents was raised to 16 years for both boys and girls

²⁸https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1874/88/pdfs/ukpga_18740088_en.pdf

²⁹<https://www.familyheritagesearch.co.uk/2011/07/1-july-1837-civil-registration-started-in-england-wales/>

Part 1 - The Path to My Father



Charles around 1990

Part 1 tells the story that eventually leads up to the birth of my father, Charles Edward Gates in January 1921. Charles was a funny, shy and honest man who worked very long hours for many years. He never possessed much. No car, no phone, not even a freezer until I bought my parents one in December 1978. He never went out, never went to a pub, rarely drunk alcohol since he said "it gives me a thick head".

Yet he always seemed a man committed to his family – basically just the three of us.

He had ambition too, he originally wanted to be an engineer, and had bought a number of correspondence courses from International Correspondence Schools (ICS). From the early 1900s they ran extensive home-study courses in engineering, business and trades. He never made it though, eventually spending his working life as a carpenter and joiner. I think I was always influenced by his (thwarted) ambition though, which no doubt helped me.

In this study, I introduce the key people whose lives and loves ultimately led to my father's birth. My father's ancestry illustrates two main characteristics.

First and foremost, my paternal ancestors came from the East End of London who, over several generations at least back to 1700 and probably much further back, lived within a 3-mile square north of the Thames – west-east from Clerkenwell to Hackney; north-south from Haggerstone to Southwark. They rarely moved out of a two-page spread in the London A-Z.

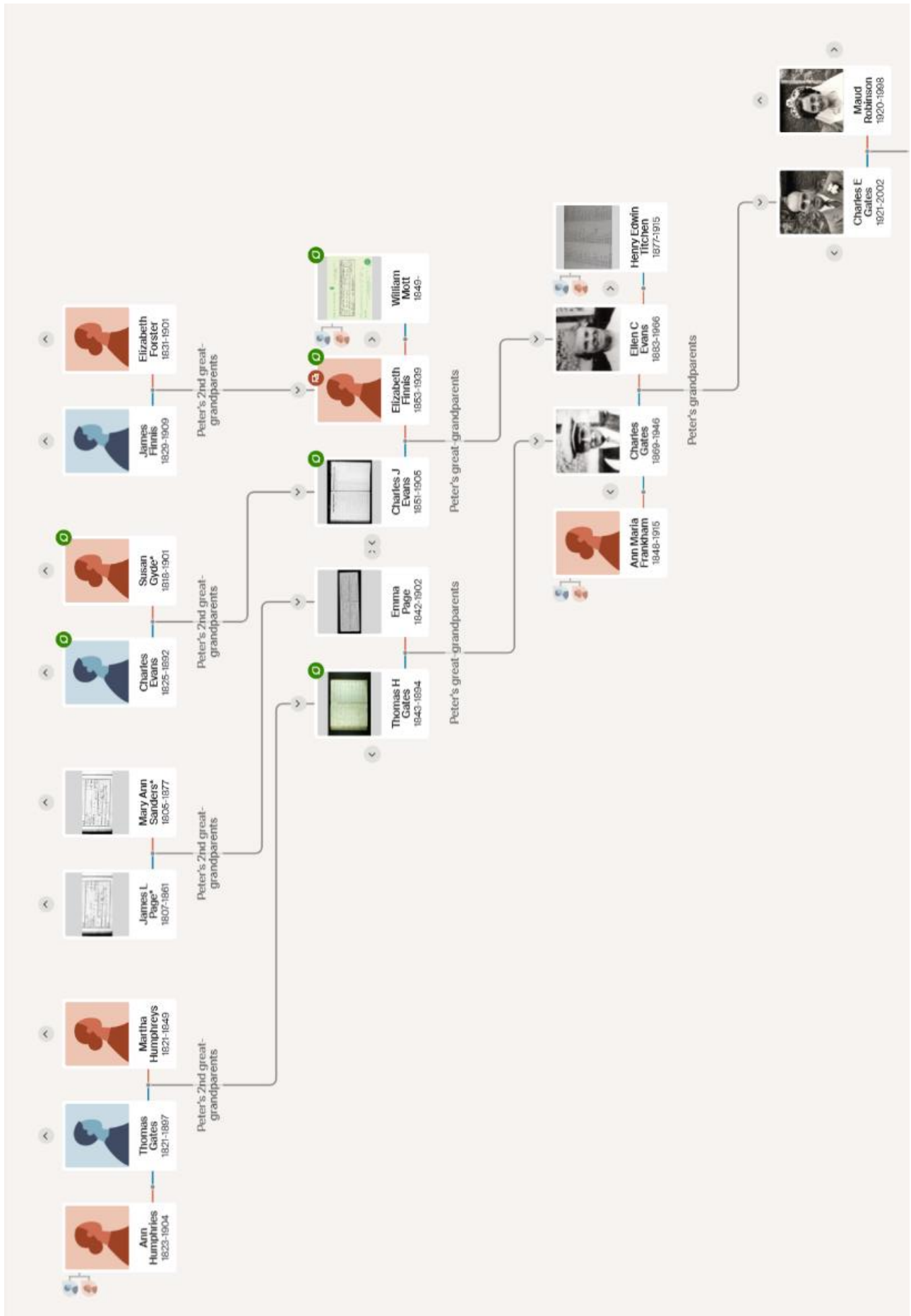
The London poor were subject to different forces, some of which tended to keep them close to their place of birth. Even in a century of great geographical mobility and adventure – those very features that bought men and women from all over Britain to London in their tens of thousands. (Jerry White, *London in the 18th Century*, p. 101)

In addition, sometime around 1825, there was some minor migration into this area. The Finnis side of the family migrated from East Langden in Kent to St George-in-the-East; the Forster family from Cornwall to Whitechapel. Both seemed to have left their extended families behind them. In 1841 four out of ten Londoners were born outside the metropolis, the proportion falling somewhat by the end of the nineteenth century. (Jerry White, *London in the 18th Century*, p. 91)

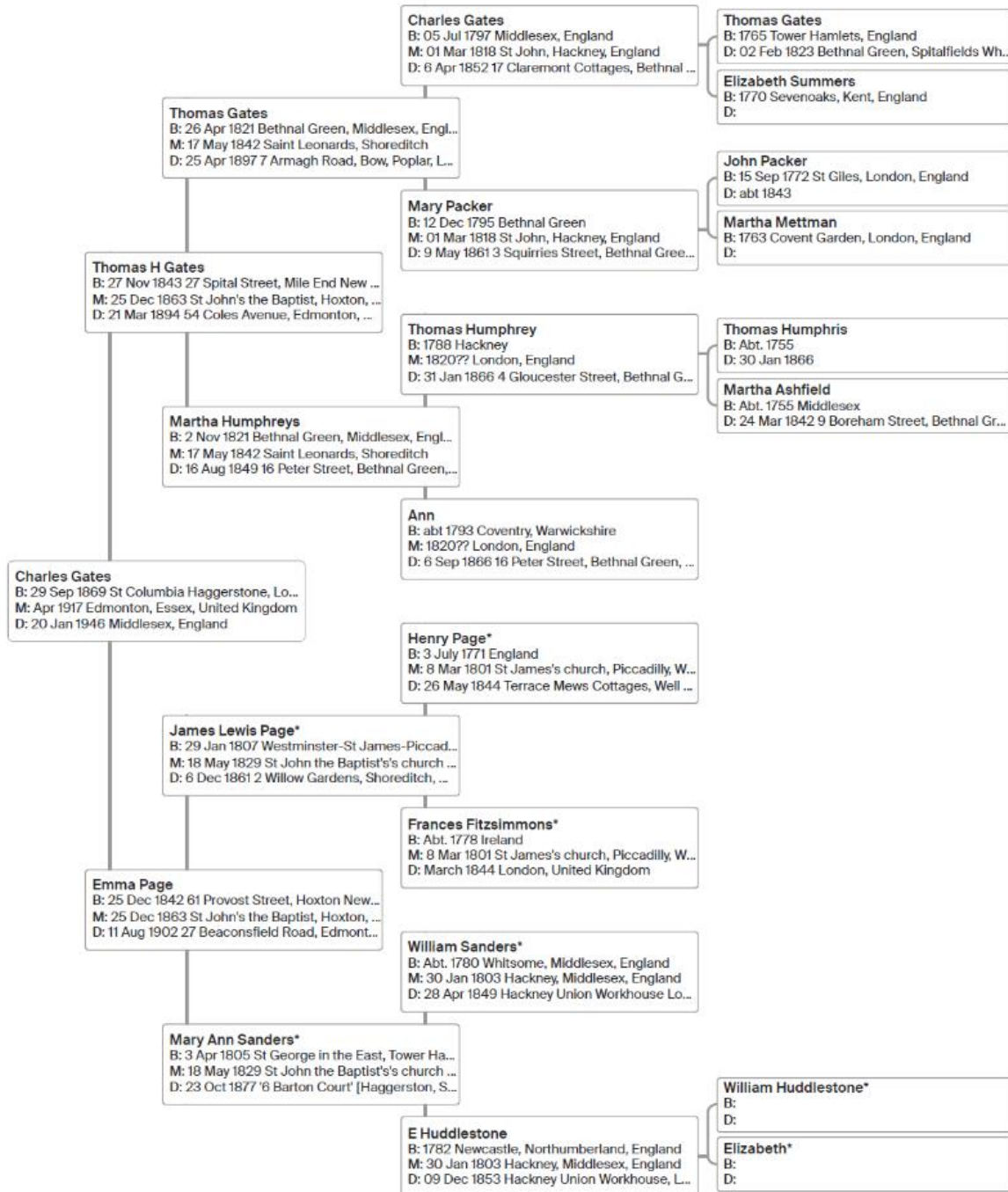
Charles was one of the first to move out of London, which he did in 1959. I do not know why but he joined his half-brother Edwin (Ted) and Maud's sister Edith (Edie) who also moved to Gillingham, on the north Kent coast sometime after they married. That was where I grew up and where Charles stayed until he retired around 1986.

This 4-generation tree on the next page illustrates the connections between the key people in my paternal family tree going back 4 (and a bit) generations and whom I write about in Part 1.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line



Part 1a - The Gates Line



Section 1 – The Early Days

Section 1 covers the period between 1750 and 1850, up to my 4xGreat Grandparents and will of necessity be a short section given the scarcity of information available – at least on-line. It precedes 1st July 1837 when official registration of births, deaths and marriages was implemented due to **The Registration Act 1836** which established the General Register Office and a new system of national registration of births, marriages and deaths to take effect from 1837. It also predated the first national decennial census of 1841. Hence the main records available are those of the church - baptisms, marriages and burials.

This section focusses on two key families – Gates, and Humphreys – and who are responsible for some of my ancestors being named Thomas Humphrey Gates.

Chapter 1 covers the period before 1750, and contains a range of largely so far unverified sources of my Gates ancestors prior to the birth of Thomas Gates in 1765, my 4xGreat Grandfather.

Chapter 2 tells of my 4xGreat Grandparents Thomas Gates and Elizabeth Summers – both of whom we know very little about. Like all the Gates before them they came from north London.

Chapter 3 tells the story of Thomas Humphris and Martha Ashfield (they do not appear to have ever married) and their illegitimate son – also Thomas Humphris. We have no record of what eventually happened to the father Thomas Humphris, but after his son, the spelling of the surname changed and the name Thomas lived on for three generations, becoming a given name.

Key Events During the Lives of my Early Ancestors

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_British_history)

In these tables I present key events that occurred during the lives of my ancestors and which they undoubtedly would have been aware.

1547	28 January	Edward VI crowned King.
1549	6 June – 17 August	Prayer Book Rebellion in south-west.
1553	July	Mary I accedes to the throne.
1558	17 November	Elizabeth I accedes to the throne.
1559	April	Act of Supremacy 1559.
	2 May	Scotland – John Knox returns from Geneva to promote Calvinism.
1560	1 August	Scotland – Parliament legislates Protestant Reformation of the Church of Scotland.
1571	May	Treasons Act 1571.
1587	8 February	England and Scotland – Execution of Mary, Queen of Scots, at Fotheringhay Castle in Northamptonshire.
1588	8 August	Spanish Armada destroyed.
1603	24 March	Death of Queen Elizabeth I. James VI of Scotland crowned King of England (as James I of England).
1605	5 November	The Gunpowder Plot is uncovered, in which Guy Fawkes and others attempted to blow up the king, James VI and I and the Parliament of England.
1606	10 April	King James I issues the First Virginia Charter, establishing the Colony of Virginia in North America.[6]
1618	29 October	Execution of Sir Walter Raleigh
1625	27 March	Death of James VI and I.
1639–1644	?	At war in what became known as the Bishops' Wars.
1640	November	The Long Parliament summoned.
1642	22 August	English Civil War begins (see Timeline of the English Civil War).
1652	?	Tea arrives in Britain.
1666	2 – 6 September	The Great Fire of London ravages the city.
1688	11 December	The Glorious Revolution replaces James II with William III.
	16 December	The Bill of Rights 1689 is enacted by the Parliament of England.
1694	27 July	The Bank of England is established.
707	1 May	The Kingdom of Great Britain comes into being, and Queen Anne becomes its first monarch.
1713	11 April	Signing of the Treaty of Utrecht ends the War of the Spanish Succession.
1714	1 August	Queen Anne dies. Accession of George I, Elector of Hanover.
1721	3 April	Robert Walpole becomes the first Prime Minister of Great Britain.
1727	11 June	King George I dies and George II ascends the throne.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

1742	16 February	Spencer Compton, 1st Earl of Wilmington becomes Prime Minister.
1743	27 August	Henry Pelham becomes Prime Minister.
1754	16 March	Thomas Pelham-Holles, 1st Duke of Newcastle becomes Prime Minister.
1755	15 April	Samuel Johnson published his A Dictionary of the English Language.
1756	16 November	William Cavendish, 4th Duke of Devonshire becomes Prime Minister.
1757	29 June	Thomas Pelham-Holles, 1st Duke of Newcastle becomes Prime Minister for the second time.

Chapter 1 - Before 1750

This information in this section has not been robustly verified by me by going back to original sources; it comes from other people's work on Ancestry. They remain tentative possibilities. The connection is rather tenuous, but nevertheless, provides links back to the mid-16th Century.

We begin in 1540 with Thomas Gates.

Thomas Gates (c1540-??)

So far, no information has been found on Thomas Gates other than a mention in the Parish Record for the christening of his son, John Gates, on 30th September 1565 in St Giles Cripplegate. We may presume Thomas might have been born circa 1540. It appears his wife was called Elizabeth.

St Giles-without-Cripplegate is an Anglican church in the City of London, located on Fore Street within the modern Barbican complex. When built it stood without (that is, outside) the city wall, near the Cripplegate. The church is dedicated to St Giles, patron saint of handicapped and infirm people of many different kinds. It is one of the few medieval churches left in the City of London, having survived the Great Fire of 1666. There had been a Saxon church on the site in the 11th century but by 1090 it had been replaced by a Norman one. In 1394 it was rebuilt in the perpendicular gothic style during the reign of Richard II. The stone tower was added in 1682. (Wikipedia)

John Gates (c1565-??)

John Gates was baptised on 30th September 1565 in St Giles Cripplegate. His father, Thomas Gates is mentioned in the Parish Record.

Joan Dartmole

Joan Dartemole was born in 1563 in Botley, Berkshire. She must have moved to London before she was 25.

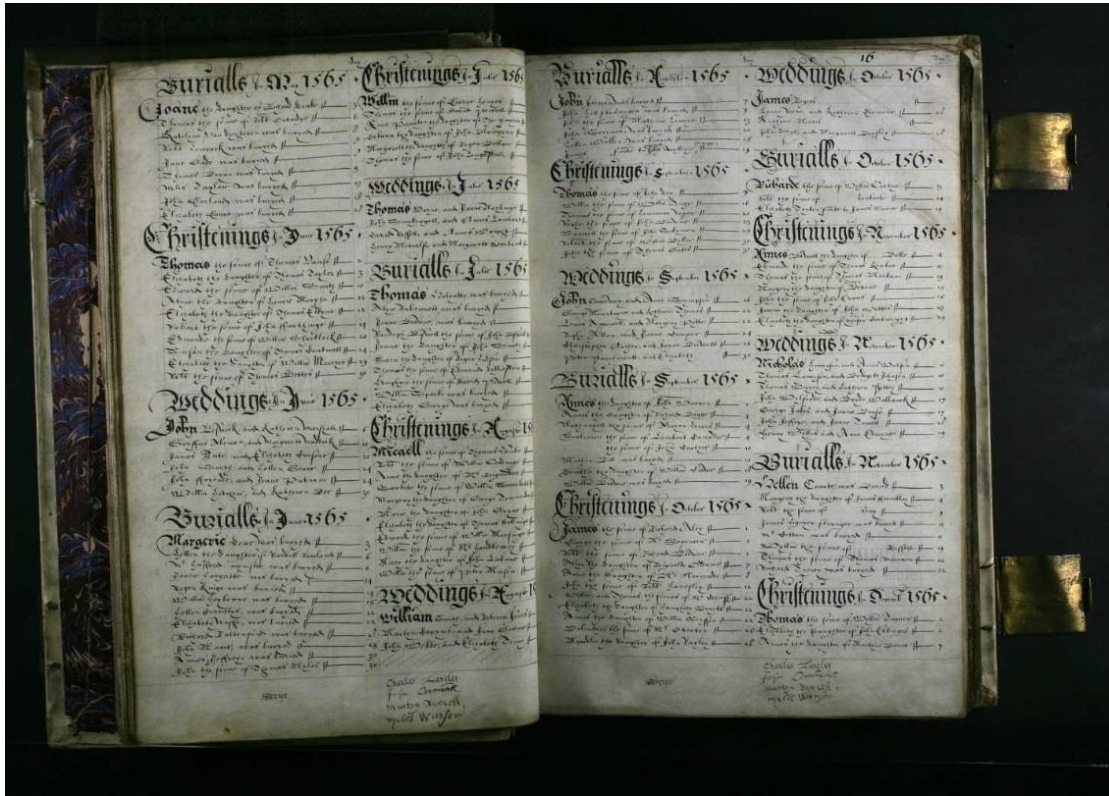
Marriage

John Gates married Joan Dartmole age 23 in St Botolph Church Aldgate on 11th February 1588 when he was 23.

***St Botolph's Aldgate** is a Church of England parish church in the City of London and also, as it lies outside the line of the city's former eastern walls, a part of the East End of London. The church served the ancient parish of St Botolph without Aldgate which included the extramural Portsoken Ward of the City of London, as well as East Smithfield which is outside the City. The full name of the church is **St Botolph without Aldgate and Holy Trinity Minories** and it is sometimes known simply as **Aldgate Church**. The ecclesiastical parish was united with that of the Church of Holy Trinity, Minories, in 1899. The current 18th-century church building is made of brick with stone quoins and window casings. The tower is square with an obelisk spire. The church stands at the junction of Houndsditch and Aldgate High Street and is approximately 30 yards outside the former position of Aldgate, a defensive barbican on the London Wall, laying in the East End of London instead. (Wikipedia)*

Joan and John had a son, William Gates who was born on 21st April 1590, he was baptised at 27th June 1591 at St Olave, Silver Street, City of London.

Joan died age 45 on 19th March 1608 at St. Bride's Parish, London. We do not know when John died.



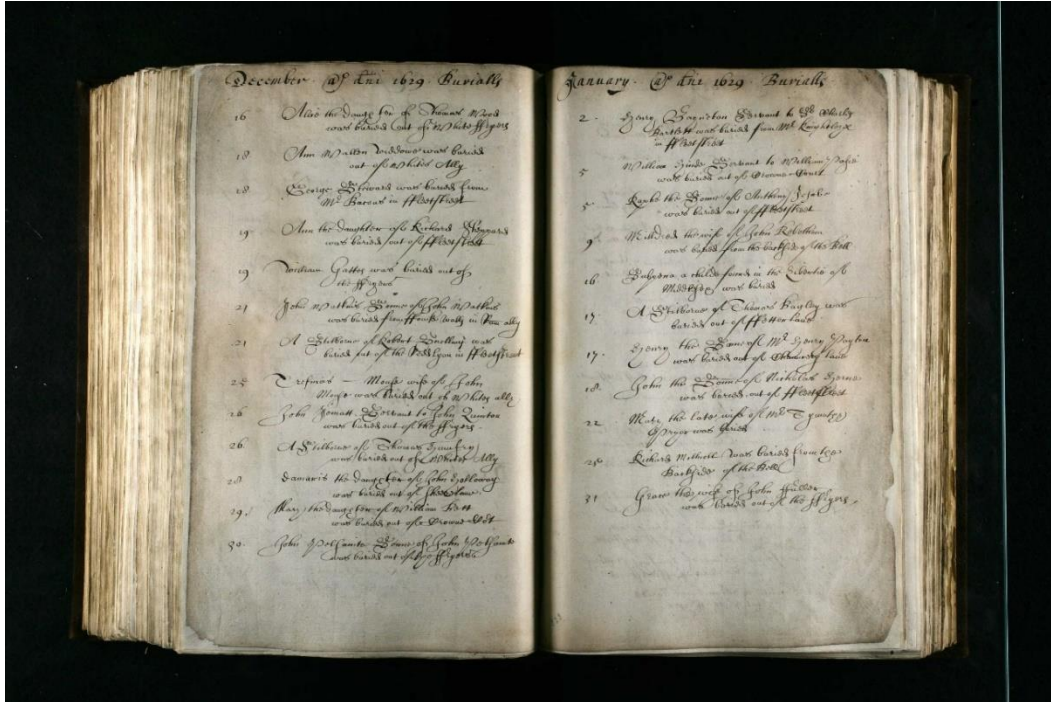
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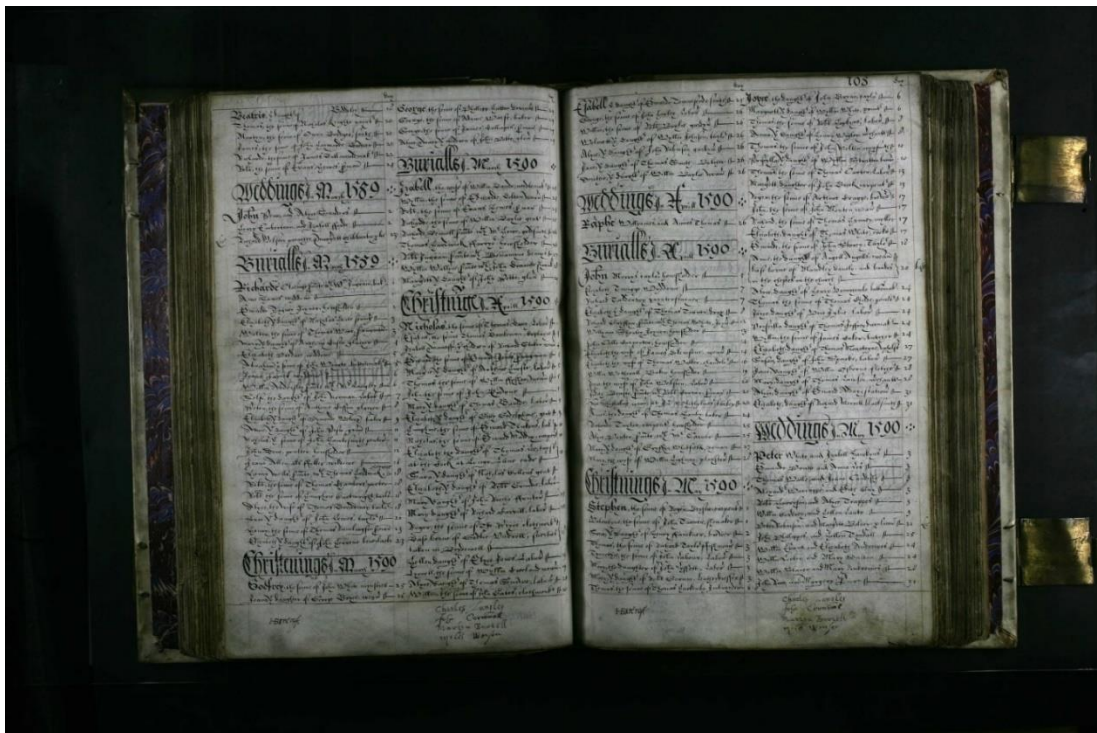
London Metropolitan Archives; London, England; London Church of England Parish Registers; Reference Number: P69/Bot2/A/002/Ms09221

William Gates (1590-??)

William Gates was born on 21st April 1590 in the parish of St Giles, Cripplegate, London, now known as The Barbican, when his father, John Gates was 25, and his mother, Joan Dartemole, was 27. He was baptised on 27th June 1591 at St Olave, Silver Street, City of London.



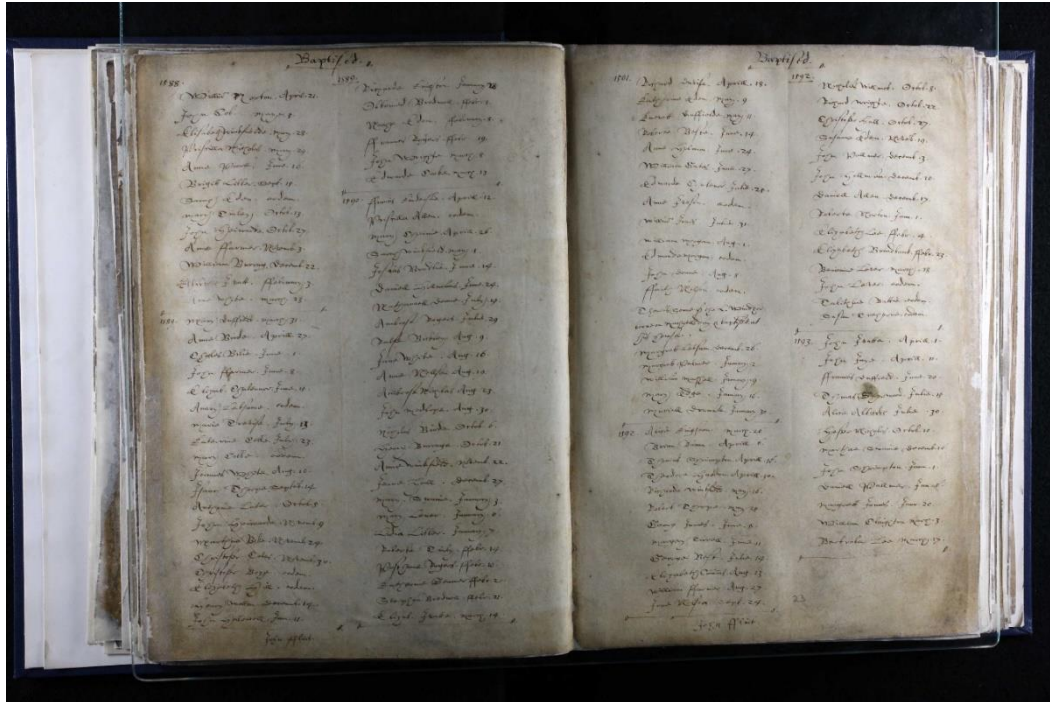
Source: London Metropolitan Archives; London, England; Reference Number: P69/GIS/A/002/MS06419/001 Year: 1561-1606



Source: London Metropolitan Archives; London, England; Reference Number: P69/OLA3/A/001/MS06534 Year: 1561-1770

Marriage

William Gates married Margery Woodham on 7th November 1615 when he was 25. We do not know Margery's age.



London Metropolitan Archives; London, England; London Church of England Parish Registers; Reference Number: P69/Ola3/A/001/Ms06534

William and Margery had a son, Nicholas, born sometime around 1615. William died in 1629.

Nicholas Gates (1615-1657)

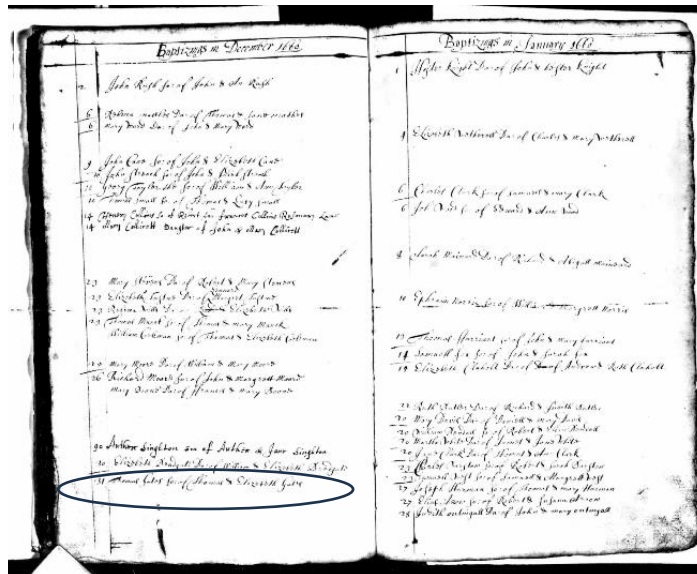
We think Nicholas was born on 4th Feb 1615. Nicholas married Katherine and we are not sure where or when. They had a son, Thomas Gates (1639-1660) born in 1639 and baptised 12th May 1639 at All Saints, Edmonton. Nicholas died about 1657 and was buried at All Saints, Edmonton. Some 300 years later, Charles Gates* was married in the same church.

Thomas Gates (1639-??)

Thomas Gates was born on 12th May 1639 to Thomas Gates and Elizabeth. He was baptised at All Saints, Edmonton, Middlesex, England. He too had a son, Thomas Gates (1660-1707) baptised on 31st Dec 1660 at St Mary Whitechapel, Stepney.

Thomas Gates (1660-1707)

Thomas was born on 31st December 1660 and baptised at St Mary Whitechapel.



*London Metropolitan Archives; London, England; London Church of England Parish Registers;
Reference Number: Dro/040/A/01/001*

Thomas married Jane Wayte (1666–1727) on 2nd September 1683. They had a son, George Gates, born on 11th August 1689 and baptised at St Paul, Shadwell. Thomas died on 30th June 1707 and is buried at St Dunstan, Stepney. Jayne died in 1727.

George Gates (1689-??)

George was born on 11th August 1689 and baptised at St Paul, Shadwell. He married Mary Allen (1685–1730) on 28th October 1708 St Pauls, Shadwell. George and Mary had a son, Thomas Gates (1713–1752) who was baptised on 18th October 1713 at St Paul, Shadwell. Mary died in 1730 (1685–1730). We are not sure when and where George died.

Thomas Gates (1713-1752)

Thomas was born on 18th October 1713 and baptised at St Paul, Shadwell, Middlesex. He married Elizabeth Downing (1716–1793) on 3rd August 1744 in London. Thomas and Elizabeth had a son, Thomas Gates (1745–1811) born 13th January 1745 and baptised at St Dunstan and All Saints, Stepney. Thomas Gates Snr (1713–1752) died in 1752 and was buried on 14th March 1752.

Thomas Gates (1745-1811??)

Thomas Gates was born on 13th January 1745 and baptised at St Dunstan and All Saints, Stepney. Thomas married Sarah Salmon (1740–1779) on 15th June 1765 at Alton, Hampshire (?). Thomas and Sarah had a son, Thomas, who was born in 1765 in Tower Hamlets. Sarah died in 1779. Thomas Snr died in 1811.

Key events during the lives of my 4xGreat Grandparents

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_British_history)

In these tables I present key events that occurred during the lives of my ancestors and which they undoubtedly would have been aware.

1760	25 October	King George II dies and George III ascends the throne.
		1768 Captain James Cook leads his first expedition to the Pacific
1770	28 January	Frederick North, Lord North becomes Prime Minister.
1771		Factory Age' begins with the opening of Britain's first cotton mill
1775	19 April	The American War of Independence begins.
1776	4 July	The Declaration of Independence is created and the new country is recognised as the USA.
1777– 1779	November 1777 – July 1779	The world's first iron bridge called The Iron Bridge, is built-in Shropshire.
1783	4 September	The American War of Independence ends with the Treaty of Paris.
1785	1 January	The Times is first published and becomes the first newspaper to have borne that name, lending it to numerous other papers around the world, such as The New York Times.
1786		Coal gas first used for lighting
1787		First fleet of convicts sails to Australia
1791		Parliament rejects William Wilberforce's bill to abolish the slave trade
1801	1 January	The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland comes into being, and King George III becomes its first monarch.
1805	21 October	The naval Battle of Trafalgar takes place.
1807	25 March	The Slave Trade Act 1807 is passed.
1811		Prince of Wales named Regent to act for George III, now insane
1812		Luddite riots in the North and the Midlands
1815	18 June	The Battle of Waterloo takes place.
	20 November	The Napoleonic Wars ends.
1819		Eleven die at the Peterloo massacre in Manchester
1820	29 January	King George III dies and George IV ascends the throne.
1821	5 May	The Guardian is first published, as The Manchester Guardian.
1825	27 September	The Stockton and Darlington railway, the world's first public passenger railway, opens.
1828	22 January	Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington becomes Prime Minister.
1829	13 April	The Roman Catholic Relief Act 1829 is passed.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

1830	26 June	King George IV dies and William IV ascends the throne.
	22 November	Charles Grey, 2nd Earl Grey becomes Prime Minister.
1832	7 June	The Great Reform Act is passed, doubling the franchise.
1833	28 August	The Slavery Abolition Act 1833 gains royal assent, banning slavery throughout the British Empire.
1834	?	The Conservative Party is founded.
	March	Tolpuddle Martyrs are sentenced to transportation for trade union activities
	14 August	The New Poor Law is passed.
	17 November	Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
	10 December	Robert Peel becomes Prime Minister.
1836	1 July	Registration act 1836 brings in official registration of births, deaths and marriages.
1837	20 June	The reign of Queen Victoria begins.
1838	1 August	The Slavery Abolition Act 1833 enters into force, abolishing slavery in the British Empire.
1840	10 January	The first postage stamps (Penny Post) come into use.
	June	Vaccination for the poor is introduced.
1841	30 August	Robert Peel becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
1842	Summer	The first peacetime income tax is introduced.
1846	27 January	The Corn Laws are repealed.
1848	Late February	The Communist Manifesto is published by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.
1850		The East Coast Main Line opens.

Chapter 2 - Thomas Gates (1765–1823) and Elizabeth Summer (1770–1835)

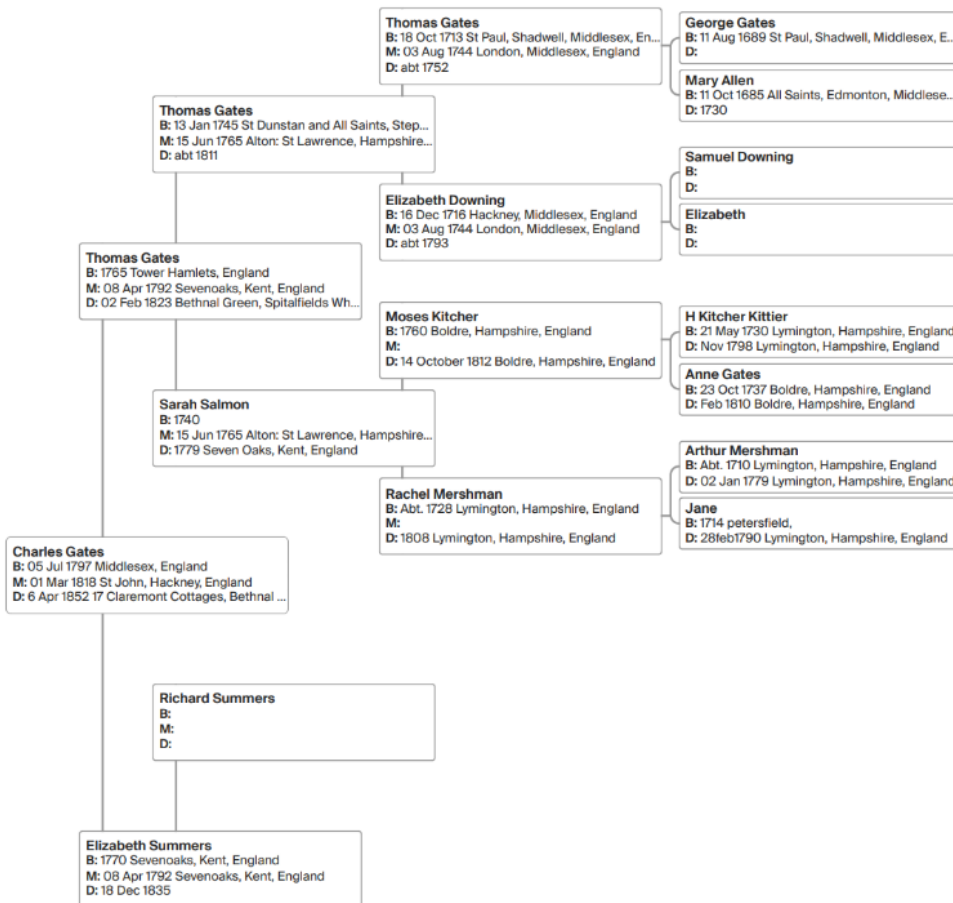
Preface

Thomas Gates and Elizabeth Summer are two of my 4xGreat Grandparents; indeed, I have 32. They are the parents of Charles Gates and so the grandparents of Thomas Gates who married into the Humphreys family.

The further we go back in time the more difficult it is to find credible sources for the lives of our ancestors without a great deal of work off-line. Hence much of the information in this chapter has been unverified and relies on other people’s work on Ancestry.

Lives during the last half of the 18th century will have been so very different to those we can understand and the evidence here gives us little insight into how they lived their lives on a daily basis, or indeed where. Thomas and Elizabeth were born before Cook landed in Australia, and so before convicts were first transported. They had no electricity, no running water, no trains, no tarmacked roads, the differences go on and on.

4 Generation Family Tree of Thomas and Elizabeth



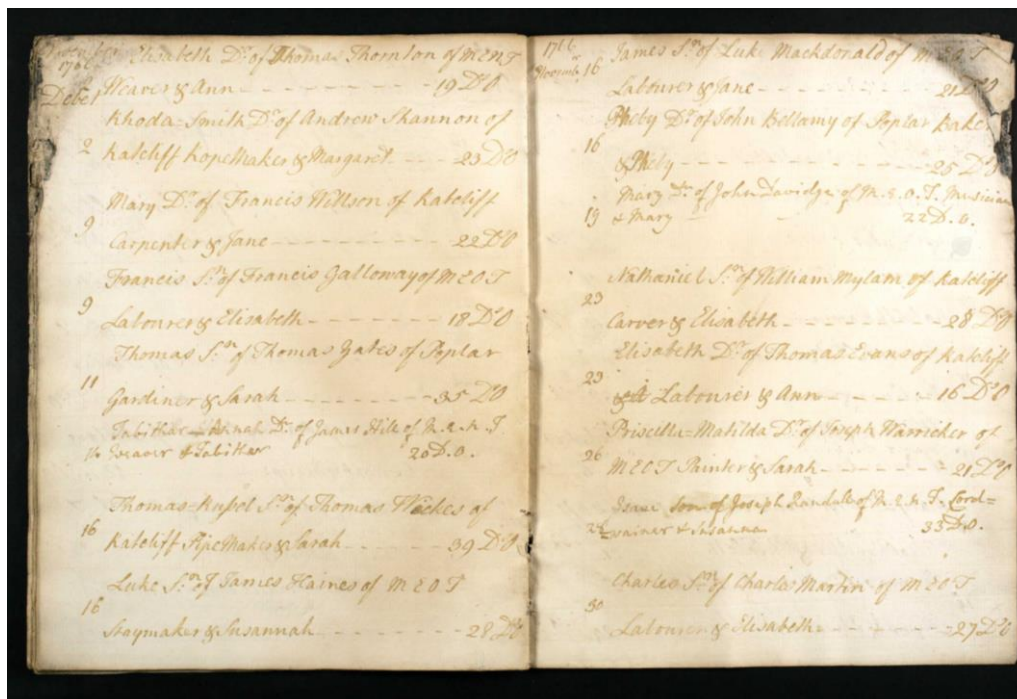
Thomas Gates (1765–1823)

Early Life

Thomas Gates (1745-1811) was born on 13th February 1745 and baptised at St Dunstan and All Saints, Stepney.

Sarah Salmon (1740-1779) was born in 1740.

No record of their marriage has been uncovered so far. Details of their son, Thomas Gates (1765-1823) are sparse. It is possible he was born in 1765 in Tower Hamlets though no documentary record has been found. He was baptised in 11th December 1766 at St Dunstan and All Saints, Stepney.



In 1792 Thomas married Elizabeth Summer and by 1813 they were living in the Old Artillery Ground in Bishopsgate, Tower Hamlets and was employed as a weaver.

Elizabeth Summer (c1771–1835)

We can presume Elizabeth's father was Richard Summers, but that is all we know. (There are a lot of cases with different spouses so impossible to be precise).

Elizabeth was baptised on 24th March 1771 at St Nicholas, Deptford. Her father, Richard Summers, was a "lighterman in the stowage"

A lighter was a workboat whose function was to lighten the load of incoming vessels, thereby allowing them to float over the sand and mud bars. The lighterman transported cargo from vessels in the river to docks or the shore and was a distinct class from the waterman who could only convey passengers. The boats in which the goods were transported were known as 'lighters' or 'barges' (a larger lighter mainly used for transporting coal). These vessels were used to transport corn, timber, stone, groceries and general merchandise and could carry between 6 and 120 tons.

Source: <https://www.redherringsandwhitelies.co.uk/lightermen.html>

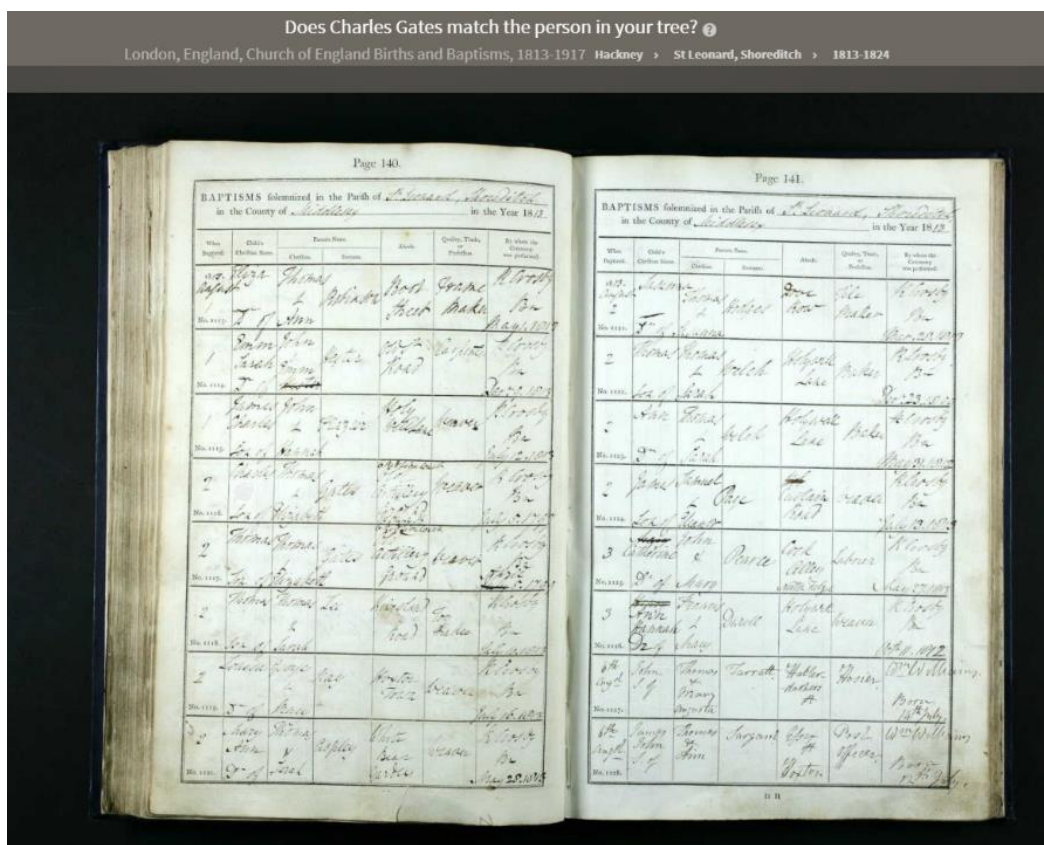
We know nothing else of Elizabeth until her marriage to Thomas.

Marriage of Thomas Gates and Elizabeth Summer

Thomas Gates married Elizabeth Summer on 8th April 1792 in Tower Hamlets.

Thomas Gates (1765-1823) and Elizabeth Summers (1770-1835) had a son Charles Gates who was born on 5th July 1797 when the family lived at 6 Red Lion Court, Old Artillery Ground. (Now called Puma Court; <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/survey-london/vol27/pp198-199>)

Their second son, Thomas was born on 2nd April 1799. Charles and Thomas were both baptised on 2nd August 1813, where their births are recorded. The baptism entries record Thomas's occupation as 'weaver', a profession that Charles's was to occupy in the 1841 census.



By 1813 Thomas and Elizabeth were living in 6 Red Lion Court, Old Artillery Ground in Spitalfields. This was originally the outer precinct of the Priory and Hospital of St Mary Spital, it was converted to an Artillery Ground in 1538, under Henry VIII, for the use of 'The Fraternity or Guild of Artillery of Longbows, Crossbows and Handguns', also known as 'The Fraternity of St George. In the late 17th and early 18th century these were sold off for housing.

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/survey-london/vol27/pp24-38>

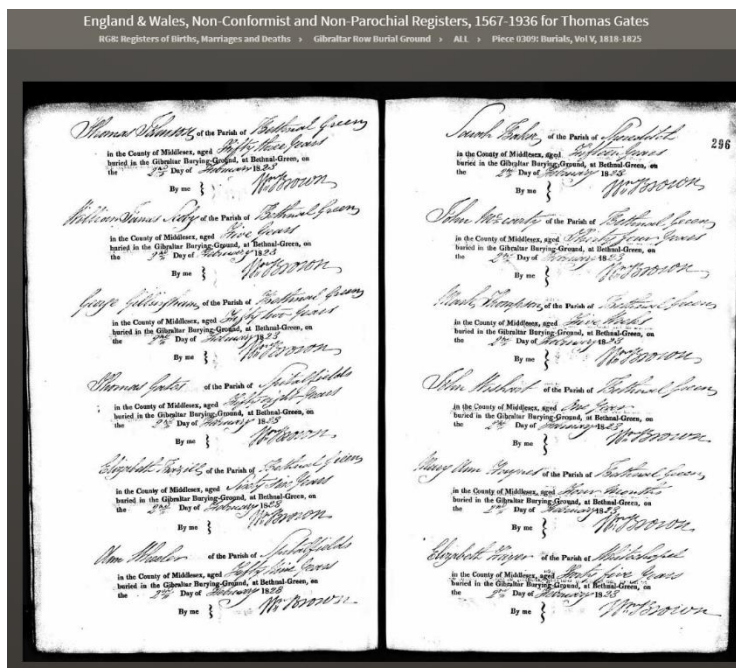
- (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Artillery_Ground)
- <https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/Documents/Planning-and-building-control/Development-control/Conservation-areas/Artillery-PassageV1.pdf>

In the late 17th century and 18th century, a significant community of Huguenot refugees arrived from France, many of whom brought silk-weaving skills from Nantes and Lyons and other French cities. Many settled in the area of the Old Artillery Ground, and established it as a centre of the London silk weaving industry. A hundred years later, Jews fleeing the pogroms in Eastern Europe founded a thriving community in the area.

(Source: <https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/Documents/Planning-and-building-control/Development-control/Conservation-areas/Artillery-PassageV1.pdf>)

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

There is a record of a burial of a Thomas Gates age 58 who was buried 2nd Feb 1823 Gibraltar Walk Non-Conformist Cemetery E2 7LH.



Bethnal Green Protestant Dissenters' Burying Ground (Gibraltar Row Burial Ground) closed in 1855. (Lond. Gaz. 3 Jan. 1854, pp. 4-5; Holmes, Lond. Burial Grounds, 295).

- <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/21498/page/34740>
- <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/21508/page/5>

The Gibraltar Row Burial ground was in use from 1792 until 1855. as the ground of a Congregational chapel. Record of exhumation here post-war. Site of the ground is largely within the courtyard of Meridian Centre. Another private ground, formed about 100 years ago. It belongs to a lady who lives in the house which opens into it, and who has let pieces of it as yards for the shops and houses round. It is full of shrubs, trees, and weeds, and covered with rubbish, and is about ¾ acre in size.

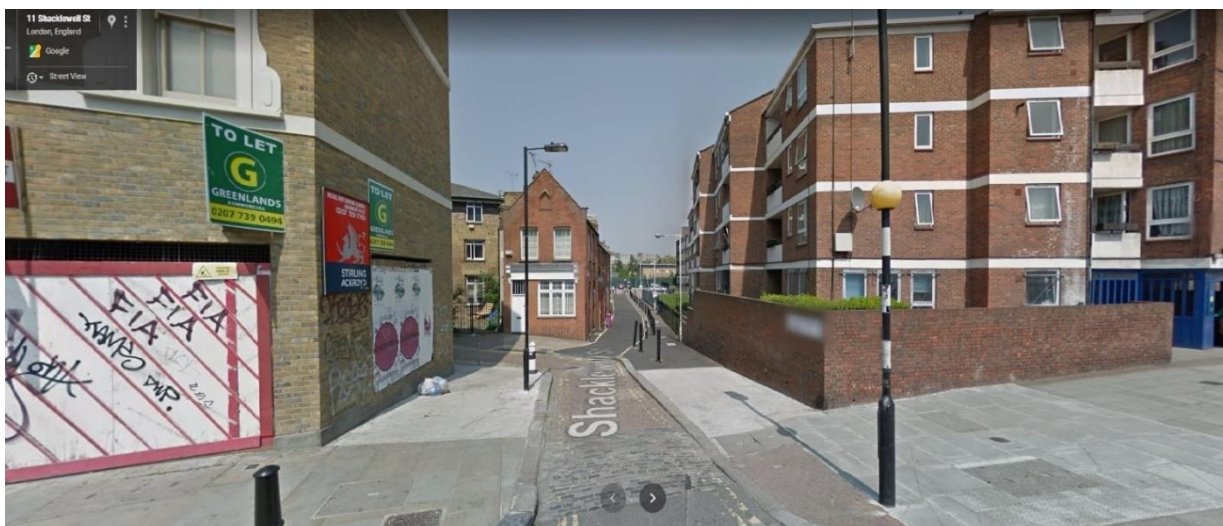
(Source: <http://www.burial.magic-nation.co.uk/bgbethnalgreen.htm>)

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Gibraltar Walk off the Bethnal Green Rd is a handsome terrace of red brick nineteenth century artisans' workshops that once served the furniture trade when it was the primary industry in this area. Of modest construction, yet designed with careful proportions, the terrace curls subtly along Gibraltar Walk, turning a corner and extending the length of Padbury Court, to create one long "L" shaped structure. These appealing back streets still retain their cobbles and there are even a couple of signs left from the days of furniture factories, but, most encouragingly, the majority of these premises are still in use today as workshops for small industries, keeping the place alive



(Source: <https://spitalfieldslife.com/2011/04/25/the-spitalfields-nobody-knows/>)



Gibraltar Walk 2020, looking north from Bethnal Green Road.

Chapter 3 - Thomas Humphris (c1755-c1790) and Martha Ashfield (1755-1842)

Thomas Humphris and Martha Ashfield are two of my 4xgreat grandparents. They are the parents of Thomas Humphreys and so the grandparents of Martha Humphreys who married into the Gates family.

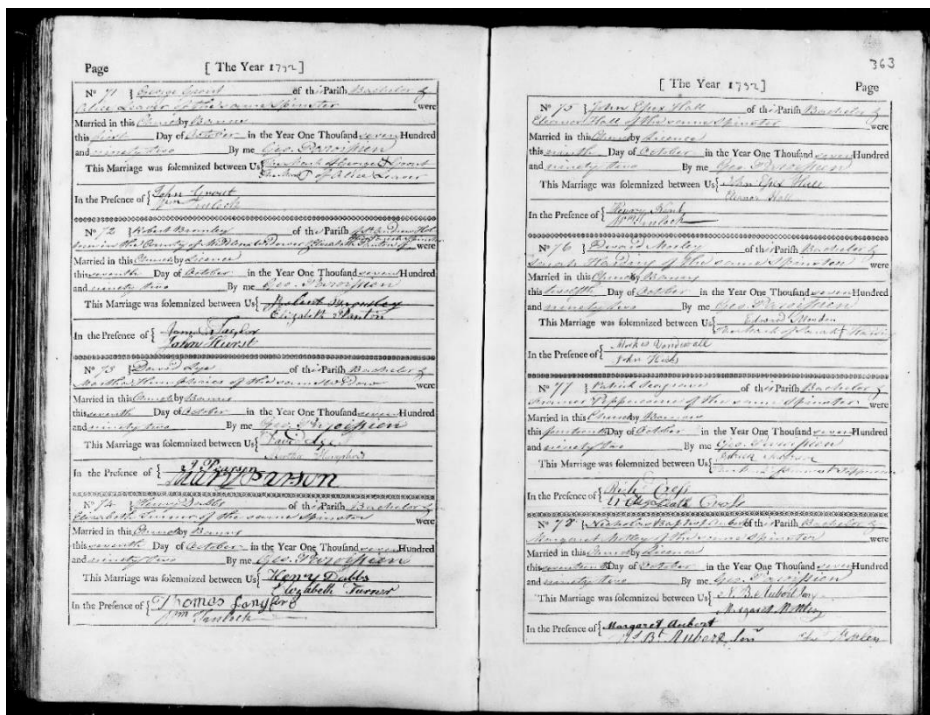
The furthest back on the Humphrey line to date is to Thomas Humphris (c1755-c1790) and Martha Ashfield (c. 1755 - 1842) - the parents of Thomas Humphreys, and so the grandparents of Martha Humphreys and Ann Humphreys. According to Martha Ashfield's death certificate, she would have been born around 1755. It appears here the spelling of the surname changes - explaining the "s" at the end.

Several major events took place between their estimated births and the birth of their son, Thomas Humphreys which give some perspective on their lives. They lived through the American War of Independence, the Battle of Trafalgar, and Waterloo, and the end of slavery in Britain.

The lifestyle of Thomas and Martha remains a mystery. Being unmarried and having a first child aged 33 would have been unusual for the time. At the moment we could only conjecture.

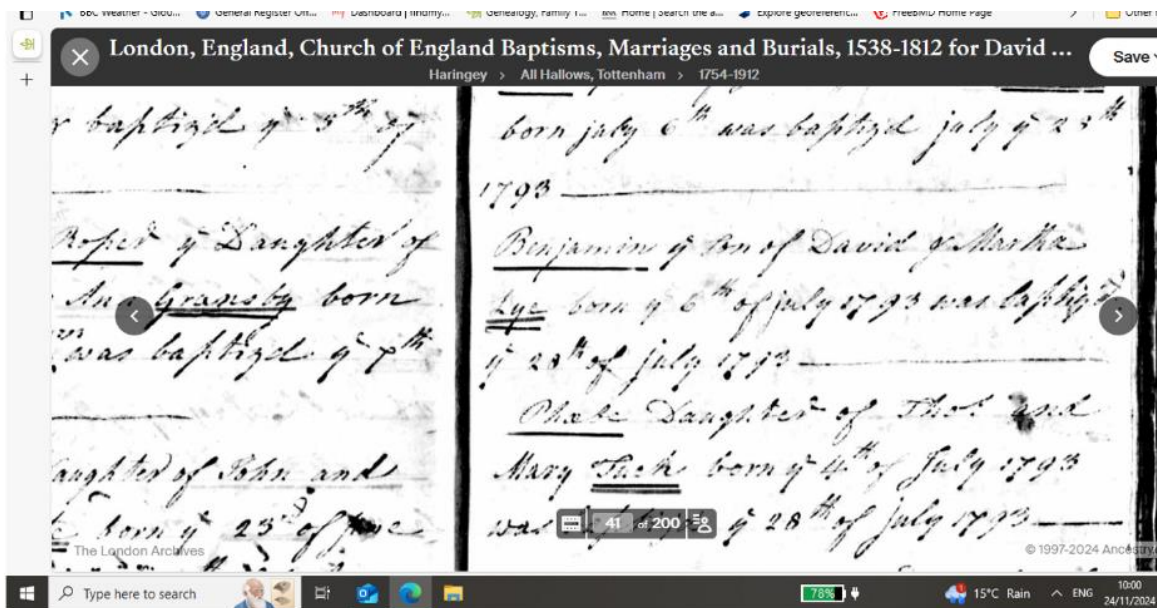
A birth in February 1788 would correlate with Thomas Humphreys age of 77 on his death certificate since he died at the very end of January 1866. On the other hand, his baptism record suggests a place of birth in Hackney, not Tottenham as indicated by census returns.

What subsequently happened to Thomas Humphris* is not clear. We do know that Martha* subsequently married David Lye in Hackney on 7th October 1792 so it is not unreasonable to think they were still living in Hackney then. As yet we do not know from documentary evidence when Thomas Humphris actually died as no record has been found, whether he married Martha* after the birth of their son, or whether they simply separated. However, Martha did take his name on her marriage certificate to David Lye where she was identified as "widow". Hence it is reasonable to presume Thomas and Martha might have married, and Thomas died sometime between 1788 and 1793. It interesting that the spelling 'Humphris' was used on Thomas Humphreys' 1788 baptism register and it was also how Martha (Ashfield?) signed her name on the 1792 marriage register when she married David Lye. The family name was also given as 'Humphris' on Martha Humphreys' 1821 baptism register. We can assume that Martha Humphreys was named after her grandmother, so perhaps she was present and insisted on the spelling of the family name?



Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

However, on 28th July 1793, Martha Lye (formerly Humphreys, and Ashfield) and David Lye baptised a son, Benjamin Lye, at All Hallows', Tottenham when Thomas Humphreys was still a child of around 5 years old. He may have grown up thinking that Tottenham was his own birthplace too.



Section 2 - 3xGreat Grandparents

This section covers the lives of my eight 3xGreat Grandparents, on the Gates side and roughly spans the period 1770-1870. During this period historical evidence becomes more frequent and reliable, including national registration of births deaths and marriages, and the decennial censuses.

- Chapter 4 - Charles Gates and Mary Packer
- Chapter 5 - Thomas Humphrey and Ann
- Chapter 6 - Henry Page and Frances Fitzsimmons
- Chapter 7 - William Sanders and Elizabeth Huddleston

The eight of my 3xGreat Grandparents on the Evans side are covered in Part 1b:

- Chapter 8 - Isaac Evans and Sarah Tisdale
- Chapter 9 - Abel Gyde and Mary Spyer
- Chapter 10 - Henry Finnis and Susannah Nolder
- Chapter 11 - Eli Forster and Catherine Sparkes

During their lifetimes, there was no electricity, there were no trains, no cars, no tarmacked roads. There was no penicillin, no antibiotics, and no one thought cholera was caused by drinking from contaminated water - rather it was presumed by some in authority to be caused by lack of ventilation. It was not discovered that cholera was caused by drinking from contaminated water until Dr John Snow in 1854. It was indeed a different land. There were no state schools, and most children didn't regularly attend any formal educational setting until at least the passing of the Education Act 1844.

They will all have celebrated the coming of the new century on 31st December 1799.

All sixteen lived in a small area of London, including Shoreditch, Hackney, Bethnal Green, and, in the case of Henry Page and Frances Fitzsimons, Piccadilly.

However, it was on the Evans side of the family that Henry Finnis migrated from Kent, and Eli Forster from Cornwall into the east end around the early 1800s.

We cannot know with certainty whether they had the particularly large families we see in later generations; here we have uncovered families of around 5-8 children, though we may not have uncovered all. Child mortality in London during the early 1800s was generally higher than in the 1860s, though both periods had extremely high rates compared to modern standards. However possibly because of the lack of official registration there are few confirmed cases in this generation.

Important events 1770-1890

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_British_history)

1775	19 April	The American War of Independence begins.
1776	4 July	The Declaration of Independence is created and the new country is recognised as the USA.
1777–1779	November 1777 – July 1779	The world's first iron bridge called The Iron Bridge, is built-in Shropshire.
	4 September	The American War of Independence ends with the Treaty of Paris.
	19 December	William Pitt the Younger becomes Prime Minister.
1785	1 January	The Times is first published and becomes the first newspaper to have borne that name
1801	1 January	The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland comes into being, and King George III becomes its first monarch.
1805	21 October	The naval Battle of Trafalgar takes place.
1807	25 March	The Slave Trade Act 1807 is passed.
1815	18 June	The Battle of Waterloo takes place.
	20 November	The Napoleonic Wars ends.
1819		SS Savannah undergoes the first steamship transatlantic crossing.
1820	29 January	King George III dies and George IV ascends the throne.
1821	5 May	The Guardian is first published, as The Manchester Guardian.
1825	27 September	The Stockton and Darlington railway, the world's first public passenger railway, opens.
1828	22 January	Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington becomes Prime Minister.
1829	13 April	The Roman Catholic Relief Act 1829 is passed.
1830	26 June	King George IV dies and William IV ascends the throne.
	22 November	Charles Grey, 2nd Earl Grey becomes Prime Minister.
1832	7 June	The Great Reform Act is passed, doubling the franchise.
1833	28 August	The Slavery Abolition Act 1833 gains royal assent, banning slavery throughout the British Empire.
1834	?	The Conservative Party is founded.
	16 July	William Lamb, 2nd Viscount Melbourne becomes Prime Minister.
	14 August	The New Poor Law is passed.
	17 November	Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington becomes Prime Minister
	10 December	Robert Peel becomes Prime Minister.
1837	20 June	The reign of Queen Victoria begins.
1838	1 August	The Slavery Abolition Act 1833 enters into force, abolishing slavery in the British Empire.
1840	10 January	The first postage stamps (Penny Post) come into use.
1841	30 August	Robert Peel becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
1842	Summer	The first peacetime income tax is introduced.
1846	27 January	The Corn Laws are repealed.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

1848	Late February	The Communist Manifesto is published by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.
1850		The East Coast Main Line opens.
1851	1 May	The Great Exhibition opens.
1853–1856	16 October 1853 – 30 March 1856	The Crimean War is fought between Russia and a British alliance who feared Russian expansion in the Balkans, resulting in allied victory.
1854	?	Doctor John Snow discovers that cholera is from contaminated water
	29 June	The Daily Telegraph is first published.
1859	12 June	Henry John Temple, 3rd Viscount Palmerston becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
1861	14 December	Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, dies at the age of 42.
1863	10 January	The London Underground opens, the oldest underground railway network in the world.
1867	15 August	The 1867 Reform Act doubles the franchise and the Dominion of Canada was created.
1868	27 February	Benjamin Disraeli becomes Prime Minister.
	29 May	The last public execution is carried out.
	3 December	William Ewart Gladstone becomes Prime Minister.
1869		The West Coast Main Line opens.
1870	17 February	The Elementary Education Act 1870 is passed, introducing universal education in England and Wales.
1872	6 August	The Education (Scotland) Act 1872 expands access to primary education and makes it compulsory in Scotland.
1874	20 February	Benjamin Disraeli becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
1880	23 April	William Ewart Gladstone becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
	26 August	The Elementary Education Act 1880 is passed, making primary schooling compulsory in England and Wales.
	25 June	The Reform Act 1885 is passed.
1886	1 February	William Ewart Gladstone becomes Prime Minister for the third time.
	21 June	Construction begins on Tower Bridge in London.
	14 - 15 April	The RMS Titanic sinks after hitting an iceberg.

Chapter 4 - Charles Gates (1779–1852) and Mary Packer (1795–1861)

Charles Gates and Mary Packer are two of my 3xgreat grandparents. They are the parents of Thomas Gates and so the grandparents of Thomas Humphreys Gates, the father of my grandfather.

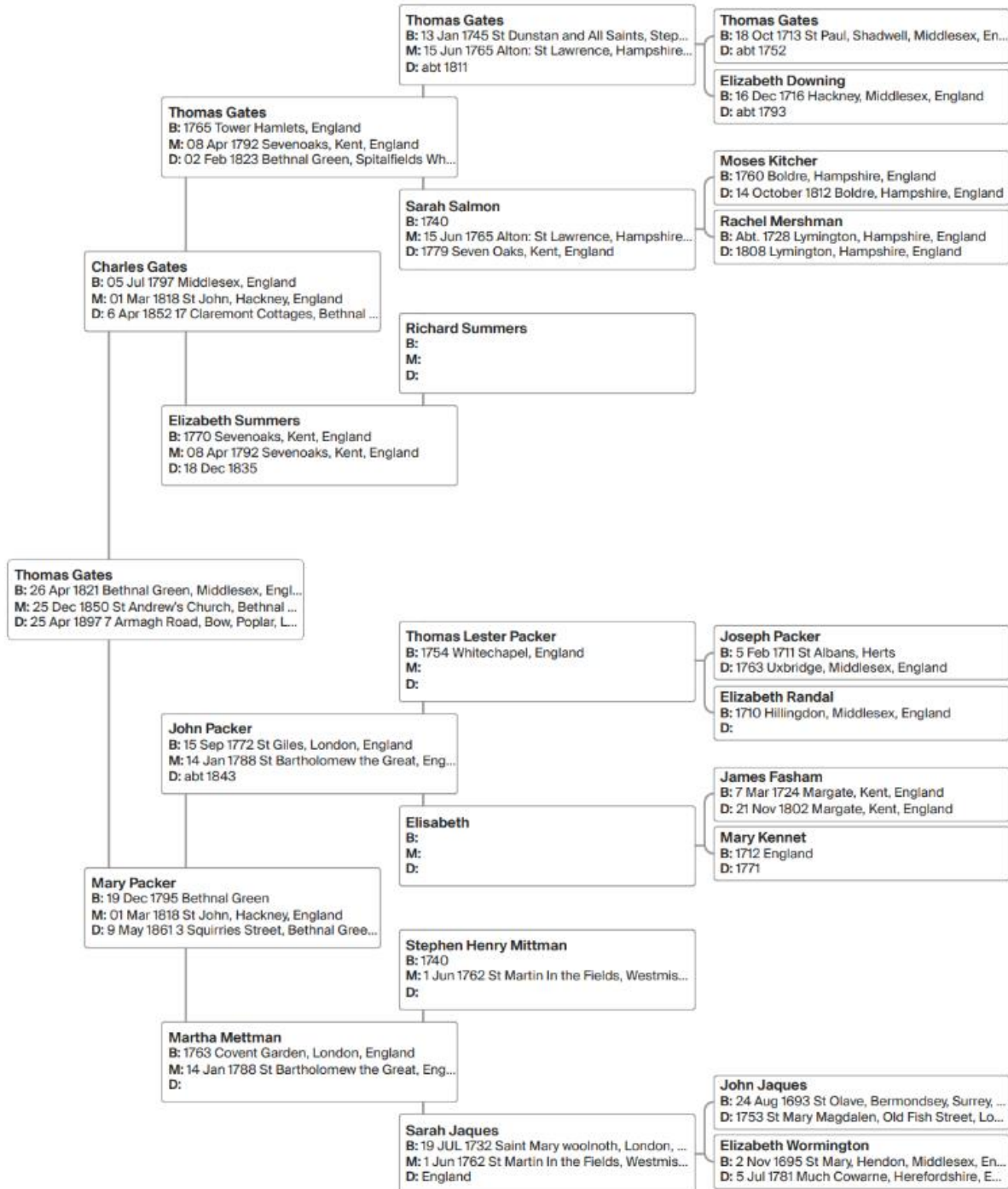
I never knew anything at all about Charles and Mary before beginning this work. They were born in Shoreditch and Bethnal Green at the end of the 18th century and appear to have had possibly 6 children. They were born in the reign of George III, and would have known about the battles of Trafalgar and Waterloo. When they were very young, slavery was abolished in England, and they will have witnessed the opening of the railways in their 30s.

As of now we know little of their families and little of their lives given the lack of documentation at the time. Charles however like his father Thomas, was a silk weaver, and passed this onto his sons, including Thomas, my great grandfather – who witnessed the gradual decline of the industry.

In many respects, they still remain somewhat of a historical mystery.

Family Tree of Charles and Mary

Interestingly, the family tree of Charles and Mary appears to be rather more geographically disparate than others in this part.

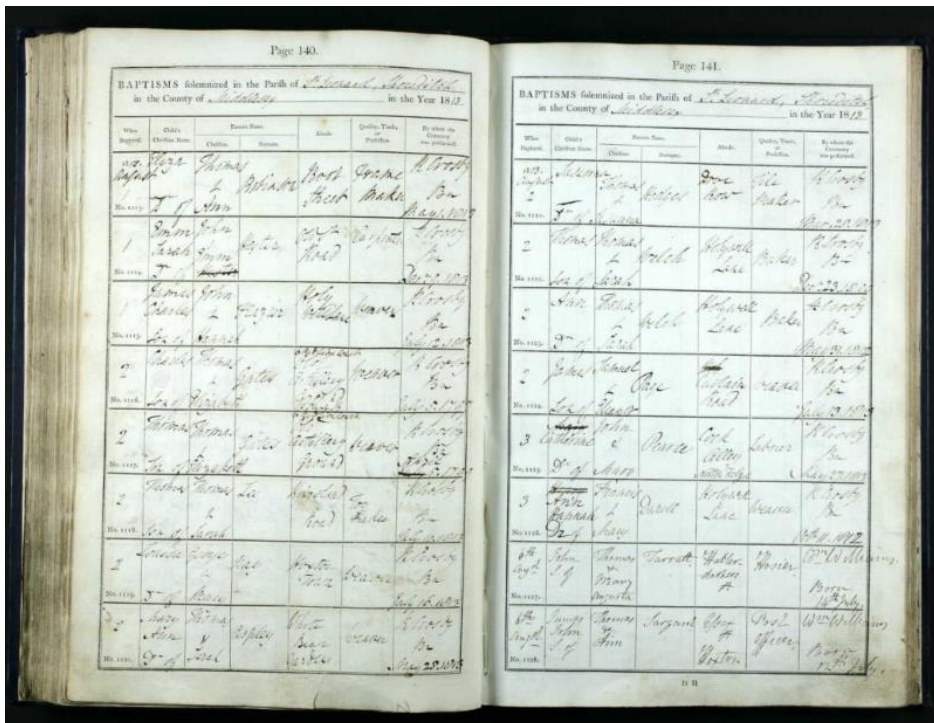


Charles Gates (1797–1852)

Early Life

Charles Gates was born on 5th July 1797 to Thomas Gates* (1765-1823) and Elizabeth Summers (1770-1835) when the family lived at 6 Red Lion Court, Old Artillery Ground. (Now called Puma Court (see: <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/survey-london/vol27/pp198-199>)

Charles was baptised at same time as his younger brother, Thomas - where his birth is recorded as 5th December 1797. The baptism entries record his father's occupation as 'weaver', a profession that Charles's was to occupy in the 1841 census.



St Leonards 119 Shoreditch High St, London E1 6JN

St Leonard's, Shoreditch, is the ancient parish church of Shoreditch, often known simply as **Shoreditch Church**. It is located at the intersection of Shoreditch High Street with Hackney Road, within the London Borough of Hackney in East London. The current building dates from about 1740 and is Grade I listed. The church is mentioned in the line "When I grow rich", say the bells of Shoreditch" from the nursery rhyme *Oranges and Lemons*. (Wikipedia)

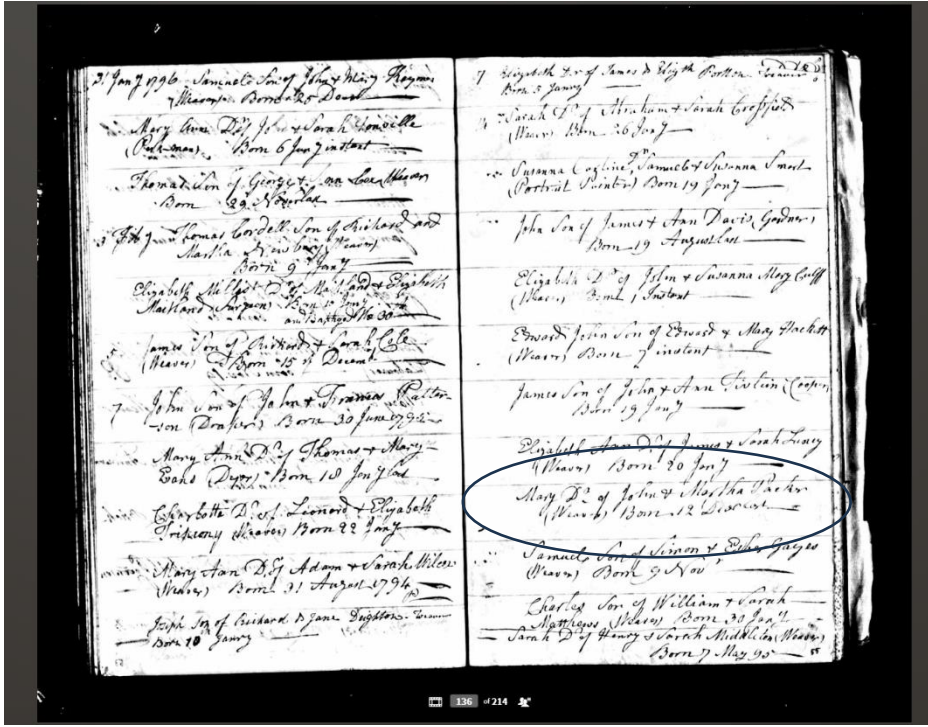
St Leonards plays a significant part in the history of the family, being the location for numerous births and marriages through the years.

We currently know nothing more of Charles' life between before 1813 and between 1813 and 1817, when he will have met Mary Packer.

Mary Packer (1795-1861)

Early Life

Mary Packer was born on 12th December 1795 to John Packer* (1772 – 1843) and Mary (formerly Mettman) (1763 - ??) and baptised on 14th February 1796 at St Matthew, Bethnal Green, Tower Hamlets,



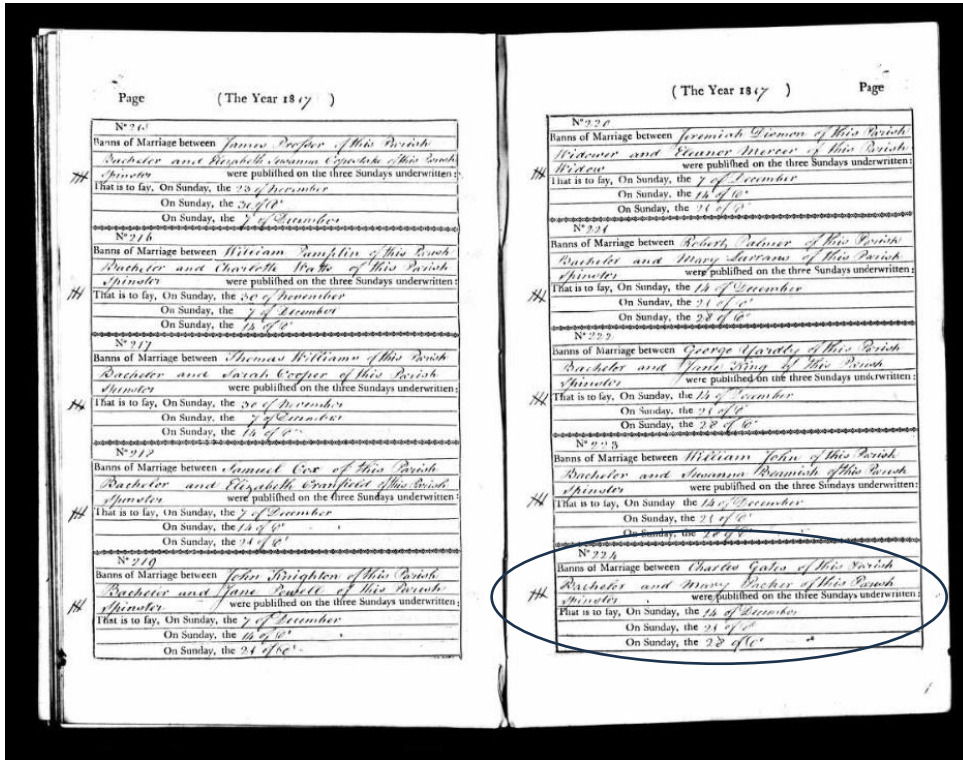
We know nothing further of Mary.

Marriage 1818

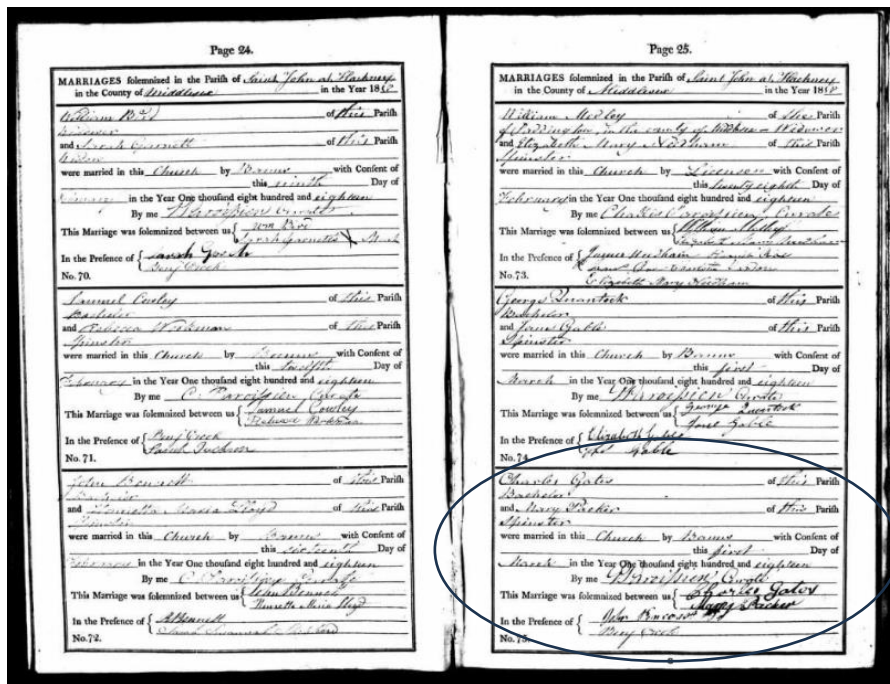
Mary Packer married Charles Gates in 1818.

The Marriage of Charles Gates and Mary Packer

Charles and Mary would have met in or before 1817, and their Banns were read on 14th, 21st and 28th December 1817 at St John at Hackney.



They were subsequently married on 1st March 1818.



1820 onward

It is from around 1820 that the Gates family migrated to Bethnal Green, and became established as an east-end family. This geographical coinfection continued with part of the growing family remaining here for over 100 years

(NB: See the chapter on Bethnal Green on the Historical Background section)

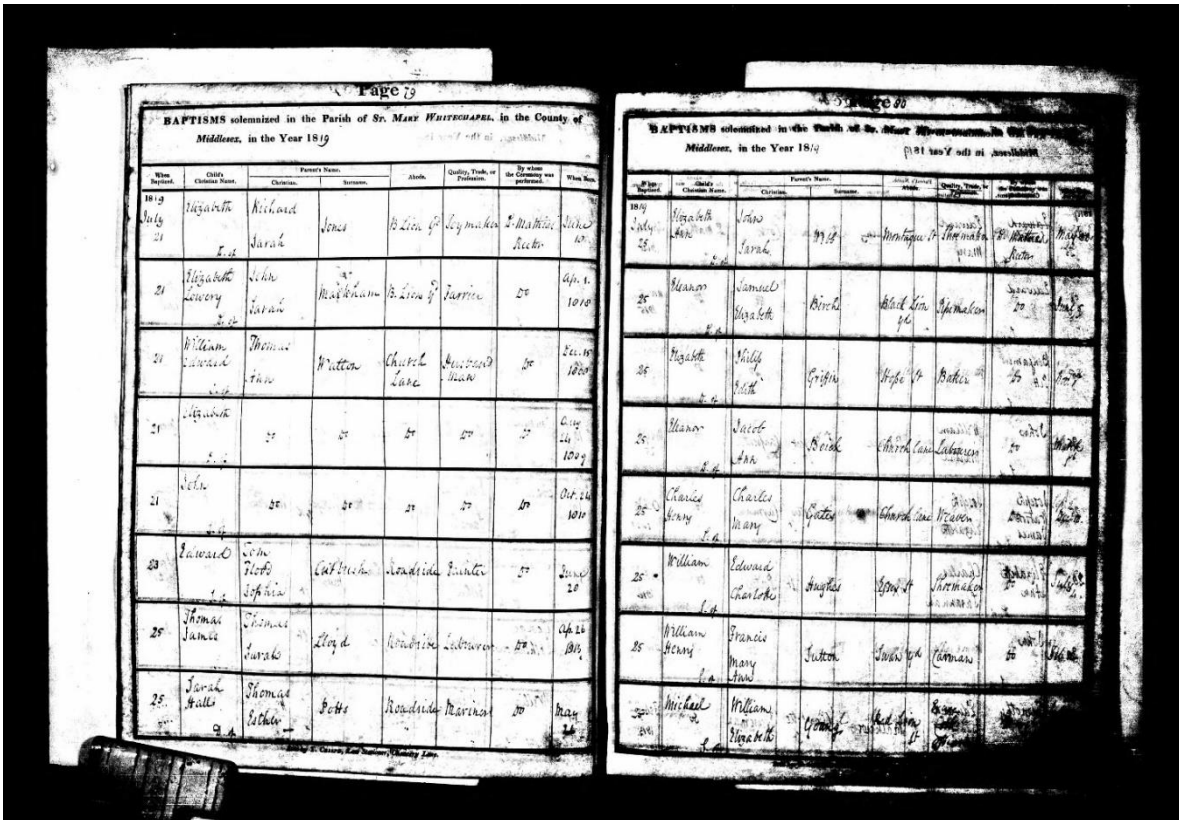
There are baptism records of 4, possibly 6 children.

- Charles Henry Gates, born (illegible), baptised on 25th July 1819 at St Mary, Whitechapel, residence Church Lane.
- Thomas Gates*, born 26th April 1821, baptised on 20th May 1821 at St Matthew, Bethnal Green, Residence unknown.
- Mary Ann Gates, born 23 Oct 1823, baptised on 26th December 1823 at St Matthew, Bethnal Green, residence, Beckford Row.
- John Gates, born on 23 Oct 1826, baptised on 12th November 1826 at St Matthew, Bethnal Green, residence, possibly Wolvery Street.

In addition, the following baptism records may also record children of Charles and his wife Mary:

- Martha Gates born on 11th August 1831, baptised on 12th November 1837 at St John, Hackney, residence Lamb Lane.
- George Gates born (not stated), baptised on 12th November 1837 at St John Hackney, residence Lamb Lane.

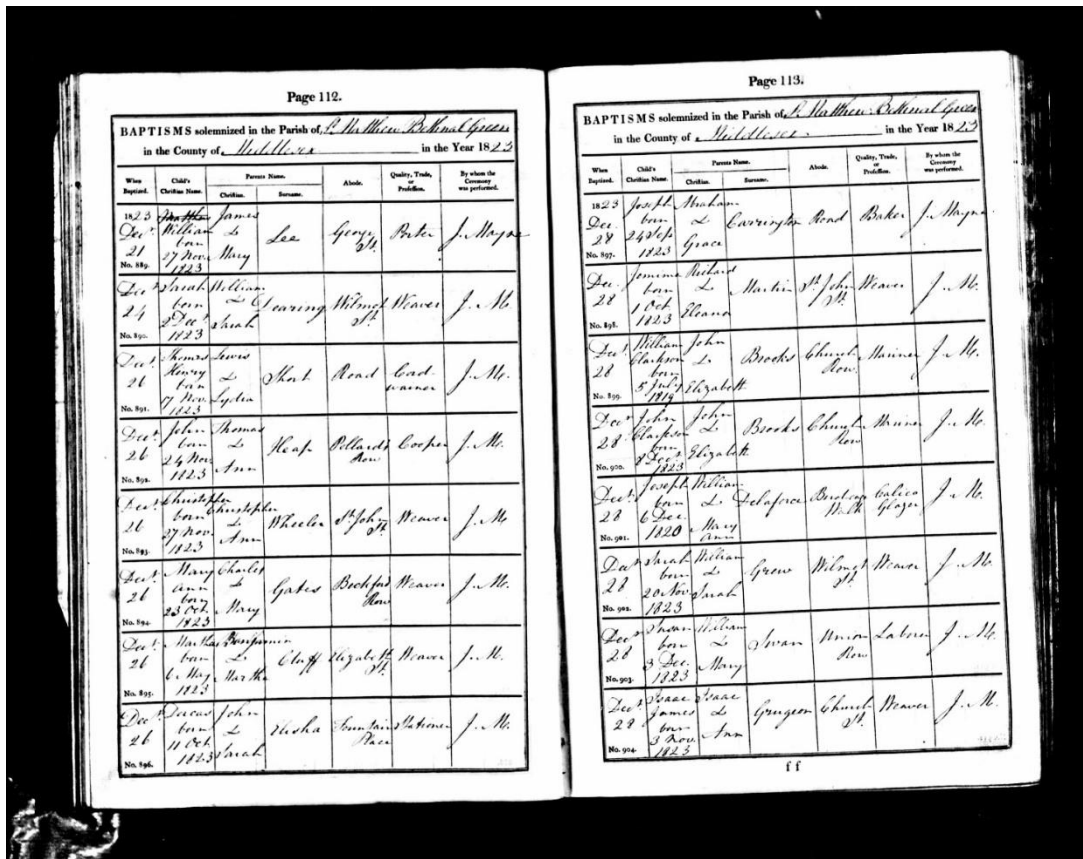
Charles Gates (24) and Mary Packer (26) had their first child, Charles Henry Gates, at Church Lane in 1819. He was baptised on 25th July 1819 at St Mary, Whitechapel.



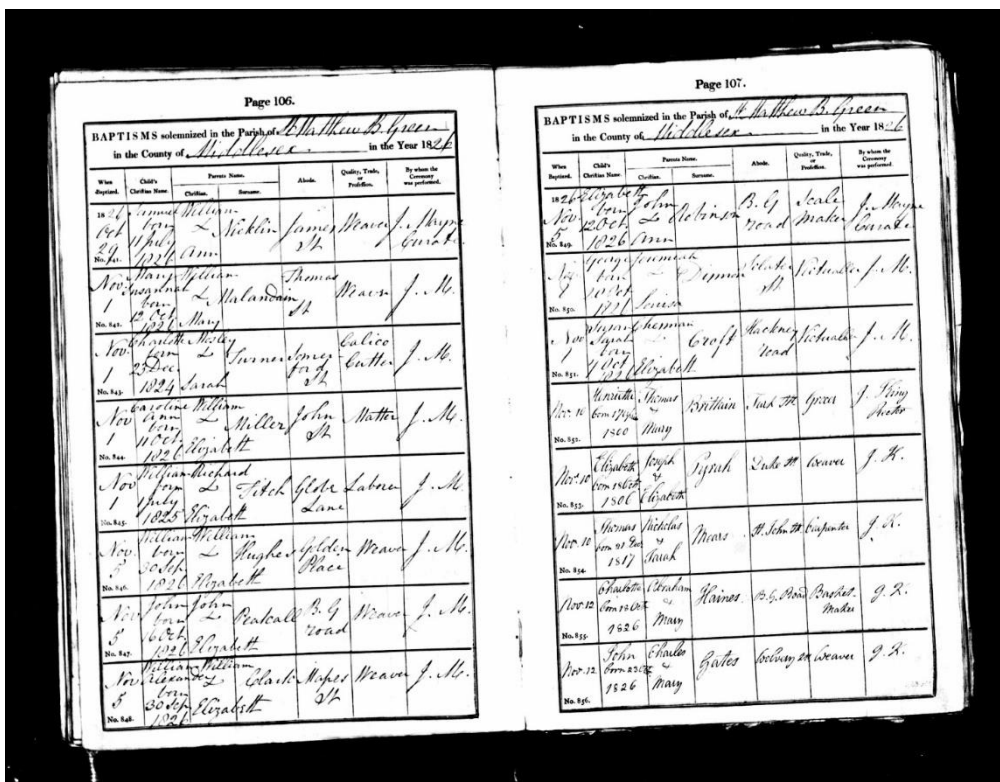
- Their second child, Thomas Gates was born on 26th Apr 1821 in Bethnal Green baptised on 20th May 1821 at St Matthew, Bethnal Green, Residence unknown.

Those Who Went Before Me - 1a The Gates Line

Their third child, Mary Ann Gates was born in Beckford Row (Mape Street) Bethnal Green, on 23rd October 1823 and baptised at St Matthew, Bethnal Green, on 26th December 1823.



Their fourth child, John Gates was born in Wolvery Street on 23rd October 1826 and baptised at St Matthews, Bethnal Green on 12th November 1826.



Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Their fifth child, Martha Gates was born at Lamb Lane on 11th August 1831 and baptised at St John, Hackney on 12th November 1837.

Their sixth child, George Gates was born at Lamb Lane (date not specified) and baptised on 12th November 1837 St John Hackney the same day, and immediately after Martha. According to the Baptism Certificates of Martha and George, in November 1837 the family appeared to still live in Lamb Lane, Hackney.

The image shows two pages of a baptism register. Page 204 (left) and Page 205 (right) both list baptisms in the Parish of Hackney, County of Middlesex, in the year 1837. The register is organized into columns for the date of baptism, the child's name, the parents' names, the child's age, the quality of the father, and the name of the officiating minister. The entries are as follows:

Date	Child's Name	Parents	Age	Quality of Father	Officiant
1837 18 th No. 1082	Isaac	John Wilson & d.f. Rebecca	Week	Labourer	W. Whitton
19 th No. 1083	John	William & d.f. Louisa	Week	Labourer	W. Whitton
22 nd No. 1087	John	William & d.f. Anne	Week	Labourer	W. Whitton
29 th No. 1088	James	James & d.f. Ann	Week	Labourer	W. Whitton
29 th No. 1089	Samuel	John & d.f. Jane	Week	Labourer	W. Whitton
29 th No. 1090	Charles	Charles & d.f. Sarah	Week	Labourer	W. Whitton
29 th No. 1091	William	Joseph & d.f. Jane	Week	Labourer	W. Whitton
29 th No. 1092	Henry	John & d.f. Elizabeth	Week	Labourer	W. Whitton
1837 1 st No. 1093	Rosa	Thomas & d.f. Ann	Week	Labourer	W. Whitton
5 th No. 1094	Arch	Henry & d.f. Sarah	Week	Labourer	W. Whitton
5 th No. 1095	Isaac	Henry & d.f. Sarah	Week	Labourer	W. Whitton
12 th No. 1096	Thomas	John & d.f. Ann	Week	Labourer	W. Whitton
12 th No. 1097	Ann	William & d.f. Elizabeth	Week	Labourer	W. Whitton
12 th No. 1098	Martha	Charles & d.f. Mary	Week	Labourer	W. Whitton
12 th No. 1099	George	Charles & d.f. Mary	Week	Labourer	W. Whitton
12 th No. 1100	Henry	Joseph & d.f. Mary	Week	Labourer	W. Whitton

The baptism records of Martha and George record Charles as a watchmaker, so it may be these are from a different family. While the children’s names and ages on the baptism records compare well with the Gates family as it was listed on the 1841 census, the identification of the Martha and George of the Hackney baptism records is yet to be proved. Whilst most of the information correlates, the different profession of the father is especially difficult to explain, and may have been an error - they were after all baptised the same day.

1840 onward

Now from the 1840s, this part of the family moves to Mile End where they eventually meet up with another Mile End/Bethnal Green family, the Evans.

(NB: See the chapter on Bethnal Green on the Historical Background section)

1841 Census

In 1841 Charles* was 44 and Mary (Packer) was 45. They lived with their 5 children in Dunk Street, in the "Hamlet of Mile End Old Town":

- Thomas Gates* (20 b 1821)
- Mary Gates (15 b 1826) (This is an error as Mary was born in 1823, so would be age 17)
- John Gates (15 b 1826)
- Martha Gates (10 b 1831)
- George Gates (5 b 1836)

Charles*, Thomas and John were all silk weavers. Charles Henry (b. 1819) would have been 22 and likely to have left home.

Montague, who became the second Baron Halifax and the first Earl of Halifax of the third creation after the death of his uncle, Charles Montague, Earl of Halifax, in 1715. George was succeeded by his son, George, the second Earl, who took on the name Montague-Dunk upon marrying Ann Dunk in 1741. The title lapsed upon his death in 1771, and the Mile End New Town estates were inherited by his nephew, Sir George Osborn. The Osborn family retained ownership of the entire property until 1849 when more than half of it was sold to settle mortgages.

According to Rocque's map of 1746, there was limited progress in building development in the eastern part of the estate since 1700. Long Street, located east of the High Street, was not yet fully formed, and there were only two small blocks of buildings on the north side. King Edward Street had only a few houses at its southeastern corner, along with a terrace initiated by Heatley on the west side. Dunk Street abruptly ended, reaching only a quarter of its intended length.

Building progressed in the last quarter of the eighteenth century. Horwood's map of 1799 shows that Dunk Street had been completed. By the beginning of the 20th century, the majority of the population residing in the area were Jewish, comprising approximately 95-100% of the residents. Dunk Street alone boasted five synagogues, reflecting the religious and cultural importance of the neighbourhood.

The entire neighbourhood where Dunk Street once stood, located in London's East End, has undergone redevelopment, resulting in the street's disappearance.

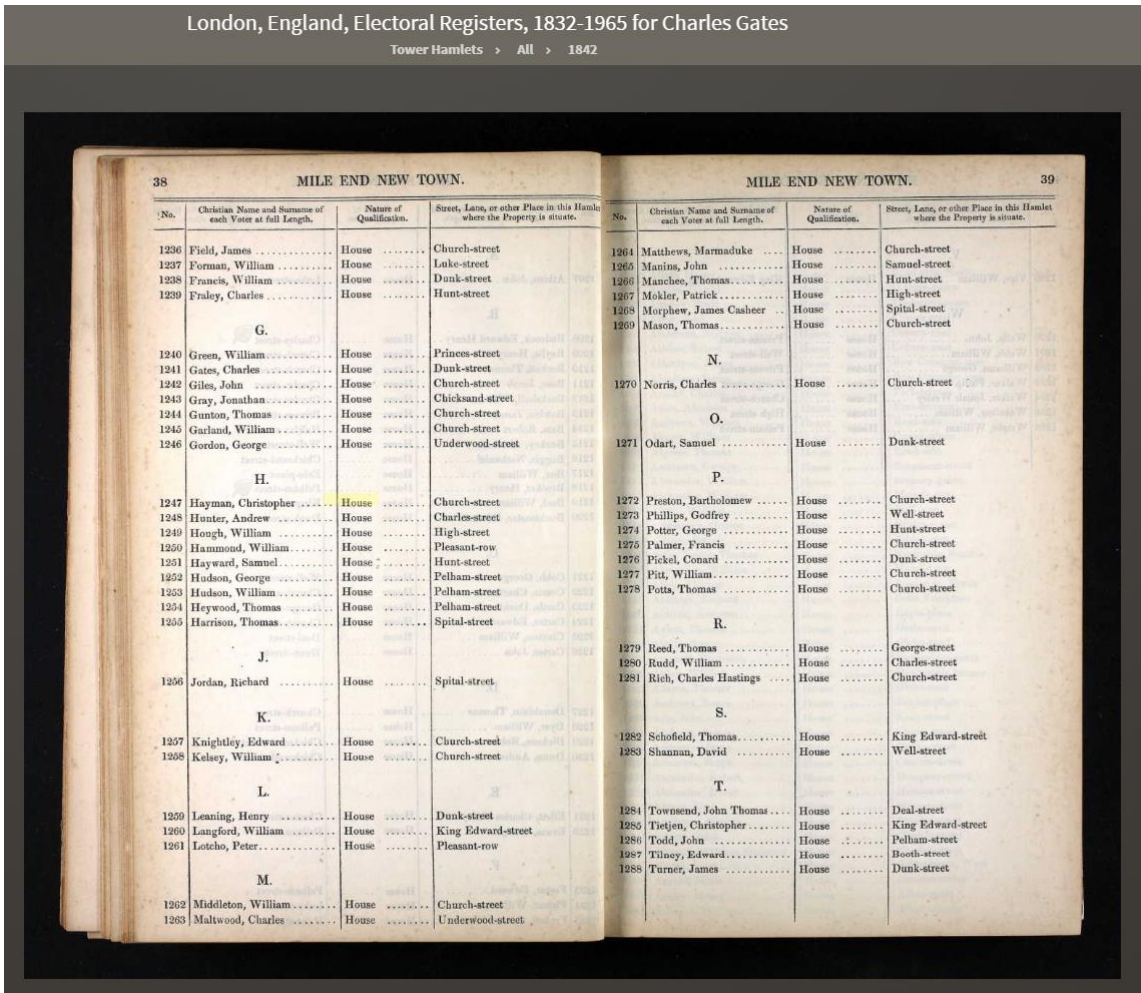
(See: <https://www.theundergroundmap.com/article.html?id=102407>)

Children of Charles and Mary

While we have evidence of possibly 6 children born to Charles and Mary, no further evidence has come to light of their lives apart from that of Thomas who in May 1842, met and married Martha Humphreys. Their lives are covered in Chapter 8.

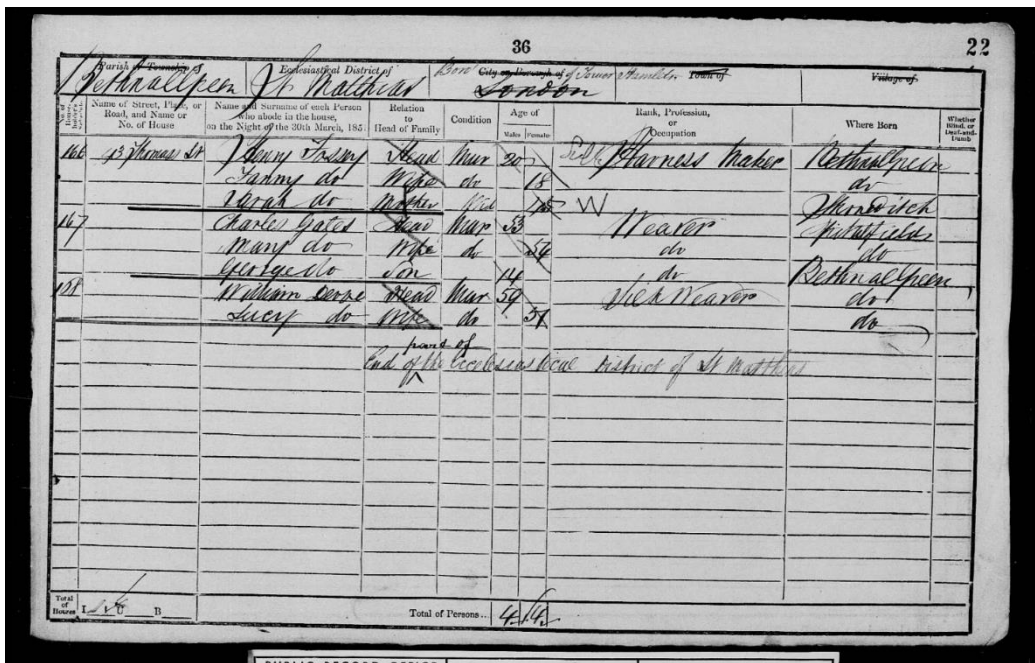
Those Who Went Before Me - 1a The Gates Line

In 1842 Charles still lived in Dunk Street, Mile End New Town according to the Electoral Register.



1851

In the 1851 Census taken on 30th March 1851 Charles and Mary now lived in 42 Thomas Street, Bethnal Green with son George who was 14, and who was also a weaver.



Death of Charles

Charles died in 1852 at 17 Claremont Cottages, of "phthisis" (pulmonary tuberculosis) which he had suffered from for 8 months.

1848: Claremont Cottages Lansdowne-Place, Bethnal Green, 24.-Are each a row of nine houses in a cul de sac court, which appears clean, being unpaved, however, the ground readily becomes muddy and dirty.

(Source: <https://www.victorianlondon.org/publications/sanitary-2.htm>)

Superintendent Registrar's District <i>Bethnal Green</i>									
Registrar's District <i>Hackney Road</i>									
1852. DEATHS in the District of <i>Hackney Road</i> in the County of <i>Middlesex</i>									
No.	When Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
<i>21</i>	<i>Sixth April 1852</i>	<i>Charles Gates</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>44 years</i>	<i>Weaver</i>	<i>Phthisis 8 months Certified</i>	<i>Mary Gates Bethnal Green 17 Claremont Cottages Bethnal Green</i>	<i>Sixth April 1852</i>	<i>James Murray Registrar</i>

The age here appears to be 10 years out, so Charles Gates' death certificate is not absolutely accurate. On the certificate each of his name, occupation and wife's name are all correct and that the age disparity may be an error. An enumerator overhearing "fifty-four" may well have misheard or inadvertently wrote "44". Furthermore, on the GRO death index there did not appear to be any other credible Charles Gates in the locality.

Charles was buried on 18th April 1852 at Saint Matthew, St Matthew's Row, Bethnal Green, London E2 6DT (FHL Film Noi 849417, p 273, rn 2179.)

Saint Matthew church, Bethnal Green

The church was built 1743–46, to a Classical design. The church itself is Grade II* listed; it is the Classical exterior that is the primary reason for the high level of listing. The funerals of the Kray twins were both held at St Matthew's. The churchyard closed to burials in the 1850s. The landscape gardener Fanny Wilkinson, for the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association, converted it to a public garden in 1896. Wilkinson removed all but two of the tombs. The parish of Bethnal Green was created in 1742, and the new church of St Matthew was consecrated in 1746, although an earlier church had been proposed under the Fifty New Churches Commissioners. The population had grown particularly following the arrival of Huguenots, who established their textile industry here. The Watch House in the churchyard was built in 1754 as a measure to prevent body snatching. The churchyard closed for burials in the mid-1850s and in 1896 was turned into a public garden when the majority of tombs were removed. Two railed tombs remain, including that of former churchwarden Joseph Merceron. It is mostly grassed over, with large plane trees by an oval path to the north of the church. There are remains of the C19th railings on the boundary with St Matthew's Row. A rose garden is to the south of the church and an area to the east has formal beds, palms and other ornamental planting.

Proposals for a separate parish of Bethnal Green were being discussed in the 1690s, at which time the village of Bethnal Green was within the large parish of Stepney. The original site proposed for a new church of St Matthew was on Bethnal Green common lands, now the location of Bethnal Green Gardens but this was refused by the Trustees of the Poor Land's Charity who held the land. Following the Fifty New Churches Act of 1711, the Fifty New Churches Commissioners eventually purchased a piece of land to the west, which was part of Hare Fields; Hare Street was the old

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

name of Cheshire Street. Although at a distance from the village centre, the population of this area had developed particularly following the arrival of Huguenots fleeing persecution, who established their silk and textile industry here. The new parish was created by Act of Parliament in 1742. The church was designed by George Dance the Elder, although an earlier scheme for a much larger building had been drawn up by Nicholas Hawksmoor, a 'Basilica after the Primitive Christians'. Dance's church was consecrated in 1746

The churchyard witnessed more than burials at times, an adjacent piece of land was used for dog and bullock baiting in the C18th and this led on at least one occasion to an interruption of the Sunday service by the arrival of a fleeing animal seeking refuge following a chase through the churchyard. It was also subject to body snatching and to counteract this the Watch House was built in 1754. The watchman was issued with 'blunderbuss and rattle' to apprehend miscreants. The Watch House was later expanded to house the parish fire engine. Like many overcrowded churchyards in London, its closure came as a result of the first Burial Act of 1852 and its subsequent amendments during the 1850s. The Metropolitan Open Spaces Acts of 1877 and 1881 and the Disused Burial Grounds Act of 1884, later extended under the Metropolitan Open Spaces Act of 1887, enabled 'open spaces and burial grounds in the Metropolis for the use of the inhabitants thereof for exercise and recreation'. In 1896 the churchyard was converted into a public garden, the work undertaken by Fanny Wilkinson, landscape gardener of the MPGA. The majority of tombs were removed and listed in the Central Registry Office, although two railed tombs remain. One is that of Joseph Merceron (1764-1839), former churchwarden and licensing magistrate who spent a period in prison for running a protection racket and appropriating nearly £1,000 of church funds, but he returned to his former offices, was elected Senior Curate and lived to an old age and a local street is named after him. The second tomb, which has been renovated and rededicated in 2013, is the family tomb of Peter Renvoize (1757-1842). Renvoize was also implicated with Merceron in stealing the church poor funds in 1819. However, he was also a benefactor of Parmiter's School, founded by silk merchant Thomas Parmiter in Bethnal Green, and which moved to Watford in the 1980s. (London Gardens Trust)

1861 Census (7 April)

Mary Gates now is 65 and living as a widow in 3 Squires Street Bethnal Green, Tower Hamlets which she shares with several others. She is working as a needlewoman.

Page 48

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Parish (or Portenities) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Hamlet or Tything, &c., of	Episcopal District of		
Bethnal Green		South	Tower Hamlets			St. James's St.		
No. of Houses	House No., Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Age of Person	Sex	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind or Deaf and Dumb
297	1	Walter Arnold	Head	58	M	Labourer	St. M. B. Green	
		John	Son	9	M			
		Emily Barnes	Wife	19	F	Labourer	St. James's St.	
		William Sanderson	Head	29	M	Barry Man	St. James's St.	
		Agnes	Wife	25	F		St. James's St.	
		Henry Bigg	Head	9	M		St. James's St.	
		John W. Bartholomew	Head	28	M	Labourer	St. James's St.	
		John	Son	3	M		St. M. B. G.	
		William	Son	11	M	Labourer	St. James's St.	
		James White	Head	27	M	Labourer	St. James's St.	
298	2	Mary Gates	Wife	65	F	Needlewoman	St. M. B. Green	
299	3	William Sanderson	Head	31	M	Labourer	St. James's St.	
300	"	Agnes	Wife	25	F		St. James's St.	
301	"	John W. Bartholomew	Head	28	M	Labourer	St. James's St.	
302	"	John	Son	3	M		St. M. B. G.	
303	4	George Potts	Head	55	M		St. James's St.	
		John	Son	7	M			
		Agnes	Wife	25	F			
		William	Son	11	M			
		John	Son	3	M			
		William	Son	11	M			
		John	Son	3	M			
304	5	John	Head	22	M		St. James's St.	
		William	Son	3	M		St. M. B. G.	
		John	Son	1	M			
		John	Son	1	M			
10	Total of Houses..	6		Total of Males and Females..	8	16		

Eng.—Sheet 11.

Death of Mary

Mary died aged 65 on 19th May 1861, at 3 Squires Street Bethnal Green of "disease of the uterus" possibly cancer. The certificate gives her dead husband's name as "Richard" but given the address and the informant being "Elizabeth Summer" this is likely to have been a mistake. (1861, Jun, Bethnal Green, 01C, 194)

194	19th May 1861 3 Squires Street	Mary Gates	female	65 years	Widow of Richard Gates a Silk Weaver	Disease of the Uterus. Certified	The mark of Elizabeth Summer Present at Death 3 Squires Street Bethnal Green	19th May 1861	James Briggis Registrar
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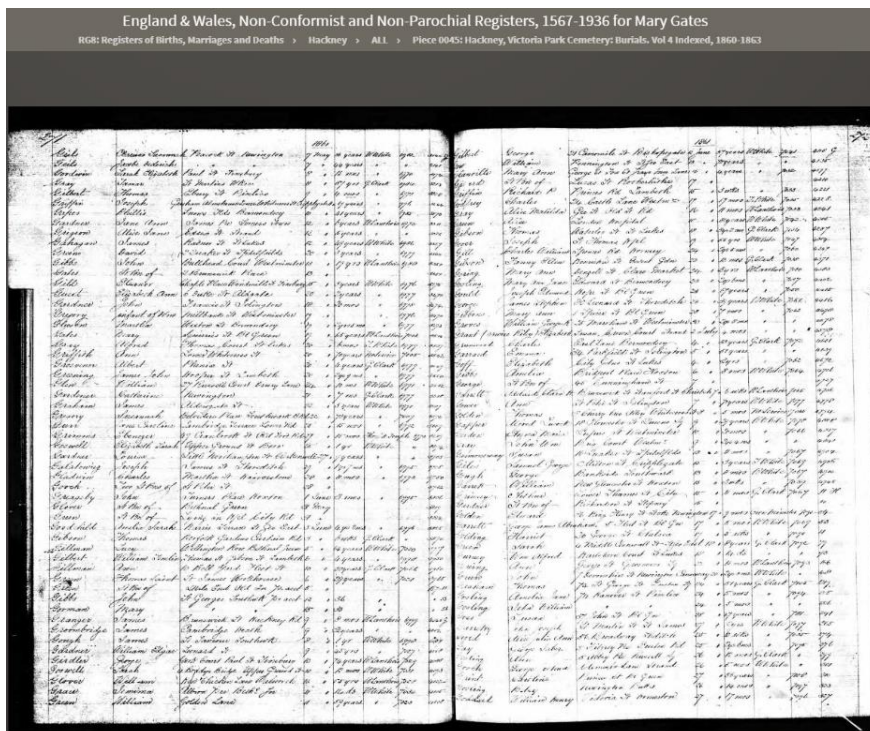
Mary is buried at Hackney, Victoria Park Cemetery (Buried Piece 0045: Hackney, Victoria Park Cemetery: Burials. Vol 4 Indexed, 1860-1863)

Victoria Park Cemetery

Victoria Park Cemetery was a private enterprise started by a limited company in 1845 to take advantage of the market for burials created by the inability of church graveyards to accept any more dead. However, the cemetery went bankrupt in 1853, unable to attract wealthy customers. The business was bought out by one of the directors and continued. The cemetery was not consecrated and closed in 1876. In 1885 it was turned into a recreation ground. (London Archives)

Victoria Park Cemetery, later known as Meath Gardens, Bethnal Green: Lists of names and dates of death, taken from tombstones in April 1893. 1847 – 1879.

Meath Gardens, formerly Victoria Park Cemetery sits in the Mile End and Globe Town ward, which is in Tower Hamlets rather than Hackney. All that remains of the cemetery is the gateway; the area is now a public park with no indication that it was once a burial ground. The gateway bears the initials VPC and 1845. The London Metropolitan Archives hold a plan showing the position of the graves in the cemetery as at 1891 and a list of names and dates of death taken from headstones in 1893. The cemetery was never consecrated-it became a park in 1894.



Chapter 5 - Thomas Humphris (c1788–1866) and Ann (c1793–1866)

Thomas Humphris and Ann are two of my 3xgreat grandparents. They are the parents of Thomas Humphreys and so the grandparents of Martha Humphreys, the grandfather of my grandfather

With Thomas and Ann living so long ago, no one in my family knew anything about them until I undertook this work - and there is still a lot of gaps on the documentary record.

It would appear that Thomas Humphreys was born illegitimate, and we are unsure whether his parents ever married, though his mother (Martha) (re)married. Ann appears to have been born in Coventry.

So far, we know little of their lives apart from the documented incidents. During his working life, Thomas was a bricklayer and a plasterer.

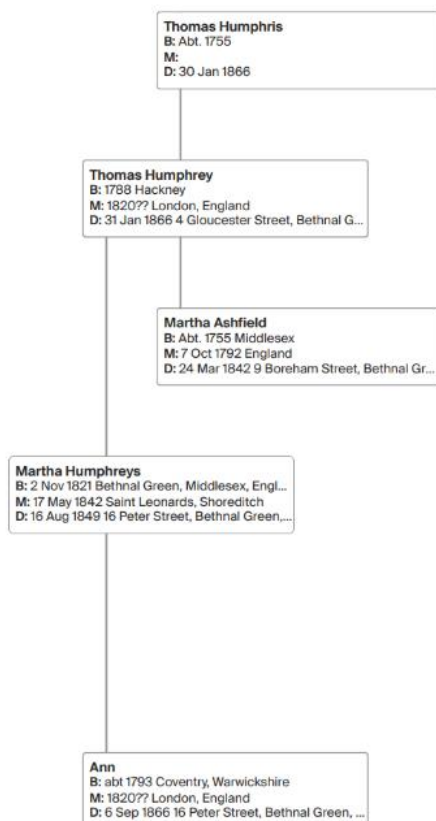
Thomas and Ann* did have four daughters - two of whom (Martha and Ann) married Thomas Gates and the other two (Rebecca and Anna) married two brothers – Thomas and Samuel Collingwood. Thomas and Ann had 29 grandchildren, and it is possible they knew them all. Consequently, from such humble beginnings, they went on to be the source of a large family.

Thomas* died aged 77 of a stroke on 31st January 1866. We know virtually nothing of Ann's youth. Ann* died 7 months after her husband on 6th September 1866 age 73 years. She died of 'Paralysis'.

It is with Thomas and Ann's generation that we begin to have much more detailed data given the introductions of official registration of births, marriages, and deaths.

Family Tree of Thomas and Ann

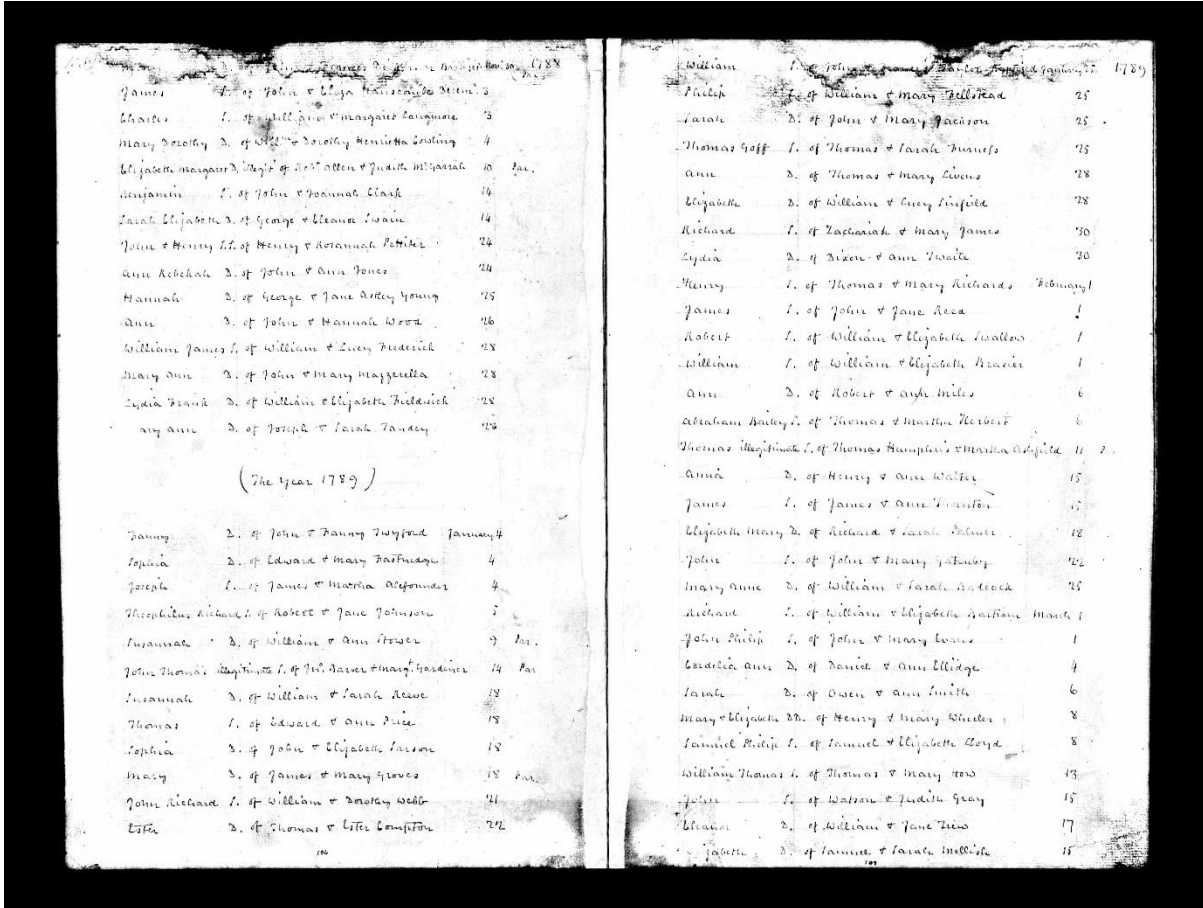
There is very little documentary evidence to provide much detail of the lives of Thomas and Ann.



Thomas Humphreys (c1788–1866)

Birth of Thomas Humphreys

The first child of Thomas Humphris and Martha Ashfield so far uncovered was their son, Thomas Humphreys*, who was born around 1788 when they would have been around 33 – rather late for a first child in those times. Thomas Humphreys was baptised on 11th February 1788 at St John-at-Hackney which names him as the "illegitimate son of Thomas Humphris and Martha Ashfield".



Ann (c1793–1866)

Ann was from Coventry, Warwickshire and according to documents, we think she was born around 1793. Currently we know little else of her early life.

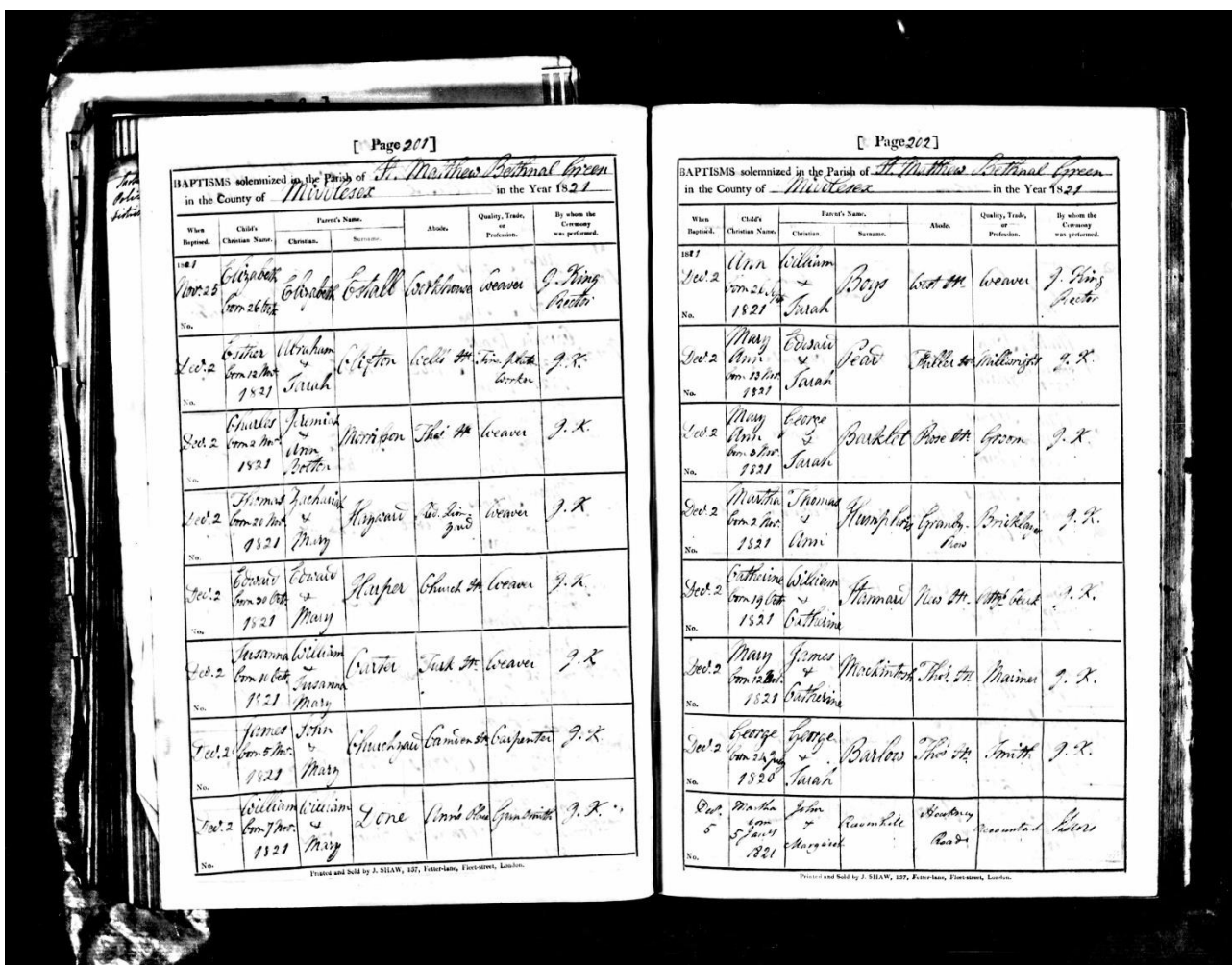
The Marriage of Thomas and Ann

Thomas Humphreys went on to marry Ann sometime between 1810-1821. So far, the marriage record has not been identified. Thomas and Ann had at least four children that have been so far identified: Martha, Ann, Rebecca and Anna.

We do not yet know exactly where they lived apart from that given on baptism registers, though at some point before 1841, they moved into 10 Boreham Street, Tower Hamlets, a street just off Peter Street at the end of Brick Lane. Whilst Peter Street still exists, Boreham Street has been redeveloped and no longer exists.

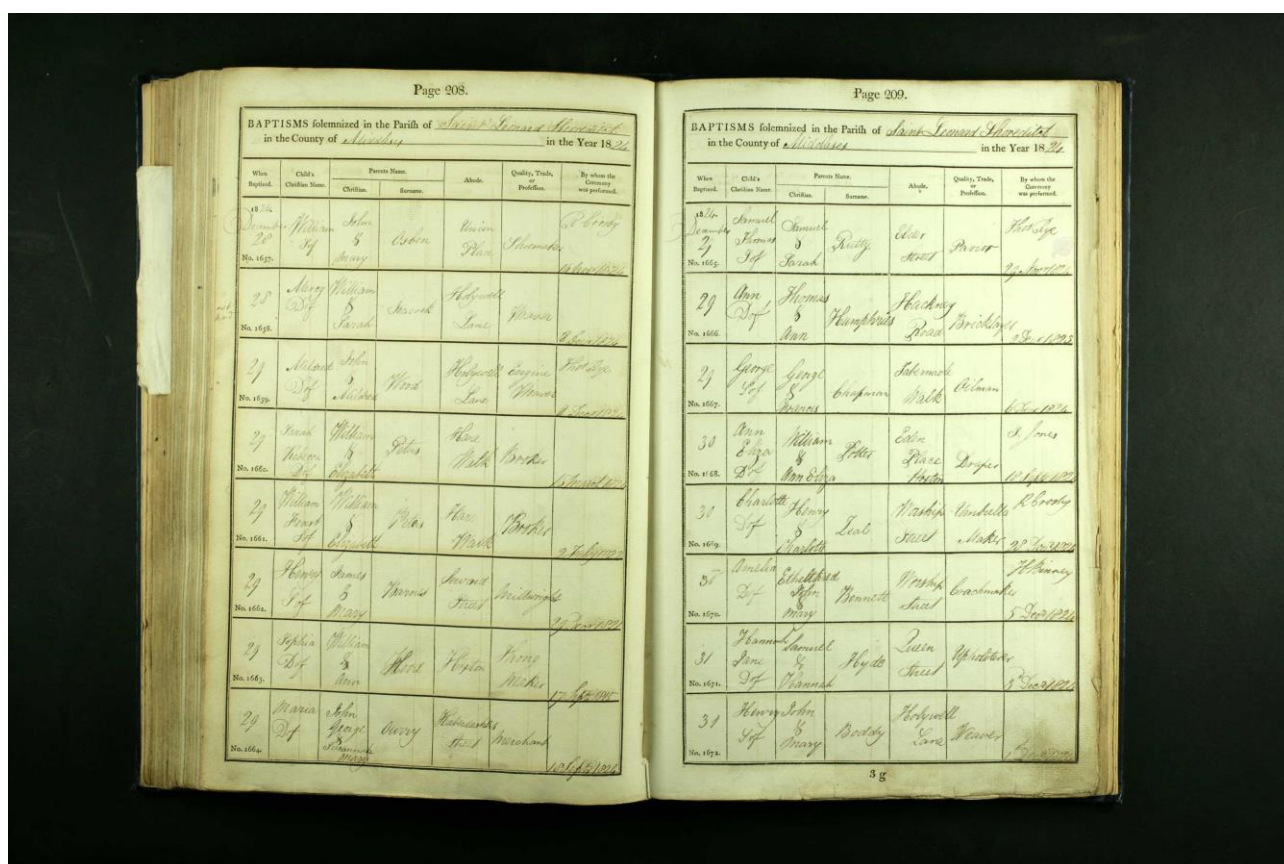
Martha Humphreys (1821-1849)

Thomas Humphreys and Ann's* first child, Martha Humphreys, (written as Humphris on the document) was born on 2nd November 1821 in Bethnal Green. Martha was baptised on 2nd December 1821 at St Matthews Church, Bethnal Green. At the time the Humphreys lived on Granby Row.



Ann Humphreys (1823–1904)

Thomas Humphreys and Ann's second child, Ann Humphreys, was born on 2nd December 1823 Bethnal Green. The birth date is based on the identification of Ann with the Ann 'Humphries' (daughter of Thomas and Ann). She was baptised at St Leonard's, Shoreditch on 29th December 1824. The family lived now in Hackney Row.



Rebecca Humphreys (1826-1908)

Rebecca Humphreys, Thomas and Ann's third child was born on 2nd April 1826. She was baptised on 16th April 1826 at St Matthew's Church, Bethnal Green. At the time the family lived in Portland Place, and Thomas was a bricklayer.

'No. 456. Ap. 16 [1826] Rebecca born 2 April 1826 [daughter of] Thomas & Ann Humphries [abiding] Port-land Place [occupation] Bricklayer [ceremony performed by] J. M.[ayne Curate]'

Anna Humphreys (1830-1908)

Anna Humphreys, Thomas and Ann's fourth child was born on 21st April 1830. She was baptised 9 May 1830 at St Matthew's church, Bethnal Green. The family lived on White Street.

'No. 1439. May 9 [1830] Anna born 21 April 1830 [daughter of] Thomas & Ann Humphries [abiding] White St [occupation] Plasterer [ceremony performed by] J. M.[ayne Curate]'

It must have been unusual to have two daughters named Ann and Anna in the same family.

In the baptism records for Martha, Ann and Rebecca, Thomas Humphreys' occupation was given as 'Bricklayer'. For Anna's baptism record his occupation was given as 'Plasterer'.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

1840s

At the time of the 1841 census the family lived in Boreham Street, Tower Hamlets. They identified three daughters Martha*, Anna and Rebecca Humphreys; Ann – who would have been 18 years old - appears to be missing. This is possibly because the enumerator could not credit that there would be two daughters called both Ann and Anna. Alternatively, Ann may simply have been elsewhere that night.

Borough of *Tower Hamlets* 16
Parish or Township of *St. George in the East* 12
Enumeration Schedule.

PLACE	HOUSES Occupied or Inhabited	NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born		
			Males	Females		Whether Born in same County	Whether Born in same Parish or Village, Town, or Hamlet	
Boreham St		Ann Borer		23	House Binder			
		Thos Humphreys		57	Plasterer			
		Ann br		21				
		Martha br		15				
		Anna br		10				
		Rebecca br		15				
		Martha Lye		85				
		Thomas Clumbly		30	Painter			
		Isabel br		30				
		James br		2				
		Samuel br		1				
		Samuel Daniel		60	Painter			
		Charlotte br		60	Housekeeper			
		Joseph Daniel		20	Painter			
		John Daniel		15	Ground boy			
Rose St		Thomas Field		35	Loggia maker			
		Henrietta br		15	Maids br			
		Misa br		9				
		Thomas br		5				
		Robert Brum		40	Co. Brick Layer			
		Isidell br		30				
		Martha br		11				
		Elizabeth br		7				
		Ann br		1				
		William Cole		50	Charcoal burner			
		TOTAL in Page 16		5		11	14	
	Rose St		Ann Lath		45			
			Elizabeth br		11			
			Henry Lacy		45	Butcher		
			Marce br		45			
		Janet Lacy		9				
		Thomas Collier		30	Warehouseman			
		John br		30				
		Elizabeth br		10				
		Edward br		1				
		John br		2				
		Henry James		35	Shoemaker			
		Martha br		26				
		George br		11				
		John br		7				
		Nathan br		5				
	Emma br		3					
	Thomas br		1					
	John Woodward		25	Shoemaker				
	Stephen well		25	Shoemaker				
	George Gardner		50	Site Surveyor				
	John br		10					
	Isabel br		20					
	May br		15	Washing Woman				
	John br		15					
	Caroline br		10					
	TOTAL in Page 16		12		13	13		

1842 Death of Martha Lye

In her old age, Thomas's mother, Martha Lye, lived with the Humphreys family in Boreham Street. She died on 24th March 1842 at the ripe old age of 87 of "decay of nature". At the time she was living at 9 Boreham Street as "widow of David Lye a plasterer". Thomas Humphreys* registered the death.

Twenty fourth of March 1842 at 9 Boreham St	Martha Lye	Female 87 years	Widow of David Lye a Plasterer	Decay of Nature	The Mark X of Thomas Humphreys present at Death 9 Boreham Street	Thistle of Wesley Gregory 1842
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1842 Marriage of Martha Humphreys to Thomas Gates

Martha Humphreys married Thomas Gates on 17th May 1842 at Saint Leonards, Shoreditch. They went on to have four children together:

- Thomas Humphreys Gates born on 27th November 1843.
- Martha Gates was born on 31st May 1845.
- Ann Gates was born on 1st April 1847.
- Samuel Gates was born on 25th June 1849.

Two months after Samuel's birth, on 16th Aug 1849, Martha died at 16 Peter Street, Bethnal Green, at the age of 28. She died of Asiatic Cholera, seemingly in the 1849 pandemic.

1850 Marriage of Ann Humphreys to Thomas Gates

Ann Humphreys, Martha's younger sister married her widower Thomas Humphreys, on Christmas Day 25th December 1850 at St Andrews Church Bethnal Green.

1866 Death of Thomas Humphreys

Thomas Humphreys died aged 77 of a stroke on 31st January 1866. He was living at 4 Gloucester Street but died at his daughter Ann Gates' (19) house in 16 Peter Street Bethnal Green. He was a plasterer. Thomas is buried at Victoria Park cemetery (now Meath Gardens), Bethnal Green:

'Humphreys Thomas [of] Gloucester St Cambridge Road [buried] 6 [Feb 1866] 77 [years] N Eldon 9575 4398'.

269	31 st January 1866	Thomas Humphreys	Male	77	Plasterer	Apoplexy	Present at Death 16 Peter Street Bethnal Green	February 1866	Wid. Smith Isambard Registrar
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1866 Death of Ann Humphreys

Seven months after Thomas's death, Ann died on 6th September 1866 - her age was given as 73 years. She died of 'Paralysis'. The informant was 'A. Gates Present at Death [of] 16 Peter Street, Bethnal Green' (1866, Sep, Bethnal Green, 01C, 311). Ann was buried at Victoria Park cemetery (now Meath Gardens), Bethnal Green.

234	6 th September 1866	Ann Humphreys	Female	73	Widow of Thomas Humphreys	Paralysis	A. Gates Present at Death 16 Peter Street Bethnal Green	September 1866	Henry Ashford Registrar
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1897 Death of Thomas Gates

On 25th April 1897 at 7 Armagh Road, Bow, Thomas Gates died aged 75 years of "Enlargement of Prostate 19 Months Cystitis 14 Days". The death was registered 26 Apr 1897 by 'Eleanor Taylor Daughter Present at the death [of] 7 Armagh Road, Bow'. (1897, Jun, Poplar, 01CX 301).

Thomas and Ann were together for 47 years. Thomas was buried at Manor Park Cemetery, on 1st May 1897 in square 62, grave 237. Unfortunately, the graves were reclaimed some years ago and others were buried in the same spot

178	25 th April 1897	Thomas Gates	Male	75	Enlargement of Prostate 19 Months Cystitis 14 Days	Enlargement of Prostate 19 Months Cystitis 14 Days	Eleanor Taylor Daughter Present at the death 7 Armagh Road Bow	April 1897	W. McKinnon Registrar
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1904 Death of Ann Gates

Ann Gates (formerly Humphreys) died on 11th November 1904 at The Sick Asylum, Bromley, Poplar, (1904, Dec, Poplar, 01c, 357) aged 80. She died of Bronchitis. Bedsores. Heart failure. The death was registered on 12 Nov 1904 by 'Eleanor Taylor, her daughter who was present at the death [of] 7 Armagh Road, Bow'.

59	11 th November 1904	Ann Gates	Female	80	Widow of Thomas Gates a Coffee House Keeper of 7 Armagh Road Bow	Bronchitis Bedsores Heart failure	Eleanor Taylor Daughter Present at the death 7 Armagh Road Bow	November 1904	J. Beech Registrar
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A summary of the lives of the children of Thomas and Ann

Martha Humphreys* (1821–1849)

Martha Humphreys, (Written as Humphris on the document) was born on 2nd November 1821 in Bethnal Green. Martha was baptised on 2nd December 1821 at St Matthews Church, Bethnal Green. At the time the Humphreys lived in Granby Row. Martha became a seamstress.

Martha Humphreys married Thomas Gates on 17th May 1842 at Saint Leonards, Shoreditch. (1842, Jun, Shoreditch, 2, 342). Martha gave her address as 4 New Inn Yard. Thomas as 2 New Inn Yard. Both signed: Martha Humphreys; Thos Gates. The bride's father was Thomas Humphreys, Plasterer; the groom's father was Charles Gates, Weaver. Witnesses were George Brown and Ann Brown

They had four children

- Thomas Humphreys Gates born on 27th November 1843.
- Martha Gates was born on 31st May 1845.
- Ann Gates was born on 1st April 1847.
- Samuel Gates was born on 25th June 1849.

Appearance on Censuses

This can all be found on the chapter on Martha, Ann and Thomas.

Martha died at 16 Peter Street, Bethnal Green, at the age of 28. She died of Asiatic Cholera seemingly in the 1849 pandemic. (1846-63) SEP 1849 Bethnal Green 2 113. Apparently, there was an Asiatic Cholera Pandemic sweeping across the country. (1849, Sep, Bethnal Green, 2, 113)

No.	When Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
28	Sixteenth August 1849 16 Peter Street Bethnal Green	Martha Gates	Female	27	Wife of Thomas Gates Now a cabinet-maker	Asiatic Cholera 12 hours Contracted	Thomas Gates present at death 16 Peter Street Bethnal Green	Seventeenth August 1849	Henry Gregory Registrar

Tragically, on 28th August 1849, just 12 days after Martha died, Thomas and Martha's baby, Samuel Gates died at just nine weeks old of "Diarrhoea 12 days" – given that diarrhoea is a major symptom of cholera it seems likely to be related. Samuel died at 10 Boreham Street the home of Martha's younger sister Ann Humphreys, who was possibly looking after the baby as Martha was so ill. Interesting that Thomas's address looks like it was originally written as 10 Boreham, the 0 was changed to 6 then 14 written above. At this time her husband, Thomas, was a cabinet maker, though he later became a Coffee House Keeper

Ann Humphreys (1823 – 1904)

Thomas Humphreys and Ann's second child, Ann Humphreys, was born on 2nd December 1823 Bethnal Green. The birth date is based on the identification of Ann with the Ann 'Humphries' (daughter of Thomas and Ann). She was baptised at St Leonard's, Shoreditch on 29th December 1824. The family lived now in Hackney Row.

Just over a year after Martha's death, Ann aged 26, married Thomas Gates age 28, her brother-in-law, her younger sister's widower, on Christmas Day 25th December 1850 at St Andrews Bethnal Green. Hence Thomas Humphreys' aunt became his step-mother. Thomas Snr was living at 16 Peter Street, and Ann just around the corner at 10 Boreham Street. Both signed: Thomas Gates; Ann Humphreys. The bride's father was Thomas Humphreys, Bricklayer; the groom's father was Charles Gates, Weaver. Witnesses were Thomas Bains [?] and Sarah Shaw (1850, Dec, Bethnal Green, 2, 10).

The wedding certificate however describes him as a Batchelor, not a Widower. This is presumably because in 1850 it was illegal to marry your dead wife's sister. It was not until 1907 this law was changed.

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Ann's marriage to Thomas Humphreys was a double wedding with Ann's sister Rebecca, who married Thomas Collingwood in 1850 at St Andrew's, Bethnal Green. Their marriage certificates follow one another on the register, both brides resided at 10 Boreham Street, and the father of each was named on the certificates as Thomas Humphreys, bricklayer. Anna married a Samuel Collingwood. In 1843 her younger sister Rebecca had married Thomas Collingwood, Samuel's brother. The Humphreys' family residence at the time of the marriage in 1843 was again at 10 Boreham Street.

They had 10 children:

- Rebecca Gates, born 24th September 1851. She died on 9th March 1853 aged just 15 months of Pleurisy.
- Mary Ann Gates, born on 15th January 1853
- Frederick George Gates, born of 25th November 1854
- Florence Gates, born on 22 November 1856
- Emily Gates, born on 12th November 1858
- Alfred Gates, born 6th February 1861. Alfred died 22nd August 1861 of Croup and diphtheria
- Alice Gates, born 6th February 1861
- Selina, born 6th December 1863. Selina died on 24th August 1867 of Typhus
- Eleanor, born 13th July 1866
- Alfred, born 26th March 1868. Alfred died, aged 3, on 16th October 1871 of scarlatina

Thomas Gates died aged 75 years on 25th April 1897 at 7 Armagh Road, Bow, of "Enlargement of Prostate 19 Months Cystitis 14 Days". The death was registered 26 Apr 1897 by 'Eleanor Taylor Daughter Present at the death [of] 7 Armagh Road, Bow'. (1897, Jun, Poplar, 01C, 301).

Thomas and Ann were together for 47 years

1848	Alley	Widow	Years	(Purvisman)	S. R. C. F.	Bow	1897	Register
25th April	Thomas	Male	75	Coffee House Keeper	Enlargement of Prostate 19 Months Cystitis 14 Days Certified by A. H. Macdonald M.D.	Eleanor Taylor Daughter Present at the death 7 Armagh Road Bow	26 April	1897
<p><i>(Daughter of last entry)</i></p>								

Appearance in Censuses

This can all be found on the chapter on Martha, Ann and Thomas.

Ann died on 11th November 1904 at The Sick Asylum, Bromley, Poplar, (1904, Dec Poplar, 01C, 357) aged 80. She died of "Bronchitis. Bedsores. Heart failure". The death was registered on 12th November 1904 by 'Eleanor Taylor Daughter present at the death [of] 7 Armagh Road, Bow'.

59	Edwenth	Ann	Female	80	Widow of Thomas Gates a Coffee House Keeper of 7 Armagh Road Bow	Bronchitis Bedsores Heart failure Certified by A. H. Macdonald M.D.	Eleanor Taylor Daughter Present at the death 7 Armagh Road Bow	12th November	1904
<p><i>(Daughter of last entry)</i></p>									

Rebecca Humphreys (1826 - 1908)

Rebecca Humphreys, Thomas and Ann's third child was born on 2nd April 1826. She was baptised on 16th April 1826 at St Matthew's Church, Bethnal Green. At the time the family lived in Portland Place, and Thomas was a bricklayer.

Rebecca age 17, married Thomas Collingwood age 22 (1821 - 63), Shoe Maker on 5th June 1843 at St Bride, London. Rebecca lived at 10 Borham [sic] Street, Thomas at 95 Holborn Hill. Both signed: Rebecca Humphreys; Thomas Collingwood. The bride's father was Thomas Humphreys, Bricklayer; the groom's father was Francis Samuel Collingwood, Cork Cutter. Witnesses were John James Lewis and Sarah Good. (JUN 1843 West London 2 242).

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They had 8 children:

- Thomas Francis Collingwood born 8th August 1846.
- Edward Henry Collingwood born 18th July 1848
- Rebecca Collingwood, born 25th March 1850
- Elizabeth Ann Collingwood, born 22nd December 1851
- Charlotte Martha Collingwood, born 2nd November 1853
- Frederick George Collingwood, born 21st January 1856
- Francis Samuel Collingwood, born 18th June 1859
- Alice Rebecca Collingwood, born 31st July 1861

Inclusion on Censuses

1841: Age 15, 10 Boreham Street, living in father's household.

1851: Age 25, 143 Holborn Hill, London. Wife of Thomas Collingwood, Assistant in Shoe Shop, with three children, husband's sister-in-law, and nephew also sharing the house.

1861: Age 35, 148 High Street, Camden, St Pancras. Wife of Thomas Collingwood (Master Boot Maker employing three men) with six children a lodger with a wife and child also sharing the house.

Thomas died on 14th August 1863, age 42 of "disease of the liver and stomach" which he had suffered from for some time (1863, Sep, Pancras, 01B, 9). He lived at 148 High Street, Camden Town. He was a master cordwainer (shoemaker). The death was registered by his first son Thomas.

A handwritten death registration record from the Registrar of Births and Deaths in the District of St. Pancras, London. The record is dated 14th August 1863. The deceased is Thomas Collingwood, aged 42, a Cordwainer (shoemaker) by trade, residing at 148 High Street, Camden Town. The cause of death is recorded as 'Disease of Liver and Stomach'. The death was registered by his first son, Thomas Collingwood, aged 17, residing at the same address. The record is signed by Charles Hyatt, Registrar.

213	148 High Street	Francis Collingwood	Male	42	Cordwainer	148 High Street Camden Town	Disease of Liver and Stomach	14th August 1863	Thomas Collingwood	17	148 High Street Camden Town	Charles Hyatt
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1871: Age 45, 22 Durnford Terrace, Kentish Town, St Pancras. Widow with five children. Sharing the house with a husband and wife with two children, and a Lodger.

1881: Age 55, 62 Hadley Street, Kentish Town, St Pancras. Widow with two children. Sharing the house with a husband and wife their child and the wife's brother. Also, a husband and wife with one child plus one lodger.

1891: Age 65, 69 Grosvenor Park Road, Walthamstow. Widow with one child. Sharing the house with a husband and wife with one child. Living on her own means.

1901: Rebecca is not located.

Rebecca died aged 82 on 31st July 1908 of "Old Age Diarrhoea Exhaustion" at 92 Southam Street She was widow of Thomas Collingwood, Journeyman Plasterer (1908, Sep, Kensington, 01A, 62). The death was registered the next day by A. Willis, her grandson.

Anna Humphreys (1830 - 1908)

Anna Humphreys, was born on 21st April 1830. She was baptised on 9th May 1830 at St Matthew's church, Bethnal Green. The family lived on White Street.

Anna aged 19, married Samuel Collingwood age 20, (1829 – 81), Cork Cutter on 25th December 1850 at St Andrew Bethnal Green. Anna lived at No 10 Borham [sic] St. Samuel lived at No 10 Tyson St. Both signed: Anna Humphreys; Samuel Collingwood. The bride's father was Thomas Humphreys, Bricklayer; the groom's father was Francis Samuel Collingwood, Cork Cutter. Witnesses were Thomas Collingwood and Emma Collingwood. (DEC 1850, Dec, Bethnal Green, 2, 9).

They had 7 children:

- Samuel Francis Collingwood, born 5th December 1851

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- James Thomas Collingwood, born 31st March 1853
- Anna Eliza Collingwood, born 21st November 1855
- John Collingwood, born 6th December 1856
- Emily Collingwood, born 30th June 1859
- Elizabeth Ann Collingwood, born [?] January 1863
- Selina Collingwood, born 5th September 1864

Inclusion on Censuses

1841: Age 10, 10 Boreham Street, Bethnal Green. Living in father’s household.

1851: Age 20, 8 Oxford Street, Stepney. Wife of Samuel Collingwood, (journeyman cork cutter. Sharing the house with a widow with two daughters, and a husband and wife with a servant.

1861: Age 30, 10 North Street, Mile End Old Town. Wife of Samuel Collingwood (Cork Cutter) with four children. Sharing the house with a husband and wife with two children.

1871: Age 40, 19 Arundel Street, Bethnal Green. Wife of Samuel Collingwood (Cork Cutter) with six children. Sharing the house with a widower and daughter, and a husband and wife.

1881: Age 50, 96 Rutland Street, Mile End Old Town. Wife of Samuel Collingwood (Cork Cutter) with four children. Sharing the house with a lodger and a niece.

Samual died on 20th May 1881 age 52, of “*sudden epilepsy*”. There appears to have been an inquest on 24th May 1881.

20 May 1881	Samuel	Male	52	Cork Cutter	Sudden epilepsy	John Humphreys	First John
263 96 Rutland Street	Collingwood					Coroner for Middlesex	Postel
						Inquest held 24 th May 1881	Registrar
Twenty ninth				Daughter of	Rachidist Deblity	C. M. M. H. Wood	First John

1891: Age 60, not located

1901: Age 70, 70 Dempsey Street, Mile End Old Town. Widow, living with Anna Eliza and Selina and their husbands. Living on own means.

Anna died at 70 Dempsey Street on 14 Jan 1908 aged 78 of “*Bronchitis Syncope*”. The death was registered the day after by her daughter Emily Knife, who signed with her mark. (1908, Mar, Mile End, 01C, 273)

Syncope, or fainting, can occur as a complication of chronic bronchitis due to a condition called cough syncope. Cough syncope is a rare but potentially life-threatening condition that occurs when a person loses consciousness after a bout of heavy coughing

Chapter 6 - Henry Page (1776-1844) and Frances Fitzsimmons (1775-1844)

Henry Page and Frances Fitzsimmons are two of my 3xgreat grandparents, and the parents of James Lewis Page. James went on to be the father of Emma Page who was my grandfather's mother.

Henry Page and Frances Fitzsimmons were born around the time of the American War of Independence when the country was quite a different place. During William and Elizabeth's lifetime, there was no electricity, there were no trains, no cars, no tarmacked roads. There was no penicillin, no antibiotics, and no one thought cholera was caused by drinking from contaminated water. Rather it was presumed by some in authority to be caused by lack of ventilation. It was not discovered that cholera was caused by drinking from contaminated water until Dr John Snow in 1854. It was indeed a different land. There were no state schools, and most children didn't regularly attend any formal educational setting. Both dying in 1844 they never really witnessed the coming of compulsory education through the Education Act 1844.

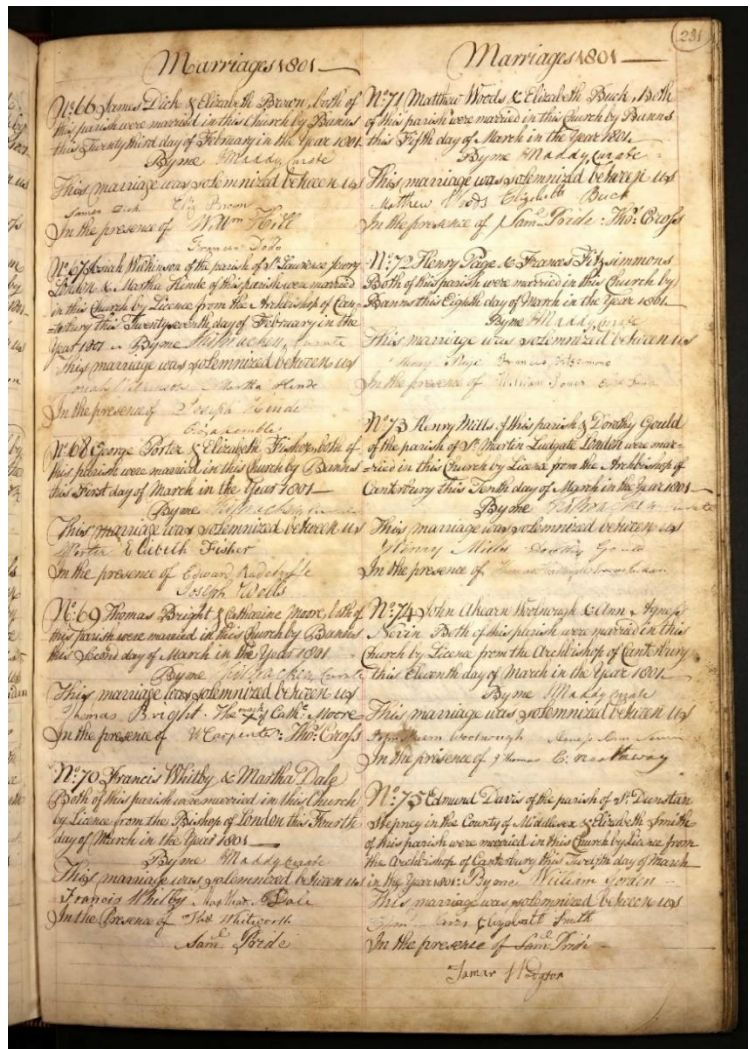
Henry and Frances were both born in London when George III was on the throne, and Frederick Lord North was Prime Minister. They witnessed the death of three monarchs – George III (1820), George IV (1830) and William III (1837). Together they lived through the American War of independence, the Battle of Trafalgar, the Battle of Waterloo, and the Crimea War, and they witnessed the abolition of slavery.

We know nothing (yet) about their own upbringing, but together they seem to have had 6 children that we know of – and only three that we know anything about at all other than dates of birth.

Henry Page and Frances Fitzsimmons were married 8th March 1801 at St James, Piccadilly, Westminster.

St James's Church, Piccadilly, (197 Piccadilly, London W1J 9LL) also known as St James's Church, Westminster, and St James-in-the-Fields, is an Anglican church on Piccadilly in the centre of London, England. The church was designed and built by Sir Christopher Wren. The carved marble font and limewood reredos are both notable examples of the work of Grinling Gibbons.

In 1662, Henry Jermyn, 1st Earl of St Albans, was granted land for residential development on what was then the outskirts of London. He set aside land for the building of a parish church and churchyard on the south side of what is now Piccadilly. Christopher Wren was appointed the architect in 1672 and the church was consecrated on 13 July 1684 by Henry Compton, the Bishop of London. In 1685 the parish of St James was created for the church. (Wikipedia)



Henry Page and Frances had 6 children that we know of in the next 10 years:

- **Henry Thomas Page**, born 13th July 1803. Baptised at St James, Piccadilly, Westminster on 18th July 1803. Henry became a master tailor.
- **Maria Ann Page** born 1st June 1805. Baptised at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Westminster on 12th October 1806.
- **James Lewis Page***, born 29th January 1807. Baptised at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Westminster on 15th February 1807.
- **Catherine Louisa Page**, born 27th January 1809. Baptised at St Leonard, Shoreditch on 19th February 1809. They were living at Hackney Road.
- **John Hall Page**, born 29th January 1811. Baptised at St Leonard, Shoreditch on 14th November 1813. They lived at Harris's Place.
- **Elizabeth Page**, born 15th October 1813. Baptised at St Leonard, Shoreditch on 14th November 1813. They lived at Harris's Place.

Nothing has been uncovered so far of the lives of Maria Ann Page, John Hall Page and Elizabeth Page, beyond their baptisms. Whether they married or not has not been ascertained. Elizabeth was certainly alive in 1841 and is recorded on the census working as a servant in Chiswick, Middlesex, with her sister Catherine Louisa Page. A month later Elizabeth Page was a witness to the wedding of that sister in Chiswick. Elizabeth Page also possibly appears on the censuses of 1851 and 1871 working as a servant in Hackney. That individual probably died aged 63 in September 1877 at Trinity Chapel House, Devonshire Road, Hackney. There is nothing on the censuses of 1851 and 1871 or on the death certificate (1870, Sep, Hackney, 1b, 269) to confirm a link to the Page family.

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1841

In 1841 Henry and Frances lived in Nursery Place South Hackney with a probable grandson William Page.

1844

Both Henry and Frances died in 1844.

On 14th March 1844, Frances Page* (formerly Fitzsimmons) died of "apoplexy" (stroke) age 69. Her daughter Mary Ann Goymer (formerly Page) was present and registered the death. (1844, Mar, Hackney Union, 03, 147).

1844 in the Parish of South Hackney					Limehouse	March 1844	William Drewitt Registrar
14 th March 1844 at	Frances Page	Female 69	Wife of Henry Page	Apoplexy	Mary Ann Goymer Present at the death	14 th March	William Drewitt Registrar

On 26th May 1844, Henry Page* died age 69 of "dropsy" Mary Ann was again present at Terrace Mews cottages. (1844, Jun, Hackney Union, 03, 132). Henry was a carpenter.

26 th May 1844 at Terrace Mews Cottages	Henry Page	Male 69	Carpenter	Dropsy	Mary Ann Goymer Present at the death Terrace Mews	26 th May 1844	William Drewitt Registrar
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Dropsy

Some of those whose cause of death is recorded as dropsy were actually killed by the condition that caused the swelling, rather than the swelling itself. Some conditions which can cause the kind of swelling associated with dropsy are cardiac failure, lung problems and malnutrition.

Children of Henry Page and Frances Fitzsimmons

Of the 6 children we know of, we only have documented information on three: Henry, James, and Catherine.

Henry Thomas Page (1803 – 1863; 63)

Henry was born on 13th July 1803 at St James, Piccadilly.

Henry (age 25) married Matilda Briggs (age 28) (1801-1875) on 17th May 1829 at St Johns, Hackney. Both were "of this Parish". Witnesses were Henry Page and William Jackson. All signed their name. They went on to have 7 children

Child	Born	Baptised	Church
Henry Thomas Briggs Page	4 Jul 1831	24 Jul 1831	St Mary, Bryanston Square, Marylebone
Elizabeth Susannah Page	1 Jun 1833	23 Jun 1833	St Mary, Bryanston Square, Marylebone
Matilda Maria Page	15 Feb 1835	29 Mar 1835	St Mary Bryanston Square, Marylebone
Anna Briggs Page D: DEC 1837 Marylebone 1 15.	12 Jul 1837	27 Aug 1837	St Mary, Bryanston Square, Marylebone
William Page B: MAR 1839 Marylebone 1 13 D: JUN 1839 Marylebone 1 13 8	7 Jan 1839	3 Feb 1839	All Souls, Langham Place, Marylebone
William George Page B: SEP 1840 Marylebone 1 14 D: DEC 1841 Marylebone 1 13	27 Jun 1840	19 Jul 1840	All Souls, Langham Place, Marylebone
Alfred Page B: JUN 1845 Marylebone 1 16			

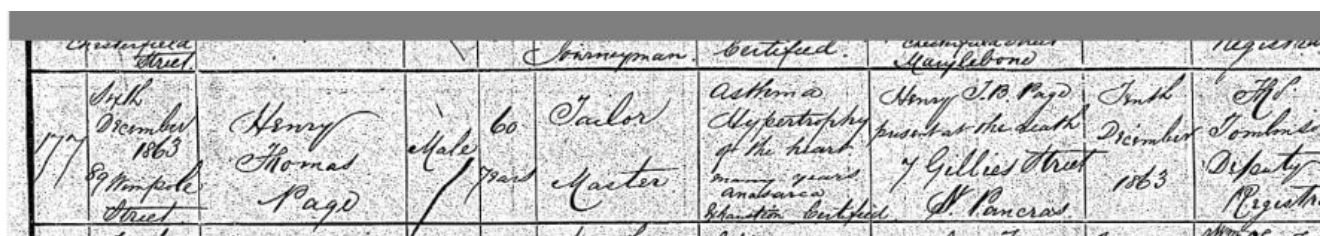
Appearance on censuses

1841: not located

1851 - 89 Wimpole Street: Henry T Page (47); Matilda Page (50); Matilda M Page (16) and a servant. A Tailor

1861- 89 Wimpole Street: Henry Thos Page (57); Matilda Page (60). Three lodgers. a Tailor, becoming a master tailor by his death.

Henry died on 6th December 1863 aged 60 at 89 Wimpole Street, Marylebone of Asthma, Hypertrophy of the heart for many years and Anasarca* Exhaustion (1863, Dec, Marylebone, 1a, 309). His death was notified by Henry T Page – presumably his son – of 7 Gillies St, St Pancras.



(*Anasarca is Generalized oedema refers to the accumulation of fluid in the entire body, known as anasarca. It is a condition caused by various mechanisms involving blood flow, plasma composition, vessel walls, and adjacent tissues)

Henry Thomas Page's marriage was the last recorded in the register for Sunday 17 May 1829. The following day the register recorded James Lewis Page's marriage as the second of the day, the first being that of Thomas Cecil and Esther Veazey, whose witnesses were William Saunders and William Jackson (ie, one witness from each of the Page marriages). It can be assumed that everyone who attended the Sunday marriage was there for the one on Monday. It is a mystery why the marriages were held on different days. The bans for all three marriages were called the same days, and the couples were recorded in the bans register in the reverse order in which they married.

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Mary Ann Page (1805 - ?)

Mary Ann was baptised on 1st June 1805 at St Martin-in-the-Fields. No further information has been uncovered.

James Lewis Page (1807 – 1861; 54)

James Lewis Page, born 29th January 1807. Baptised at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Westminster on 15th February 1807. James married Mary Ann Sanders* on 18th May 1829 at St John's Church, Hackney. They went on to have 10 children. James Lewis died in 1861. Mary Ann died in 1877.

Their lives are the subject of a later chapter.

Catherine Louise Page (1809 – 1852; aged 45)

Catherine was born 27th January 1809 and baptised at St Leonard, Shoreditch on 19th February 1809. The family were living at Hackney Road.

In 1841 census when Catherine was 30, she was living with her sister Elizabeth as servants in the household of Shirley Woolmer at 1841 Burlington Cottage, Chiswick.

Catherine (age 30) married Frederick Glen (age 25), a jeweller on 3rd July 1841 (SEP 1841, Brentford, 3, 5) at St Nicholas, Chiswick. Catherine was of the Parish of Chiswick; Frederick was of the Parish of St Pancras. Both signed the register. Witnesses were Catherine's younger sister Elizabeth and elder brother, Henry. Both their fathers (Walter Glen and Henry Page*) were carpenters.

1841 Marriage solemnized in the Parish Church of the Parish of Chiswick in the County of Middlesex								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
60	3 rd of July 1841	Frederick Glen Catherine Louise Page	25 30	Bachelor Spinster	Jeweller Servant	Parish of St Pancras, London Parish of Chiswick	Walter Glen Henry Page	Carpenter Carpenter
Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church officiated by me, Thomas Horn, B.D.								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		Frederick Glen Catherine Louise Page		In the Presence of us,		Elizabeth Page Henry Thomas Page		

Catherine and Frederick had four children:

Child	Born	Baptised	Church
Walter Glen	11 Jun 1842	13 Aug 1842	[All Saints'?] St Pancras
Emily Glen	8 Jul 1844	28 Aug 1844	All Saints', St Pancras
Walter Thomas Glen	22 Dec 1846	28 Aug 1847	[All Saints'?] St Pancras
David Glen B: (JUN 1848 St Pancras 1 365)	June 1848		[All Saints'?] St Pancras

All three male children died young:

Walter Glen died 25th April 1843 aged 11 months of "marasmus". He died at Frances Street, and the death was registered by Adelaide Bancroft (1843, Jun, St Pancras, 1, 299).

No.	When Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
	Twenty-fifth April 1843 2099 Frances Street.	Walter Glen	Male	11 months	Son of Frederick Glen Shoemaker	Marasmus	Adelaide Bancroft Present at death of Frances Street	Twenty-fifth April 1843	John Wells Registrar

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Marasmus is a severe form of malnutrition that occurs when the body doesn't have enough calories, protein, carbohydrates, or fats to function normally. It is characterized by extreme weight loss, muscle wasting, and stunted growth.

Walter Thomas Glen died on 16th January 1853, aged 6 of "Mesenteric atrophy". He died at 34 Pancras Place, Pancras Road. The death was registered by Hannah Bancroft (1853, Mar, St Pancras. 01B, 80).

120	Sixteenth January 1853 34 Pancras Place	Walter Thomas Glen	Male	6 Years	Son of Frederick Glen Jeweller	Mesenteric Atrophy certified	Hannah Bancroft present at the death 34 Pancras Place Pancras Road	Seventy first January 1853	Benjamin Holl Registrar
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Mesenteric atrophy is a rare condition that occurs when the duodenum is compressed between the aorta and the superior mesenteric artery. This can happen after significant weight loss, which causes the mesenteric fat pad to shrink. Symptoms include abdominal pain, vomiting, nausea, fullness, and weight loss. SMA syndrome can be life-threatening if left untreated.

David Glen died on 13th June 1870, aged 22, of "Phthisis, asthenia" (tuberculosis and weakness) 81 Hampden Road, Holloway. The death was registered by K Stone. aged 22 (1870, Sep, Islington, 01B, 143).

156	Thirtieth June 1870 81 Hampden Road	David Glen	Male	22 years	Boot maker	Phthisis Asthenia certified	K Stone present at death 81 Hampden Road Holloway	First July 1870	John Water Registrar
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No record of the marriage or death of Emily Glen has been found.

Catherine died on 27th June 1852 age 45, at 7 Northam Buildings, Somers Town St Pancras, (now where the British Library stands) (1852, Jun, St Pancras, 01B, 64), She had disease of the brain which she had had for 4 years. She was a dressmaker and at her death, Frederick was a shoemaker.

180	Twenty seventh June 1852 7 Northam Buildings	Catherine Glen	Female	45 years	Wife of Frederick Glen Shoemaker	Disease of Brain certified	Frederick Glen present at the death 7 Northam Buildings Somers Town	June 1852	William Matthews Registrar
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Subsequently, Frederick married spinster Caroline Baret on 20th May 1854 at St Pancras Church. They had four children.

1861: Frederick Glen (widower, 42); Caroline Glen (27); James Glen (4); Caroline Glen (3); Louisa Glen (8 months); William Glen (8 months)

1871: Frederick Glen (50); Caroline Glen (30: sic); James Glen (13); Caroline Glen (10)

John Hall Page (1811 - ?)

John was born 29th January 1811. He was baptised at St Leonard, Shoreditch on 14th November 1813. They lived at Harris's Place.

Nothing else of John's whereabouts have been uncovered.

Elizabeth Page (1813 - ?)

Elizabeth was born 15th October 1813. She was baptised at St Leonard, Shoreditch on 14th November 1813. They lived at Harris's Place.

Very little has been uncovered of Elizabeth apart from possible entries on the censuses.

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Elizabeth Page was certainly alive in 1841. She is recorded on the census working as a servant in Chiswick, Middlesex, with her sister Catherine Louisa Page. A month later Elizabeth Page was a witness to the wedding of that sister in Chiswick (see above).

Elizabeth Page also possibly appears on the censuses of 1851 and 1871 working as a servant in Hackney. That individual probably died aged 63 in September 1877 at Trinity Chapel House, Devonshire Road, Hackney. There is nothing on the censuses of 1851 and 1871 or on the death certificate (1870, Sep, Hackney, 01B, 269) to confirm a link to the Page family.

1841 - **Burlington Cottage, Chiswick:** Servant along with sister Catherine, of the house of Shirley Woolmer.

1851 - **Rose Cottage, Burford's Lane Hackney;** Servant.

1861: not located.

1871 - **5 Cambridge Terrace, Loddiges Road, Hackney:** Servant (57)

The death of Elizabeth Page has not been certainly located, but a possible match has been found with an Elizabeth Page, a former servant, who died on 4th September 1877 aged 63 at Trinity Chapel House, Devonshire Road, Hackney (1877, Sep Hackney, 01B, 269).

459	Fourth September 1877 Trinity Chapel House	Elizabeth Page	Female	63 years	Formerly a Domestic Servant	Disease of the Heart Pneumonia Certified by R. Harris M.B.	Ann Pain present at the Death Trinity Chapel House Devonshire Road Hackney	Sixth September 1877	William Gray Deputy Registrar
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Chapter 7 - William Sanders (1780-1849) and Mary Huddleston (1780-1853)

William Sanders and Mary/Elizabeth Huddleston are two of my 3xgreat grandparents. They are the parents of Mary Sanders, who married James Page. Their daughter Emma Page was my grandfather's mother.

Not surprisingly, I had no idea about William and Elizabeth, before I began searching out my family history, and I do not think anyone else in my family did. Indeed, we do not even know for certain who "Elizabeth" was, as there is some evidence she was born Mary Huddleston. For the moment until a more thorough in-person search, this will have to do. At this point in time the search for certainty faces challenges with gaps in the documentary records as well as some inconsistencies especially over ages, names, dates etc. Evidence from the certificates we have suggests that many people were, understandably, illiterate, since they were only able to sign marriage registers "with their mark". It is likely because of this that the Sanders are sometimes referred to as Saunders here and there, and there is a lack of consistency. In the early 19th century people were not as fixated on spelling as we are today and it seems that accuracy in names, as well as dates of birth etc. were of less importance than they seem to be today. They did things differently. Hence the further back in time we go, the less certainty there is over some of the accounts. It is unlikely that we will be able to search much further back due to a lack of specific information on current records.

William and Elizabeth were both born in London when George III was on the throne, and Frederick Lord North was Prime Minister. They witnessed the death of three monarchs – George III (1820), George IV (1830) and William III (1837). Together they lived through the American War of independence, the Battle of Trafalgar, the Battle of Waterloo, and the Crimea War, and they witnessed the abolition of slavery.

We know nothing (yet) about their own upbringing, but together they had 11 children, 6 of whom went on to live very long lives for the times (between 69 and 95), two died in their 40s-50s, one seems to have died in his teens and we do not know the outcome for two. We also know they had a total of 66 grandchildren – almost 50 of whom they lived long enough to meet. That must have made birthdays and Christmas a bit of a nightmare!

What the information in this chapter tells us is the Sanders were a large working-class family, who most likely lived in some poverty. Like most of the London working class they were not mobile – and most who feature in this chapter seem to live in a small area of Homerton, South Hackney for all their lives. Those that moved only moved about 2 miles away.

4 Generation Family Tree of William and Mary/Elizabeth

Unfortunately, due to the paucity of commented evidence, I am unable to provide information on William and Elizabeth's ancestry due to the lack of information about William and Elizabeth's parents.

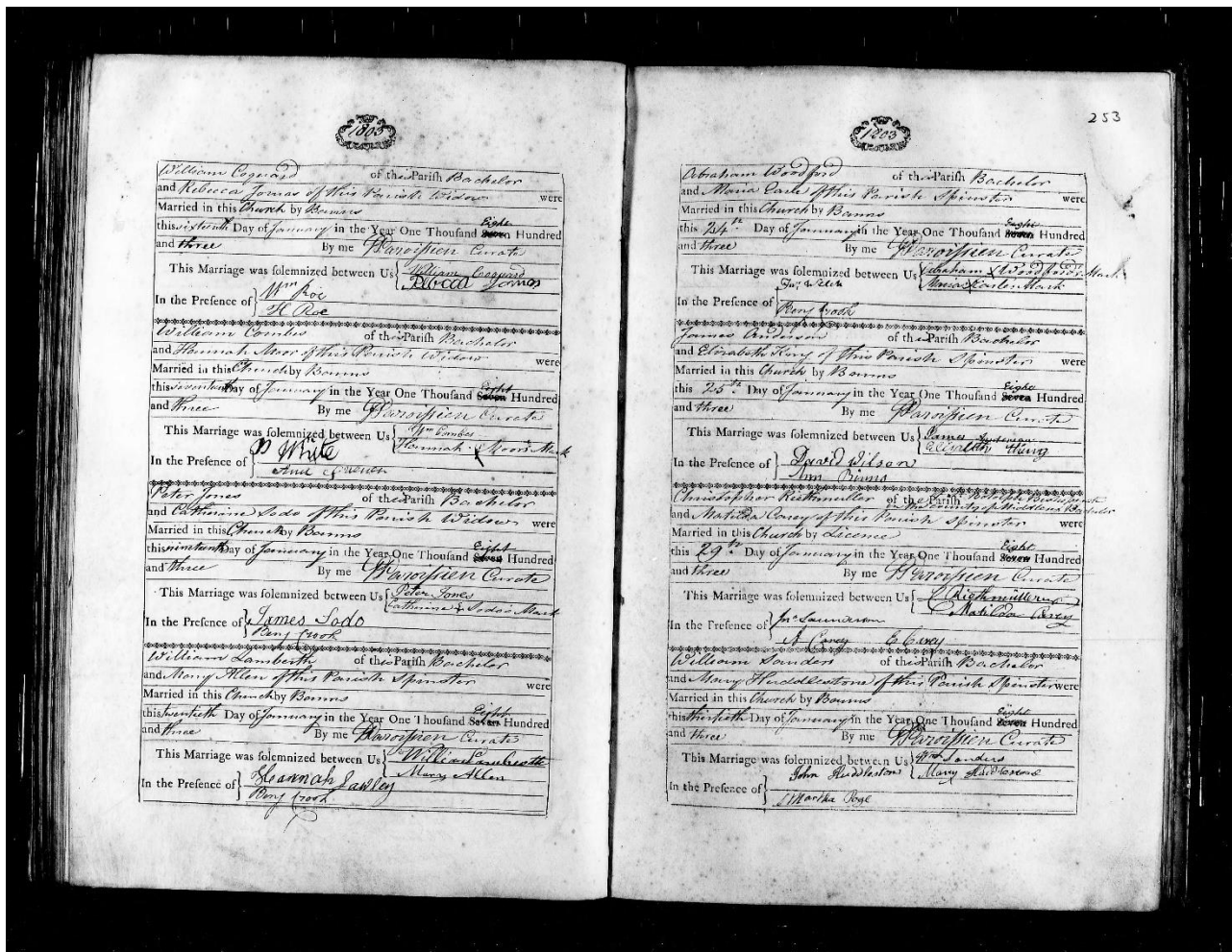
William Sanders and Elizabeth Huddleston

Early Life

We know very little of the early lives and ancestry of William and Elizabeth partly because of the lack of official documentation of the time and some of what we do know is tentative.

William Sanders (1780-1849) seems to have been born around 1780, and died on 28th April 1849, of chronic bronchitis aged 68.

Elizabeth (1782- 1853) is more mysterious. There is evidence of a marriage between a William Sanders and a Mary Huddleston at St John at Hackney (where William and Elizabeth baptised many of their children) on 30th January 1803 and I am very grateful to Andrew Lott, Senior Archive Officer at The London Archives for uncovering this.



So, who is this Mary? There is a baptism of a Mary Huddleston on 27th January 1782, to a William and Elizabeth Huddleston, at All Saints Church, Bedworth, Warwickshire.

This link to Warwickshire is interesting because in the 1861 Census, one of William and Elizabeth's daughters - Mary Ann Page* (formerly Sanders) - claimed to have been born in Warwick, even though in the 1851 census, she claimed it was Hackney; it cannot be both! (The 1841 census didn't collect place of birth).



Hence one reasonable story might be that Mary Huddlestone had a second given name after her mother, Elizabeth. Eventually she moved to London, and met William Sanders, and married him on 30th January 1803. In memory of her parents, she began to use Elizabeth as her main given name. This is only a possibility, and there is no firm evidence either way.

William and Elizabeth went on to have 11 children. From 1803 – 1814 William and Elizabeth baptised six children at St John the Baptist's church, Hackney, though we do not know where they lived at the time:

- **William Sanders** born 19th September 1803; baptised on 9 Oct 1803.
- **Mary Ann Sanders*** (1805-1877) was born on 25th May 1809 in St George in the East, Tower Hamlets.
- **Harriet Sanders** born 11th March 1807; baptised on 3 Apr 1807.
- **James Sanders** born 28th October 1808; baptised on 18th November 1808.
- **Ann Elizabeth Saunders** born 2nd March 1810; baptised on 1st April 1810.
- **Joseph Sanders**, William and Mary's 6th child, appears to have been baptised twice. First at the St John the Baptist, and second a few months later at St Thomas Square Chapel. Joseph Sanders (1) born ???; baptised at St John the Baptist, Hackney, on 3rd January 1814; residence: Cold Bath Lane, Hackney



The Church of St John the Baptist

(Lower Clapton Rd, London E5 0PD)

This was an Anglican denominational church which has a huge churchyard

The last child baptised there being Joseph on 3rd January 1814. From then on, all their children – including a second baptism for Joseph - were baptised at St Thomas’s Square Congregational Chapel, Hackney. In addition, on 31st May 1844 was the burial of Henry Page*, father of James Lewis Page* who married Mary Ann Sanders*.

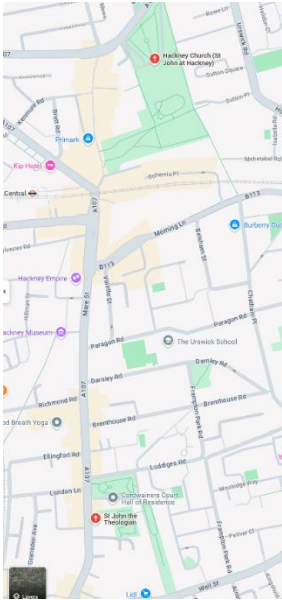
Why William and Elizabeth switched their allegiance to a Congregational chapel in 1814 is unknown, though this may have been due to a residence move. At the end of their lives William Sanders and his wife Elizabeth were both buried at St John the Baptist’s, Hackney.

The Anglican parish church, St John the Baptist (also known as St John at Hackney or Hackney Church) lies just east of the northern part of Mare Street, now the A107, a long street going south from Hackney Central to Cambridge Heath. Interestingly this is a short distance away from Hoxton and Haggerstone and Bethnal Green, where my paternal grandparents grew up.

It would appear that William and Elizabeth may have lived in some poverty – with William being a labourer or dustman, and their residences being in poor working-class areas of east London.

The following children were baptised at **St Thomas’s Square Chapel, Hackney**:

- **[Jo]seph Sanders** (2) born ???; baptised at St Thomas’s Square Chapel, Hackney in Jun 1814
- **Elizabeth Sanders** born ??; baptised on 21st May 1815
- **Henry Sanders** born ???; baptised on 5th October 1817, residence: Mill Street, Hackney.
- **George Sanders** born 15th October 1818; baptised on 15th Nov 1818; residence: Mill Street, Hackney
- **Jane Sanders** born ???; baptised on 25th March 1821
- **John Sanders** born in 1822, baptised on 16th June 1822.



This map shows the location of both churches with Mare Street. St John the Baptist is now "Hackney Church" (top). St Thomas's is where Cordwainers Court Hall of Residence is. The long burial ground is the then green strip going south.

There is little of the lives of William and Elizabeth that has currently been uncovered. They lived in and around Hackney between 1780 and 1850. As their children were all born before official registration we have few records of William's profession – in 1844 he was classed as "bricklayer" at his son's wedding, and at his death, aged 68, he was a "dustman". However, on their death (see below) both William* And Elizabeth* died in the Infirmary of Hackney Union Workhouse.

Hackney Poor Law Union was formed on 26th September 1837. A new Union Workhouse was constructed in stages, on the site of the old Poor House buildings at the south of Homerton High Street. (Layers of London.)

(Source: <https://www.workhouses.org.uk/Hackney/>)

1849 Death of William Sanders*

On 28th April 1849, William Sanders*, died of "chronic bronchitis" aged 68. He died at the Hackney Workhouse, Lower Homerton, informant was Eleanor Vines.

136	Twenty eight April 1849 Hackhouse Lower Homerton	William Sanders	Male	68 years	Dustman	Chronic Bronchitis	Eleanor Vines Present at the Death Hackhouse	First May 1849	Richard Sturt Registrar
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1853 Death of Elizabeth Sanders

On 9th December 1853, Elizabeth Sanders*, died of natural decay aged 75. She too died at the Hackney Union Workhouse, Lower Homerton.

No.	When Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
177	9 th Dec 1853 Workhouse Lower Homerton	Elizabeth Sanders	Female	75 years	Widow Wife of John Sanders Dustman	Natural decay buried	Elizabeth Weston Present at the death Workhouse Lower Homerton	9 th Dec 1853	Richard Sturt Registrar

(On the certificate it states her husband was John Saunders which is likely to have been a mistake.)

Subsequent lives of William and Elizabeth's children

In this section I draw on the work of Charles Parry who did most of the detailed archival research.

While most of these people are only indirect and distant relatives, I provide this detail because it is a collection of lives which gives some indication of the nature of family life during this period – the early 19th century. We know so little of William* and Elizabeth* – not even a family name for her – but once official registration began the information explodes exponentially. The following information does tell us quite a lot about the Sanders family in the 19th century.

First a significant number of the women were illiterate as witnessed by the failure to sign death certificates – only giving “*their mark X*”: Frances, Elizabeth, Hannah, Jane. This does not necessarily imply it was a female issue as it may have been the women who went to register deaths.

Secondly, they were not a particular mobile family living most of their lives in a small area of South Hackney and Homerton, and attending only a couple of churches. Those who did move away only went as far as Shoreditch, two miles away.

Thirdly they were all working class – employed as labourers in some form or other.

Fourthly, those that lived long enough to have children had large families between 7 and 10 children.

Lastly, we study have uncovered a shocking fact – three babies of George Sanders died a violent death in their bed, once when the parents were drunk. All three were subject to coroner's report.

William Sanders born 19th September 1803³⁰

William married Frances Turner and they had eight children. They lived in West Hackney and all their children were baptised there. Though we do not know where they were born.

Name	Baptised	Abode
Elizabeth Sanders	30 Dec 1827	Kingsland, West Hackney
Mary Ann Sanders	28 Sep 1828	Matthias Street, Kingsland
Sarah Susannah Sanders	24 Oct 1830	Abbot St., Kingsland
William Sanders	16 Jan 1833	Bath Row, Dalston
Caroline Sanders	27 Sep 1835	Providence Row, Kingsland
Charlotte Emma Sanders JUN 1838 Hackney 3 122	17 Feb 1839	Henry Street, Kingsland
William Henry Sanders SEP 1840 Hackney 3 134	30 Aug 1840	Henry Street, Kingsland
Ann Sanders DEC 1842 Hackney 3 174	4 Apr 1847	Henry Street, Kingsland

Appearance on Censuses

1841: William Sanders (35); Frances Sanders (34); Elizabeth Sanders (13); William Sanders (10 months)

³⁰ No certain identification of William Sanders has been made beyond his birth and baptism in 1803. A possible identification is with the William Sanders who appears to have lived much of his adult life in Kingsland, West Hackney, whose wife was named Frances Turner, and whose children are listed above. No record of their marriage has been found, but they appear to have met around 1826 or 1827. Their first two children, Elizabeth (born 1827) and Mary Ann (born 1828), were possibly named after his mother and his sister, and several of his other children's names were also used within the wider Sanders' family. It seems that five of the first six children died young: of those, only the first-born Elizabeth Sanders was listed on the 1841 census. The sixth child, Charlotte Emma Sanders, died aged one in 1839 (DEC 1839 Hackney 3 106). The main problem in accepting that the West Hackney William Sanders was the William Sanders baptised in 1803 is that he consistently gave his age on census returns which would make him too young. Nevertheless, his wife Frances appears to have been born in 1803 (according to her age at death), so he might have been born around the same time. In view of the uncertainties over the West Hackney William Sanders' identity his children have not been added to the above table listing numbers of grandchildren. (Charles Parry)

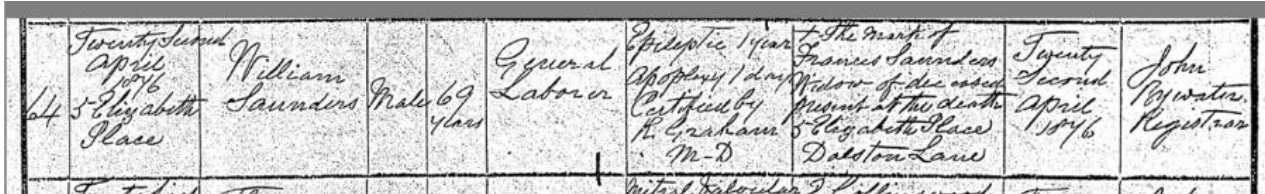
Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

1851: William Sanders (43); Frances Sanders (44); William Sanders (10); Ann Sanders (8)

1861: William Sanders (53); Frances Sanders (55); William Sanders (21); Ann Sanders (18)

1871: William Saunders (63); Frances Saunders (58); William Saunders (widower, 30); William H. Saunders (grandchild, 7).

William died aged 69 (really 72 as there is some inconsistency) on 22nd April 1876 of "Epileptic, 1 year. Apoplexy 1 day" (cerebral haemorrhage or stroke). He lived at 5 Elizabeth Place, West Hackney and was a general labourer. His death was registered by Frances Sanders (formerly Turner), his wife, who was present at his death. (1876, Jun, Hackney, 01b, 261). Frances was illiterate which may explain some of the inconsistency in the records. Frances died in 1876. (1876, Dec, Hackney, 01B, 271).



Mary Ann Sanders (1805-1877) born 25th May 1809 St George in the East, Tower Hamlets

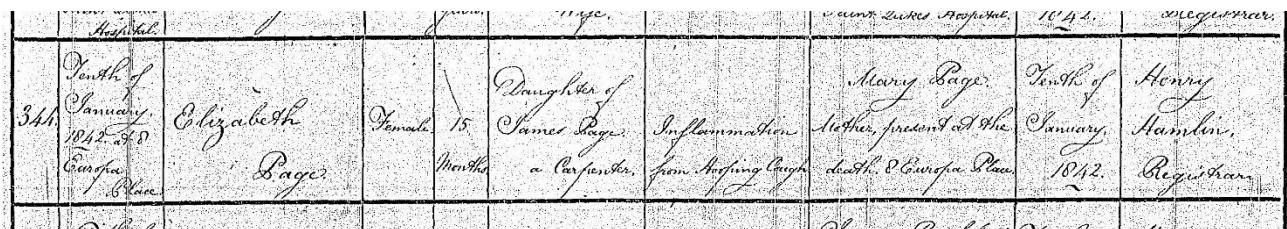
Mary Ann married James Lewis Page on 18th May 1829 at St John’s Church, Hackney and had ten children. (See the chapter on James Lewis Page* and Mary Ann Sanders*.)

Mary Ann and James Lewis first lived at Europa Place, then moved to 33, then 2 Willow Gardens, Shoreditch.

Most of the children were registered as "Sarnders".

Name	Born	Baptised	Church
James Richard Page	not stated	12 Jul 1829	St John, Hackney
Henry William Page	14 th December 1830	5 Jun 1831	South Hackney
'Marianne' Page	not stated	31 Mar 1833	South Hackney
John Lewis Page	12 th December 1834	17 May 1835	St John the Baptist, Hoxton
Louisa Page	20 Jul 1836	18 Sep 1836	St Leonard, Shoreditch
Jane Page	3 rd October 1838 DEC 1838 St Luke 2 224	11 Nov 1838	St John the Baptist, Hoxton
Elizabeth Page	16 th October 1840 B: DEC 1840 St Luke 2 244 D: MAR 1842 St Luke 2 207L		
Emma Page*	25 th December 1842 MAR 1843 Shoreditch 2 404	17 Mar 1847	St John the Baptist, Hoxton
John Page	7 th Apr 1845 JUN 1845 Shoreditch 2 407	17 Mar 1847	St John the Baptist, Hoxton
William Jasper Page	17 th March 1848 JUN 1848 Shoreditch 2 460	17 May 1848	St John the Baptist, Hoxton

Tragically Elizabeth died on 4th January 1842 aged 15 months at 8 Europa Place of "inflammation die to whooping cough". Mary was present at the death.



Appearance on censuses

1841: James Page (30); Mary Page (30); James Page (12); Henry Page (10); Maryann (8); Louisa Page (5); Jane Page (3); Eliz Page (8 months)

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

1851: James Page (42); Mary Ann Page (45); James Page (22); Henry Page (20); Marion Page (18); Louisa Page (14); Jane Page (12); Emma Page (8); John Page (5); William Page (3)

1861: James Page (54); Mary Anne Page (56); Emma Page (18); John Page (16); William Page (13)

On 6th December 1861, her husband James Lewis Page* died of cancer of the stomach, at the young age of 54. Mary Ann continued living at 2 Willow Gardens with her son, James Richard Page.

1871: Mary Ann Page* (widow, 66); James Page (43)

Mary Ann* died on 23rd October 1877 of "Decay of nature, Bronchitis 8 days", aged 72. She lived at 6 Barton Court. The death was registered by her son Henry Page of 26 Chapen Street Curtain Road, on 24th October 1877. Mary Ann Sanders* died at the house of her daughter Jane Woodward (formerly Page). Mary Ann's son Henry William Page (1830 – 82) incorrectly gave his father's middle name as Richard (it was in fact Lewis). Presumably he thought that his elder brother James Richard Page (c. 1829 – 98) had been named after his father. (1877, Dec, Shoreditch, 01C, 103).

392	Twenty third October 1877 6 Barton Court	Mary Ann Page	Female	72 years	Widow of James Richard Page a Carpenter	Decay of nature Bronchitis 8 days Certified by P. L. Rinchell M.D.	Henry Page Son in attendance 26 Chapel Street Curtain Road. E.C.	Twenty fourth October 1877	Oldbury Registrar.
	Twenty third				Son of	Hooping cough	M. Innocent		

Mary* and James' 8th child, Emma Page, went on to marry Thomas Humphreys Gates and one of their children, Charles Gates* was my paternal grandfather.

Harriet Sanders born 11th March 1807

No documentary record has been found of Harriet on any census, it may be she died as an infant.

James Sanders born 28th October 1808; baptised on 18th November 1808³¹

James married Martha Hankin in 1843, and they went on to have seven children all baptised in South Hackney. Although we don't know where they were born it is likely in Wick Street.

While James Sanders and Martha Hankin married in 1843, their relationship appears to have been ongoing from around mid-1841, judging from the baptism in March 1842 of their first children, twins George and James Sanders. On the 1841 census James Sanders lived at Wick Street, Hackney, with his married sister Elizabeth and her husband William Brightwell.

Martha Hankin lived elsewhere in Wick Street. The household in which she lived comprised her widowed mother Sarah Hankin (aged 55), a probable brother George Hankin (aged 20) Martha herself (aged 20), and a probable brother Henry (aged 15) Also living in the Hankin household were two children, Emily Hankin (aged 2) and William Hankin (aged 1) whose relationship to any adult is not explained. Of the three Hankin children only the eldest child, Emily was baptised (in October 1838 at South Hackney church). The parents were 'William and Martha Hankin [of] Wick Street'. I have found no birth certificate for Emily Hankin or Eliza Hankin. William Hankin has a birth certificate (1840, Mar, Hackney, 3, 133: not obtained) but the mother's name is not recorded separately (i.e., the father's name is presumably not recorded on the birth certificate and the child already bore his mother's name when the birth was registered).

James and Martha's first children were twins George and James – born illegitimately in early 1842 yet taking the father's surname.

³¹ Most of these notes come from Charles Parry

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Name	Baptised	Abode
George Sanders B: MAR 1842 Hackney 3 183 D: JUN 1842 Hackney 3 125	14 Mar 1842	Wick Street
James Sanders B: MAR 1842 Hackney 3 183 D: MAR 1842 Hackney Union 3, 135	14 Mar 1842	Wick Street
Sarah Ann Saunders B: DEC 1843 Hackney 3 178		
James Sanders B: SEP 1851 Hackney 3 195 D: JUN 1855 Hackney 1b 217		
Eliza Jane Saunders B: SEP 1846 Hackney 3 176	26 Jul 1846	Silk Mill Row
Martha Ann Sanders SEP 1853 Hackney 1b 305 D: JUN 1855 Hackney 1b 216	31 Jul 1853	Wick Street
Frederick Sanders B: DEC 1855 Hackney 1b 305	23 Sep 1855	Silk Mill Row

Four of James Sanders' children eight children died as infants. The twins James Sanders 2 days and George Sanders 1 month, died withing a month of each other in 1842. The second James Sanders aged 3 and Martha Ann Sanders aged 1 again died within a month of each other in 1855.

James Sanders died on 15th March just 2 days old of "convulsions". Father James was a silk weaver who registered the death. (1842, Mar, Hackney, 3, 135)

15 th of March 1842 at Wick Street	James Sanders	Male	2 days	Son of James Sanders Silk Weaver	Convulsions	James Sanders Present at the death Wick Street	15 th March 1842	William Druett Registrar
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George died a month later on 12th April again of "debility" at Wick Street. The death this time was registered by "Sarah Hankin" who was present at the death. This was presumably Martha's mother. This must have been a devastating month for James and Martha. (1842, Jun, Hackney, 3, 125)

12 th of April 1842 at Wick Street	George Sanders	Male	1 month	Son of James Sanders	Debility	The Mark of Sarah Hankin Present at the death Wick Street	12 th April 1842	William Druett Registrar
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Martha Ann died on 13th April 1855 aged just 1 year old, of "Cyanosis from birth and convulsions 5 days". By now the family are living at Silk Mill Row, South Hackney. James was a general labourer. (1855, Jun, Hackney, 01B, 216).

13 th of April 1855 at Silk Mill Row	Martha Ann Sanders	Female	1 year	Daughter of James Sanders General Labourer	Cyanosis from birth Convulsions 5 days - Baptised	M. A Sanders Present at the death Silk Mill Row South Hackney	13 th April 1855	Richard Stretton Registrar
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Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Cyanosis is the change of body colour to a bluish-purple hue, as a result of decrease in the amount of oxygen bound to the haemoglobin in the red blood cells of the capillary bed. Central cyanosis is often due to a circulatory or ventilatory problem that leads to poor blood oxygenation in the lungs. It develops when arterial oxygen saturation drops below 85% or 75%. Acute cyanosis can be a result of asphyxiation or choking and is one of the definite signs that ventilation is being blocked

The second James died on 13th May 1855 aged 3 of "scarlatina maligna" another name for scarlet fever, an infectious disease caused by the bacteria *Streptococcus pyogenes*. Agan a devastating month for the parents. (1855, Jun, Hackney, 01B, 217).

Street					certified	South Hackney	1855	Registrar
369 Thirteenth May 1855 Silk Mill Row	James Sanders	Male	3 Years	Son of James Sanders General Labourer	Scarlatina Maligna certified	Martha Sanders Present at the death Silk Mill Row South Hackney	Fourteenth May 1855	Richard Robinson Registrar

On the 1851 census listing James Sanders and Martha Hankin's household, the three children named Emily Saunders (aged 12), Eliza Saunders (aged 11), and William Saunders (aged 10) were evidently illegitimate children born to Martha Hankin before her relationship with James Sanders began. Emily and William were surely the children listed in the Hankin household in 1841; Eliza Hankin's whereabouts on census night 1841 have not been ascertained.

Appearance on censuses

They lived in various addresses in South Hackney. Martha died between the 1861 and 1871 censuses. James was not located on the 1881 census.

1841: James Saunders (25) (living with his married sister Elizabeth Sanders/Brightwell)

1851: James Saunders (40); Martha Saunders (32); Emily Saunders (12); Eliza Saunders (11); William Saunders (10); Sarah Saunders (7); [Sarah Hankin, widow (60)]

1861: James Saunders (51); Martha Saunders (43); William Saunders (21); Sarah Saunders (18); Frederick Saunders (5); Henry Saunders (2)

1871: James Sandler widower (63); Esther (sic) Sanders (13), son [presumably Henry Sanders]

James died on 4th March 1886 at the infirmary of Hackney Union Workhouse, Homerton, Hackney of senile decay aged 78. He was a labourer at the Hackney Union Workhouse. His death was registered by WR Jeffray a steward of the Workhouse. (1886, Mar, Hackney, 01B, 405)

158 Fourth March 1886 Infirmary Hackney Union	James Saunders	Male	78 Years	a Labourer of the Workhouse Hackney Union	Senile Decay Chronic Bronchitis certified by J. Gordon M.D.	W. R. Jeffray Steward Infirmary Hackney Union	Fifth March 1886	Thomas Coates Registrar
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Ann Elizabeth Saunders born 2nd March 1810

(There are some inconsistencies in the documentary record for Ann Elizabeth, largely regarding some dates, ages and the use of the name "Saunders". However, on the balance of probabilities, there is sufficient supporting evidence to feel fairly happy this is correct.)

Ann married James Wilson (c. 1813 - 1859), a night watchman at a vinegar works in August 1836. They had seven children, all of whom were registered in the name of "Saunders".

Name	DOB	GRO	Baptised
James Wilson		SEP 1837 Shoreditch 2 193	
William Wilson		MAR 1840 Shoreditch 2 410	
Charles Wilson	9 th August 1842	SEP 1842 Shoreditch 2 397	21st February 1843, St Leonards Shoreditch

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Edwin Wilson	26 th December 1845	MAR 1846 Shoreditch 2 479	18 th January 1846, St Leonards Shoreditch
George Wilson		JUN 1848 Shoreditch 2 455	
Richard Wilson		DEC 1850 Shoreditch 2 498	
Alfred Wilson		JUN 1857 Shoreditch 1c 118	

Appearance on censuses

1841: James Wilson (25); Ann Wilson (30); James Wilson (4); William Wilson (1)

1851: James Wilson (37); Ann E Wilson (41); James Wilson (13); William Wilson (11); Charles Wilson (8); Edwin Wilson (5); George Wilson (3); Richard Wilson (5 months)

James died between the 1851 and 1861 censuses leaving Ann with seven children. They lived in Shoreditch. Ann was usually a "laundress".

1861: Elizabeth A Wilson, Widow (51); William Wilson (21); Charles Wilson (19); Edwin Wilson (15); George Wilson (13); Richard Wilson (10); Alfred Wilson (4)

1871: Ann E Wilson (61); George Wilson (22); Alfred Wilson (14)

As a widow, Ann lived for over 20 years at 17 Emma Street, Bethnal Green, taking a lodger in 1881. In 1891 she was living with her son Edwin, his wife and five children.

1881: Ann E Wilson (71)

1891: Edwin Wilson (45); Fanny E Wilson (42); Annie Wilson, Mother, Widow (82); Edwin jnr Wilson (15); Chas E Wilson (11); Edith M Wilson (8); Emily A Wilson (6); Wm Hy Wilson (2)

Ann died on 30th April 1892 of *senile degeneration* aged 83. She was living at 52 Mulkern Road, Islington with her daughter-in-law, F Wilson (JUN 1892 Islington 1b 150).

No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
53	Thirtieth April 1892 52 Mulkern Road	Ann Elizabeth Wilson	Female	83 years	Widow of James Wilson a Night Watchman at a Vinegar Works	Senile Degeneration Certified by H. Murray M.B.C.S.	J. E. Wilson Daughter in Law present at the death 52 Mulkern Road Islington	Second May 1892	C.R. Butcher Registrar

Joseph Sanders

Joseph married Caroline Tagg before the 1851 census. They had 6 children; all bar one registered in the name of "Saunders".

Name	Born	Baptised	Church	Abode
Harriet Saunders	SEP 1840 Hackney 3 126	24 th September 1843	South Hackney	Bennetts' Yard
Caroline Saunders	SEP 1843 Hackney 3 171	24 th September 1843	South Hackney	Bennetts' Yard
Joseph Saunders	JUN 1846 Hackney 3 181	1 st April 1846	St John, Hackney	New Cut
Thomas William Saunders	DEC 1848 Hackney 3 180	27 th October 1848	St John, Hackney	Homerton
Ann Elizabeth Sanders	25 May 1851 JUN 1851 Bethnal Green 2 65	18 th June 1851	St John, Hoxton	Smith's Place
Matilda Saunders	3 Dec 1854 DEC 1853 Bethnal Green 1c 240	14 th November 1862	St John, Beth. Green	1 North Passage
Frederick Saunders	27 Oct 1856 DEC 1856 Bethnal Green 1c 216	14 th November 1862	St John, Beth. Green	1 North Passage
Rebecca Sanders	Jul 1859	14 th November 1862	St John. Beth. Green	1 North Passage

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	SEP 1859 Hackney 1b 353			
Mercy Margaret Saunders	11 Oct 1862 DEC1862 Bethnal Green 1c 267	14 th November 1862	St John, Beth. Green	1 North Passage

They lived variously in Bethnal Green and Walthamstow. Joseph was a labourer but in 1881 when they lived at 37 Cambridge Road, he was a flower seller.

Appearance on censuses

1841: not located

1851: Joseph Saunders (36); Caroline Saunders (31); Harriet Saunders (10); Joseph Saunders (5); Thomas Saunders (3)

1861: Joseph Saunders (52); Caroline Saunders (42); Joseph Saunders (15); Matilda Saunders (15); Thos W. Saunders (12); Ann E. Saunders (8); Frederick Saunders (4); Rebecca Saunders (1)

1871: Joseph Saunders (60); Caroline Saunders (75); Joseph Saunders (23); Frederick Saunders (13); Rebecca Saunders (7)

1881: Joseph Saunders (71); Caroline Saunders (65)

No record has been found of the death of Joseph Sanders, born c. 1814, last recorded on the 1881 census.

Elizabeth Sanders born ??; baptised on 21st May 1815

Elizabeth married William Brightwell a Dock Labourer between the 1841 and 1851 censuses. They had seven children.

Name	Born	Baptised	Church	Abode
William James 'Bridewell'	not stated	5 Sep 1838	South Hackney	Wick Street
Hannah Elizabeth Brightwell	MAR 1842 Hackney 3 179	20 Feb 1842	South Hackney	Wick Street
Samuel Brightwell	DEC 1843 Hackney 3 179	21 Dec 1843	South Hackney	Silk Mill Row
William James Brightwell		8 Jun 1845	South Hackney	Wick Street
Joseph Brightwell	JUN 1845 Hackney 3 188	8 Jun 1845	South Hackney	Wick Street
Caroline Brightwell	MAR 1847 Hackney 3 194	2 Feb 1849	South Hackney	Capland Road
James Francis Brightwell	DEC 1849 Hackney 3 189			

Elizabeth and William Brightwell's first child, William James 'Bridewell', died on 20th September 1838 aged 16 days of "convulsions". He dies At Wick Street, with his mother present. The surname 'Bridewell' was also used on his death certificate. As Elizabeth was illiterate the slight error in registering the surname is understandable. William was buried on 24th September 1838 at South Hackney church. Since he was baptised on 5th September 1838 he must have been



born on or close to the day of his baptism. (1838, Sep, Hackney, 3, 98).

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

There were three further infant deaths:

Samuel Brightwell died 21st December 1843, aged 6 days, of "Debility, convulsions". The family lived at Silk Mill Row. Death registered on 22nd December 1843 but not clear who by. (1843, Dec Hackney, 3, 149).

Twenty first of December 1843 266 at Silk Mill Row	Samuel Brightwell	Male	6 days	Son of William Brightwell Labourer	Debility, convulsions	Elizabeth Brightwell In Attendance Silk Mill Row	Twenty second of December 1843	William Brightwell Registrar
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Joseph Brightwell died on 15th February 1846 of "Scarlatina 6 days" aged 10 months. They lived at Silk Mill Row. Death Registered on 22nd by Elizabeth (1846, Mar, Hackney, 3, 132)

Fifteenth of February 1846 266 at Silk Mill Row	Joseph Brightwell	Male	10 Months	Son of William James Brightwell Labourer	Scarlatina 6 days (Certified)	The mark of Elizabeth Brightwell Present at the death Silk Mill Row	Sixteenth of February 1846	William Brightwell Registrar
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Caroline Brightwell died on 7th February 1849 aged 2 years of "scarlet fever 3 days". They lived at 6 Silk Mill Road, South Hackney. Death registered th same day by Elizabeth (1849, Mar Hackney, 3, 163).

Seventh of February 1849 262 at 6 Silk Mill Row South Hackney	Caroline Brightwell	Female	2 years	Daughter of William Brightwell Labourer	Scarlet fever 3 days Certified	The mark of Elizabeth Brightwell Present at the death 6, Silk Mill Row South Hackney	Seventh of February 1849	William Brightwell Registrar
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Appearance on censuses

1841: William Brightwell (20); Elizabeth Brightwell (20); William Brightwell (1); James Saunders (25)

1851: William Brightwell (33); Elizabeth Brightwell (35); William Jas Brightwell (11); Hannah Elizth Brightwell (9); James Brightwell (18 months)

Elizabeth died on 15th February 1855 aged 42 (39?) of "Pneumonia 5 weeks". She lived at 3 Silk Mill Road, South Hackney. The death was registered on 16th February 1855 by her daughter Hannah Saunders. (1855, Mar, Hackney. 01B, 275)

Fifteenth of February 1855 317 at 3 Silk Mill Row	Elizabeth Brightwell	Female	42 years	Wife of William Brightwell Dock Labourer	Pneumonia 5 weeks Certified	Hannah Saunders Present at the death Silk Mill Row South Hackney	Sixteenth of February 1855	Richard Stubbs Registrar
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1861: William Bridewell (unmarried, 48); Martha Helf, Boarder (unmarried, 52); Fanny Helf, boarder (9); James Bridewell (10).

Henry Sanders born ???; baptised on 5th October 1817, residence: Mill Street, Hackney, died around March 1829 aged around 11. He was buried that month at St John the Baptist's church, Hackney.

George Sanders born 15th October 1818; baptised on 15th Nov 1818; residence: Mill Street, Hackney.

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George married Mary Ann Fitzpatrick between the 1841 and 1851 censuses. According to census returns Mary Ann Fitzpatrick was born in Mile End. Her birth around 1824 is inferred from her age on the 1851 and 1861 censuses. There is no record of baptism for Mary Ann Fitzpatrick. On the 1841 census she was living at Wick Street, Hackney, with her parents, Cornelius and Catherine Fitzpatrick.

George and Mary had eight children. They lived in various addresses in South Hackney. The lack of consistency in spelling of Sanders is apparent in here.

Name	Born	Baptised	Church	Abode
Mary Ann Sanders	SEP 1847 Hackney 3 164	24 Aug 1847	St John, Hackney	Brunswick Street
George William Sanders	DEC 1849 Hackney 3 178	14 Oct 1849	St John, Hackney	Brunswick Street
Elizabeth Saunders	JUN 1852 Hackney 1b 271	23 May 1852	St John, Hackney	Margaret Street
John Sanders	JUN 1855 Hackney 1b 294			
James Saunders	MAR 1857 Hackney 1b 346			
Sarah Jane Saunders	SEP 1860 Hackney 1b 360			
Caroline Saunders	JUN 1863 Hackney 1b 405			
Joseph Saunders	DEC 1864 Hackney 1b 381			

Appearance on censuses

1851: George Sanders (33); Mary A Sanders (27); Mary A Sanders (3); George W Saunders [sic] (1); Cornelius FitzPatrick, unmarried brother-in-law (17)

1861: George Sanders (42); Mary A Sanders (37); Mary A Sanders (12); George W Sanders (10); Elizth Sanders (8); James Sanders (4); Sarah Sanders (9 months)

1871: George Sanders (53); Mary A Sanders (49); Sarah Sanders (10); Annie Fitzpatrick, niece (2)

Neither George nor Mary have been located after the 1881 census.

Three of George Sanders and Mary Ann Fitzpatrick's children died soon after they were born. Their deaths were all registered using the surname, Sanders.

John died on 15th July 1855 of "found dead in bed without mark of violence" aged 12 weeks. Parents lived in Margaret Street, Homerton. Father George was a labouring bricklayer. There was a coroner's report. (1855, Sep, Hackney, 01B,187). On the surface this might seem like a cot death until we look at the deaths of the other two children.

No.	When Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
290	Fifteenth July 1855 Margaret Street, Homerton	John Sanders	Male	12 weeks	Son of George Sanders Labourer Bricklayer	Found dead in bed without mark of violence	John Hakes Coroner 12 Chester Terrace Hagley Park	Thirteenth August 1855	Richard Sibb Registrar

Caroline Died on 11th April 1863, 8 years later of "violent death suffocation in bed at night whilst parents drunk", aged 6 weeks. Parents lived at 2 St John's Place South Hackney. George was a labourer. There was a coroner's report. (1863, Jun, Hackney, 01B, 266).

No.	When Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
441	Eleventh April 1863 2 St John's Place South Hackney	Caroline Sanders	Female	6 weeks	Daughter of George Sanders Labourer	Violent death suffocation in bed at night whilst parents drunk	Information received from John Humphrey Coroner for Middlesex Inquest held 14th April 1863	Fourteenth April 1863	Richard Sibb Registrar

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Finally, Joseph died on 23rd December 1864, some 18 months after Caroline, aged 4 months of "violent suffocation in bed at night. Post Mortem". There was an inquest on 29th December 1864 by John Humphreys - the same Coroner who saw Caroline. Parents lived at 2 Queens Road (1864, Dec, Hackney, 01B, 307). Losing one child is unfortunate; losing three is suspicious,

459	23 rd December 1864 2 Queens Road Hackney	Joseph Sanders	male	14	Son of George Sanders Labourer	Violent Suffocation in bed at night. Post Mortem	John Humphreys Coroner	29 th December 1864	John Sanders Registrar
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However, there appears to be no evidence of allegations of criminality, and the reports do not appear to have been retained (Source: London Archives). Coroner's records were regarded as the personal property of the coroner and on the death of a coroner records were liable to be destroyed. From 1921 the Public Record Office required all surviving records dating from before 1875 to be retained permanently, but advised that more recent records need only be kept for 15 years. Consequently, for the Counties of London and Middlesex many coroners' records have not survived. However, an inquest and coroners report does not attribute blame, liability or culpability.

A coroner investigates unnatural, violent, or unknown-cause deaths to determine who died, and when, where, and how they died. This process often involves holding an inquest, which is a fact-finding hearing that does not assign blame or guilt but may include witness statements, medical records, and post-mortem examinations. The coroner's role also includes issuing reports and recommendations to prevent future deaths, which are then published for public access.

An inquest is a public judicial inquiry conducted by a coroner to establish the identity of the deceased, and the medical cause of death, and to answer the questions of when, where, and how the person died. Inquests are fact-finding processes, not trials, and do not determine blame or liability. They are held for deaths that are unexplained, unnatural, or violent, and aim to provide official conclusions about the death, which can then be used to register the death.

(<https://coronerscourtsupportservice.org.uk/>)

Some records of marriage for George Sander's children have been found:

- Elizabeth Sanders married Lewis Wood in May 1874 at St John the Baptist, Hackney. Witnesses were George Sanders (probably her father) and Mary Ann Sanders (perhaps her mother, but alternatively her elder sister?). Both signed. The bride's father was 'George Sanders' 'Labourer', who was evidently still alive.
- George [William] 'Saunders' married Eliza Rebecca Fox in June 1878 at St James the Great, Bethnal Green. Witnesses were Elizabeth West and 'G Sanders', who signed. The bride's father was 'George Saunders' 'Labourer', who was evidently still alive (and was probably one of the witnesses).
- Sarah Jane Sanders married John Edward Heastman in June 1881 at St John of Jerusalem, South Hackney, Witnesses were John William Wood and Frances Heastman. The bride's father was 'George William Sanders' 'Labourer'. Sarah Jane supplied her father with a middle name he did not have, but he appears to have been still living.

George died on 24th June 1890 of "Broncho pneumonia and heart disease" at the Hackney Union Workhouse. He was a general labourer living at 2 Pear Tree Court. The death was registered by his daughter-in-Law, Elizabeth Sanders who was in attendance. Possibly she was Eliza Sanders (formerly Fox) who married George Sanders' son, George William Sanders in 1876. (1890, Jun, Hackney, 01B, 340)

272	Twentyfourth June 1890 Infirmary Hackney	George Sanders	male	72	a General Labourer of 2 Pear Tree Court	Heart Disease & Broncho Pneumonia certified by	the mark of Elizabeth Sanders Daughter in Law in attendance	Twentyfourth June 1890	F. Coate Registrar
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Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Jane Sanders born c1821

Jane married Samuel Rodgers, a porter in a meat factory. They had seven children. Jane and Samuel lived in various addresses in Homerton. Mother's surname was variously recorded as "Sanders" and "Saunders".

Name	Born	Baptised	Church	Abode
Samuel Rogers	MAR 1843 Hackney 3 173	9 Apr 1843	South Hackney	Wick Street
Jane Rogers	JUN 1845 Hackney 3 188	8 June 1845	South Hackney	Wick Street
William Rogers	DEC 1846 Hackney 3 185	1 Aug 1847	St Barnabas, Homerton	Wants Buildings
Elizabeth Rogers	MAR 1858 Hackney 1b 322	14 Feb 1858	St Barnabas, Homerton	Homerton
Maria Rogers	MAR 1854 Hackney 1b 323	14 Feb 1858	St Barnabas, Homerton	Homerton
James Rogers	Birth not registered	14 Feb 1858	St Barnabas, Homerton	Homerton
Charles Rogers	SEP 1849 Hackney 3 179	14 Feb 1858	St Barnabas, Homerton	Homerton

Appearance on censuses

1851: Samuel Rogers (38); Jane Rogers (27); Samuel Rogers (6); William Rogers (4 [sic]); Jane Rogers (2 [sic]); James Rogers (2 months)

Samuel died between the 1851 and 1861 censuses leaving Jane alone with 7 children. Jane was for some time a "needlewoman". In 1871 she had a lodger, but from 1891 she was living as a lodger with the family of Charles Burchell.

1861: Jane Rogers (widow, 42); Samuel Rogers (19); Jane Rogers (17 [sic]); William Rogers (14); Charles Rogers (11); James Rogers (8 [sic]); Maria Roberts (7); Elizabeth Roberts (3)

1871: Jane Rogers (widow, 53); Samuel Rogers (29); Charles Rogers (30 [sic]; James Rogers (18); Maria Rogers (16); Elizabeth Rogers (13); William Coleman, Lodger (21)

1881: Jane Rogers (widow, 61); Samuel Rogers (40); William Hutching, Lodger (24); Henry Hutching, visitor (13)

1891: Jane Rogers (widowed lodger, 71)

1901: Jane Rogers (widowed lodger, 82)

1911: Jane Rogers (widowed infirmity patient, 93)

On the 1911 census Jane Sanders/Rogers was recorded as a patient in the Hackney Union Infirmary, 230 High Street, Homerton, aged 93 (she was in fact aged c. 90). She was of 'no occupation'. On the census her infirmity was recorded as 'Totally blind over 20 years'. Jane died on 30th March 1913 of senile decay at the Hackney Union Infirmary, Homerton aged 95. Death registered by her daughter Maria Jenkins (formerly Sanders) of 11 Landfield Street, Clapton.

437	Thirtieth March 1913 Hackney Union Infirmary Homerton	Jane Rogers	Female 95 years	4489 Dicky Road, Homerton, Widow of Samuel Rogers, Porter and meat market	(1) Senile decay, Certified by G. J. C. Atkinson M.D.	Maria Jenkins Daughter in attendance 11 Landfield Street, Clapton	Thirty first - first - f. j. Jackson	1913 Registrar.
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John Sanders born c1822

John Sanders married Hannah Watson on 28th July 1844, in St John, Hoxton. In the 1841 census Hannah Watson, aged 14, lived with her parents Joseph and Mary Watson in Wick Street, South Hackney. John Sanders previously lived in Wick Street with his parents.

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1844. Marriage solemnized at *the District Parish Church in the District Parish of St. John the Baptist Hoxton in the County of Middlesex*

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
433	28 July 1844	John Sanders	off full 22	Bachelor	Bricklayer	Provost Street	William Sanders	Bricklayer
		Hannah Watson	minor	Spinster	—	Hackney Wick	Joseph Watson	Gardener

Married in the *District Parish Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, *after Banns* by me, *James Page* *James Richards M.A. Curate*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *John Sanders & his mark* in the Presence of us, *James Page* *Mary Ann Page* *William Ballard*

Interestingly, John Sanders gave Provost Street as his address in July 1844 when he was 22 - James Page and Mary Ann Page were witnesses. James and Mary Ann lived at 61 Provost Street at the time with Emma Page*who was 18 months old. John may have been living with them. Note too that James Page and Mary Ann Sanders' son John was born just under 9 months later. Hence it was possible Mary Ann was some 3 weeks pregnant at the wedding, but may not have realised. Some 180 years later - we know!

Together John Sanders and Hannah had 9 children. They lived in Homerton. The children were variously registered as "Sanders" and "Saunders".

Hannah Sanders	SEP 1845 Hackney 3 180
Charles Saunders	MAR 1847 Hackney 3 188
John Saunders	JUN 1849 Hackney 3 161
James Saunders	JUN 1851 Hackney 3 186
William Saunder	SEP 1853 Hackney 1b 295
Maria Saunders	DEC 1855 Hackney 1b 300
James Sanders	JUN 1858 Hackney 1b 315
Emma Saunders	JUN 1860 Hackney 1b 340
Charlotte Saunders	SEP 1868 Hackney 1b 436

It seems that none of the children of John Sanders and Hannah Watson were baptised during John Sander's lifetime. Charlotte 'Saunders' was aged eleven when she was baptised three years after John Sanders' death.

Name	Born	Baptised	Church	Abode
Charlotte Saunders	15 Aug 1868	7 May 1880	St Barnabas, Homerton	10 Crozier Terrace

Two of John Sanders' and Hannah Watson's children died as infants: the first James, and Emma. The first, James 'Saunders', born June 1851, died in 13th June 1855, of "scarlatina 4 weeks, anasarca 7 days" aged four. The death occurs at 2 Silk Mill Road. Hannah Saunders was illiterate. (1855, Jun, Hackney, 01B, 220).

Anasarca is severe swelling (edema) in various parts of your body at the same time. Multiple medical conditions can cause anasarca by upsetting the balanced way fluids normally move between your blood vessels and nearby tissues

Place	urgens	Sex	Age	Profession	Condition	Residence	Witness	Registrar
396 Thirtieth June 1855 2 Silk Mill Row	James Saunders	Male	4 years	Son of James Saunders General labourer	Scarlatina 4 weeks Anasarca 7 days Crispida	X The mark of Hannah Saunders Present at the death 2 Silk Mill Row South Hackney	Thirtieth June 1855	Richard Steele Registrar

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Emma 'Saunders', born June 1860, died 5th February 1861 age 9 months of "measles 6 days". They lived at 1 Pratts Row Homerton (1861, Mar Hackney, 01B, 275).

93	Fifth February 1861 1 Pratts Row Homerton	Emma Saunders	Female	9 months	Daughter of John Saunders Bricklayers Labourer	Measles 6 Days Certified	J. Saunders Present at Death 1 Pratts Row Homerton	Fifth February 1861	John Jeffray Registrar
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Appearance on censuses

1851: John Saunders (30); Hannah Saunders (24); Charles Saunders (4); John Saunders (2)

1861: John Saunders (40); Hannah Saunders (34); Charles Saunders (14); John Saunders (12); William Saunders (7); Maria Saunders (5); Samuel Saunders (3)

1871: John Saunders (50); Hannah Saunders (44); Maria Saunders (15); Willm Saunders (12); James Saunders (9); Henry Saunders (7); Charlotte Saunders (2);

John died on 18th April 1877 of "chronic pneumonia, phthisis" (tuberculosis) which he had had for 6 months. He was aged 53, and a Bricklayer's labourer, He was living at 9 Berger Road, Homerton, Hackney. His death was registered by his sister Jane Rogers who was present at the death. She lived at 25 Digby Road. Jane was illiterate. (1877, Jun, Hackney, 01B, 307).

361	Eighteenth April 1877 9 Berger Road	John Sanders	Male	53 years	Bricklayers Labourer	chronic pneumonia phthisis 6 months certified by R.H. Smith	X the mark of Jane Rogers sister present at the death 25 Digby Road	Twentyfirst April 1877	Thomas Coates Registrar
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There are a small number of inconsistencies in the documentary record for some children recorded on censuses.

A Hannah Saunders was born to John and Hannah in 1845 but does not appear on the 1851 and later census returns. However, there is no record of the death of any Hannah Sanders/Saunders in Hackney during 1845 – 51.

Samuel Saunders who only appears on the 1861 Census has not been found/verified elsewhere – so it is possible he was misnamed. The age of the William Saunders recorded on the 1861 census as 7 does not match the age of the Willam Saunders recorded on the 1871 census aged 12.

Silk Mill Row: Living Conditions in the mid-19th Century

Silk Mill Row

Interestingly, Silk Mill Row appears on the death certificates for four of the Sanders grandchildren: Samuel Sanders 1855, Elizabeth Brightwell 1855, Martha Ann Sanders 1855, James Sanders 1855. This was a not a particularly healthy area to live in at the time.

Cholera in Silk Mill Row, Hackney

The District Board received reports of deaths linked to poor drainage in areas such as the back of Homerton High Street and Upper Clapton. Stoke Newington churchwardens lobbied the Board to ask for more medical support to the poor and a number of high-risk areas were identified.

One of these was Silk Mill Row, 14 dwellings near Cassland Road and Well Street that were home to 85 people. In 1848 it was reported that cesspools, for the collection of sewage, had been dug within yards of a well supplying drinking water. This had soon become thick with faecal matter. The landlord pumped off the worst of this offensive waste and declared the water fit for his tenants. 59 people suffered from diarrhoea but the medical officer, Dr Tripe, refused to acknowledge polluted water as the cause.

The 1856-6 cholera epidemic brought new urgency to the District Board's response. 245 cesspools were connected to the sewers and 383 drains were repaired. Local government and voluntary bodies were more active in offering relief to the sick. Constant free water was provided from standpipes in several areas including Silk Mill Row but the East London Water Company were found to be providing water contaminated by sewage. While there was a growing understanding that cholera was a water borne disease, Dr Tripe continued to assert the cause was poor ventilation. Fortunately, his views did not survive the public health reform that finally put an end to London's cholera epidemics.

(Layers of London, <https://layersoflondon.humap.site/map/records/cholera-in-silk-mill-row-hackney>)

This gives an indication of the conditions several of the Sanders families (and maybe more) were living in during the mid-19th century.

Thomas's Square Congregational Chapel, Hackney³²

As for the origin of the chapel the following extract is from British History Online page "*Hackney: Mare Street and London Fields*":

'The most impressive 18th-century development was on the east side of Mare Street. St. Thomas's hospital followed its decision to build on the site of Shore Place with a lease in 1769 under which Robert Collins laid out St. Thomas's Square in 1771-2. A Congregational chapel was opened on the south side in 1772 and served by distinguished ministers.' (<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/middx/vol10/pp23-28>) p

A print of 1841 depicts a large building with a classical elevation fronting onto Mare Street. The chapel closed c. 1911, and was converted to a cinema c. 1914, There is a photo of the frontage (unknown date) following its conversion to the Empress Cinema, with the chapel's classical design clearly visible.

The former chapel structure appears to have been demolished in the 1930s when a purpose-built cinema was constructed. The last film was shown there in 1967 and the cinema building was subsequently converted to a Bingo Hall, which it remained until the 1990s, when it was demolished. A student hall of residence, Cordwainers Court, was built on the site c. 1996.

Some sources give the denomination of the chapel as Presbyterian. However, it was certainly Congregational when the infant Sanders children were baptised there in the 1810s, since the register has a preface (on the page opposite Joseph Sanders' 1814 baptism) which confirms this.

The print of 1841 is entitled '*St Thomas's Square chapel and Schools, Hackney*'. The schools seem to be the structures with smaller windows at the rear of the chapel building. The provision of schooling may provide a reason why the Sanders family switched their allegiance from St John at Hackney to the Congregational chapel.



(Source: <https://www.londonmuseum.org.uk/collections/v/object-526101/st-thomass-square-chapel-schools-hackney-1841/>)

To the south of the chapel building the 1841 print depicts a smaller entrance portal of classical design, which is still preserved. This was the entrance to the burial ground associated with the Congregational chapel.

³² From Charles Parry

St Thomas's today

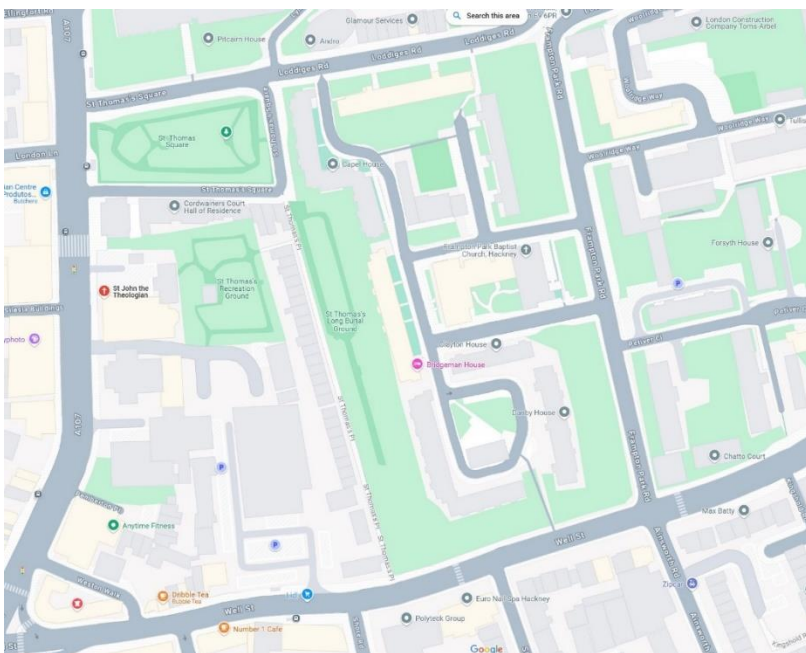
The former site of the chapel is occupied by the undistinguished brick structure of the modern hall of residence. Set into the northern elevation facing St Thomas's Square is an historic plaque inscribed 'St Thomas's Square 1772', and below it a second modern plaque records the opening of the hall of residence by Princess Anne in 1996. The precise date and function of the historic plaque is uncertain but I assume it was formerly attached to the chapel building. If so, it may have been an internal feature since it does not appear to be depicted on the print of 1841, nor is it weathered. The lettering appears authentically 18th century and contemporary with the chapel's foundation, and so may well have been read by the Page and Sanders families.

The entrance portal to the former burial ground is a few yards south of the modern building. Once through the portal there are tombs covered with vegetation at intervals to either side of the path. This leads to an open grassy space where around half-a-dozen more tombstones are scattered. Most tombstones appear to have been removed entirely. A rear entrance provides access to the path alongside the terraces of St Thomas's Place. Whether this rear access was in use when the area functioned as a burial ground is unknown.

In 2024 the signage identified the former burial ground as '*St Thomas's Recreation Ground*'.

St Thomas's Square still exists and adjoins the southern part of Mare Street, and the former chapel site is now occupied by Cordwainers Court Hall of Residence of the University of the Arts. The sixth child, Joseph, was the first of the Sanders children to be baptised at St Thomas's Square chapel - he was baptised twice - and the remaining children were also baptised there. The burial ground associated with the chapel is preserved now '*St Thomas's Recreation Ground*'.

Just to the east of the chapel's burial ground was a separate burial ground associated with St John's chapel (Thomas's Long Burial Ground') The chapel, which later became South Hackney parish church, lay at the southern end of the burial ground, fronting onto Well Street. The church was demolished in the 1840s when a new church - St John of Jerusalem - was built on a different site, but the burial ground remained in use until the 1870s.



Section 3 - 2xGreat Grandparents

We now move forward a generation to my 2xgreat grandparents' time. This approximately covers the 19th Century – 1800-1900, where we have access to much more documentary evidence. My four 2xGreat Grandparents on the Gates line are:

- Chapter 12 - Thomas Gates and Martha Humphrey
- Chapter 13 - James Page and Mary Sanders

Later I cover those on the Evans line:

- Chapter 14 - Charles Evans and Susan Gyde
- Chapter 15 - James Finnis and Elizabeth Forster

As we move back in time we know less about our ancestors, but there is sufficient here to get a flavour for parts of their lives. England and the world were changing. With coming of the railways their lives were about to change because this also heralded the opening of the London Underground in 1863 about the same time electricity started to be provided. What a time to be alive. On the other hand, they witnessed the death of two monarchs.

They may well have witnessed the last public execution in the United Kingdom in 1868, when Michael Barrett was hanged in front of Newgate Prison. For his role in the 1867 Clerkenwell Outrage.

***Clerkenwell Outrage**, was a bombing attack carried out by the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) in London on 13 December 1867. Members of the IRB, who were nicknamed "Fenians", exploded a bomb to try to free a member of their group who was being held on remand at Clerkenwell Prison. The explosion damaged nearby houses, killed 12 civilians and wounded 120; no prisoners escaped and the attack was a failure. The event was described by The Times the following day as "a crime of unexampled atrocity", and compared to the "infernal machines" used in Paris in 1800 and 1835 and the Gunpowder Treason of 1605. Denounced by politicians and writers from both sides of the political spectrum, the bombing was later described as the most infamous action perpetrated by Fenians in Britain during the 19th century. It enraged the British public, causing a backlash which undermined the Irish Home Rule Movement. (Wikipedia)*

The *Capital Punishment Amendment Act 1868* ended public executions for murder in the UK. The act required that all executions be carried out in prisons, and that the bodies be buried in the prison grounds. The first execution under the new law was on 13th August 1868, when Thomas Wells was hanged for the murder of Edward Walshe.

Important events during the lives of my 2xGreat Grandparents

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_British_history)

1801	1 January	The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland comes into being, and King George III becomes its first monarch.
1801	17 March	Henry Addington, 1st Viscount Sidmouth becomes Prime Minister.
1804	10 May	William Pitt the Younger becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
1805	21 October	The naval Battle of Trafalgar takes place.
1806	11 February	William Grenville, 1st Baron Grenville becomes Prime Minister.
1807	25 March	The Slave Trade Act 1807 is passed.
	31 March	William Cavendish-Bentinck, 3rd Duke of Portland becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
1809	4 October	Spencer Perceval becomes Prime Minister.
1812	8 June	Robert Jenkinson, 2nd Earl of Liverpool becomes Prime Minister.
1815	18 June	The Battle of Waterloo takes place.
	20 November	The Napoleonic Wars ends.
1819		SS Savannah undergoes the first steamship transatlantic crossing.
1820	29 January	King George III dies and George IV ascends the throne.
1821	5 May	The Guardian is first published, as The Manchester Guardian.
1825	27 September	The Stockton and Darlington railway, the world's first public passenger railway, opens.
1827	12 April	George Canning becomes Prime Minister.
	31 August	F. J. Robinson, 1st Viscount Goderich becomes Prime Minister.
1828	22 January	Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington becomes Prime Minister.
		Discovery of Pterodactylus by Mary Anning
1829	13 April	The Roman Catholic Relief Act 1829 is passed.
1830	26 June	King George IV dies and William IV ascends the throne.
	22 November	Charles Grey, 2nd Earl Grey becomes Prime Minister.
1832	7 June	The Great Reform Act is passed, doubling the franchise.
1833	28 August	The Slavery Abolition Act 1833 gains royal assent, banning slavery throughout the British Empire.
1834	?	The Conservative Party is founded.
	16 July	William Lamb, 2nd Viscount Melbourne becomes Prime Minister.
	14 August	The New Poor Law is passed.
	17 November	Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
	10 December	Robert Peel becomes Prime Minister.
1835	18 April	William Lamb, 2nd Viscount Melbourne becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
1837	20 June	The reign of Queen Victoria begins.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

1838	1 August	The Slavery Abolition Act 1833 enters into force, abolishing slavery in the British Empire.
1840	10 January	The first postage stamps (Penny Post) come into use.
	June	Vaccination for the poor is introduced.
1841	30 August	Robert Peel becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
1842	Summer	The first peacetime income tax is introduced.
1846	27 January	The Corn Laws are repealed.
	30 June	John Russell, 1st Earl Russell becomes Prime Minister.
1848	Late February	The Communist Manifesto is published by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.
1850		The East Coast Main Line opens.
1851	1 May	The Great Exhibition opens.
1852	23 February	Edward Smith-Stanley, 14th Earl of Derby becomes Prime Minister.
	19 December	George Hamilton-Gordon, 4th Earl of Aberdeen becomes Prime Minister.
1853-1856	16 October 1853 - 30 March 1856	The Crimean War is fought between Russia and a British alliance who feared Russian expansion in the Balkans, resulting in allied victory.
1854	?	Doctor John Snow discovers that cholera is from contaminated water
1855	6 February	Henry John Temple, 3rd Viscount Palmerston becomes Prime Minister.
	29 June	The Daily Telegraph is first published.
1858	20 February	Edward Smith-Stanley, 14th Earl of Derby becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
1859	12 June	Henry John Temple, 3rd Viscount Palmerston becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
1861	14 December	Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, dies at the age of 42.
1863	10 January	The London Underground opens, the oldest underground railway network in the world.
1865	29 October	John Russell, 1st Earl Russell becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
1866	28 June	Edward Smith-Stanley, 14th Earl of Derby becomes Prime Minister for the third time.
1867	15 August	The 1867 Reform Act doubles the franchise and the Dominion of Canada was created.
1868	27 February	Benjamin Disraeli becomes Prime Minister.
	29 May	The last public execution is carried out.
	3 December	William Ewart Gladstone becomes Prime Minister.
1869		The West Coast Main Line opens.
1870	17 February	The Elementary Education Act (1870) is passed, introducing universal education in England and Wales.
1874	20 February	Benjamin Disraeli becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
1880	23 April	William Ewart Gladstone becomes Prime Minister for the second time.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

	26 August	The Elementary Education Act (1880) is passed, making primary schooling compulsory in England and Wales between the ages of 5 and 10
1885	23 June	Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury becomes Prime Minister.
	25 June	The Reform Act 1885 is passed.
1886	1 February	William Ewart Gladstone becomes Prime Minister for the third time.
	21 June	Construction begins on Tower Bridge in London.
	25 July	Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
1887	November	The fictional detective Sherlock Holmes first appears in print.
1892	15 August	William Ewart Gladstone becomes Prime Minister for the fourth time.
1893		Elementary Education (1893) (School Attendance) Act Raises age of compulsory attendance to 11
1894	5 March	Archibald Primrose, 5th Earl of Rosebery becomes Prime Minister.
1895	25 June	Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury becomes Prime Minister for the third time.
1896	4 May	The Daily Mail is first published.
1899	11 October	Start of the Boar War
		Education Act (1899) Raises age of compulsory attendance to 12
1900	27 February	The Labour Party is founded.
1901	22 January	Queen Victoria dies and Edward VII ascends the throne.
1902	12 July	Arthur Balfour becomes Prime Minister.
	9 August	Coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra.
	31 May	Treaty of Vereeniging ends the Second Boer War.

Chapter 8 - Thomas Gates (1821–1897) Martha Humphreys (1823–1849)

Thomas Gates and Martha Humphreys are two of my 2xgreat grandparents. They are the parents of Thomas Humphrey Gates, who was my grandfather's father

I never knew anything about my paternal great-great-grandparents – Thomas Gates and Martha Humphreys- not even their names. I rarely gave their existence a thought while growing up – my history was the story of the present. Yet uncovering these stories has been cathartic; it has allowed me to place myself in a flow of relationships and taught me much about the area my ancestors grew up in - and the history of working people in the 19th century.

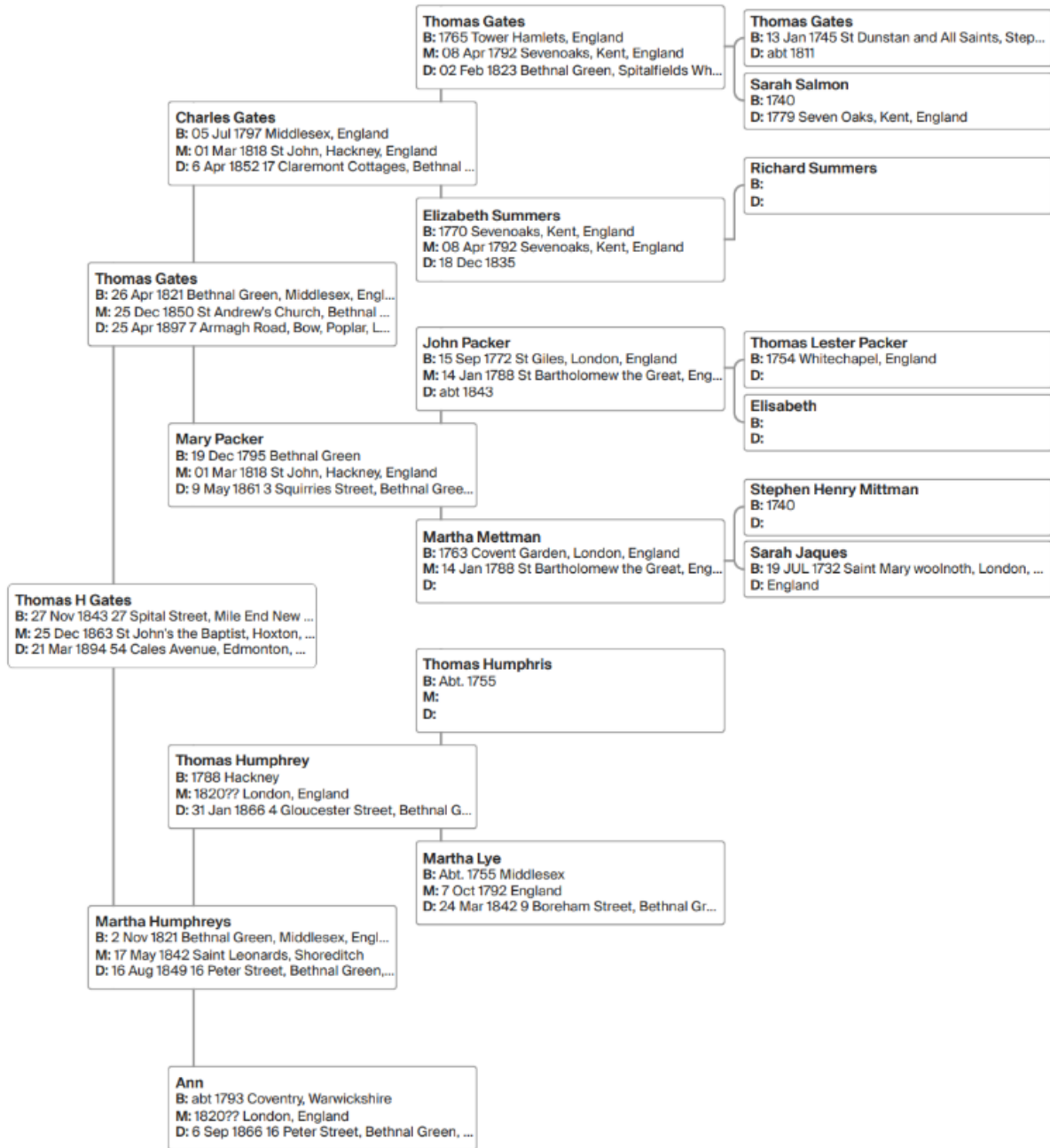
In terms of employment, Thomas Gates had a varied life. Thomas first spent some years as a "silk weaver" as was his father, Charles, between 1840 and 1849. He then appears as a "cabinet maker", between 1849 and around 1871, reaching the status of "cabinet maker master" in 1854. Then he suddenly changed course to become a "cotton dealer" in 1871 aged 50, then a "coffee house keeper" by 1880 aged 59, eventually working with his second wife and daughter as assistants in a coffee house at 253 Bow Road. In 1891 he was a "General Shop Keeper" aged 70, until he died in 1897 aged 76. Why these job changes, we do not and will probably never know.

I never knew about the death of my great-great-grandmother, Martha Humphreys, aged just 28, in the Asiatic Cholera Pandemic sweeping across the country. The pandemic also took the life of their 9-week-old son, Samuel, leaving Thomas alone with three children under 6 years old. A devastating experience. Martha was buried in St Matthew Church, Bethnal Green on 19th August 1849. This led to Thomas's subsequent, possibly illegal at the time, marriage to Martha's younger sister, Ann Humphreys, (who of course is not a direct ancestor of mine).

Born around 1820, Thomas and Martha were both born just after George IV came to the throne and they witnessed his death and that of William III, and the subsequent accession of Victoria. The Tory, Robert Jenkinson, 2nd Earl of Liverpool was Prime Minister. They witnessed the death of three monarchs, the abolition of slavery in 1833, three first postage stamp. Thomas and Ann lived through the Crimea War, the opening of the London Underground, and the last public execution and the construction of Tower Bridge. Ann witnessed the Boar War, and the death of Queen Victoria. Karl Marx moved to London in 1849 until his death in 1883.

Thomas and Martha's first child, their son Thomas Humphreys, died on 21st March 1894, at Edmonton at the age of 50 of skin cancer at the Union Workhouse, Edmonton. Thomas himself died three years later of prostate cancer in 1897 in Bow. Ann subsequently lived for another 7 years with her daughters and died in 1904 of bronchitis and heart failure. Both Thomas and Ann were buried in Manor Park Cemetery. Their graves have now been reclaimed.

4 Generation Family Tree of Thomas Gates and Martha Humphreys



Thomas Gates (1821–1897)

Early Life

Charles Gates was born 5th July 1797 in St Leonards Shoreditch to Thomas Gates (1765-1823) and Elizabeth Summers (1770-1835).

Mary Packer was born 12th December 1795 in Bethnal Green to John Packe (1772-1843) and Mary Mettman (1763-??).

Charles Gates married Mary Packer on 1st March 1818 at St Johns Church, Lower Clapton Road, Hackney.

1820

Two years after Charles and Mary married, on 29th January 1820, King George III died and George IV came to the throne. Birth of children

Thomas's Siblings

- Charles Gates (24) and Mary Packer (26) had their first child, Charles Henry Gates, at Church Lane in 1819. He was baptised on 25th July 1819 at St Mary, Whitechapel.
- Their second child, Thomas Gates was born on 26th April 1821 in Bethnal Green to Charles Gates (24) (1797-1852) and Mary Packer (26) (1795-1861). Thomas Gates was baptised 20 May 1821 at St Matthew's, Bethnal Green.
- Their third child, Mary Ann Gates was born in Beckton Row, on 23rd October 1823 and baptised at St Matthew, Bethnal Green, on 26th December 1823.
- Their fourth, John Gates was born in Wolvery Street on 23rd October 1826 and Baptised at St Matthews, Bethnal Green on 12th November 1826.

Charles is identified as a weaver on these baptism records.

In addition, the following baptism records may also record children of Charles Gates and his wife Mary though the baptism record Charles as a watchmaker, so it may be these are from a different family.

- Martha Gates was born at Lamb Lane on 11th August 1831 and baptised at St John, Hackney on 12th November 1837.
- George Gates was born at Lamb Lane (date not specified) and baptised on 12th November 1837 St John Hackney.

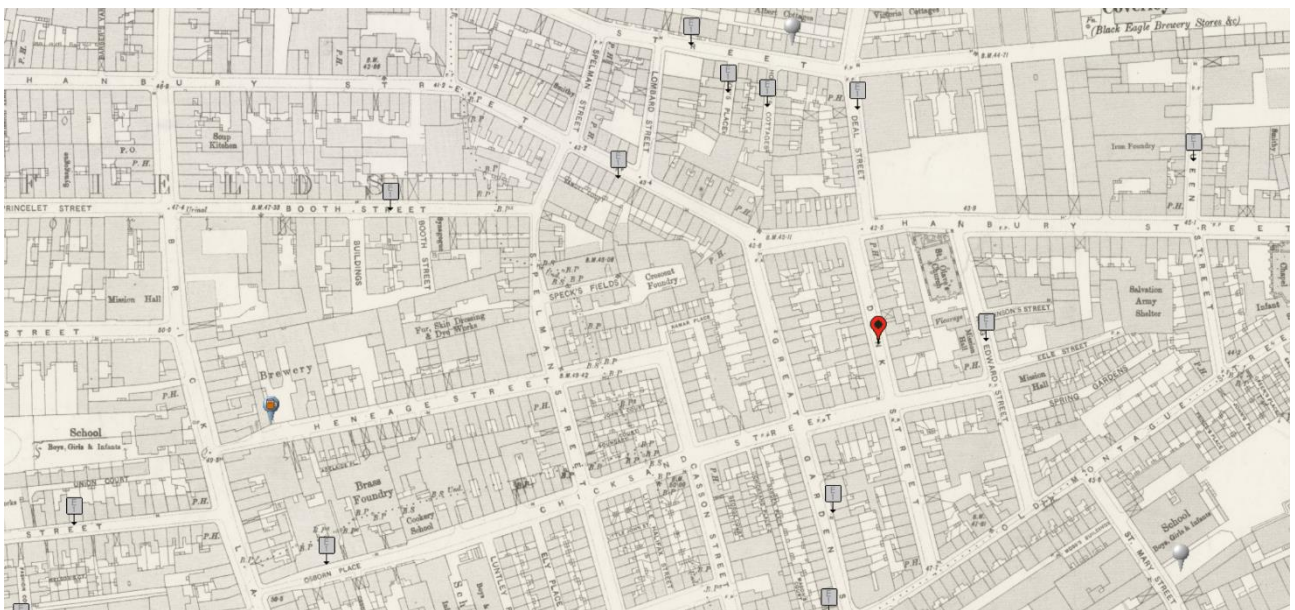
So according to the Baptism Certificates of Martha and George, in November 1837 the family appeared to live in Lamb Lane, Hackney.

1840s

In 1841 when Thomas was 20, the family lived in Dunk Street, Mile End New Town. Charles (44) and Thomas (20) were both Silk Weavers.

PLACE	HOUSES Occupied or Inhabited	NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born Whether in this County or Foreign Part.
			Males	Females		
Dunk St		May, Robt	13			
		Wright, do	12			
		Thomas, do	8			
		John, do	3			
do		William, Thomas	45		Labourer	
		Thomas, do	42			
		John, do	45			
		John, do	4			
		John, do	5			
		Henry, do	10			
		John, Thompson	10		Labourer	
		Thomas, do	10			
		John, do	10			
		William, do	32			
		Robert, do	15			
		Robert, do	15			
		William, Carter	20		Labourer	
		Robert, do	20			
		William, Clark	20		Labourer	
		Thomas, do	20			
do		Thomas, Clark	20		Labourer	
		John, do	17			
		Thomas, do	15			
		May, do	10			
		James, do	10			
TOTAL in	2		11	14		
Page 9						

PLACE	HOUSES Occupied or Inhabited	NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born Whether in this County or Foreign Part.
			Males	Females		
Dunk St		John, Clark	18		Labourer	
		William, do	12			
		John, do	9			
		John, do	7			
do		William, Thomas	39		Labourer	
		Robert, do	22			
		William, do	11			
		William, do	4			
		John, do	10			
		Charles, Carter	10		Labourer	
		John, do	13			
		Thomas, do	20		Labourer	
		John, do	15			
		William, do	12			
		John, do	15			
do		Henry, Thomas	10		Labourer	
		John, do	10			
		John, do	19			
		Thomas, do	15			
		William, do	14			
		Henry, do	8			
		John, do	1			
		William, Hall	30		Labourer	
		Henry, do	25			
TOTAL in	2		44	11		
Page 10						



Dunk Street ran parallel to Great Garden Street (now Greatorex Street) to the west, and King Edward Street, which has also ceased to exist, to the east.

Dunk Street stretched approximately 200 metres from Old Montague Street to Hanbury Street, situated about 300 metres east of Baker's Row, which is now the southern section of Vallance Road. In 1643, Edward Montague, William Montague, and Maurice Tresham acquired property from William Smith and others in the future Mile End New Town and Spitalfields areas. The name Pelham Street was derived from Edward Montague's wife, Elizabeth Pelham, who held ownership prior to their

marriage. In 1691, Elizabeth Pelham obtained a private Act that allowed her to grant leases for the rebuilding of dilapidated properties on her estates in Spitalfields and Mile End New Town. These estates were eventually passed down to their son, George Montague, who became the second Baron Halifax and the first Earl of Halifax of the third creation after the death of his uncle, Charles Montague, Earl of Halifax, in 1715. George was succeeded by his son, George, the second Earl, who took on the name Montague-Dunk upon marrying Ann Dunk in 1741. The title lapsed upon his death in 1771, and the Mile End New Town estates were inherited by his nephew, Sir George Osborn. The Osborn family retained ownership of the entire property until 1849 when more than half of it was sold to settle mortgages.

According to Rocque's map of 1746, there was limited progress in building development in the eastern part of the estate since 1700. Long Street, located east of the High Street, was not yet fully formed, and there were only two small blocks of buildings on the north side. King Edward Street had only a few houses at its southeastern corner, along with a terrace initiated by Heatley on the west side. Dunk Street abruptly ended, reaching only a quarter of its intended length.

Building progressed in the last quarter of the eighteenth century. Horwood's map of 1799 shows that Dunk Street had been completed. By the beginning of the 20th century, the majority of the population residing in the area were Jewish, comprising approximately 95-100% of the residents. Dunk Street alone boasted five synagogues, reflecting the religious and cultural importance of the neighbourhood.

The entire neighbourhood where Dunk Street once stood, located in London's East End, has undergone redevelopment, resulting in the street's disappearance.

<https://www.theundergroundmap.com/article.html?id=102407>

Shortly after, around 1840, Thomas Gates met and married Martha Humphreys.

Martha Humphreys (1823–1849)

The furthest back on the Humphrey line to date is to Thomas Humphris and Martha Ashfield, the grandparents of Martha and Ann Humphreys. According to Martha's death certificate, she would have been born around 1755. Thomas Humphreys* was baptised on 11th February 1788 at St John-at-Hackney which names him as the "illegitimate son of Thomas Humphris and Martha Ashfield". A birth in February 1788 would correlate with Thomas Humphreys' age of 77 on his death certificate since he died at the very end of January 1866. On the other hand, his baptism record suggests a place of birth in Hackney, not Tottenham as indicated by census returns. However, we do know that his mother Martha subsequently married David Lye in Hackney on 7th October 1792 so it is not unreasonable to think they were still living in Hackney then

Thomas Humphreys went on to marry Ann sometime between 1810-1821. So far, the marriage record has not been identified. Thomas and Ann had at least four children that have been so far identified: Martha, Ann, Rebecca and Anna. We do not yet know exactly where they lived apart from that given on baptism registers, though at some point before 1841, they moved into 10 Boreham Street, Tower Hamlets, a street just off Peter Street at the end of Brick Lane. Whilst Peter Street still exists, Boreham Street has been redeveloped and no longer exists.

Thomas Humphreys and Ann's first child, Martha Humphreys, (written as Humphris on the document) was born on 2nd November 1821 in Bethnal Green. She is possible named after Thomas's mother. Martha was baptised on 2nd December 1821 at St Matthews Church, Bethnal Green. At the time the Humphreys lived on Granby Row.

[Page 202]

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>St. Matthew Bethnal Green</i> in the County of <i>Middlesex</i> in the Year <i>1821</i>						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
<i>1821</i> <i>Dec. 2</i> No.	<i>Ann</i> <i>born 26th 1821</i>	<i>William</i> <i>Sarah</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>West St.</i>	<i>Weaver</i>	<i>J. King</i> <i>Pector</i>
<i>Dec. 2</i> No.	<i>Mary</i> <i>Ann</i> <i>born 13th 1821</i>	<i>Edsard</i> <i>Sarah</i>	<i>Peard</i>	<i>Thames St.</i>	<i>Millwright</i>	<i>J. K.</i>
<i>Dec. 2</i> No.	<i>Mary</i> <i>Ann</i> <i>born 5th 1821</i>	<i>George</i> <i>Sarah</i>	<i>Barklet</i>	<i>Rose St.</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>J. K.</i>
<i>Dec. 2</i> No.	<i>Martha</i> <i>born 2nd Nov. 1821</i>	<i>Thomas</i> <i>Ann</i>	<i>Humphris</i>	<i>Granby Row</i>	<i>Brick Lane</i>	<i>J. K.</i>

Ann Humphreys (1823–1904)

Thomas Humphreys and Ann's second child, Ann Humphreys, was born on 2nd December 1823 Bethnal Green. She was possibly names after her mother. The birth date is based on the identification of Ann with the Ann 'Humphries' (daughter of Thomas and Ann). She was baptised at St Leonard's, Shoreditch on 29th December 1824. The family lived now in Hackney Row.

Page 209.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of *Saint Leonard Shoreditch*
in the County of *Middlesex* in the Year 18 *24*

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
<i>1824. December 29 No. 1665.</i>	<i>Samuel Thomas Jof</i>	<i>Samuel & Sarah</i>	<i>Putty</i>	<i>Elder Street</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>Thos Lye 29 Dec 1824</i>
<i>29 No. 1666.</i>	<i>Ann Jof</i>	<i>Thomas & Ann</i>	<i>Humphries</i>	<i>Hackney Road</i>	<i>Bricklayers</i>	<i>29 Dec 1824</i>

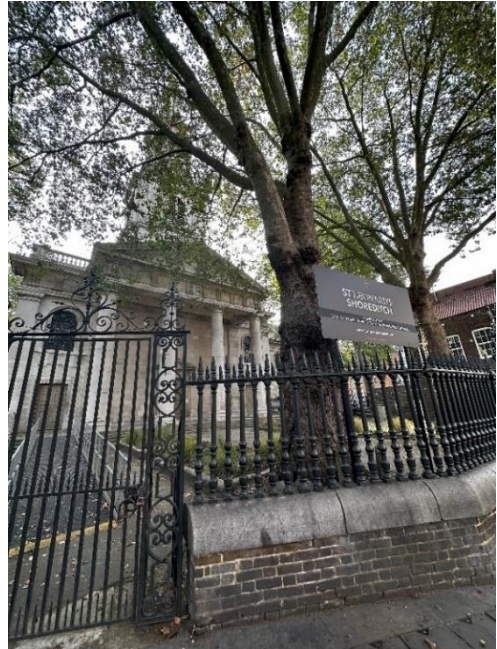
Marriage of Thomas Gates and Martha Humphrey-1842

Thomas Gates and Martha Humphreys were married on 17th May 1842 at Saint Leonards, Shoreditch.

There has been a church on the site of St Leonard's since at least 1140. The previous church had four aisles and a tower seventy-foot high, with five bells. The bells are famous for being in the nursery rhyme "Oranges and Lemons":

"When will you pay me
 Say the bells of Old Bailey
 When I grow rich
 Say the bells of Shoreditch"

The church fell into disrepair and some of it actually fell down during divine service in 1716. The new church was built in 1736-1740 by George Dance the Elder in a neo-classical style



At the time of their marriage, Thomas and Martha gave their address as 2 and 4 (respectively) New Inn Yard, Shoreditch. New Inn Yard still exists but has been significantly developed. It runs off Curtain Road, the centre of the furniture trade in the 19th century, at the junction where stands a building which was once a furniture warehouse/factory build by Edward Gates. (It is currently Foxtons Estate Agency.) Both Thomas and Martha signed the register suggesting they were both literates. (1842, Jun, Shoreditch, 2, 342)

1842. Marriage solemnized at <i>St. Leonard's Church</i> in the Parish of <i>St. Leonard Shoreditch</i> in the County of <i>Middlesex</i>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
53	17 th May 1842	Thomas Gates	Full Age	Widower	Weaver	2 New Inn Yard	Charles Gates	Weaver
	17 th May 1842	Martha Humphreys	Full Age	Spinster	Scampstrop	4 New Inn Yard	Thomas Humphreys	Widower
Married in the <i>Parish Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, after <i>the usual</i> by me <i>Edward W. M. & Co.</i>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us, <i>Thomas Gates</i> and <i>Martha Humphreys</i>			in the Presence of us, <i>George Brown</i> and <i>Ann Brown</i>					

The first child of Thomas Gates (1821-1897) (22) and Martha Humphreys (1821-1849) (22), was Thomas Humphreys Gates (1843-1894), born on 27th November 1843, at 27 Spital Street, Mile End New Town. At the time Thomas Gates was a weaver. They no doubt named Thomas after his father and unusually added Martha's surname as his second given name. This became somewhat of a tradition in the family. (1843, Dec Whitechapel, 2, 547)

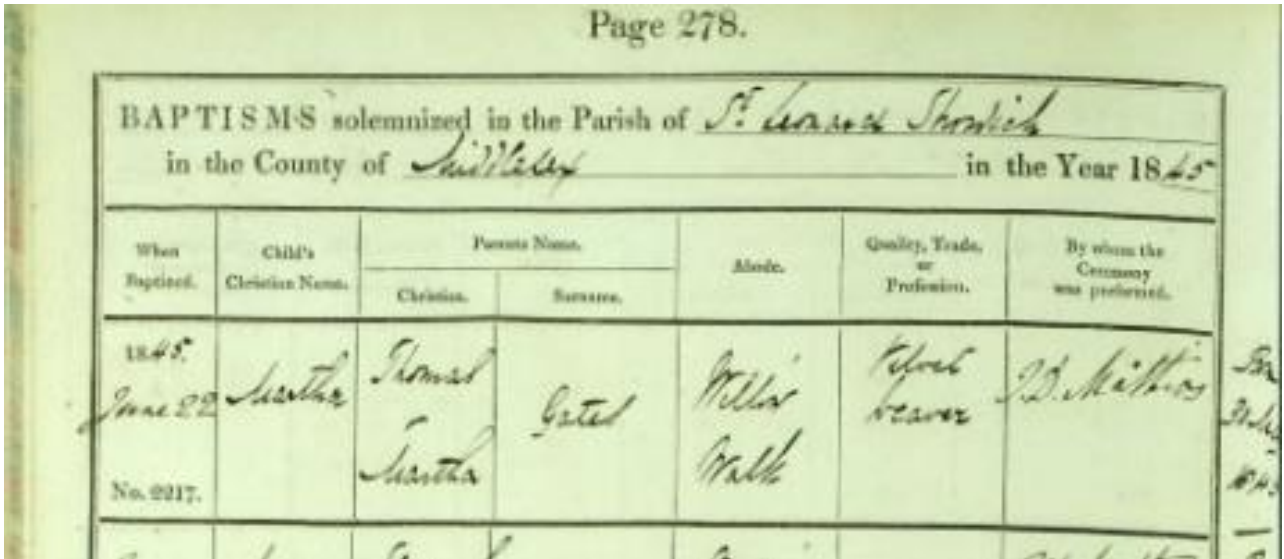
<i>Thomas Humphreys Gates</i>	<i>Martha Humphreys</i>	<i>Thomas Humphreys Gates</i>	<i>Martha Humphreys</i>	<i>Thomas Humphreys Gates</i>	<i>Martha Humphreys</i>	<i>Thomas Humphreys Gates</i>	<i>Martha Humphreys</i>	<i>Thomas Humphreys Gates</i>	<i>Martha Humphreys</i>
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Their second child, Martha, was born on 31st May 1845, at 14 Peter Street, Bethnal Green; Thomas was still a weaver. The family had moved between the end of 1843 and May 1845. (1845, Jun, Bethnal Green, 2, 82)

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

No.	When Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name, if added after Registration of Birth.
2	Thirty first of May 1845 at 11 Peter Street	Martha	Girl	Thomas Gates	Martha Gates formerly Humphreys	Weaver	T. Gates Father 11 Peter Street	Twenty fourth of June 1845	Henry Gregory Registrar	

Both Thomas Humphreys Gates and Martha Gates were baptised on 22nd June 1845, at St Leonards, Shoreditch, where their parents had married three years earlier. Thomas Humphreys* was two years old and Martha was born just three weeks earlier on 31 May 1845 (their entries on the register are consecutive but on different pages). Thomas is described as a "velvet weaver".



Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Baptisms often occurred in the parish church where the family lived. Each parish had its church, and individuals were expected to have their children baptized in the parish where they resided. This was not a strict rule, but it was the norm. The address on the Baptism Register is Willow Walk. Which is interesting as according to the birth registers for Martha and Ann, the family lived in 14 Peter Street, Bethnal Green. It is of course possible they moved out of Peter Street, into Willow Walk and back again, but highly unlikely. One suggestion is it was an error since the next baptism was in Willow Walk and may have been written in error. An alternative suggestion is for some reason they wanted to secure the baptism in St Leonards Shoreditch where they married, so fabricated the Willow Walk address. Why Willow Walk is not clear – on the 1799 map, it is directly opposite New Inn Yard across Curtain Road. However, Willow Walk no longer exists – though Willow Street and Willow Court still do. It appears Willow Walk was demolished in the building of Great Eastern Street in 1876.

Great Eastern Street, an important new thoroughfare connecting Commercial Street and the docks with the principal east-west route to the north of the City.

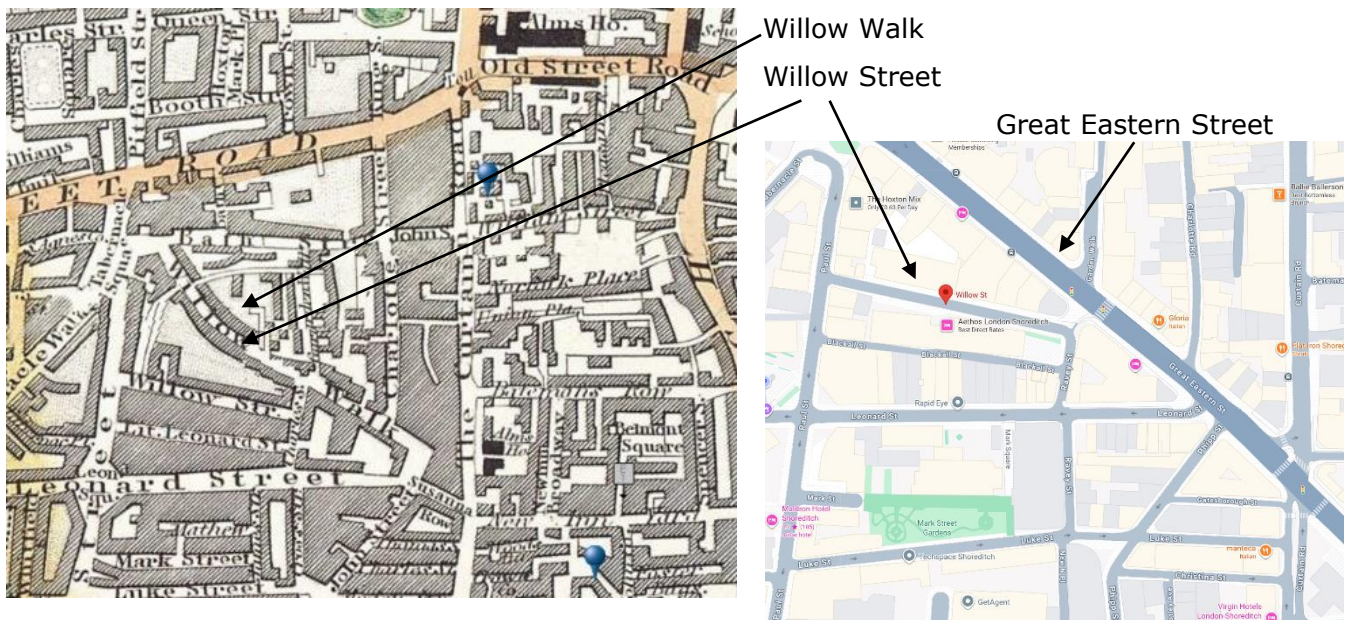
(<https://www.londonremembers.com/memorials/great-eastern-street-fountain>)

Willow Walk is mentioned in the "Survey of London" as

the northern boundary of Finsbury Field, i.e., Willow Walk, now merged in and roughly represented b Great Eastern Street.

<https://archive.org/details/surveyoflondon08londuoft/mode/2up>

There is a pocket park on Willow Street now, which may well be related³³



The 1830 (left) and 2025 (right) maps clearly show the development where Great Eastern Street, required the demolition of Willow Walk is 1876.

Photograph of Willow Street taken 15th September 2025 on the corner of Paul Street and Willow Street.



³³ (<https://www.ianvisits.co.uk/articles/londons-pocket-parks-willow-street-ec2-42622/>)

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line



Peter Street is now called Rhoda Street, off Brick Lane and has been developed, but this was the street in 1954. (<https://www.theundergroundmap.com/article.html?id=80404>)

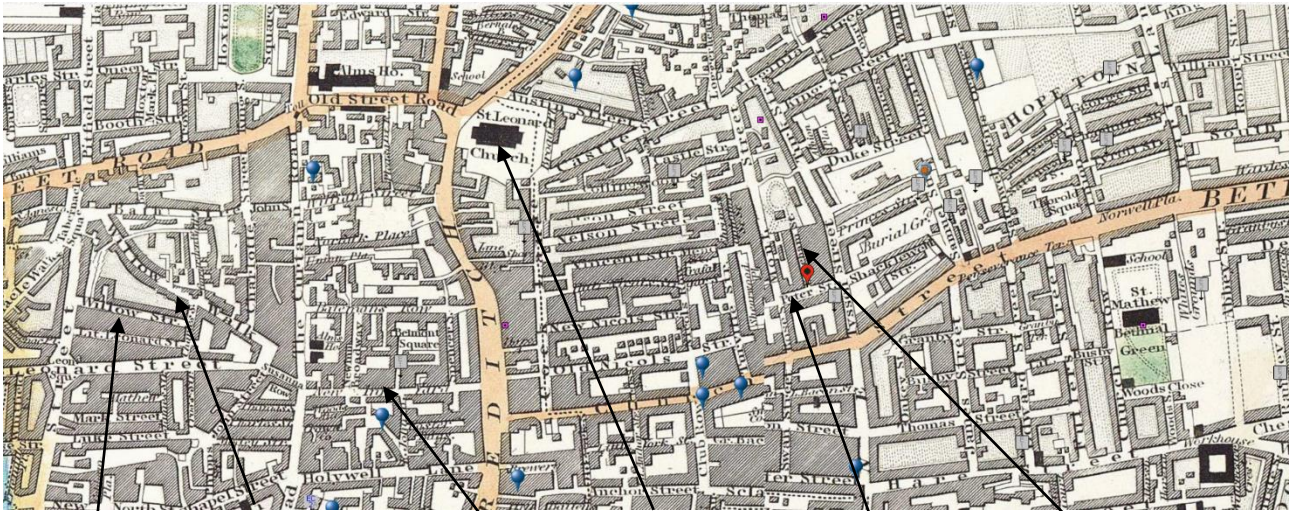


.....
Record No: 53589
.....
Title: Houses in Rhoda Street
.....
Description: View of houses at 1-6 Rhoda Street, Bethnal Green. Lorry parked in front.
.....

.....
Artist:
.....
Catalogue No: SC_PHL_01_047_84_2705
.....
Accession No.: F0931
.....
Date of Execution: 1954
.....
Medium: photograph
.....

This map of the area in 1830 is from the website "The Underground Map".

It shows to the left New Inn Yard, Willow Walk, Willow Street, St Leonards Shoreditch Church and to the centre, Peter Street with Boreham Street a side street. Tysell Street and Turk Street were later renamed Brick Lane. Nearby to the right is St Matthew Church.



Willow Street Willow Walk New Inn Yard St Leonards Peter Street Boreham Street

Rhoda Street

By the end of the 17th century, the area was becoming home to Huguenot refugees. They brought silk weaving skills, so the cottages in the Old Nichol were equipped with wide weavers' windows. In the mid-19th century, the area became host to Irish Catholics escaping the potato famine. At the end of the 19th century there was another wave of Jewish immigration of East Europeans escaping pogroms and in the 1930s there was another wave of German Jews escaping Nazi Germany. In the 1960s and 1970s the Bangladeshi community started to develop.

(Source: <https://www.theundergroundmap.com/index.html>)

By 1950, Peter Street was renamed Rhoda Street (E2 7EF), and now Boreham Street no longer exists but appears to have been where Alex Way now is, cutting through Rhoda Street green space.

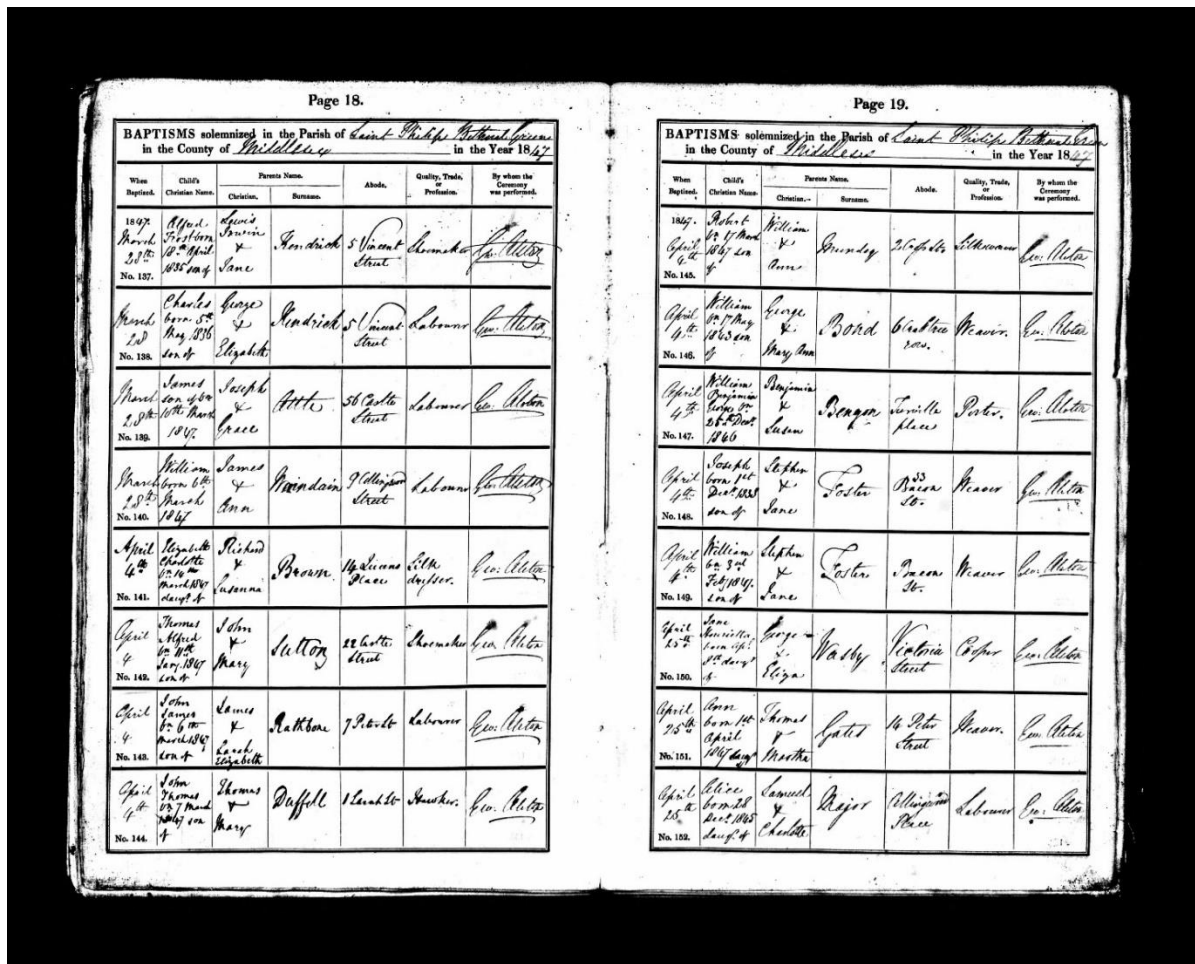


Those Who Went Before Me - 1a The Gates Line

Their third child, Ann Gates was born on 1st April 1847, still at 14 Peter Street. Thomas was still a weaver. (1847, Jun, Bethnal Green, 2, 67)

Superintendent Registrar's District <i>Bethnal Green</i>										
Registrar's District <i>Town</i>										
1847. BIRTHS in the District of <i>Town</i> in the County of <i>Middlesex</i>										
No.	When Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name, if added after Registration of Birth.
300	<i>First</i> April 1847 <i>14 Peter Street</i> <i>Bethnal Green</i>	<i>Ann</i>	<i>Girl</i>	<i>Thomas</i> <i>Gates</i>	<i>Martha</i> <i>Gates</i> <i>formerly</i> <i>Humphreys</i>	<i>Weaver.</i>	<i>Thos Gates</i> <i>Factor</i> <i>14 Peter Street</i> <i>Bethnal Green</i>	<i>Twenty</i> <i>Eightth</i> <i>April</i> <i>1847</i>	<i>Henry</i> <i>Gregory</i> <i>Registrar</i>	

Ann was baptised on 25th April 1847 at the Church of St Phillp Bethnal Green, the address given was 14 Peter Street.



Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Thomas and Martha were now both 28. Their fourth child, Samuel was born on 25th June 1849. in 16 Peter Street, Bethnal Green. The family appear to have moved next door, and Thomas is now a cabinet maker – a profession that lasted in his family 4 generations. But was not one that Thomas took to his death. (1849, Sep, Bethnal Green, 2, 62)

203	Twenty fifth June 1849 16 Peter Street Bethnal Green	Samuel Boy	Thomas Gates	Martha Gates formerly Humphreys	Cabinet maker	M. Gates Mothers 16 Peter Street Bethnal Green	Twenty fourth July 1849	Henry Gregory Registrar
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1849 Death of Martha Humphreys

Two months after Samuel’s birth, on 16th Aug 1849, Martha died at 16 Peter Street, Bethnal Green, at the age of 28. She died of Asiatic Cholera in the Pandemic sweeping across the country in 1846-63.

No.	When Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
28	Sixteenth August 1849 16 Peter Street Bethnal Green	Martha Gates	Female	27 Years	Wife of Thomas Gates a cabinet maker	Asiatic cholera 12 hours certified	Thomas Gates present at Death 16 Peter Street Bethnal Green	Seventeenth August 1849	Henry Gregory Registrar

"The spring of 1849 began with another round of cholera explosions. France and Italy were infected, as were Algeria and Tunisia in North Africa. England suffered a virulent onslaught; at its height, the epidemic claimed some 1,000 lives a day."

(Underwood, A. (1947) The History of Cholera in Great Britain, Proceedings of the Royal Society of Medicine, Vol XLI, p 165-173)

In England 53,000 died in 1848-49. In the next outbreak in 1853-54 over 20,000 died. In 1866 over 14,000 died.

Tragically, on 28th August 1849, just 12 days after Martha died, Thomas and Martha’s baby, Samuel Gates died at just nine weeks old of "Diarrhoea 12 days" – given that diarrhoea is a major symptom of cholera it seems likely to be related. Samuel died at 10 Boreham Street the home of Martha’s younger sister Ann Humphreys, who was possibly looking after the baby as Martha was so ill. Interesting that Thomas’s address looks like it was originally written as 10 Boreham, the 0 was changed to 6 then 14 written above.

No.	When Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
118	Twenty eighth August 1849 10 Boreham Street Bethnal Green	Samuel Gates	Male	9 Weeks	Son of Thomas Gates a cabinet maker	Diarrhoea 12 Days certified	Thomas Gates present at Death 10 Boreham Peter Street Bethnal Green	Twenty eighth August 1849	Henry Gregory Registrar

BURIALS in the Parish of St. MATTHEW, BETHNAL GREEN, in the County of MIDDLESEX, in the Year 18 42				
Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
Martha Gates No. 2985.	S. Peter's Street	August 19	27	L. L. Butler
John Goodson Knight No. 2986.	Nichol Street	August 19	1/2	L. L. Butler
Elizabeth Margrie No. 2987.	New Rose Yard	August 19	1/2	L. L. Butler
Jane Margrie No. 2988.	New Rose Yard	August 19	4	L. L. Butler
Emma Ellen Bennett No. 2989.	Cook St	August 19	6	L. L. Butler
Ann Smith No. 2990.	Nichol Street	August 19	5	L. L. Butler
Louisa Richards No. 2991.	Nichol Street	August 19	1	L. L. Butler
James Robinson No. 2992.	Rose Street	August 19	6 1/2	L. L. Butler

Martha was buried in St Matthew Church, Bethnal Green on August 19th 1849. Thomas and Martha were together for just 7 years.

Thomas* was now 28, and working as a cabinet maker. He had now attended the death of his wife and 9-month-old baby in the space of two weeks - a devastating experience. He was now left with three young children, Thomas Humphrey (5), Martha (4) and Ann (2). This must have been a very difficult time for Thomas*. And we cannot know how grief affected families in the middle of the 19th century when death, especially infant death, was much more common than it is today.

Luckily for Thomas, Martha's family - the Humphreys, including his sister-in-law Ann, lived just across the road and no doubt supported him by looking after the children. Possibly this bought Thomas* and Ann closer together, because 16 months later, they were to marry.

Marriage of Thomas Gates and Ann Humphreys-1850

Just over a year after Martha's death, Thomas married Martha's younger sister, Ann Humphreys, on Christmas Day 25th December 1850 at St Andrews Church Bethnal Green. Hence Thomas Humphreys' aunt became his step-mother. Thomas Snr was living at 16 Peter Street, and Ann just around the corner at 10 Boreham Street. The wedding certificate however describes him as a Bachelor, not a Widower. This is presumably because in 1850 it was illegal to marry your dead wife's sister. It was not until 1907 this law was changed.

The Deceased Wife's Sister's Marriage Act 1907 (7 Edw.7 c.47) was an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, allowing a man to marry his dead wife's sister, which had previously been forbidden. This prohibition had derived from a doctrine of canon law whereby those who were connected by marriage were regarded as being related to each other in a way which made marriage between them improper. (Wikipedia)

With Ann (1823-1904) Thomas had a further 7 children.

1850. Marriage solemnized at St. Andrews in the Parish of Bethnal Green in the County of Middlesex

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
412	December 25	Thomas Gates	full	Bachelor	Cabinet-Maker	16 Peter St.	Charles Gates	Wrecker
		Ann Humphreys	full	Spinster		10 Boreham St.	Thomas Humphreys	Blacklayer

Married in the Church of St. Andrews according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Baines or after _____ by me, J. R. Davis

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Thomas Gates in the Presence of us, Thomas Bird his x mark
Ann Humphreys Sarah Shaw

1850s

At the time of the 1851 census, Thomas Gates and Ann still lived at 16 Peter Street Bethnal Green with two of Thomas's three children - Thomas Humphreys Gates (1843-1894), 7 years old, and daughter Martha Gates (6).

Their daughter, Ann (3), appears to be missing in the 1851 census, but reappears on the 1861 census. It seems they shared this house with another family – William and Sarah Hobb and their four children – William (7), John (5), Elizabeth (3) and Charlotte (10 months).

28 589

Parish or Township of	Name of Street, Place, or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind or Deaf
Bethnal Green	16 Peter Street	Thomas Gates	Head	Married	37	Cabinet-Maker	Bethnal Green	
		Ann Humphreys	Wife	Married	26		Bethnal Green	
		Thomas Humphreys Gates	Son	Unmarried	7	Scholar	Bethnal Green	
		Martha Gates	Daughter	Unmarried	6	Scholar	Bethnal Green	
		William Hobb	Head	Married	29	Butcher	Bethnal Green	
		Sarah Hobb	Wife	Married	26	Scholar	Bethnal Green	
		Elizabeth Hobb	Daughter	Unmarried	3		Bethnal Green	
		John Hobb	Child	Unmarried	5		Bethnal Green	
		Charlotte Hobb	Child	Unmarried	10 months		Bethnal Green	
		Thomas Humphreys Gates	Son	Unmarried	7	Scholar	Bethnal Green	
		Martha Gates	Daughter	Unmarried	6	Scholar	Bethnal Green	
		Ann Humphreys	Daughter	Unmarried	3		Bethnal Green	

Total of Persons... 10/16

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

During the 1850s while still living in 16 Peter Street Thomas and Ann had five children, one of whom died young.

- **Rebecca Gates** was born on 24th September 1851. But she sadly died at home on 9th March 1853 aged just 15 months old of Pleurisy – two months after Mary Ann was born.
- **Mary Ann Gates** was born on 15th January 1853
- **Frederick George Gates** was born of 25th November 1854
- **Florence Gates** was born on 22 November 1856
- **Emily Gates** was born on 12th November 1858

Rebecca Gates was born at home on 24th September 1851. (1851, Dec, Bethnal Green, 2, 76). But she sadly died at home on 9th March 1853 aged just 5 months old of Pleurisy (1853, Mar, Bethnal Green, 01C, 249). This was just two months after Mary Ann was born.

Superintendent Registrar's District <i>Bethnal Green</i>										
Registrar's District <i>Town</i>										
1851. BIRTHS in the District of <i>Town</i> in the County of <i>Middlesex</i>										
No.	When Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name, if added after Registration of Birth.
<i>118</i>	<i>Twenty fourth September 1851 16 Peter Street</i>	<i>Rebecca</i>	<i>Girl</i>	<i>Thomas Gates</i>	<i>Ann Gates formerly Humphreys</i>	<i>Cabinet Maker</i>	<i>Ann Gates Mother 16 Peter Street Bethnal Green</i>	<i>Twenty eighth October 1851</i>	<i>Henry Gregory Registrar</i>	

<i>George Street</i>	<i>218</i>	<i>Fourth March 1853 16 Peter Street</i>	<i>Rebecca Gates</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Daughter of Thomas Gates a cabinet maker</i>	<i>Pleurisy 2 Weeks certified</i>	<i>Ann Gates present at Death 16 Peter Street Bethnal Green</i>	<i>Tenth March 1853</i>	<i>Henry Gregory Registrar</i>	<i>1000 16 Registrar</i>
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Mary Ann Gates was born on 15th January 1853. (1853, Mar, Bethnal Green, 01C, 324)

Superintendent Registrar's District <i>Bethnal Green</i>										
Registrar's District <i>Town</i>										
1853. BIRTHS in the District of <i>Bethnal Green</i> in the County of <i>Middlesex</i>										
No.	When Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name, if added after Registration of Birth.
<i>257</i>	<i>Fifteenth January 1853 16 Peter Street</i>	<i>Mary Ann</i>	<i>Girl</i>	<i>Thomas Gates</i>	<i>Ann Gates formerly Humphreys</i>	<i>Cabinet Maker</i>	<i>Ann Gates Mother 16 Peter Street Bethnal Green</i>	<i>Eighth February 1853</i>	<i>Henry Gregory Registrar</i>	

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Frederick George Gates was born of 25th November 1854 (1855, Mar, Bethnal Green, 01C, 313).

Superintendent Registrar's District <u>Bethnal Green</u>										
Registrar's District <u>Town</u>										
1855. BIRTHS in the District of <u>Bethnal Green</u> in the County of <u>Middlesex</u>										
No.	When Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth.
310	Twenty fifth November 1854 15 Peter Street	Frederick George	Boy	Thomas Gates	Ann Gates formerly Humphreys	Cabinet Maker	A Gates Mother 15 Peter Street Bethnal Green	Fourth January 1855	Thomas Gregory Registrar	

Florence Gates was born on 22nd November 1856 (1857, Mar, Bethnal Green, 01C, 321).

Superintendent Registrar's District <u>Bethnal Green</u>										
Registrar's District <u>Town</u>										
1857. BIRTHS in the District of <u>Bethnal Green</u> in the County of <u>Middlesex</u>										
No.	When Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth.
42	Twenty second November 1856 16 Peter Street	Florence	Girl	Thomas Gates	Ann Gates formerly Humphreys	Cabinet Maker	Ann Gates Mother 16 Peter Street Bethnal Green	First January 1857	John Samuel Ames Registrar	

Emily Gates was born on 12th November 1858 (1858, Dec, Bethnal Green, 01C, 315).

Superintendent Registrar's District <u>Bethnal Green</u>										
Registrar's District <u>Town</u>										
1858. BIRTHS in the District of <u>Bethnal Green</u> in the County of <u>Middlesex</u>										
No.	When Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth.
309	Twelfth November 1858 16 Peter Street	Emily	Girl	Thomas Gates	Ann Gates formerly Humphreys	Cabinet Maker	Ann Gates Mother 16 Peter Street Bethnal Green	Twenty second December 1858	John Samuel Ames Registrar	

On 6th February 1861, Thomas and Ann had twins **Alfred Gates** (1861, Mar, Bethnal Green, 01C, 336) and **Alice Gates** (1861, Mar, Bethnal Green, 01C, 337).

Superintendent Registrar's District <u>Bethnal Green</u>										
Registrar's District <u>Town</u>										
1861. BIRTHS in the District of <u>Town</u> in the County of <u>Middlesex</u>										
No.	When Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth.
348	6th February 1861 16 Peter Street	Alfred	Boy	Thomas Gates	Ann Gates formerly Humphreys	Cabinet Maker	Ann Gates Mother 16 Peter Street Bethnal Green	Twelfth March 1861	John Samuel Ames Registrar	

Those Who Went Before Me - 1a The Gates Line

Superintendent Registrar's District <i>Bethnal Green</i>										
Registrar's District <i>Town</i>										
18 <i>61</i> . BIRTHS in the District of <i>Town</i> in the County of <i>Middlesex</i>										
No.	When Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth.
<i>349</i>	<i>11th February 1861</i>	<i>Alice</i>	<i>Girl</i>	<i>Thomas Gates</i>	<i>Ann Gates</i>	<i>Cabinet Maker</i>	<i>Ann Gates Mother 16 Peter Street Bethnal Green</i>	<i>11th Feb 1861</i>	<i>John Samuel</i>	<i>James</i>

At the time of the 1861 census, Thomas and Ann were living at 16 Peter Street Bethnal Green with Thomas Humphreys (17), Martha (15), Ann (14), Mary Ann (8), Frederick George (6), Florence (4), Emily (2), and twins Alfred and Alice just 2 months old. Thomas Snr was now a cabinet maker which he had been since c1849, though he had been a master to two employees since 1854. Thomas Humphreys was also a cabinet maker; sister Martha was a dressmaker. All others were "scholars". The family now appear to have the whole house unless the rest is empty or no return.

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The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the											Page 43
Parish (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Hamlet or Tything, &c., of	Ecclsiastical District of					
No. of Houses	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	HOUSES in which the Census is taken	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of Person	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind or Deaf and Dumb		
<i>219</i>			<i>William Hoop</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>11</i>		<i>Labourer</i>	<i>Bethnal Green</i>			
			<i>William Hoop</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>27</i>		<i>Carriage Driver</i>	<i>Do</i>			
			<i>John Hoop</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>20</i>			<i>Bethnal Green</i>			
			<i>Henry Hoop</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>2</i>			<i>Bethnal Green</i>			
			<i>William Hoop</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>10</i>		<i>Housemaid</i>	<i>Do</i>			
<i>250</i>	<i>16 Peter St</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Thomas Gates</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>39</i>		<i>Cabinet Maker</i>	<i>Do</i>			
			<i>Ann Gates</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>37</i>		<i>(keeping 2 sons)</i>	<i>Do</i>			
			<i>Martha Hoop</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>15</i>		<i>Cabinet Maker</i>	<i>Do</i>			
			<i>Ann Hoop</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>14</i>		<i>Dress Maker</i>	<i>Do</i>			
			<i>Mary Hoop</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>8</i>			<i>Do</i>			
			<i>William Hoop</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>6</i>			<i>Do</i>			
			<i>George Hoop</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>4</i>			<i>Do</i>			
			<i>Emily Hoop</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>2</i>			<i>Do</i>			
			<i>Alfred Hoop</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>2 mos</i>			<i>Do</i>			
			<i>Alice Hoop</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>2 mos</i>			<i>Do</i>			
<i>251</i>	<i>13 Do</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Charles Bonden</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>52</i>		<i>Wholesale Dealer</i>	<i>London</i>			
			<i>Elizabeth Hoop</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>48</i>			<i>Do</i>			
			<i>George Hoop</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>17</i>		<i>Church Porter</i>	<i>Do</i>			
			<i>Edmund Hoop</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>13</i>		<i>Chair Maker</i>	<i>Do</i>			
			<i>Edmund Hoop</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>11</i>			<i>Do</i>			
			<i>William Hoop</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>6</i>			<i>Dublin</i>			
<i>252</i>			<i>James Byball</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>30</i>		<i>Furniture Manufacturer</i>	<i>London</i>			
			<i>Ann Hoop</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>24</i>			<i>Do</i>			
			<i>John Hoop</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>19</i>			<i>Do</i>			
Total of Houses...		<i>2</i>	Total of Males and Females...								<i>12 13</i>

Eng.—Sheet D.

Alfred was to die 6 months later of Croup and diphtheria (1861, Sep, Bethnal Green, 01C. 205).

<i>60</i>	<i>Twenty second August 1861</i>	<i>Alfred Gates</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>6 1/2 Months</i>	<i>Son of Thomas Bates Cabinet-Maker Master</i>	<i>Croup complicated with Diphtheria Certified</i>	<i>Bethnal Green</i>	<i>Present at Death</i>	<i>Twenty fourth August 1861</i>	<i>Henry Ashford Registrar</i>
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Thomas's mother Mary, died on 9th May 1861 at 3 Squirries Street, Bethnal Green, In 1866 Ann's mother, also Ann dies.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Thomas Humphreys Gates Meets Emma Page

At some point between 1860 and 1863, Thomas Humphreys Gates met and married Emma Page. The distance between their two homes would have been of the order of a mile.

Subsequently Thomas Gates* and Ann Gates went on to have three more children in the 1860s when Thomas Humphreys was in his 20s and married.

Selina was born 6th December 1863 at 16 Peter Street. Thomas was a cabinet maker (1864, Mar, Bethnal Green, 01C, 329)

Superintendent Registrar's District <u>Bethnal Green</u>										
Registrar's District <u>Town</u>										
18 <u>64</u> . BIRTHS in the District of <u>Town</u> in the County of <u>Middlesex</u>										
No.	When Born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother	Rank or Profession of Father	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant	When Registered	Signature of Registrar	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth
415	<u>Sixth December 1863</u> <u>16 Peter Street</u>	<u>Selina</u>	<u>Girl</u>	<u>Thomas Gates</u>	<u>Ann Gates formerly Humphreys</u>	<u>Cabinet Maker</u>	<u>A. Gates Mother 16 Peter Street Bethnal Green</u>	<u>Sixteenth January 1864</u>	<u>Henry Ashford Registrar</u>	

Eleanor was born 13th July 1866 at 16 Peter Street. (1866, Sep, Bethnal Green, 01C, 298). Thomas was a cabinet maker

Superintendent Registrar's District <u>Bethnal Green</u>										
Registrar's District <u>Town</u>										
18 <u>66</u> . BIRTHS in the District of <u>Town</u> in the County of <u>Middlesex</u>										
No.	When Born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother	Rank or Profession of Father	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant	When Registered	Signature of Registrar	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth
339	<u>Thirteenth July 1866</u> <u>16 Peter Street</u>	<u>Eleanor</u>	<u>Girl</u>	<u>Thomas Gates</u>	<u>Ann Gates formerly Humphreys</u>	<u>Cabinet Maker</u>	<u>A. Gates Mother 16 Peter Street Bethnal Green</u>	<u>Twenty third August 1866</u>	<u>Henry Ashford Registrar</u>	

Sadly, Selina died on 24th August 1867 of Typhus, at 16 Peter Street, with her mother Ann present. (1867, SEP, Bethnal Green, 01C, 199).

Superintendent Registrar's District <u>Bethnal Green</u>										
Registrar's District <u>Town</u>										
18 <u>67</u> . DEATHS in the District of <u>Town</u> in the County of <u>Middlesex</u>										
No.	When Born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother	Rank or Profession of Father	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant	When Registered	Signature of Registrar	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth
271	<u>Twenty fourth August 1867</u> <u>16 Peter Street</u>	<u>Selina Gates</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Thomas Gates</u>	<u>Ann Gates formerly Humphreys</u>	<u>Labourer</u>	<u>(certified) A. Gates Present at Death 16 Peter Street Bethnal Green</u>	<u>24th August 1867</u>	<u>Henry Ashford Registrar</u>	

Alfred was born 26th March 1868 at 413 Cambridge Road. (1868, Jun, Bethnal Green, 01C, 258). Thomas was a cabinet maker.

Those Who Went Before Me - 1a The Gates Line

Superintendent Registrar's District Bethnal Green
 Registrar's District Green
 18 68. BIRTHS in the District of Green in the County of Middlesex

No.	When and Where Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth.
247	<u>South Hackney</u> <u>1868</u> <u>413 Cambridge Road</u>	<u>Abigail</u>	<u>Boy</u>	<u>Thomas</u> <u>Gates</u>	<u>Ann</u> <u>Gates</u> <u>formerly</u> <u>Humphreys</u>	<u>Labourer</u>	<u>A. Gates</u> <u>brother</u> <u>113 Cambridge Road</u> <u>Bethnal Green</u>	<u>South Hackney</u> <u>1868</u>	<u>Richard</u> <u>Bradford</u> <u>Registrar</u>	

1871 Census

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the [Page 83]

No. of House	ROAD STREET, No. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Gender	Village or Hamlet, No. of	Local Board, or Unincorporated Commission, District of	Ecological District of	Age	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	1. Deaf-Card-Duph 2. Blind 3. Imbecile or Idiot 4. Lunatic
147	<u>Ash Grove</u> <u>43</u> <u>Cont?</u>	<u>Hackney</u>	<u>Hackney</u>	<u>Hackney</u>				<u>South Hackney</u>	<u>57</u> <u>46</u> <u>6</u>	<u>Carpenter</u>	<u>South Hackney</u> <u>South Hackney</u> <u>South Hackney</u> <u>South Hackney</u>	
148	<u>Ash Grove</u> <u>45</u>	<u>Hackney</u>	<u>Hackney</u>	<u>Hackney</u>				<u>South Hackney</u>	<u>49</u> <u>16</u> <u>14</u> <u>12</u> <u>10</u> <u>4</u> <u>3</u>	<u>Cotton Dealer</u> <u>Warehouseman</u>	<u>South Hackney</u> <u>South Hackney</u> <u>South Hackney</u> <u>South Hackney</u> <u>South Hackney</u> <u>South Hackney</u> <u>South Hackney</u>	
149	<u>Ash Grove</u> <u>47</u>	<u>Hackney</u>	<u>Hackney</u>	<u>Hackney</u>				<u>South Hackney</u>	<u>31</u> <u>25</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u>	<u>Box maker</u>	<u>South Hackney</u> <u>South Hackney</u> <u>South Hackney</u> <u>South Hackney</u>	
150	<u>Ash Grove</u> <u>47</u>	<u>Hackney</u>	<u>Hackney</u>	<u>Hackney</u>				<u>South Hackney</u>	<u>37</u> <u>36</u> <u>10</u> <u>9</u> <u>7</u> <u>6</u>	<u>Chamberlain</u> <u>Schooler</u>	<u>South Hackney</u> <u>South Hackney</u> <u>South Hackney</u> <u>South Hackney</u> <u>South Hackney</u> <u>South Hackney</u>	
Total of Houses..		2		Total of Males and Females..		66						

* Draw the pen through such of the words as are inappropriate. Eng. Sheet K.

By 2nd April, 1871, Thomas (49) and Ann (47) were now living at 45 Ash Grove Hackney (E8 4RH), with 5 of their children: Frederick George (16, warehouseman), Florence (14), Emily (12), and Alice (10), Elenor (4) and Alfred (3). Thomas was now a cotton dealer. They seem to have the whole house now.

Tragically, their son Alfred died, aged 3, on 16th October 1871 of scarlatina at 45 Ash Grove, South Hackney (1871, Dec, Hackney, 01B, 371)

<u>16 Road</u>	<u>South Hackney</u>	<u>Labourer</u>	<u>16 years</u>	<u>South Hackney</u>	<u>1871</u>	<u>South Hackney</u>	<u>South Hackney</u>
<u>16th</u> <u>October</u> <u>1871</u> <u>45 Ash Grove</u> <u>South Hackney</u>	<u>Alfred</u> <u>Gates</u>	<u>Male</u> <u>3 years</u>	<u>Son of</u> <u>Thomas</u> <u>Gates</u> <u>Cotton dealer</u>	<u>Scarlatina</u> <u>Certified</u>	<u>Ann Gates</u> <u>Present at the death</u> <u>45 Ash Grove</u> <u>South Hackney</u>	<u>16th</u> <u>October</u> <u>1871</u>	<u>Richard</u> <u>Stib</u> <u>Registrar</u>

1881

At the 1881 census, (3rd April 1881) Thomas (59) and Ann (57) lived at 252 Bow Road, Bow, Tower Hamlets. Thomas was surprisingly now a "coffee house keeper". Their children living with them were: Ann (34, Coffee House assistant), Florence (24, Dressmaker), Emily (22, Fancy box maker), Alice (22, Domestic Servant), Eleanor (14, "scholar"), and granddaughter Mary Ann Heil (2)

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										Page 53
Civil Parish (or Township) of		City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town or Village or Hamlet of	Urban Sanitary District of	Rural Sanitary District of	Ecclesiastical Parish or District of		
Bow				Tower Hamlets		Ripley 186 9/11 Miles		St Mary		
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited (U.) or Partly Inhabited (P.)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of		Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Imbecile or Idiot (4) Lunatic
						Males	Females			
206	251 Bow Road	1	Arthur Freeman Walter	Brother	unm	28		Brewer	West Bow	
			Agnes Emily Walter	Sister	unm	16			do do	
			Robert Freeman	Head	widow	70		Brewer	West Rochester	
			William Herbert	Son-in-law	Mar	44		Brewer	West Rochester	
			Emma Herbert	Daughter	Mar	42			West Bow	
			Annie Freeman	Daughter	unm	26			West Bow	
			Ernest B. Freeman	Grandson	unm	22		Printer Compositor	Widd. Bowley	
207	253 do	1	Walter B. Herbert	Grandson	unm	15		assist in Printing	do Bow	
			Edith Emily Herbert	Gr daughter	unm	14			do do	
			Thomas Gates	Head	Mar	59		Coffee H ^e Keeper	do Bethnal Green	
			Ann do	Wife	Mar	57		do do	do do	
			Ann do	Daughter	unm	34		do do	do do	
			Florence do	Daughter	unm	24		Dress maker	do do	
			Emily do	Daughter	unm	22		Fancy Box maker	do do	
			Alice do	Daughter	unm	22		Domestic Servant	do do	
			Eleanor do	Daughter	unm	14		Scholar	do do	
			Mary Ann Heil	Gr daughter	unm	2			do White Ch.	
208	255 do	1	Isabel Knisch	Head	Mar	43		Walter Baker	Dussies	
			Mary Ann do	Wife	Mar	41			Widd. St Pancras	
			Alisa do	Daughter	unm	7		Scholar	do Hamlets	
			Louise do	Daughter	unm	6		do	do do	
			Therese do	Daughter	unm	4			do St Pancras	
			Francis do	Daughter	unm	3			do do	
			Marrison do	Daughter	unm	2			do Bow	
Minnie do	Daughter	unm	2			do do				
Total of Houses... 3			Total of Males and Females... 8 17							

NOTE.—Draw the pen through such of the headings as are inappropriate.

Eng. Sheet H.

The coffee room was at 253 Bow Road and it appears that Thomas also did food (Source: London Trades Directory 1880, Ancestry). The * on the directory indicates they served food.



Bow Road looking west, 1890

Source: London Picture Archive

Bow Road still exists, and is now the main A11 between Mile End Road, and the Blackwall Tunnel approach roundabout. In the photograph above, the building on the left still exists – and is the Metropolitan Police Station, as does the railway bridge. Assuming there was no major renumbering between 1890 and 1940, the Coffee Shop might well have been where MacDonalDs now is on the approach to the Bow Flyover and roundabout between the A11 and A12.



COFFEE ROOMS—continued.

Calverley Mrs. Jessie, 330 Bunlett road E.
Campbell Walter, 9 Beresford st. Cambrwl SE
Carless Hy. Augustus, 10 West Ferry road E
Carpenter George, 23 Shenwood st. Golden sq W
Carroll William, 88 Gray's inn road WC
Carrick Bartholomew, 60 London road SE
Carroll Bartholomew, 60 London road SE
Carter Henry, 4 York road N
Carter James, 4 York road N
Carter John Potts, 151 Up. North st. Poplar E
Carter Wm, 3 Camden street, Kensington W
Cartwright John S. 43 Old Kent road SE
Cartwright Wm. 18 Aylesbury st. Clrknwl E C
Caton Henry, 16 Garlick hill E C
Catt Alfred, Nine Elms lane SW
Causar Joseph, 117 Commercial road east E
Causar Samuel, 662 Commercial road east E
Chateraf Hy. 6 Allsop pl. Marylebone rd NW
Chalk William John, 2 White Lion street E
Challis Alfred, 16 Beresford st. Walworth SE
Challis Edward David, 594 Rotherhithe st SE
Challis Edwin, 45A. King's road. St. Pancras NW & 81 Pratz street, Camden town NW
Challis George, 51 West India dock road E
*Chambers Geo. Edward, 39 Crawford st W
*Chambers Geo. 7 Orange st. Red Lion sq WC
Chapman Charles, 70 Pittfield street N
Chapman George David, 97 Drury lane WC
Chapman Thomas William, 9 King's rd SW
Chappell Alfred, 160 Mile end road E
Chard Thomas Henry, 13 Hackney road E
Charnell Henry, 26 Paddington street W
Chasley Joseph Wm. 33 Featherstone st E C
Chattay William, 1 Duke street, Adelphi WC
Cheseman James, 127 Lower Thames st E C
Chennell Miss Anna, 29 Low. Kennington la SE
Chivell Jas. 43 George st. Euston road NW
Church Richard Hy. 27 Rayst. Clerkenwell E C
Church Mrs. Lavinia, 184 Gray's inn road WC
Clapp William, Stowage, Deptford SE
Clark Benj. Thomas, 131 Euston road NW
Clark Charles, 2 West street, Seven dials WC
Clark Frederick, 44 Beech street E C
Clark George, 12 Sun street, Finsbury E C & 245 Green street, Bethnal green E
Clark Geo. Henry, 247 East India dock road E
Clark James, 1 Lit. Turnstile, H. Holborn WC
Clark Joseph, 14 Bird street, Oxford street W
Clark Robert, 1 Little Essex street, Strand WC
Clark William, 6 Dntest. St. Kensington SW
Clark Wm. Plough bridge, Rotherhithe SE
Clarke Allen, 14 Duke st. London bridge SE
Clarke George, 301 Gray's inn road WC
Clarke George, 292 New North road N
Clarke George, 305 Old street, Shoreditch E C
*Clarke James, 279A. Kingsland road E
Clarke Miss Jane, 6 Wilson st. Finsbury E C
Clarke Richard, 86 Long acre WC
Clay Henry, 178 Albany street NW
Clay Thomas, 267 Goswell road E C
Clayton Mrs. Matilda, 20 St. John street E C
Cleare John, 55 Longlane, West Smithfield E C
Clegg Clemence, 25 Clifton st. Finsbury E C
Clemow Frederick, 72 Lupus st. Pimlico SW
Cleavey John, 55 Bricklane, Spitalfields E
Clevly Thos. Davis, 148 Aldersgate street E C
Clutterbuck Henry, 348 Euston road NW
Clutterbuck Wm. 8 Chapel st. Edgware rd NW
Coal William, 120 Southwark bridge road SE
Coles Thomas, 131 Southwark bridge road SE
Cole Frederick, 262 & 288 Gray's inn road WC
Cole John, 22 Devon's road E
Cole Mrs. Mary Ann, 84 Cheyne walk, Chelsea SW
Coleman Geo. 139 Westminster bridge rd SE
*Colles George, 184 Edgware rd. Paddington W
Coles John, 225 St. John st. Clerkenwell E C
Collier Wm. Walter, 3 & 27 Charterhouse st E C
Collins James, 305 Edgware road W
Collins Robert, 170 Walworth road SE
Collins William, 21 Thornhill place N
Colloff Thomas, 116 Packington street N
Colts Benjamin, 63 Rotherhithe street SE
Coived Mrs. Sarah, 13 West Ferry road E
Comfort Isaac Gilbert, 6 Penrose st. Wivth SE
Connop Mrs. Mary Ann, 294 Oxford street W
Connor Mrs. Mary, 8 Oxford market W
Cook Benjamin, Leadenhall meat market E C
Cook William, 279 Cambridge road E
Cook William, 6 Dorset street, Portman sq W
Cook William, 6 Wilton road, Pimlico SW
Coolman John, 38 Union st. Borough SE
Cooper Edwin, 7 St. John street road E C
Cooper Samuel, 18 St. John street road E C
Cooper William, 6 South End, Kennington sq N
Cooper William, 85 Crown st. Seething la E C
Cope Henry, G. 35 Commercial rd. Lambeth SE
Cope Mrs. Jane, 11 Barnsbury road N
Coppelstone John, 37 High st. St. Giles' W
Coppock Wm. Joseph, 16 Bermondsey wall SE
Cornell James, 17 Great Queen street WC
Cornish Mrs. Ann Elizabeth, 381 Kingsland rd E
Cornwell Edward, 260 Whitechapel road E
Cornwell Charles, 209 West Ferry road E
Cossa Samuel, 17 Carter street, Houndsditch E
Cousins James, 7 Paternoster sq E C
Cousins James, 175 Old st. E C & 65 Essex rd N
Cousins Robert, 88 Harrow road W
Covey Edwin, 276 Caledonian road N
Covey Charles E. 183 Shadwell High street E

Cowly Arthur, 65 St. George street E
Cox Charles, 44 Clerkenwell green E
Crabbs Mrs. Mary Ann, 43 Batchelor w. Dptfrd SE
Crafford John Robert, 309 Poplar High st E
Cranston Richd. 1 Vincent st. Westminster SW
Crapps Henry, 20 King st. Tower hill E
Crawley John, 89 New road, Whitechapel E
Cremin Mrs. Mary Ann, 4 New st. Hill, Shoelae E C
Crick James, 91 King street, Camden town NW
Crisp William Henry, 19 Leather lane E C
Crittenden Charles, 152 New Cross road SE
Crocker Jas. 27 Chippenham ter. Harrow rd W
Crosbie John, 4 Thomas st. Whitechapel rd E
Cross Edward, 177 Bishopsgate st. without E C
Cross Thos. William, 3 Caledonia st. Pimlico SW
Cross Wm. Fredk. 3 Buck st. Camden tn NW
Crotty Wm. James, 80 Old Kent road SE
Crawson George, 10 West Smithfield E C
Crickshank William, 8 Caledonian road N
Crump Henry, 194 Hackney road E
Cudd Henry, 16 Commercial rd. Lambeth SE
Cutter Edward, 66 Hampstead road NW
Curtis Henry, 44 Brunswick st. Blackwall E
Curtis James, 108 Pimlico road SW
Cusden Mrs. Elizabeth, 51 Chiswell street E C
Cutler Mrs. Mary Ann, 10 Pk. side, Knightsbdg SW
Daggessell Frederick, 292 Rotherhithe st SE
Dale Petr. Rbt. 12 Jerusalem pas. Clerkenwell E C
Dallas John, 8 East India dock road E
Dancer Miss Catherine, 129 Euston road NW
Daniels James Hy. 352 Commercl. road east E
Daniels Robert, 453 Hackney road E
Daniels William, 12A, Rose lane, Ratcliff E
Darcy William, 23 Fashion st. Dochead SE
Darcy George & Son, St. Michael's alley E C
Dartton William, 171 Walworth road SE
Davis Alfred, 27 Great Quebec street W
Davis John, 2 Prospect pl. Cambridge rd E
Davis Robert, 10 Westmoreland road SE
*Davy Thomas, 114 Bow road E
*Davy William, 82 Upper Thames street E C
Dawkins Charles, Kennington road SE
Dawson William, 5 Ball street, Kensington W
Deacon Mrs. Sarah, 59 Kingsland road E
Dean Geo. 3 Alvey st. Walworth common SE
Dean William Thomas, 188 Mile end road E
De'Angioli C. F. & Co. Great Eastern st E C
Deare Richard Thomas, 212 Long lane SE
Deboos Geo. Alfd. 434 Bethnal green road E
Deer Charles, 6 Redcross street, Borough SE
DeGroot Mrs. L. 193 Tooley street SE
Degruchy Joshua, 8 Kentish town road NW
Dell Charles, 274 Mile end road E
Denly Thomas, 38 Brick lane E
Denington Wm. Richs. 5 Park st. Boro' market SE
Dennis Edward, 57 Union street, Borough SE
Dent Edward, 35 George st. Grosvenor sq W
Dent Mrs. Mary Ann, 76 Brompton road SW & 246 Poplar High street E
Desmond Mrs. Honora, 13 Blenheim st. Oxfrd. st W
Dew Miss Clara, 1 Charlotte st. Pimlico SW
Dick John, 124 Gt. Saffron hill E C
Dickens Robert, 736 Old Ford road, Bow E
Dicker John W. 43 Cowcross st. Smithfld E C
Dight Charles, 3 James street, Oxford st W
Diamond William, 49 Wandsworth road SW
Disher Leonard, 3 Church st. Rotherhithe SE
Dodd James, 185 Evelyn street, Deptford SE
Dorsett Henry William, 1 Rhodeswell road E
Downing Mrs. Sophia, 9 Praed street W
Downard Thomas, 66 Bramley rd. Notting hl W
Downing Mrs. H. 23 Goding st. Up. Keangtn la SE
Drake Stephen, 127 Deptford High street SE
Draycott Mrs. Ann, 55 John street SE
Drinkwater Richs. Wm. 213 Gt. College st NW
Dunsmear Herbert, 33 Brooke st. Holborn E C
Dunngate Wm. 141 Weston st. Bermondsey SE
Dunks James, 48 Catherine street, Strand WC
Dunn Thos. 72 Commercial rd. Lambeth SE
Durling Jas. 10 Blackland's ter. Chelsea SW
Dutton Benjamin, 47 Snow's fields SE
Dyas Samuel, 1 Moor lane E C
Dyer Francis Vincent, 185 & 187 N. Kent rd SE
Eames John Gill, 67 Medland st. Ratcliff E
Earee James Edward & Co. 127 Hackney rd E
Earle George, 292 Kennington road SE
Eary Robert, 38 Clerkenwell green E C
Easton James, 41 King st. Camden town NW
Easty Walter, 2 Gilbert st. Grosvenor square W
Eaton John, 25 Upper Ogle street W
Eccles George, 70 St. John's road N
Eddington Mrs. Margaret, 90 Praed street W
Ede Mrs. Eliza, 11 Agar street, Strand WC
Edmonds Thos. Chas. 151 Caledonian road N
Edroff Henry, 1 Emerson street, Bankside SE
Edrup Wm. 126 Marlborough rd. Chelsea SW
Edwards Henry, 100 Kingsland High street E
Edwards Mrs. Mary Ann, 416 Kenngtn rd SE
Edwards Samuel, 166 East st. Walworth SE
Edwards Samuel, 18 Little Randolph st NW
Edwards Samuel, 93 Shadwell High street E
Edwards Thomas, 271 Old Kent road SE
Ellard John, 57 New Gravel lane, Shadwell E
Ellen William, 7 White Lion st. Pentville N
Elliot Jsph. Thos. 29 Marsham st. Westminster SW
Elliott Chas. H. 70 & 71 Farringdon street E C
Elliott Thomas, 1 Little Grosvenor street W
Elliott William, 40 Cowcross street E C
Ellis Joseph, 143 St. John street road E C

Elsden John William, 295 New North road N
Essex Geo. & Jsph. 6 & 8 Clinton rd. Mile end rd E
Evans George, 194 High st. Camden town NW
Evans George Hy. 14 Poland st. Oxford st W
Evans Richard, 16 Upper Marylebone street W
Evans William, 2 Little Cross st. Islington N
Everard Walter, 54 Belvedere rd. Lambeth SE
Everitt James, 27 Jamaica road SE
Exall James Stephen, 51 Pancras road NW
Eyles George, 8 Bishop's ct. Chancery lane WC
*Eyles John Bonny, 236 Bow road E
Fairhead Hy. J. 21 Tottenham court road W
Fairy John, 104 Belvedere road SE
Farley Frederick, 292 Upp. Kennington la SE
Farnan James, 30 Melton st. Euston sq. NW
Farr Henry, 14 Maiden lane NW
Farr John, Nine Elms lane SW
Fasham George, 265 Kingsland road E
Fawley John, 79 Stamford street SE
Fell James, 55 Penton street, Pentonville N
Fell Martin, 199 New North road N
Fenner Herman, 232 Whitechapel road E
Fenton James, 13 Cumberland pl. Chelsea SW
Ferdinand John, 6 Three Colt lane E
Fermor & Powell, 12 Windmill street E C
Ferry George, 304 Hackney road E
Field David, 614 Old Kent road SE
Fielder Walter, 9 King street, Snow hill E C
Piford Saml. 123 Brunswick st. Blackwall E
Filler Joseph, 162 Cambridge road E
*Filmer George, 4 Young street, Kensington W
Filmore Wm. 6 Stanhope st. Euston sq NW
Pink Richard Henry, 83 Aldersgate street E C
Fisher Charles Jesse James, 1 Lonsdale rd W
Fisher Geo. Daniel, 40 Wells st. Camberwell SE
Fisher Richard Meredith, 21 Botolph lane E C
Fisher William, 11 Craven ter. Bayswater W
Fisher Wm. Edwd. 161 Drummond street NW
Fisk George, 511 Cambridge road E
Fleming Patrick, 3 Crescent st. Nottinghill W
Flood G. & Son, 24 Blandford st. Portman sq W
Flynn John, 203 Whitechapel road E
Foden William, 189 Old Kent road SE
Foot Henry, 20 Seymour st. Euston square NW
Foot John, 207 Essex road N
Ford Edward, 21 Durham row, Stepney E
Ford Mrs. Elizabeth, 25 Regency st. Westminster SW
Ford John, 21 Judd street WC
Ford Patrick, 20 Little St. Andrew street WC
Fordham Mrs. Jemima, 3 Duke's Head pas E C
Fordham John, 59 Hackney road E
Forman Geo. Tyrrell, 5 Broad st. Golden sq W
Forslike Thos. Jeremiah, 69 Walworth rd SE
Forster Edward, 104 White Horse st. Stepney E
Forster James Gibson, 15 River ter. York rd N
Forster John, 416 Caledonian road N
Foster George, 19 Goswell road E C
Fowler Mrs. Ann, 77 Commercial st. Spitalfields E
Fowler William, 38 Whitechapel road E
Fox George, 61 Drury court, Strand WC
Frampton Ebenezer John, 4 Whitefriars st E C
Francis Joseph, 2 Buckingham pl. York rd N
Francis Wm. 87 Vincent st. Westminster SW
Frankling John, 136 New North road N
Franklin Thomas, 7 Great Chapel st. Soho W
Fraser & Woodward, 3 New Turnstile WC
Fraser John, 225 Blackfriars road SE
Freeman Joseph, 129 Holloway road N
Freeston William, 14 Bath street, City rd E C
French Ebenezer, 54 Long la. We. Smithfield E C
French Wm. Hy. 113 Keaton's rd. Bermdy SE
Fricker Geo. & Peter, 191 St. Jms. st. Clerkenwell E C
Frookingham Mrs. Sarah, 174 Albany street NW
Frost Saml. Geo. 147 Wapping High street E
Frost Saml. Geo. 72 Lndn. will. E C & 239 Old st E C
Frost Thomas, 227 Shorelitch High street SE
Froud Alfred, 262 Kentish town road NW
Fruchtlicht John, 29 Whitcomb street WC
Frye Robert, 75 Warren street, Fitzroy sq W
Fuel Mrs. Henrietta, 696 Old Kent road SE
Fuller George, 48 Great Guildford st. Borough SE
Gabb Aguila, 27 Farringdon road WC
Gable John, St. James' road SE
Gadd Samuel, 13 Giltspur street E C
Gale Geo. 68 Osnaburgh st. Regent's park NW
Gaman Henry, 53 Stamford street SE
Gamand Mrs. Amelia, 119 Blackfriars rd SE
Gamand James, 10 Hand court, Holborn WC
Gammon Daniel, 27 Butcher row, Ratcliff E
Gammon William, 34 Raphael st. Knightsbdg SW
Gardner John, 114 Cromer street WC & 111 & 113 Old street, St. Luke's E C
Gardner William, 903 Old Kent road SE
Garvey William Robert, 5 Crncifix lane SE
*Gates Thomas, 293 Bow road E
Gear Chas. 6 Newman's row, Lin. inn fields WC
Gearing James, 103 Mile end road E
Gearing John, 34 & 36 Cale street, Chelsea SW
Geary John, 135 Bermondsey street SE
Geary Thomas, 26 Crimscoot street SE
Gellatly Dvd. 7 Lit. St. Andrew st. Seven dials WC
Gerrish Geo. 165 St. Leonard st. Bromley E
Gibbard Geo. 490 King's road, Chelsea SW
Gibbs Charles, 25 East road, City road N
Gilbert Joseph, 38 Lower Sloane street SW
Giles William John, 46 Old Kent road SE
Gillham Wm. 17 Pmos. st. SW & 26 Gt. Smth. st SW
Gladwin John, 7 James pl. Bath st. City rd E C
Glead Thomas, 1 King street, Poplar E

Those Who Went Before Me - 1a The Gates Line

1891

At the time of the 1891 Census (5th April 1891), Thomas (69) and Ann (67) were living at 26 Dunloe Street, St Leonard Shoreditch. Thomas was a general shop keeper, and Ann his assistant. With them were Eleanor (24 general shop assistant), and Ann (44, fancy box maker).

Administrative County of London	The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										Page 42	
Civil Parish	Municipal Borough	Municipal Ward	Urban Sanitary District	Local Government District	Parliamentary Borough or Division	Ecclesiastical Parish or District						
St Leonard Shoreditch	Haggerston	Haggerston	Haggerston	Haggerston	Haggerston	Haggerston	Haggerston	Haggerston	Haggerston	Haggerston	Haggerston	
Code	No. of ROAD, STREET, ALLEY, or No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES in the HOUSE	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriages	AGE last Birthday	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	WEEKS BORN	if (1) Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lunatic, Imbecile or Idiot			
			Charles Coleman	Son	et	86	Chromolite Shop	x	London Shoreditch			
			John Harris	no	wid	80	Dressmaker	x	Northampton			
			William Burgess	Wife		72		x	London Shoreditch			
	282 32 ^a Dunloe St	1	Charles Bishop	Head	wid	69	Fancy Box Maker	x	London Shoreditch			
			Ann H	no	Dut	et		x	London Haggerston			
			William	no	son	15	Grand Boy	x	no			
			Frederick	no	son	17		x	no			
	283	no	Robert Blackman	Head	m	38	Printer	x	London Tottenham			
			Ann	no	Wife	m		x	London Tottenham			
			William Johnson	Head	m	51	Letter Carrier	x	London Tottenham			
			Ann	no	Wife	m		x	London Tottenham			
	285 26	no	Thomas Gates	Head	m	67	General Shop Keeper	x	London Bethnal Green			
			Ann	no	Wife	m	no	no	no			
			Eleanor	no	Daughter	24	no	no	no			
			Ann	no	Daughter	44	Fancy Box Maker	x	no			
	286 24	no	Henry Lucas	Head	m	34	Barber	x	London Old Bailey			
			Ann	no	Wife	m		x	London Old Bailey			
			Henry	no	son	12		x	London Old Bailey			
			Agnes	no	Daughter	8		x	London Old Bailey			
			Margaret	no	Daughter	5		x	London Old Bailey			
			Robert	no	son	3		x	London Old Bailey			
			Katharine	no	Daughter	5		x	London Old Bailey			
	287	no	James Keyser	Head	m	26	Cigar Maker	x	London Long Lane			
			Ann	no	Wife	m		x	London Long Lane			
			John	no	son	12		x	London Long Lane			
			Ben	no	son	8		x	London Long Lane			
	289 22	no	Joseph Hunt	Head	m	72	Leather Seller	x	London Shoreditch			
			Ann	no	Wife	m		x	London Shoreditch			
			Charles	no	son	14	no	no	London Bethnal Green			
			Martha	no	Daughter	8	no	no	London Shoreditch			
			Total of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms		4	5	Total of Males and Females		12	19		

Death of Thomas Humphreys Gates 1894 and Thomas Gates 1897

Thomas's son, Thomas Humphreys, died on 21 March 1894, at Edmonton at the age of 50 of skin cancer at the Union Workhouse, Edmonton'. How he ended up in the workhouse is not clear but possible that it was operating as an infirmary/hospital.

Twenty first March 1894	Thomas Humphreys Gates	male	50 years	labourer (journeyman) of Tottenham Parish	carcinoma of face 12 months Exhaustion Certified by James Heath M.D.	James Graham Master Union Workhouse Edmonton	Twenty fourth March 1894	John Harman Judd Registrar
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Three years later, on 25th April 1897 at 7 Armagh Road, Bow, Thomas himself died aged 75 years of "Enlargement of Prostate 19 Months Cystitis 14 Days". The death was registered 26 Apr 1897 by 'Eleanor Taylor Daughter Present at the death [of] 7 Armagh Road, Bow'. (1897, Jun, Poplar, 01C, 301).

Thomas and Ann were together for 47 years.

Alley	St Leonard Shoreditch	Years (Married)	75	Coffee House Keeper	Enlargement of Prostate 19 Months Cystitis 14 Days Certified by A.H. Macdonald M.D.	Eleanor Taylor Daughter Present at the death 7 Armagh Road Bow	26 April 1897	John Harman Judd Registrar
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Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Thomas was buried at Manor Park Cemetery, on 1st May 1897 in Square 62, Grave 237. Unfortunately, the graves were reclaimed some years ago and others were buried in the same spot.

MANOR PARK CEMETERY COMPANY, LIMITED, EAST HAM, ESSEX.											
OFFICE—THE CEMETERY.											
REGISTER OF BURIALS AT THE CEMETERY IN THE YEAR 1897											
Folio No.	No.	Date	NAME	AGE	LAST ABODE	Where Buried	Name of Officiating Minister	Date of Certificate of Death	Name and District of Registrar	Name and Address of Undertaker	
599	147987	May	Morris William John	17 Mo	255 Brick Lane Bethnal Green	61 236	J. P. Emrys J. W. Oliver	April 30	C. W. Winter Bethnal Green North	Joseph Barber	
506	147988	May	Kelly Elija	6 days	94 Virginia Road Bethnal Green	61 237	-	28	C. W. Winter Bethnal Green North	Joseph Barber	
921	147989	May	Scott George	72 yrs	Infirmiry Shoreditch	62 424	-	-	-	Joseph Barber	
19549			Scott George	72 yrs	Shoreditch Infirmiry				Loft		
252	147990	May	Denny Ellen Maud	4 yrs	1 Osprey Street Rotherhithe S.E.	61 236	-	24	F. H. Thomas C. Passer Rotherhithe		
192	147991	May	Collins William	56 yrs	26 Danvers Street Chelsea	62 190	-	26	C. S. Long South Chelsea	Geo. Gumble 15 Malton St Chelsea	
483	147992	May	Jackson Mary Ann	34 yrs	Lucy's Hospital Southwark	62 186	-	29	W ^o Clark Saint Olave	J. S. Mills	
358	147993	May	Gates Thomas	75 yrs	7 Armagh Road, Bow. E.	62 234	-	26	H. Wilkins Bow	E. J. Owens	
192	147994	May	Coster Albert Richard	8 Mo	33 Wharf Road, Saint Luke	61 308	-	27	W ^o Squire City Road	C. Norton	
192	147995	May	Coster Alice Louise	23 Mo		61 308	-	27	W ^o Squire City Road	C. Norton	
956	147996	May	Wells Ellen Elizabeth	28 yrs	30 Wendon Street Bow	61 384	-	27	E. K. Honakin Deputy Coroner	Barlow & Aldred	

Immediately below Thomas are two children, Albert Richard Coster, died 25th April (the same day as Thomas) aged 8 months old, and Alice Louise Coster died 26th April aged 23 months old - both buried in the same plot, square 61, grave 308. They lived at 33 Wharf Road, Bow and both died of bronchitis. Albert and Alice were the children of Edward Coster and Alice. Edward Coster was the son of another Edward Coster who married Martha Gates, Thomas and Martha's daughter. Making them both Thomas and Martha's great grandchildren.

86	20 th fifth April 1897	Albert Richard Coster	Male	8 Months	Son of Edward Charles Coster labourer at Edenbridge Iron works	Bronchitis Certified by P. A. Fisher - M. R. C. S.	A. E. Coster Mother Present at the death 33 Wharf Road	25 th April 1897	William Squire Registrar
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87	26 th April 1897	Alice Louise Coster	Female	23 Months	Daughter of Edward Charles Coster labourer at Edenbridge Iron works	Bronchitis Certified by P. A. Fisher - M. R. C. S.	A. E. Coster Mother Present at the death 33 Wharf Road	26 th April 1897	William Squire Registrar
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Those Who Went Before Me - 1a The Gates Line

1901 Census

By 31st March 1901, Thomas has died and Ann (76) is living alone "on her own means" living with her widowed daughter Alice Page (40) and Alice's four children - Alice (12), Eleanor (12), Emily (9) and George (4) - her step-daughter Ann (54), her daughter Eleanor, (34) who is now married to Alfred Taylor (34, Printers' ???dsman) and their three children - Alfred (6), Albert (3), Eleanor (2) - at 7 Armagh Road, St Mary Stratford Bow. The house, which has seven rooms and four families.

The image shows a handwritten 1901 census form for 7 Armagh Road, Bow. The form is filled out with names, ages, and occupations of the household members. The household includes Alice Page (76), her daughter Alice Page (40), and Alice's children: Alice (12), Eleanor (12), Emily (9), and George (4). It also lists Ann (54), her daughter Eleanor (34), and Alfred Taylor (34) with their children Alfred (6), Albert (3), and Eleanor (2). The form includes a 'Total of Males and of Females' section at the bottom.

1904 Death of Ann

Ann died three years later on 11th November 1904 at The Sick Asylum, Bromley, Poplar, (DEC 1904 Poplar 1c 357) aged 80. She died of "Bronchitis. Bedsores. Heart failure". The death was registered on 12 Nov 1904 by 'Eleanor Taylor Daughter present at the death [of] 7 Armagh Road, Bow'.

59	Church November 1904 The Sick Asylum	Ann Gates	Female	80 years	Widow of Thomas Gates a Coffee House Keeper of 7 Armagh Road Bow.	Bronchitis Bedsores Heart failure Certified by H.H. Jenkins M.R.C.S.	Eleanor Taylor Daughter present at the death 7 Armagh Road Bow.	Twelfth November 1904	J. Beebe Registrar
----	--------------------------------------	-----------	--------	----------	---	--	---	-----------------------	--------------------

Her daughter, also Ann, neither married, not had any children. She also died at the (Poplar and Stepney) Sick Asylum just two weeks later aged 58 on 29th November 1904 of "stomach cancer". At the time she had been a "Fancy Box Maker". Her death was registered by her sister Eleanor Taylor (formerly Gates) who was present at the death living at 7 Armagh Road, Bow.

No.	Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Residence of Informant.	When registered.	Signature of Registrar.
101	Twenty ninth November 1904 The Sick Asylum	Ann Gates	Female	58 years	Fancy Box Maker of 7 Armagh Road Bow	Carcinoma of stomach Certified by H.H. Jenkins M.R.C.S.	E. Taylor Sister present at the death 7 Armagh Road Bow	Thirtieth November 1904	J.W. Waage Deputy Registrar
	Thirtieth				Widow of ..	Cerebral Hemorrhage	E. Beebe	20. 11. 04	

The Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum

The new Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum was erected in 1869-71 at Devon's Road in Bow immediately south of the Stepney workhouse. It opened its doors on 17th August 1871, to serve "the sick, bedridden and infirm". The Sick Asylum buildings were demolished in 2008.

Ann Snr is buried in Manor Park cemetery, square 12, grave 79, then in Essex, now the London Borough of Newham. The undertaker was W. Johnson of Roman Road Bow. Unfortunately, the graves were reclaimed some years ago and others were buried in the same spot

The location and layout of the site are shown on the 1893 OS map below:



Poplar and Stepney Asylum site, 1893



Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum District, Middlesex, London

The Metropolitan Poor Law Act was passed in March 1867 to improve the provision of care for the sick poor in London, particularly through the provision of hospital accommodation separate from workhouse. The operation of the Act was overseen by the Metropolitan Asylums Board under which six new Sick Asylum Districts were created, one of which was Poplar and Stepney formed in 1868. The Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum District included the parishes of Poplar, Bromley, Bow, Limehouse, Wapping, Shadwell, and Ratcliffe.

The costs of building six completely new hospitals turned out to be prohibitive, and four of the new Sick Asylum Districts were reconstituted as enlarged poor law unions who would redeploy their existing accommodation. The Poplar and Stepney District survived, along with the Central London Sick Asylum District.

The new Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum was erected in 1869-71 at Devon's Road in Bow, on a narrow 4.5 acre site immediately to the south of the Stepney workhouse. It opened its doors on August 17th, 1871, to serve "the sick, bedridden and infirm".

MANOR PARK CEMETERY COMPANY, LIMITED, EAST HAM, ESSEX.
Office - THE CEMETERY.
REGISTER OF BURIALS AT THE CEMETERY IN THE YEAR 1904

Paid Burial	No.	Date	NAME	AGE	LAST ABODE	Where Buried, Approx. Grave	Name of Officiating Minister	Date of Certificate of Death	Name and Rank of Registrar	Name and Rank of Undertaker
	319	190701	Mr Gates	19	154	12 74	P. Grant	12	W. Johnson	W. Johnson
	321	190702	Mr Hart	19	154	12 74	J. Walker	12	W. Johnson	W. Johnson
	712	190703	Mr Shute	19	154	12 74	St George	14	W. Johnson	W. Johnson
	802	190704	Mr Thompson	19	154	12 74	St George	14	W. Johnson	W. Johnson
	653	190705	Mr Pitts	19	154	12 74	St George	14	W. Johnson	W. Johnson
	559	190706	Mr Manton	19	154	12 74	St George	14	W. Johnson	W. Johnson
	381	190707	Mr Hatley	19	154	12 74	St George	14	W. Johnson	W. Johnson
	907	190708	Mr Niegthman	19	154	12 74	St George	14	W. Johnson	W. Johnson
	261	190709	Mr Eastop	19	154	12 74	St George	14	W. Johnson	W. Johnson
	559	190710	Mr Mayhew	19	154	12 74	St George	14	W. Johnson	W. Johnson
	207	190711	Mr Fennell	19	154	12 74	St George	14	W. Johnson	W. Johnson
	517	190712	Mr Langley	19	154	12 74	St George	14	W. Johnson	W. Johnson

The lives of the children of Thomas, Martha and Ann

(I am very grateful to Charles Parry for much of this information and text, which I have edited)

Thomas Gates had in total 14 children – 4 with Martha Humphrey and 10 with Ann Humphrey. Five children died as infants and therefore had no children themselves: Samuel Gates (1849 – 49), Rebecca Gates (1851 – 53), Alfred Gates (1861 - 61), Selina Gates (1866 – 67) and a second Alfred Gates (1868 – 71). Of the children who reached adulthood only Ann Gates (1847 – 1904) did not marry and had no children. Thomas Gates and Ann Humphreys produced twins (Alfred and Alice) in 1861. Two of their children also had twins: Florence in 1887, Alice in 1889.

At least 14 grandchildren resulted from Thomas Gates's marriage with Martha Humphreys; 26 grandchildren resulted from his marriage with Ann Humphreys, making a total of 40 grandchildren.

From this data a number of things come clear. Thomas, Martha and Ann were responsible for a large family who still suffered from diseases that were a result of poverty. However, many lived to good ages as they moved into the 20th century. There will be very many people who can trace their ancestry back to Thomas and Martha.

A summary of the birth dates and ages at death of all Thomas's children

Birth date	Name	Age at death
27 November 1843	Thomas Humphreys Gates	50
31 May 1845	Martha Gates/Coster	77
1 April 1847	Ann Gates	58
25 June 1849	Samuel Gates	0
24 September 1851	Rebecca Gates	1
15 January 1853	Mary Ann Gates/Heil	81
25 November 1854	Frederick George Gates	40
22 November 1856	Florence Gates/Schoppert	77
12 November 1858	Emily Gates/Gregory	67
6 February 1861	Alfred Gates	0
6 February 1861	Alice Gates/Page/Gardiner	84
6 December 1863	Selina Gates	3
13 July 1866	Eleanor Gates/Taylor	82
26 March 1868	Alfred Gates	3

A. Children with Martha

Thomas Humphrey Gates* (27th November 1843 – 21st March 1894; aged 51)

Thomas married Emma Page* on 25th December 1863. Together they had 9 children:

Emma Gates	DEC 1864 Shoreditch 1c 148
Thomas Humphreys Gates	MAR 1866 Shoreditch 1c 158
Henry William Gates	DEC 1867 Shoreditch 1c 75
Charles Gates*	DEC 1869 Shoreditch 1c 165
Archibald Humphreys Gates	MAR 1872 Shoreditch 1c 129
Emma Jane Gates	JUN 1874 Shoreditch 1c 65
Frederick George Gates	SEP 1876 Shoreditch 1c 68
John Lewis Gates	DEC 1880 Mile End Old Town 1c 523
Edward James Gates	MAR 1883 Edmonton 3a 351

Thomas died on 21st March 1894 of cancer of the face. Emma died on 11th August 1902 of cancer of the uterus.

Full details of the lives and deaths of Thomas Humphreys and Emma Page's children can be found in the chapter on their lives.

Appearance on censuses

1871: Thomas Humphrey Gates (27); Emma Gates (27); Thomas Humphrey Gates (5); Henry William Gates (3); Charles Gates (1)

1881: Thos Humphrey Gates (37); Emma Gates (37); Thos Humphrey Gates (17); Hy William Gates (15); Charles Gates (11); Archibald Gates (9); Emma Gates (7); Frederick George Gates (4); John Lewis Gates (5 months)

1891: Thomas Gates (47); Emma Gates (47); Emma Gates (17); Frederick Gates (14); John Gates (11); Henry Gates (23).

Martha Gates (31st May 1845 – 1923; aged 78)

Martha married Edward Charles Coster (c. 1846 – 1906), in May 1867

On the 1911 census Martha Gates recorded that she had had five children, four of whom were living. An Eliza Coster died aged 2: (1871, Sep, Hackney, 1b, 325). I assume that this was Eliza Ann Coster born December quarter 1869. According to census returns a further child, Edward Charles Coster, appears to have been born in Hackney in 1871 or 1872, but no record of his birth has been found.

Martha Coster	JUN 1868 Bethnal Green 1c 213
Eliza Ann Coster	DEC 1869 Bethnal Green 1c 207
Alice Mary Coster	SEP 1874 Holborn 1b 472
Florence Coster	DEC 1876 Shoreditch 1c 77

Appearance on censuses

1871: Edward Charles Coster (26); Martha Coster (25); Martha Coster (3); Eliza Coster (1)

1881: Edward Charles Coster (35); Martha Coster (35); Martha Coster (13); Edward Coster (9); Alice Coster (6); Florence Coster (4)

1891: Edward Charles Coster (45); Martha Coster (45); Martha Coster (23); Edward Charles Coster (19); Alice Mary Coster (16); Florence Coster (14)

1901: Edward Charles Coster (55); Martha Coster (55)

1911: Mrs Coster (65)

1921: Carl Schoppert (68); Mrs Schoppert (64); Charles Shephard (38); Mrs Shephard (37); Mrs Coster (76)

Edward Coster died between 1901 and 1911. Martha Coster (formerly Gates) died in 1923 possibly living with her younger sister Florence Schoppert as stated in the 1921 census.

Ann Gates (1st April 1847 – 29th November 1904; aged 58)

Ann neither married, nor had any children. She died aged 58 on 29th November 1904 at 7 Armagh Road, of stomach cancer at the (Poplar and Stepney) Sick Asylum.

No.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Residence of Informant.	When registered.	Signature of Registrar.
101	Ann Gates	Female	58 years	Taney Box Maker of Armagh Road Box	Carcinoma of Stomach Certified by H.H. Jenkins M.R.C.S.	E. Taylor Sister present at the death 7 Armagh Road Box	Thirtieth November 1904	J.W. Waeger Deputy Registrar
	Thirtieth			Widow of	Cerebral Hemorrhage	E. Bab	20. 1. 11	

Samuel Gates (25th June 1849 – 1849; aged nine weeks)

Tragically, on 28th August 1849, at just nine weeks old, and just 12 days later after his mother Martha died, Samuel died of "Diarrhoea 12 days" – given that diarrhoea is a major symptom of cholera it seems likely to be related.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

B. Children with Ann

Rebecca Gates (25th September 1851 – 9th March 1853; aged 15 months)

Rebecca was born on 24th September 1851. But she sadly died at home on 9th March 1853 aged just 15 months old of Pleurisy – two months after Mary Ann was born.

Mary Ann Gates (15th January 1853 – 1934; aged 81)

Mary Ann Gates (1853 - 1934) married Louis Frederick Heil (1846 - 88), in August 1877. They had four children:

Mary Ann Heil	JUN 1878 Mile End Old Town 1c 579
Alice Eliza Heil	JUN 1880 Mile End Old Town 1c 591
Louis Frederick Heil	JUN 1882 Mile End Old Town 1c 545
Thomas George Heil	DEC 1883 Edmonton 3a 327

Thomas George Heil died aged 8 (1890, Dec, Hackney, 01B, 329).

Louis Frederick Heil died between 1881 and 1891. Mary Ann Heil (formerly Gates) died 1934.

Appearance on censuses

1881: Louis F Heil (34); Mary Ann Heil (28); Alice Eliza Heil (11 months).

1891: Mary Ann Heale [sic] (38), widow; Louis F Heale (8). There is also a duplicate entry for them both with the surname 'Hail'.

1901: not found.

1911: Mary Ann Heil (58); Mary Ann Heil (32).

1921: Mary Ann Heil (68); Mary Ann Heil (43).

Frederick George Gates (25th November 1855 – 1894; aged 39)

Frederick George married Julia Stopher (1855 – 1924), in March 1875. They had 7 children:

Julia Gates	MAR 1876 Poplar 1c 742
Annie Gates	SEP 1878 Mile End Old Town 1c 526
Frederick Gates	MAR 1880 Hackney 1b 628
Thomas Gates	MAR 1882 Hackney 1b 563
William Gates	DEC 1883 Hackney 1b 509
Harry Gates	SEP 1886 Hackney 1b 543
Elizabeth Lucy Gates	SEP 1888 Hackney 1b 490

Elizabeth Lucy Gates died in June 1908 just 10 years old.

Appearance on censuses

1881: Frederick Gates (26); Julia Gates (26); Julia Gates (5); Annie Gates (2); Frederick Gates (1).

1891: Frederick G Gates (36); Julia Gates (36); Julia Gates (15); Annie Gates (12); Frederick Gates (11); Thomas Gates (9); William Gates (7); Harry Gates (4); Elizabeth Lucy Gates (2).

1901: Julia Gates (widow, aged 46); Annie Gates (22); Frederick Gates (21); Thomas Gates (19); William Gates (17); Harry Gates (14); Elizabeth Gates (12)

1911: Julia Gates (widow, aged 56); Annie Gates (32); Frederick Gates (31); Thomas Gates (29); William Gates (27).

Frederick, a carpenter, died on 12th December 1894 aged 40, of "*phthisis*" (tuberculosis). They lived at 30 Tuilerie Street Haggerston.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Tuilerie Street does not appear to have any official existence now. The name is embossed on the street corner, but has not been picked out in black, but remains white against a white background. The street itself, which in former years ran northwards for about 300 yards, is now just an entrance to Haggerston Park.

Twelfth December 1894 30 Tuileries Street	Frederick George Gates	male	40 years	Carpenter (Journesman)	Phthisis Certified by Capit. Mansford Nurse M. R. S. D.	Julia Gates widow of deceased In attendance 30 Tuileries Street Haggerston	Thirteenth December 1894	A. C. Lough Registrar
Fourteenth					Cancer of Tongue	Hale Crispe	Fifteenth	M. J. Powell

Julia died in 1924 aged 69.

Florence Gates (22nd November 1856 – 1934; aged 78)

Florence Gates (1856 – 1934) married Carl Schoppert (c. 1851 - 1938), a German national in October 1882. They had three children:

Florence Ann Schoppert	DEC 1883 Shoreditch 1c 144
Karl Gates Schoppert	JUN 1885 Shoreditch 1c 111
Elizabeth Eleanor Schoppert	JUN 1885 Shoreditch 1c 111

On the 1921 census it seems likely that Charles Shephard, aged 38, was in fact the Schoppert's son Karl Gates Schoppert, born 1885, and therefore aged 36 at the time of the census. It seems that he had anglicised his name and added a few years to his age so as to be senior to his wife.

Appearance on censuses

1891: Carl Schoppert [sic] (37); Florence Shoppert (34); Florence Ann Shoppert (8); Carl Gates Shoppert (6); Elizabeth E Shoppert (6); Henry Shoppert (28), a boarder from Germany.

1901: Karl Schoppert (48); Florence Schoppert (44); Florence Schoppert (17); Karl Schoppert (16); Elizabeth Schoppert (16).

1911: Carl Schoppert (58); Florence Schoppert (54); Florence Ann Schoppert (27); Elizabeth E Schoppert (26).

1921: Carl Schoppert (68); Mrs Schoppert (64); Charles Shephard (38); Mrs Shephard (37); Mrs Coster (76):

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. Please read the Instructions and Examples shown on the back, and then fill up the Schedule carefully and in Ink.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP TO HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD	AGE	SEX	MARRIAGE	BIRTHPLACE AND NATIONALITY	PERSONAL OCCUPATION	OCCUPATION AND EMPLOYMENT		EDUCATION
							EMPLOYMENT	PLACE OF WORK	
1 Schoppert Carl	Head	68	Male	Married	Germany Hamburg	Shed Worker	7770	None	None
2 Schoppert Mrs	Wife	64	Female	Married	Sweden British				
3 Shephard Charles		38	Male	Married	Rothschilds London British	Packer	9448	out of work	St. Angelo St. High St. Glasgow 54-52 George's Canal
4 Mrs Schoppert	Wife	37	Female	Married	Sweden British				
5 Mrs Coster		46	Female	Widowed	Sweden British				

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.
Signature: C. Shephard
(Head of Household, Manager of Establishment or other person responsible for making the return.)

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Emily Gates (1858 – 1926; aged 70)

Emily Gates (1858 - 1926) married Ambrose Gregory (1858 - 1940), in December 1883. They had four children, two of whom died very young.

Emily Ann Gregory	MAR 1884 Mile End Old Town 1c 577
William Thomas Gregory	SEP 1885 Poplar 1c 568
Charles Frederick Gregory	SEP 1887 Poplar 1c 571
Edward George Gregory	DEC 1889 Poplar 1c 557

Two children died soon after their births.

Charles Frederick Gregory died on 2nd December 1887, at 113Fairfielde Road Poplar aged 4 months of Broncho-pneumonia. (1887, Dec, Poplar, 01C, 408).

51	Street Second December 1887 113 Fairfield Road	Charles Frederick Gregory	male	4 Months	(Journeyman) Sons of Ambrose Gregory	J. Gary M.O. Broncho Pneumonia Certified by J. Roberts	21 Kanwell Street Bow Emily Gregory Mother Present at the death 113 Fairfield Road	1887	Registrar Third Wiltkins
----	---	---------------------------------	------	-------------	---	---	---	------	--------------------------------

Edward George Gregory died early in 1890 (1890, Mar, Poplar, 1c, 486).

Appearance on censuses

1891: Ambrose Gregory (31); Emily Gregory (30); Emily Gregory (7); William Gregory (5); Alfred Gardiner, boarder (28)

1901: Ambrose Gregory (43); Emily Gregory (42); Emily A Gregory (17); William T Gregory (16).

1911: Ambrose Gregory (53); Emily Gregory (52); William Thomas Gregory (25).

1921: Ambrose Gregory (63); Emily Gregory (62).

Emily died in 1926 aged 67 (1926, DEC, WEST HAM, 04A, 40), Ambrose died 14 years later, in 1940 (1940, Ded, West Ham, 04A, 6).

Alfred Gates (6th February 1861 – September 1861; aged 6 months)

Alfred was born on 6th February 1861 with his twin Alice. Alfred was to die 6 months later of "Croup and diphtheria" (SEP 1861 Bethnal Green 1c 205).

Alice Gates (6th February 1861 - 1945)

Alice Gates (1861 - 1945) married George Page (1861 - ?), in December 1887. George apparently died before 1901. Alice then married Alfred James Gardiner (c. 1861 – 1930), in October 1905. They had five children:

Alice Page	JUN 1889 Poplar 1c 545
Eleanor Page	JUN 1889 Poplar 1c 545
Emily Maud Page	SEP 1891 Poplar 1c 565
Florence Ethel Page	SEP 1893 Poplar 1c 558
George Thomas Page	MAR 1897 Poplar 1c 574

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Florence Ethel Page died a little before her first birthday on 12th July 1894 of "Measles 2 months, Broncho Pneumonia 1 month, Marasmus". (1894, Sep, Poplar, 01C, 310). According to the death certificate, her father George was a cook, not domestic. They were living at 7 Armagh Road, Bow.

12 th July	Florence	11	Daughter of George Page	Measles 2 Months Broncho Pneumonia 1 Month Marasmus certified by W. Barber M.D.	Alice Page Mother Present at the death	7 Armagh Road Bow	1894	11 (Register)
318	1894	Ethel Annelle Page	Cook Months (not Domestic)	Marasmus certified by W. Barber M.D.	7 Armagh Road Bow	1894	11 (Register)	11 (Register)
13 th July			Daughter of	Scarlatina	Louisa H. White			11 (Register)

Marasmus is a severe form of malnutrition that occurs when the body doesn't have enough calories, protein, carbohydrates, or fats to function normally. It is characterized by extreme weight loss, muscle and fat wasting, and stunted growth.

Selina (6th December 1863 – 24th August 1867; aged 3)

Selina was born 6th December 1863 at 16 Peter Street. She died on 24th August 1867 of Typhus, at 16 Peter Street, with her mother Ann present (1867, Sep, Bethnal Green, 01C, 199).

Eleanor Gates (13th July 1866 – 1949)

Eleanor Gates (1866 - 1949) married Alfred Taylor (c. 1865 - ?), in December 1893. They had three children:

Alfred Thomas Taylor	DEC 1894 Poplar 1c 565
Albert Gates Taylor	DEC 1897 Poplar 1c 557
Eleanor Florence Taylor	MAR 1899 Poplar 1c 575

On the 1911 census Eleanor Taylor recorded that she had had three children, all living. Her husband Alfred Taylor was not present on census night 1911. Alfred Taylor was also absent from the 1921 census, but he was evidently alive since Eleanor Taylor stated she was married, not a widow. Alfred Taylor was again absent from the 1939 survey. Eleanor Taylor was again described as married, not a widow.

Appearance on censuses

1901: Alfred Taylor (34); Eleanor Taylor (34); Alfred T Taylor (6); Albert G Taylor (3); Eleanor F Taylor (2).

1911: Eleanor Taylor (44); Alfred Thomas Taylor (14); Albert Gates Taylor (13); Eleanor Florence Taylor (12).

1921: Eleanor Taylor (54); Alfred T Taylor (26); Albert G Taylor (23); Eleanor F Taylor (22).

1939: Richard J Pettit (married, born 3 Apr 1894); Eleanor F Pettit (married, born 6 Jan 1899); John S Pettit (born 21 Aug 1926); Alfred T Taylor (single, born 15 Sep 1894); Eleanor Taylor (married, born 13 Jul 1866).

Alfred Gates (26th March 1868 – 16th October 1871; aged 3)

Alfred was born 26th March 1868. He tragically died, aged 3, on 16th October 1871 of scarlatina at 45 Ash Grove, South Hackney (1871, Dec, Hackney, 01B, 371)

7 Armagh Road, Bow³⁴

The address 7 Armagh Road appears several times in this chapter. For example:

- 25 Apr 1897 Residence and place of death of Thomas Gates. He presumably lived there with his wife Ann Humphreys.
- 31 Mar 1901 Residence of Ann Humphreys at the time of the 1901 census (where she lived as a widow along with her stepdaughter Ann Gates).

Armagh Road is located a little to the south of Victoria Park. It formerly comprised three sections. The southern portion ran between Tredegar Road and Roman Road. A central section ran from Roman Road to Old Ford Road, and a third, slightly offset section ran from Old Ford Road close to the southern edge of Victoria Park. Only the central section retains its original name, The southern section is now Hewison Street and the northern section is now Sycamore Avenue.

Number 7 formerly lay in the southernmost section of Armagh Road (now Hewison Street), on the west side close to the junction with Tredegar Road. The house no longer exists, but the adjoining contemporary houses to the immediate south (formerly nos. 3 and 5 Armagh Road, now respectively nos. 80 and 78 Hewison Street) still stand. They appear to have been built as a pair: they are two-storey and built of stock brick with areas of decorative plaster to the front elevation. The former site of number 7 appears to lie in a garden behind a high brick wall. A few metres north is a modern block of flats which spans the road and dominates the scene.

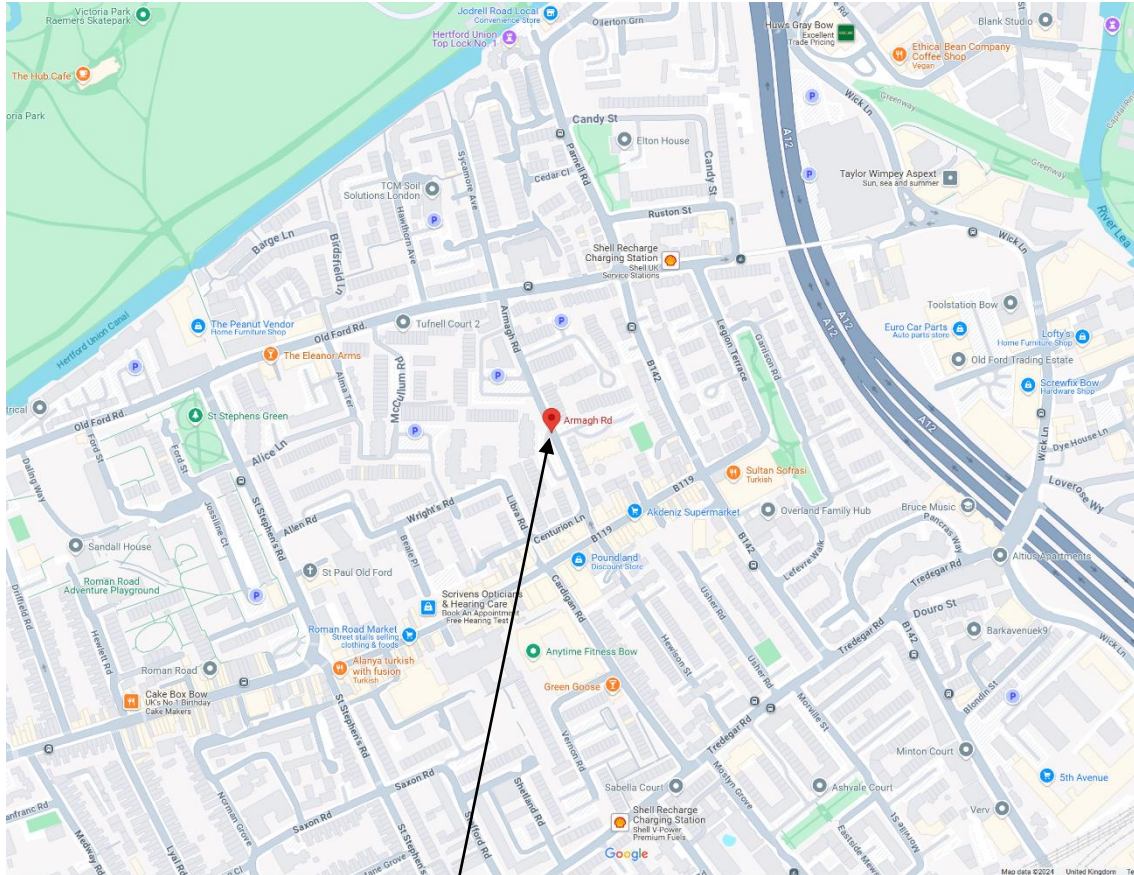
A stub of what may be a tiny part of no. 7's front elevation is attached to no. 5, but this looks like a modern construction built to buttress the corner of the house. Part of two chimney flues formerly shared with no. 7 project from the side elevation of no. 5, covered with modern render.

Aside from the former nos. 3 and 5 there seem to be no other surviving houses of the nineteenth century in any of the three sections of the former Armagh Road. Some idea of the street's former appearance might be indicated by the nearby Cardigan Road, where terraces of 19th century houses of surprisingly varied design are preserved. Cardigan Road has London Planes. Whether those trees formed part of the 19th century layout is unclear, but they may be later.

Ordnance Survey maps indicate that the three sections of Armagh Road remained substantially intact until the 1960s. Demolition of the 19th century houses and the re-naming of two sections of the street seem to have happened in the 1970s or later.

³⁴ From Charles Parry, who visited Armagh Road on Sunday 7 May 2023.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line



The location of Armagh Road, Bow



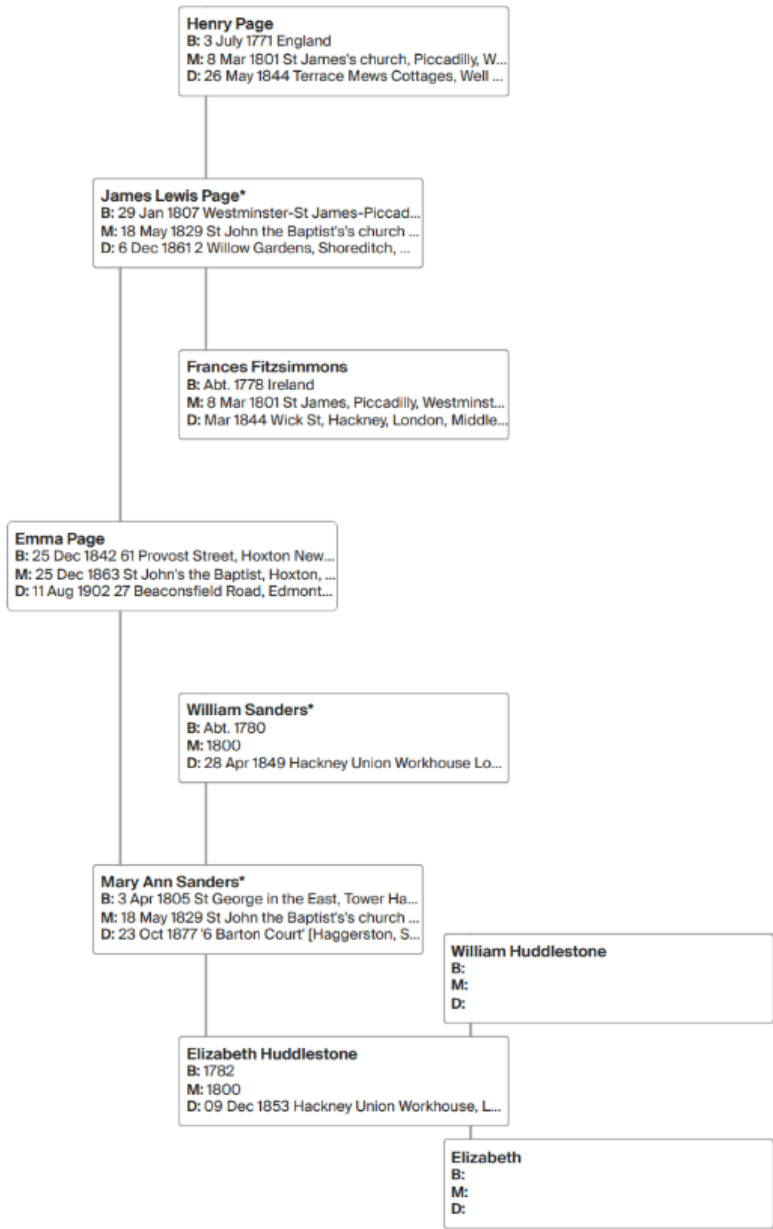
The front of what were 3 and 5 Armagh Road

Chapter 9 - James Lewis Page (1807–1861) and Mary Ann Sanders (1805–1877)

James Lewis Page and Mary Ann Sanders are two of my 2xgreat grandparents. They are the parents of Emma Page, my grandfather's mother.

Again, we know little of the lives of James and Mary.

Family Tree of James and Mary



James Lewis Page (1807–1861)

James Lewis's parents' origins are intriguing. From the 1841 census it seems that Henry Page was not born in Middlesex, and his mother Frances (probably Fitzsimmons) was Irish. How they met, and when they arrived in London, is unknown.

James Lewis's birthplace is a little problematic. From census information it seems he believed he was born in the locality of St James, Picadilly, where his parents were probably married and his elder brother Henry Thomas Page was baptised. However, his baptism at St Martin-in-the-Fields might indicate he was born near that church instead. However, the two churches are not very distant, so a Picadilly birthplace is possibly correct.

As for his childhood we can surmise from the later children's baptism records that the family had moved to Shoreditch by 1809 and stayed there until at least 1813. From those records we also learn that James' father Henry Page was a carpenter as James later became. When the Page family got to Hackney is unknown, because for the period 1814 - 1828 there is a complete absence of information regarding them.

Paradoxically before his marriage to Mary Ann Sanders, James Lewis Page's life is a blank page. As their first child was baptised in July 1829, we can assume that their relationship began no later than November 1828 when he was aged 21. When they married in May 1829 James Lewis was aged 22 and Mary Ann was aged 24.

It is interesting that both James Lewis Page and Mary Ann Sanders were literate which can be inferred by the fact that both wrote with a good 'hand' when signing their marriage certificate. Mary Ann may have attended schools run by the Congregational chapel that her family attended from 1814 onwards, but where James learnt is unclear- possibly from one or both of his parents?

Mary Ann Sanders (1805–1877)

Early Life

We know very little of the early lives and ancestry of Mary's parents, William and Elizabeth, partly because of the lack of official documentation of the time.

William Sanders (1780-1849) was born in 1780, and died on 28th April 1849, of chronic bronchitis aged 68.

Elizabeth Sanders (1778- 1853) was born 1778 and died on 9th December 1853, of natural decay aged 75.

William and Elizabeth married sometime around 1800 and had 11 children.

From 1803 – 1814 William* and Elizabeth* baptised six children at **St John the Baptist's church, Hackney**, though we do not know where they lived at the time:

- **William Sanders** born 19th September 1803; baptised on 9 Oct 1803.
- **Mary Ann Sanders** (1805-1877) was born on 25th May 1809 in St George in the East, Tower Hamlets.
- **Harriet Sanders** born 11th March 1807; baptised on 3 Apr 1807.
- **James Sanders** born 28th October 1808; baptised on 18th November 1808.
- **Ann Elizabeth Saunders** born 2nd March 1810; baptised on 1st April 1810.
- **Joseph Sanders**, William and Mary's 6th child, appears to have been baptised twice. First at the St John the Baptist, and second a few months later at St Thomas Square Chapel. Joseph Sanders (1) born ???; baptised at St John the Baptist, Hackney, on 3rd January 1814; residence: Cold Bath Lane, Hackney



The Church of St John the Baptist

(Lower Clapton Rd, London E5 OPD)

This was an Anglican denominational church which has a huge churchyard

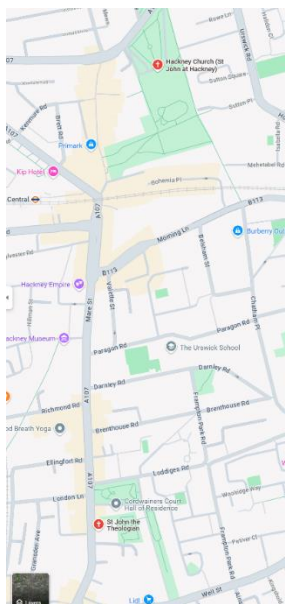
The last child baptised there being Joseph on 3rd January 1814. From then on, all their children – including a second baptism for Joseph - were baptised at St Thomas's Square Congregational Chapel, Hackney. In addition, on 31st May 1844 was the burial of Henry Page*, father of James Lewis Page who married Mary Ann Sanders.

Why William and Elizabeth switched their allegiance to a Congregational chapel in 1814 is unknown, though this may have been due to a residence move. At the end of their lives William Sanders and his wife Elizabeth were both buried at St John the Baptist's, Hackney.

The Anglican parish church, St John the Baptist (also known as St John at Hackney or Hackney Church) lies just east of the northern part of Mare Street, now the A107, a long street going south from Hackney Central to Cambridge Heath. Interestingly this is a short distance away from Hoxton and Haggerstone and Bethnal Green, where my paternal grandparents grew up.

The following children were baptised at **St Thomas's Square Chapel, Hackney**:

- **Joseph Sanders** (2) born ???; baptised at St Thomas's Square Chapel, Hackney in Jun 1814.
- **Elizabeth Sanders** born ??; baptised on 21st May 1815.
- **Henry Sanders** born ???; baptised on 5th October 1817, residence: Mill Street, Hackney.
- **George Sanders** born 15th October 1818; baptised on 15th Nov 1818; residence: Mill Street, Hackney.
- **Jane Sanders** born ???; baptised on 25th March 1821.
- **John Sanders** born in 1822, baptised on 16th June 1822.



This map shows the location of both churches with Mare Street. St John the Baptist is now "Hackney Church" (top). St Thomas's is where Cordwainers Court Hall of Residence is. The long burial ground is the then green strip going south.

There is little of the lives of William* and Elizabeth* that has currently been uncovered. They lived in and around Hackney between 1780 and 1850. As their children were all born before official registration we have no record of William's profession – apart from at his death aged 68 he was a "dustman". However, on their death (see below) both William* And Elizabeth* died in the Infirmary of Hackney Union Workhouse.

Hackney Poor Law Union was formed on 26th September 1837. A new Union Workhouse was constructed in stages, on the site of the old Poor House buildings at the south of Homerton High Street. (Source: Layers of London, <https://www.workhouses.org.uk/Hackney/>)

A summary of the lives of the children of William Sanders and Elizabeth is covered in the chapter on William and Elizabeth.

Sometime in 1829 Mary Ann Sander met James Lewis Page.

They were both born in London just after the United Kingdom was established in 1801, when George III was on the throne William Pitt the Younger was Prime Minister.

In their lives they witnessed the Battles of Trafalgar and Waterloo, as well as the abolition of slavery, and the Crimea War. They will have known of the founding of the Conservative Party, and the establishment of the postal system – which that party would destroy some 100 years later. They witnessed the death of three monarchs, and the accession of Queen Victoria.

The Marriage of James Lewis Page and Mary Ann Sanders

Page 96.

MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of Hackney
in the County of Middlesex in the Year 1829

James Page of this Parish
and Maria Sanders of this Parish
were married in this Church by Canon with Consent of
this eighteenth Day of
May in the Year One thousand eight hundred and twenty nine
By me Canon

This Marriage was solemnized between us { James Page
Maria Sanders

In the Presence of { William Saunders
Elizabeth Page

No. 286.

James Page of this Parish
and Maria Sanders of this Parish
were married in this Church by Canon with Consent of
this eighteenth Day of
May in the Year One thousand eight hundred and twenty nine
By me Canon

This Marriage was solemnized between us { James Page
Maria Sanders

In the Presence of { William Saunders
Elizabeth Page

No. 287.

James Page of this Parish
and Maria Sanders of this Parish
were married in this Church by Canon with Consent of
this eighteenth Day of
May in the Year One thousand eight hundred and twenty nine
By me Canon

This Marriage was solemnized between us { James Page
Maria Sanders

In the Presence of { William Saunders
Elizabeth Page

No. 288.

James Lewis Page married Mary Ann Sanders on 18th May 1829 at St John's Church, Hackney (St John-at-Hackney). They were both "of this Parish". Witnesses were William Saunders and Elizabeth Page. The bride and groom signed; the witnesses made their marks and were presumed illiterate. The bride signed her name 'Mary Ann Sanders' but on the register her surname was spelled 'Saunders'. They were living in Hackney when they married, moving to Shoreditch no later than 1835, where they spent the rest of their lives. James Lewis* was a journeyman carpenter, a profession he remained in for the rest of his life.

1830s

Subsequent certificate dates suggest James Lewis Page and Mary Ann had five children in the first 6 years of their marriage:

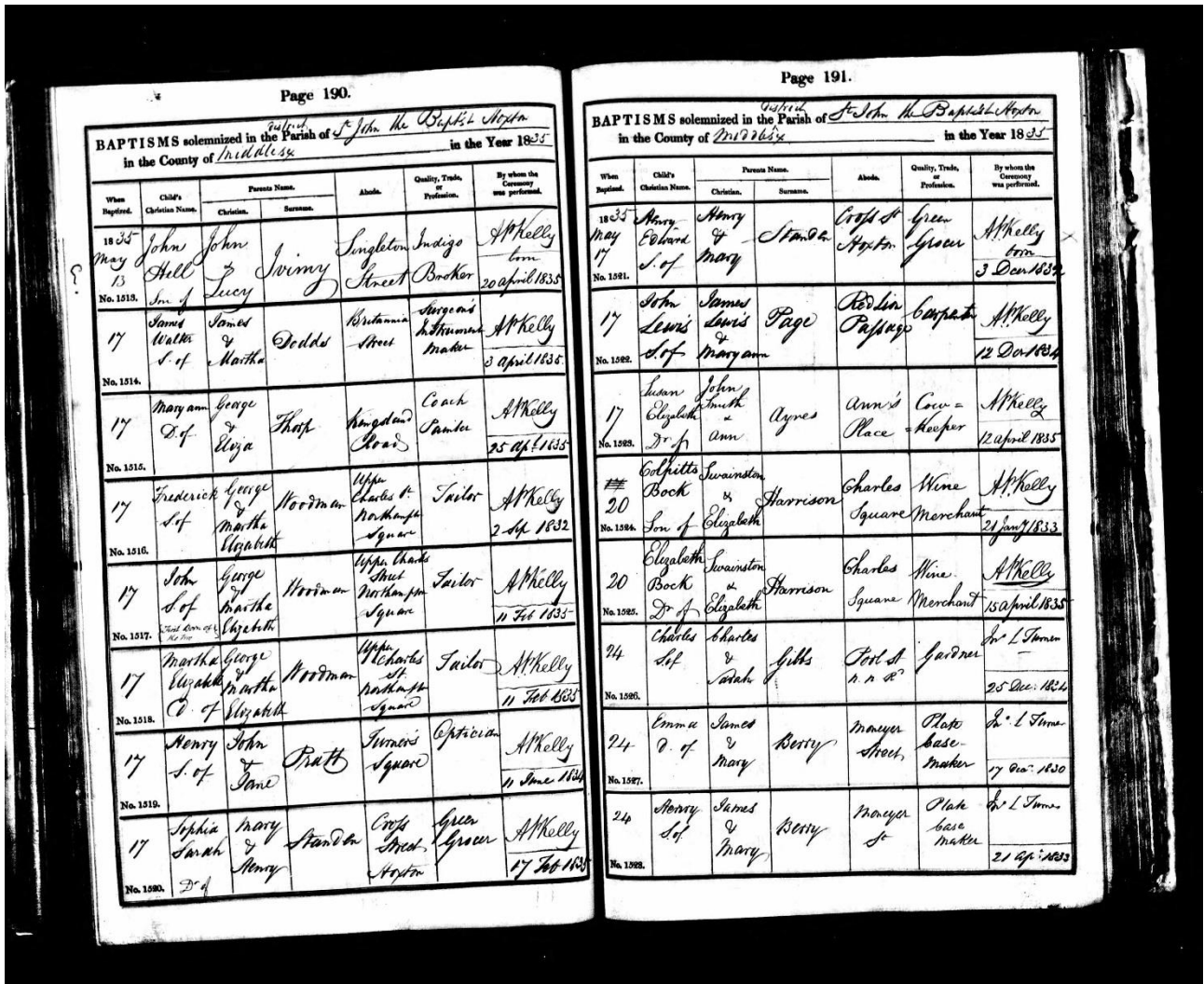
James Richard Page, baptised at St John-at-Hackney on 12th Jul 1829, resident at Hackney Wick.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <u>Hackney</u> in the County of <u>Middlesex</u> in the Year 18 <u>29</u>						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
18 <u>29</u> July 12 No. 609.	James Richard 1.7	James Mary Ann	Page	Wick 1/2	Carpenter	Edward Page

Henry William Page, born 14th December 1830, baptised St John's Chapel, South Hackney on 5th June 1831.

Marianne [Mary Ann] Page born [unknown], baptised at St John's Chapel, South Hackney on 31st Mar 1833, Resident at Silk Mill Row

John Lewis Page 12th December 1834 baptised at St John the Baptist, Hoxton on 17th May 1835. Resident at Red lion Passage.



Louisa Page born 20th July 1836, baptised at St Leonards on 18th September 1836, resident at Hackney Road.

These births were before the official birth registration date of 1 July 1837 - when the civil registration service started in England and Wales when every birth and death occurring in England and Wales had to be registered by the local registrar. The service was the creation of the Registration Act 1836, which had established the post of Registrar General. The first in this post, Thomas Lister, was appointed in September that year and worked to establish the system which came into effect the following July, some eleven days after the new monarch, Victoria, came to the throne. It was based at Somerset House in Central London, where the General Register Office (GRO) was from 1837 to 1974, when it moved to St Catherine's House, also in London.

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-general-register-office-celebrates-175-years-of-civil-registration>)

St John's Chapel, Well Street, Hackney

(from c. 1830, the parish church of South Hackney)³⁵

- 5 Jun 1831. Baptism of Henry William Page, son of James Lewis Page and Mary Ann Sanders.
- 31 Mar 1833. Baptism of Marianne [Mary Ann] daughter of James Lewis Page and Mary Ann Sanders.
- 4 Apr 1843. Marriage of Jane Sanders, daughter of William Sanders and his wife Elizabeth, and younger sister of Mary Ann Sanders. Jane Sanders married Samuel Rogers.
- 20 Mar 1844. Burial of Frances Page, the wife of Henry Page and the mother of James Lewis Page.

St John's chapel was erected c. 1810 as a chapel of ease within the parish of Hackney. Around 1830 the chapel was designated the parish church for South Hackney.

The original building was plain, and was enlarged c. 1843, the new structure having round-headed windows and a pedimented west front with ionic pillars beneath a pillared cupola. This building lasted only a few years, being replaced by a church built nearby in Lauriston Road, consecrated in 1848, dedicated to St John of Jerusalem, which exists today.

St John's chapel was demolished c. 1848. In 1880 the site was used to construct St Andrew's mission church, served from St John of Jerusalem. This building was destroyed around 1942 by bombing during the Second World War.

The chapel had an associated burial ground, sometimes known as Well Street burial ground, which continued in use following demolition of the St John's chapel, the last burial being made in 1876. The burial ground was converted to a public garden in 1884, which it remains today.

Frances, the wife of Henry Page and mother of John Lewis Page died at 'Wick Street' in March 1844 and was buried 'In the parish of South Hackney', so presumably in the burial ground associated with St John's chapel.

Oddly, while Frances's husband Henry Page died only a few months later in May 1844 he was buried in the nearby St Thomas's Square Congregational chapel's burial ground.

The former burial ground is preserved as a long green space well shaded by mature London plane trees. The garden is overlooked to the west by lovely terraces of St Thomas's Place, dating to 1807 and 1859, and to the east by modern social housing. Towards the southern end a few of the larger tombs have been retained in situ, but all other monuments appear to have been removed entirely. There is no surface trace of the former St John's chapel or St Andrew's Mission church...

Somewhat confusingly, in 2024 the signage names the garden as 'St Thomas's Long Burial Ground', even though it was never connected with the nearby St Thomas's Square Congregational chapel's burial ground (whose signage names it 'St Thomas's Recreation Ground'). Presumably the modern name is taken from the adjoining terrace of St Thomas's Place.

1837 – Death of William IV and Accession of Queen Victoria

King William IV died June 20, 1837, at Windsor Castle. Personally opposed to parliamentary reform, he grudgingly accepted the epochal Reform Act of 1832, which, by transferring representation from depopulated "rotten boroughs" to industrialized districts, reduced the power of the British crown and the landowning aristocracy over the government. His daughter became Queen. (Encyclopaedia Britannica)

Victoria had a gift for drawing and painting; educated by a governess at home, she was a natural diarist and kept a regular journal throughout her life. On William IV's death in 1837, she became Queen at the age of 18.

³⁵ From Charles Parry

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Queen Victoria is associated with Britain's great age of industrial expansion, economic progress and, especially, empire. At her death, it was said, Britain had a worldwide empire on which the sun never set.

(Source: <https://www.royal.uk/encyclopedia/victoria-r-1837-1901>)

James Lewis and Mary Ann had two further subsequent, registered, births:

Jane Page born on 3rd Oct 1838, baptised at St John the Baptist, Hoxton on 11 November 1838 resident at Red Lion Street. (1838, Dec, St Luke, 2, 224).

414	Tenth of October, 1838 at 8 Europa Place	Jane	Girl	James Lewis Page	Mary Ann Page formerly Sanders	Carpenter	Mary Ann Page Mother 8 Europa Place	Tenth of November 1838	Henry Hamlin Registrar
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Elizabeth Page their sixth child, was born on 16th October 1840 at 8 Europa Place, in St Lukes, City Road. There appears to be no baptism record. (1840, Dec, St Luke, 2, 244)

	Sixteenth of October, 1840 at 8 Europa Place	Elizabeth	Girl	James Lewis Page	Mary Ann Page formerly Sanders	Carpenter	Mary Ann Page Mother 8 Europa Place	Twenty third of November 1840	Henry Hamlin Registrar
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Tragically Elizabeth died on 4th January 1842 aged 15 months still at 8 Europa Place of "inflammation die to whooping cough". Mary was present at the death.

344	Tenth of January 1842 at 8 Europa Place	Elizabeth Page	Female 15 Months	Daughter of James Page a Carpenter	Inflammation from Whooping Cough	Mother present at the death 8 Europa Place	Tenth of January 1842	Henry Hamlin Registrar
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1841

In the 1841 census (6th June), James Lewis Page (34) and Mary Ann Page (30) still lived at 8 Europa Place, in St Lukes, City Road. With them were their six children, James (12), Henry (10), Mary Ann (8), Louisa (5), Jane (3) and Elizabeth (7m).

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

PLACE	HOURS of each Person who slept therein the preceding Night.	NAMES of each Person who slept therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or a INDEPENDENT MEANS.	When Born Month Day Year
			Males	Females		
Europa Place		John Case	44		Carpenter	1848
		William Smith	36		Wife	1850
		Laura	30			1854
		William	27			1861
		Mary	26			1862
		Henry Johnson	21		Bookbinder	1867
		Estlin	20			1868
		Mary	19			1869
		John	18			1870
		John	14			1874
		Eliza	12			1876
		John	11			1877
do		John	10			1878
		Mary	9			1879
		John	8			1880
		John	7			1881
		John	6			1882
		John	5			1883
		John	4			1884
		John	3			1885
		John	2			1886
		John	1			1887
		John	0			1888
	TOTAL in 2	2		13	12	

PLACE	HOURS of each Person who slept therein the preceding Night.	NAMES of each Person who slept therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or a INDEPENDENT MEANS.	When Born Month Day Year
			Males	Females		
Europa Place		Emma	11			1877
		William	10			1878
		Charles	9			1879
		Louis	8			1880
		Charles	7			1881
		Mary	6			1882
		Charles	5			1883
		Mary	4			1884
		George	3			1885
		Eliza	2			1886
		John	1			1887
		William	0			1888
TOTAL in 2	2		13	12		



Europa Place was a short dead-end street off Lever Street just west of Old Street.

This photograph is of Europa Place from Lever Street, looking south, taken in 1905.

Source: London Picture Archive

The same scene taken in 2025.



These on the left were taken in 2023. That on the right mirrors the 1905 shot taken in 2025.



Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Sometime later, in 1842, the family moved to 61 Provost Street, Hoxton New Town, Shoreditch.



These pictures were taken of Provost Street in 2023.

Top left is City Road at the junction of Provost Street looking east.

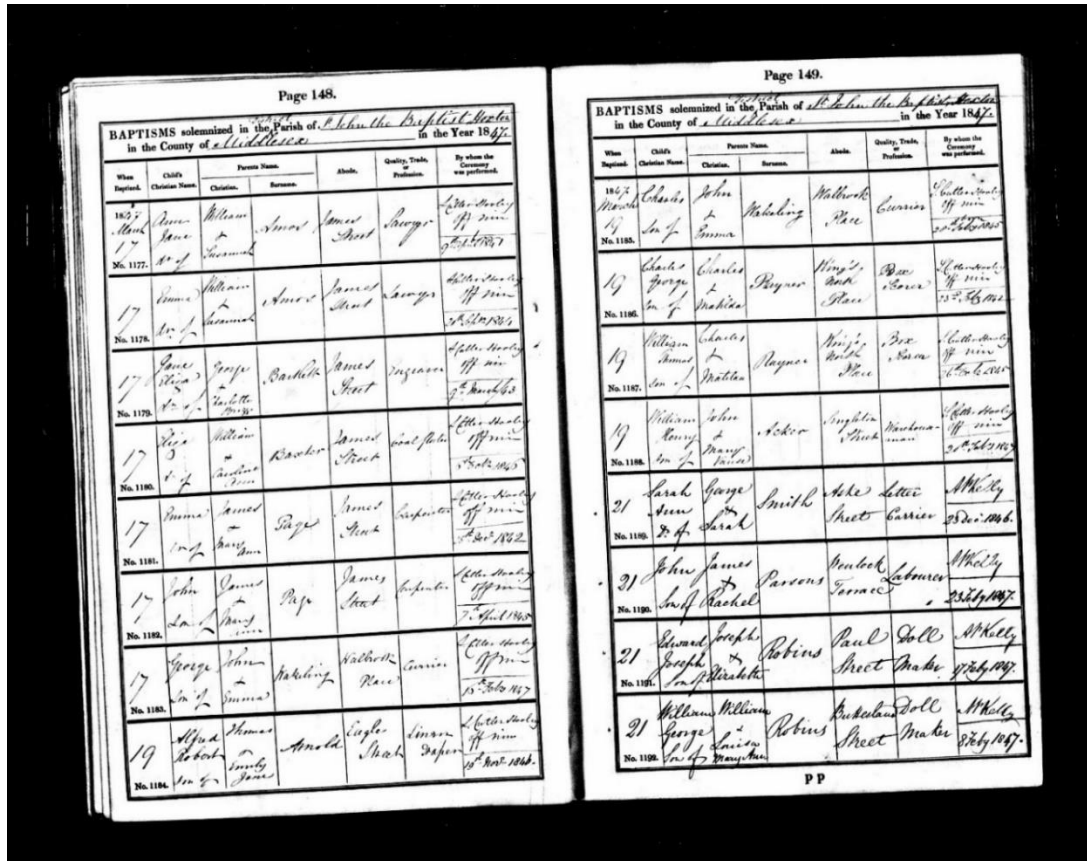
Top right is at the junction with City Road looking north.

Bottom left is halfway down Provost Street looking North.

Those Who Went Before Me - 1a The Gates Line

James Lewis Page (1807-1861) and Mary Ann Saunders (1809-1877) had their seventh child - fifth daughter - Emma Page - on Christmas day, 25th December 1842 at 61 Provost Street. (1843, Mar, Shoreditch, 2, 404). Emma Page was baptised at five years old on 17th March 1847 in the parish church of St John the Baptist, Hoxton

Twenty-fifth of December 1842 at 61 Provost Street, Hoxton New Town	Emma Girl	James Page	Mary Ann Page formerly Saunders	Carpenter and Joiner	Mary Ann Page Mother 61 Provost Street Hoxton New Town 1843	Second of February 1847	W. H. Shreeve Registrar
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Two more children were born in the second half of the 1840s when James was a joiner and later a carpenter:

John Page, 7th April 1845 at 61 Provost Street, Hoxton New Town, Shoreditch. Baptised 17th March 1847 at St John the Baptist, Hoxton. (1845, Jun, Shoreditch, 2, 407)

Hoxton New Town	61 Provost Street	Diggall	George Foxcroft Hoxton New Town 1845
Seventh of April 1845	John Boy	James Page	Mary Ann Page formerly Saunders
61 Provost Street Hoxton New Town			Mary Ann Page Mother 61 Provost Street Hoxton New Town 1845
			Twenty-seventh of May 1847
			W. H. Shreeve Registrar

William Jasper Page, 17th March 1848 at 2 Willow Gardens, Curtain Road, Shoreditch. Baptised on 17 May 1848 at St John the Baptist, Hoxton. (1848, Jun, Shoreditch, 2, 460).

Hoxton New Town	2 Willow Gardens, Curtain Road, Shoreditch	George Foxcroft Hoxton New Town 1848
Seventeenth of March 1848	William Boy	James Page
2 Willow Gardens, Curtain Road, Shoreditch		Mary Ann Page formerly Saunders
		Mary Ann Page Mother 2 Willow Gardens, Curtain Road, Shoreditch
		Twenty-seventh of May 1848
		George Foxcroft Registrar

According to the **Survey of London**, Willow Gardens was located on the western side of Shoreditch High Street. The property was part of the prebendal manor of Norton Folgate and was sold by Edmond Moore to Thomas Large in 1639. The property extended from Shoreditch High Street to Curtain Road and was held of the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's as of their manor of Norton Folgate. (British History Online)

It is perhaps no surprise that the family lived in Shoreditch, as South Shoreditch was the centre of the London furniture trade in the Victorian period.

The opening of the Regents Canal in 1820 made timber transportation cheaper and easier. South Shoreditch and Hoxton were near enough to trade with the City yet far enough from it to keep lower rents. By 1861 about 30 per cent of all London furniture makers worked in the East End. London's large population and housing growth led to a greatly increased demand for furniture. A wide variety of historic and modern styles were made. Curtain Road, Old Street and Great Eastern Street laid out in 1872-6, were centres of the trade.

A general history of Shoreditch and South Hoxton, Kay Owen, 1991

But Curtain Road was also significant in other ways:

It is perhaps not widely known that the first two London theatres were built in Shoreditch. The first playhouse, called simply "The Theatre" of 1576 was on Curtain Road at the junction with New Inn Yard, the first permanent playhouse in Britain. James Burbage, the head of the Earl of Leicester's Company of players, needed a permanent home for players to perform in, as the Lord Mayor had prohibited plays from being performed within the city walls.

A general history of Shoreditch and South Hoxton, Kay Owen, 1991

See <https://www.thestageshoreditch.com/discover/history-heritage>



Curtain Road in the 1890s facing north towards Hoxton some 40 years before James and Mary Ann lived there.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

1849 Death of William Sanders

On 28th April 1849, William Sanders, Mary's father died of "chronic bronchitis" aged 68. He died at the Hackney Workhouse, Lower Homerton, informant was Eleanor Vines.

186	Twenty-eight April 1849 Hackney Lower Homerton	William Sanders	Male	68 years	Quotidian	Chronic Bronchitis	Eleanor Vines Present at the Death Hackney Workhouse	First May 1849	Richard Stieb Registrar
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Hackney Poor Law Union was formed on 26th September 1837. A new Union Workhouse was constructed in stages, on the site of the old Poor House buildings at the south of Homerton High Street. (Layers of London, <https://www.workhouses.org.uk/Hackney/>)

1850s

By the time of the 1851 census, at the end of March, the family had moved again to 33 Willow Gardens, St Leonards Shoreditch. The family now consisted of James (42), Mary Ann (46), James (22), Henry (20), Marion (18 it is possible this is Mary Ann), Louisa (12), Jane (14), Emma (8), John (5), William Jasper (3), and James Field, a lodger (22). James Page and son James, were journeyman carpenters, whereas Henry was unusually a "musician". Marion and Louise were house servants, and Emma and Jane were "scholars". Though where they attended is not yet known – especially Jane who at 14 would have been expected to have left education.

Parish or Township of		Ecclesiastical District of		Ward or Street of		Name of		Village of	
St James Shoreditch		St James Shoreditch		St James Shoreditch		St James Shoreditch		St James Shoreditch	
No.	Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 31 st March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of Male Years	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Married	Whether Single
11	31 Willow Gardens	Ellen Carter	Wife	Widow	68		St James Shoreditch		
12	32 Willow Gardens	John Barfield	Head	Mar	44	Letter press journeyman	St James Shoreditch		
		John	son	Mar	12	Boys	St James Shoreditch		
		William	son	Mar	3		St James Shoreditch		
		Emily	Daughter	Mar	1		St James Shoreditch		
13	33 Willow Gardens	James Page	Head	Mar	42	Carpenter journeyman	West of James		
		Mary Ann	Wife	Mar	46		St James Shoreditch		
		James	son	Mar	22	Carpenter journeyman	St James Shoreditch		
		Henry	son	Mar	20	Musical	St James Shoreditch		
		Marion	Daughter	Mar	18	House servant	St James Shoreditch		
		Louisa	Daughter	Mar	12		St James Shoreditch		
		Jane	Daughter	Mar	14	Scholar	St James Shoreditch		
		Emma	Daughter	Mar	8		St James Shoreditch		
		John	son	Mar	5		St James Shoreditch		
		William Jasper	son	Mar	3		St James Shoreditch		
		James Field	Lodger	Mar	22	Wood Turner	St James Shoreditch		
14	34 Willow Gardens	Edmund Coleman	son	Mar	22	Cabinet Maker journeyman	St James Shoreditch		
				Total of Persons		10	9		

1853 Death of Elizabeth Sanders

On 9th December 1853, Elizabeth Sanders, Mary's mother died of natural decay aged 75. She too died at the Hackney Workhouse, Lower Homerton.

No.	When Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
177	Month Dec 9 1853 Workhouse Lower Homerton	Elizabeth Sanders	Female	75 years	Widow Wife of John Sanders Quotidian	Natural decay Certified	Elizabeth Weston Present at the death Hackney Workhouse Lower Homerton	Twelfth December 1853	Richard Stieb Registrar

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

1860s

By 7th April 1861, James Lewis Page (52) and Mary Ann Page (56) were living with Emma, (18), John (16), and William (13) at 2 Helena Place Willow Gardens. Emma's five older siblings have left home by now. Emma's profession is not given on the census.

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										
Parish [or Township] of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Hamlet or Tything, &c., of	Ecological District of				
No. of House	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of Person	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, and Dumb		
7	20	John Turner	Lon		55		Huddersham			
		Ann	Lon		53		Huddersham			
		Mary	Sister		25	Walter	Baker Huddersham			
		John Williams	Lon		59	Carriage Maker	Huddersham			
		Sarah	Wife		54		"			
		Henry	Lon		26	Car Printer Journeyman	"			
		George	Son		20		Luffeld			
		Robert	Lon		17	Smith	Huddersham			
		Julia	Daughter		13		"			
		Emma	Daughter		11		"			
		Mary	Daughter		3		"			
8	47	Robert Lee	Lon		52	Boatman	Holmby			
		John	Wife		51		Huddersham			
		Robert	Lon		2		Huddersham			
9	52	Benjamin Price	Lon		54	Smith	"			
		Richard	Wife		45		"			
		George	Lon		11		"			
		Edward	Lon		14		"			
		James	Lon		11		"			
10	77	James Gisher	Lon		51	Wagon Driver	Huddersham			
		Mary	Wife		47		Huddersham			
		James Page	Lon		54	Wagon Driver	Huddersham			
		Mary Ann	Wife		56		Huddersham			
5		Total of Houses			57	Total of Males and Females	13	12		

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										
Parish [or Township] of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Hamlet or Tything, &c., of	Ecological District of				
No. of House	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of Person	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, and Dumb		
11	11	James Page	Lon		54		Huddersham			
		Mary Ann	Wife		56		Huddersham			
		Emma	Daughter		18		Huddersham			
		John	Son		16		Huddersham			
		William	Son		13		Huddersham			
12	2	Thomas	Lon		62	Wagon Driver	Huddersham			
		Mary	Wife		49		Huddersham			

On 6th December 1861, James Lewis Page died of cancer of the stomach, at the young age of 54. The family was still living at 2 Willow Gardens (which may have been short for 2 Helena Place, Willow Gardens), but he died at 2 Ivy Cottages, Hoxton, with M. Woodward - who would have been Mary Ann, married to Archibald Woodward. His death was registered on 10th December 1861. James Lewis* was buried in Victoria Park Cemetery, Hackney. (1861, Dec, Shoreditch, 01C, 98). His address was given as Willow Gardens, Willow Walk, Shoreditch.

Garnell	Susannah	11 Leigard St Aldgate	12	70 years	G. Black	7268	8/1/63
Phillips	Elizabeth	Eagle St Bloomsbury	10	49 years	"	7269	8/1/63
Potter	William	Holcombes Bldg Berninbury	11	80 years	W. White	"	10/14
Payne	Mary A	St Joes Southwark	7	70	G. Black	7280	9/1/67
Tenn	Emma	Castle Lane Kingsland	13	18 mos	W. White	7280	10/5/6
Page	James Lewis	Willow Gardens Willow Walk Sh. ditch	16	54 yrs	"	7277	10/8/1
Palmer	Thomas	Minerva St	15	54 yrs	"	7276	10/11
Perry	Matthew Rd	17 Market St Westminster	16	4 mos	"	7282	10/17
Paulson	Ann	Featherstone Ct Featherstone	18	7 years	"	7283	10/18
Platt	St. Ben of	7 Essex Place	18	"	"	"	10/23
Prior	William	36 Strand St. Clare Mkt	18	17 years	W. White	7278	10/25

Those Who Went Before Me - 1a The Gates Line

Mary Ann* continued living at 2 Willow Gardens with her son, James Richard Page.

Shoreditch December 1861 462 Willow Gardens	James Lewis Page	Male 54 years	Carpenter employment	Qualified Cancer of Stomach Certified	Shoreditch M Woodward present at the death 8 Ivy Cottages Shoreditch	1861 Shoreditch December 1861	M. Hinks Registrar
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1870s

On 2nd April 1871 Mary Ann Page (widow, 66) was living at 2 Willow Gardens with her son James Page (43) a carpenter.

No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES No. of inhabited houses (U.S. or other) (1871)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION	AGE of Male female	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	Whether 1. Deaf and Dumb 2. Blind 3. Imbecile or Idiot 4. Lunatic
244	15 Willow Gardens	1	James Masas	Head	Mar	29	Polisher	Wid Shoreditch	
			Jane do	Wife	Mar	25		do do	
			Emily do	Daughter	Mar	3		Wid Shoreditch	
			George do	Brother	Mar	20	Polisher	Wid Shoreditch	
			Lucy do	Sister	Mar	18	Cigar Maker	Wid Bethnal Green	
245	1 Willow Gardens	1	James Page	Head	Mar	40	Photographer	do Shoreditch	
			Elizabeth do	Wife	Mar	28		do do	
246			Archibald Gray	Head	Mar	37	Letter Carrier	Scotland	
			Jane do	Wife	Mar	36		do do	
			Thomas do	Son	Mar	27	Cabinet Maker	Wid Bethnal Green	
247	1 do	1	Thomas Riley	Head	Mar	42	French polisher	do Chippendale	
			Mary A do	Wife	Mar	52		do do	
			Charlotte do	Daughter	Mar	28	Artificial flower	do St. Giles	
248	2 do	1	Mary Ann Page	Head	Wid	66		Wid Shoreditch	
			James do	Son	Mar	43	Carpenter	Wid Shoreditch	
249	3 do	1	John Hill	Head	Mar	65	Silk Weaver	Lancashire Acton, Penn	
			Jane do	Wife	Mar	47		Norwich	
			John Hill	Widow	Mar	35	Silk weaver	Coventry	
250	4 do	1	Mary Carter	Head	Wid	63		Wid Bethnal Green	
			William do	Son	Mar	38	Wheelwright	do Cheltenham	
			John do	Son	Mar	28	Carver	Middlesex Tottenham	
			Maria do	Daughter	Mar	26		do Shoreditch	
			Charles do	Son	Mar	11		do do	
			Ann do	Daughter	Mar	2		do do	
251	5 do	1							
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Mary Ann Page died on 23rd October 1877 of "Decay of nature, Bronchitis 8 days", aged 72. She lived at 6 Barton Court. The death was registered by her son Henry Page of 26 Chapen Street, Curtain Road, on 24th October 1877. Mary Ann Sanders* died at the house of her daughter Jane Woodward (formerly Page). Mary Ann's son Henry William Page (1830 - 82) incorrectly gave his father's middle name as Richard (it was in fact Lewis). Presumably he thought that his elder brother James Richard Page (c. 1829 - 98) had been named after his father. (1877, Dec, Shoreditch, 01C, 103).

392	Twenty third October 1877 6 Barton Court	Mary Ann Page	Female 72 years	Widow of James Richard Page a Carpenter	Decay of nature Bronchitis 8 days Certified by P. L. Rensell M.B.	Henry Page son in attendance 26 Chapel Street Curtain Road. E.C.6	Twenty fourth October 1877	W. Hinks Registrar
	Twenty third			Son of	Hooping cough	M. Innocent		

Mary and James's 8th child, Emma Page, went on to marry Thomas Humphreys Gates and one of their children, Charles Gates was my paternal grandfather.

Subsequent Lives of the Children of James Lewis Page and Mary Sanders

In most cases the parents were recorded as James and Mary Ann Page. Exceptions were that in 1833 'Marianne' was the spelling of Mary Ann for both mother and daughter, and for John Lewis Page and William Jasper Page, the father was recorded as 'James Lewis Page'. In every case the father's occupation was given as 'Carpenter'. Emma Page and John Page were baptised the same day, 17 March 1847. The same date was given as William Jasper Page's birth date on his baptism record, but his birth certificate confirms he was in fact born 17 March 1848.

In total they seem to have had 47 grandchildren, but not all lived beyond infancy.

James Richard Page (1829 – 1898; aged 70)

James' background is a strange one. James was baptised at St John-at-Hackney on 12 Jul 1829, resident at Hackney Wick.

James married Susannah Matilda Stockwell on 14th July 1852 (1852, Sep, Shoreditch, 01C, 367) at St John the Baptist, Hoxton, Shoreditch. They both gave their address as Willow Gardens. The witnesses were George Lee, Marian Page and William Ballard. The groom signed, the bride and the three witnesses made marks. However, the marriage seems to have been short and no children are known. On the 1861 census James Richard Page is listed as unmarried, and he was living with his mother. However, his subsequent children are with a Charlotte Taylor.

There seems to be no record of marriage for James Richard Page and Charlotte Taylor, (c. 1843 – 1908), also known as Riley. They appear to have become partners around 1872 when their first child was born. The birth name of Charlotte, the mother of James Richard Page's children, has not been established. Charlotte used the names Taylor and Riley when registering the births of her children.

Charlotte is listed on the 1871 census as Charlotte Riley, aged 25, living with her parents Thomas Riley aged 42 and her mother Mary Ann Riley aged 52. It seems unlikely that Thomas Riley had fathered Charlotte aged 17, and on that basis, it is probable that Charlotte's mother had been married previously, and that Charlotte's father was named Taylor.

In 1871 the Riley family lived next door to James Richard Page in Willow Gardens, Shoreditch, and I presume that is how he and Charlotte met. They had at least 7 children.

James was a journeyman carpenter.

Child	DOB	Baptised	Church
James Henry Joseph Page MAR 1873 Shoreditch 1c 69 Taylor	26 th November 1872	31 st April 1875	St John the Baptist, Hoxton
Charlotte Emma Page JUN 1875 Shoreditch 1c 62 Taylor	3 rd April 1875	31 st April 1875	St John the Baptist, Hoxton
Marian Page DEC 1878 Holborn 01b 823	27 th October 1878	29 th July 1881	St John the Baptist, Hoxton
John William Page SEP 1881 Holborn 1b 826 Ryley	9 th July 1881	29 th July 1881	St John the Baptist, Hoxton
Louisa Emily Page	23 rd July 1883	4 th August 1886	St Mark, Old Street
Amelia Page SEP 1886 Holborn 1b 799 Gillim	1 st July 1886	4 th August 1886	St Mark, Old Street
Henry Jasper Page JUN 1888 Holborn 01b 761	26 th February 1888		

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

219	Second July 1836 43	Amelia	Wife	James Richard	Charlotte Page formerly Tiley	Carpenter	X The Mark of Charlotte Page Mother	Thirtieth 1886	Registrar
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174	Twenty second October 1878 43 Cowper Street	Marian	Wife	James Page	Charlotte Page formerly Tiley	Carpenter Journeyman	X The mark of Charlotte Page Mother 43 Cowper Street	Fifth December 1878	J. Holloway Registrar
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8	Twenty Sixth February 1888 44 Banner Street	Henry Gasper	Wife	James Richard Page	Charlotte Page formerly Taylor	Carpenter	G. Page Mother 44 Banner Street	Fifth April 1888	John B. Hibbert Deputy Registrar
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Appearance on censuses

1881 - 43 Cowper Street, St Luke: James R Page (51); Charlotte Page (39); James H J Page (8); Charlotte E Page (6); Marion [sic] Page (2).

1891- -8 Henrietta Street, Shoreditch: James Page (62); Charlotte Page (44); James Page (18); Charlotte Page (16); Marion [sic] Page (12); John Page (8); Louisa Page (6); Henry Page (3).

James died on 31st December 1898 age 70 of "Morbus Cordis, Dropsy 3 months" (1898, Dec, Shoreditch, 01C, 54). He and his wife, Charlotte Page lived at 4 Catherine Street, Hoxton, Shoreditch. (Morbus Cordis is unspecified heart disease, and Dropsy is swelling and fluid retention as a result of heart disease)

388	Thirtieth December 1898 4 Catherine Street	James Richard Page	Male	70 Years	Carpenter	Morbus Cordis? Dropsy 3 Months Certified by G. Lowesley 4, 54	X The mark of Charlotte Page Widow of deceased Present at the death 4 Catherine Street 26, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100	Thirtieth December 1898	G. H. Waterhouse Registrar
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1901: not found

Charlotte died on 24th February 1908 aged 64 of "influenza and broncho-pneumonia". She lived at 101 Maria Street, Haggerstone, and the death was registered by her daughter Louisa Page who was present at her death.

375	Twenty fourth February 1908 101 Maria Street	Charlotte Page	Female	64 Years	Widow of James Page a Carpenter	Influenza Broncho Pneumonia Certified by M. Greenwood L.R.S.P.	Miss L. Page Daughter Present at the death 101 Maria Street Haggerstone	Twenty fifth February 1908	Ernest J. Sibley Registrar
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Henry William Page (1830 – 1882; aged 51)

Henry was born 14th December 1830, baptised St John's Chapel, South Hackney on 5th June 1831.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Henry married Emma West (1847 - ?) on 24th November 1869 at St James the Great, Bethnal Green. (1869, Dec, Bethnal Green, 01C, 565). Witnesses were Thomas Mason and Marian Woodward. The groom and the witnesses signed; Emma West made a mark. Both gave their address as 7 Ann Street. The church offered cheap weddings which may explain why they decided to marry there. Henry was a musician.

1869. Marriage solemnized at <i>the Church</i> in the parish of <i>St James the Great</i> in the County of <i>Middlesex</i>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
	<i>Nov. 24.</i>	<i>Henry William Page</i>	<i>full</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>musician</i>	<i>7 Ann St.</i>	<i>James Page</i>	<i>Deceased</i>
	<i>1869</i>	<i>Emma West</i>	<i>full</i>	<i>Spinster</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>7 Ann St.</i>	<i>John West</i>	<i>Carpenter</i>
Married in the <i>Parish Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by <i>Canon</i> or after _____ by me.								
This Marriage was solemnized by <i>Henry William Page</i>			in the Presence of us, <i>Thomas Mason</i>			<i>J. P. Satterwall</i>		
at <i>Emma West</i>						<i>Marian Woodward</i>		

Appearance on censuses

1851 - 33 Willow Gardens: James Lewis Page* (42), Mary Ann Page* (45), Henry William Page (20), James Richard Page (22), Mary Aann Page (18), Louisa Page (14), Jane Page (12), Emma Page* (8), John Gates (5), William Jasper Page (3).

1861: Not found.

1871 - 1 Willow Gardens: Henry Page (40); Emma Page (28) [no children listed].

1881: Not found.

It is uncertain whether Henry William and Emma remained together after the 1871 census. Neither can be found on the 1881 census, and it was Henry William's sister Marian who registered his death. Henry died on 6th January 1882 aged 51 of "Chronic Disease of Liver. Dropsy". (1882, Mar, Shoreditch, 01C, 58) at 59 Scrutton Street, Shoreditch. Death was registered by his sister Mary Ann Woodward.

No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
<i>136</i>	<i>6th January 1882</i> <i>59 Scrutton Street</i> <i>Shoreditch</i>	<i>Henry William Page</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>51</i> <i>Years</i>	<i>Musician</i>	<i>Chronic Disease of Liver & Dropsy contracted by J. Black P.C.</i>	<i>M. Woodward</i> <i>Sister</i> <i>present at the death</i> <i>59 Scrutton Street</i> <i>Shoreditch</i>	<i>6th</i> <i>January</i> <i>1882</i>	<i>Sho. C. L.</i> <i>Deputy Registrar</i>

Marianne [Mary Ann] Page (1883 – 1916; aged 83)

Mary Ann was baptised at St John's Chapel, South Hackney on 31st Mar 1833, Resident at Silk Mill Row.

Mary married Archibald Woodward (1828 – 1873), a labourer on 21st March 1856 at St Mark, Old Street. Witnesses were Mary Noekles and James Noekles. The groom and James Noekles signed; the bride and Mary Noekles made marks. They gave their address as Crabsa Street. Two children have been found.

Marian Louisa Woodward	JUN 1856 Shoreditch 1c 125
Jane Woodward	DEC 1857 Shoreditch 1c 115

Appearance on censuses

1861 - 6 Watkin Place, Northampton: Archibald Woodward (32); Marian Woodward (27); Marian Woodward (4); Jane Woodward (3)

1871 - 18 Merdedith Street, Clerkenwell: Archibald Woodward (42); Marion [sic] Woodward (37); Marion Woodward (14); Jane Woodward (13)

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Archbald died on 2nd March 1873 aged 45, of "abscess in jaw, pyaemia, jaundice" when he was a ginger beer bottler. He was living at 15 Herbert Street, Hoxton New Town. The death was registered by Mary Elizabeth Woodward, presumably his daughter.

"Pyaemia (or pyemia) is a type of sepsis that leads to widespread abscesses of a metastatic nature. It is usually caused by the staphylococcus bacteria by pus-forming organisms in the blood. Apart from the distinctive abscesses, pyaemia exhibits the same symptoms as other forms of septicaemia. It was usually fatal before the introduction of antibiotics"

1881 - 84 Britannia Street, Hoxton: Marian Woodward (48), widowed mother-in-law living with married daughter Marian and her husband Edward Alderslade

1891 - 151 New North Road, Hoxton: Marian Woodward (58), widow

1901 - 35 Brandon Road, Walthamstow: Marion [sic] Woodward (67), mother living with her widowed daughter Marion Alderslade

1911 - 7 Spruce Hill Road, Walthamstow: Marian Woodward (78), mother living with her widowed daughter Marian Alderslade

Mary Ann died on 25th December 1916 aged 83 of "(1) Senile decay (2) Bronchitis" (1916, Dec, West Ham, 04A, 66). She was living at 47 Spruce Hills Road, Walthamstow, Essex. The death was registered by R. Squirrell, her granddaughter, who was present at the death.

264	Twenty fifth December 1916	Marian Woodward	Female 83 years	widow of Archbald Woodward a Mineral Water Bottler	(1) Senile decay (2) Bronchitis certified by J. P. Roberts L.R.C.P.	R. Squirrell grand daughter present at the death 47 Spruce Hills Road Walthamstow	Twenty fifth December 1916	W. G. Hobbs Registrar.
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John Lewis Page (1834 – 1835; aged 9 months)

John was born 12th December 1834 baptised at St John the Baptist, Hoxton on 17th May 1835. Resident at Red lion Passage. John died in Shoreditch September 1835 age 9 months.

Louisa Page

Louisa was born 20th July 1836, baptised at St Leonards on 18th September 1836, resident at Hackney Road.

Louisa married Thomas James Sargeant (1836 – 1900), a seaman on 12th September 1859 at St Mary Haggerstone, Shoreditch. Witnesses were James Richard Page and Mary Ann Sargeant. The bride, groom and James Richard Page signed; Mary Ann Sargeant made a mark. They gave their address as Martha Street. They appear to have had 8 children.

Name	Born	Baptised	Church
Louisa Sargeant	5 th June 1861	24 th May 1863	St Leonard, Shoreditch
Esther Sargeant	25 th July 1863	13 th September 1863	St Leonard, Shoreditch
Alice Maud Sargeant	30 th July 1870	13 th October 1871	St John the Baptist, Hoxton
Ada Sargeant	2 nd June 1873	22 nd June 1873	St Saviour, South Hampstead
Florence Sargeant	not stated	7 th May 1876	Christchurch, Hampstead

At least two of the Sargeant children died young:

- Mary Ann Sarah Sargeant in 1867 (1867, Sep, Pancras, 01B, 14) (1).
- Jessie [sic] Sargeant in 1870 (1870, Dec, Pancras, 01B, 8) (2).

Appearance on censuses

1861: not found

1871 - 23 St George's Square, St Pancras: Thomas J Sargeant (34); Louisa Sargeant (34); Louisa Sargeant (9); Esther Sargeant (7); Alice M Sargeant (1).

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1881 - 24 New Buildings, Hampstead: Thomas Sargeant (44); Louisa Sargeant (44); Alice Maud Sargeant (10); Ada Sargeant (7); Florence Sargeant (5); Thomas Percival Sargeant (3).

1891 - Public Baths, 71 Flask, Hampstead: Thomas Sargeant (54); Louisa Sargeant (54); Ada Sargeant (17); Florence Sargeant (15); Thomas Sargeant (13); Lilian Bell, granddaughter (6); George Bell, grandson (3).

1901 - 20 Henstridge Place, St John's Wood: Louisa Sargeant (64, widow); George H Bell, grandson (13).

Thomas died in 1900 when he was a Detective Sargeant in the Metropolitan Police.

1911 - 14 Henstridge Place, St John's Wood: Louisa Sargeant (74, widow); George H Bell, grandson (23).

Louisa died on 19 Dec 1923 aged 87 at New End Hospital, Hampstead, of "*Chronic Nephritis, Alterio Sclerosis, Uraemia No PM*" (basically kidney disease) (1923, Dec, Hampstead, 01A, 722). At the time she lived at 250A High Road, Kilburn. Her death was registered by her daughter, Florence Lamb (formerly Sargeant) of 52 Audley Road, Hendon.

Jane Page (1838 – 1917; aged 79)

Jane was born on 3rd October 1838, baptised at St John the Baptist, Hoxton on 11th November 1838 resident at Red Lion Street. (1838, Dec, St Luke, 2, 224).

Jane married Arthur Howard (1838 – 81), a chair maker on 31st October 1859 at St James Curtain Road. Witnesses were James Page and Louisa Sargeant. The groom and the witnesses signed; Jane Page made a mark. They appear to have had 12 children:

Child	Birth	Baptism	Church
Unnamed male Howard SEP 1857 Shoreditch 1c 170	1857		
Arthur Howard MAR 1859 Shoreditch 1c 123	9 Jan 1859	28 Jan 1859	St John the Baptist, Hoxton
James Howard JUN 1860 Shoreditch 1c 112	1860		
Alice Jane Howard SEP 1862 Bethnal Green 1c 219	1862		
Arthur Howard DEC 1865 Shoreditch 1c 101			
Emma Howard DEC 1867 Shoreditch 1c 134	1 Sep 1867	20 Sep 1867	St John the Baptist, Hoxton
William Howard SEP 1869 Shoreditch 1c 85			
Charles Howard SEP 1871 Shoreditch 1c 137			
Alfred Howard JUN 1875 Shoreditch 1c 74	not stated	22 Feb 1876	St Columba, Haggerston
Jane Sophie Howard SEP 1877 Shoreditch 1c 157	not stated	26 Sep 1877	St Columba, Haggerston
Louisa Howard MAR 1880 Shoreditch 1c 155	12 Jan 1880	10 Feb 1880	St Columba, Haggerston
Henry Howard JUN 1881 Shoreditch 1c 137	27 Mar 1881	17 Apr 1881	St Columba, Haggerston

Two died young:

- Arthur Howard (born 1859) died 1859 (1859, Mar, Shoreditch, 01C, 112) (0).
- Alice Jane Howard (born 1862) died 1864 (1864, Mar, Shoreditch, 01C, 145) (1)

Appearance on censuses

1861 - 5 Chapel Street, Bethnal Green: Arthur Howard (22); Jane Howard (22); James Howard (11 months).

1871 - 18 Ivy Lane, Shoreditch: Arthur Howard (33); Jane Howard (32); James Howard (10); Arthur Howard (5); Emma Howard (3); William Howard (1).

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

1881 - 6 Barton Court, Shoreditch: Arthur Howard (42); Jane Howard (41); Arthur Howard (16); Emily [sic] Howard (14); William Howard (12); Charles Howard (10); Alfred Howard (6); Jane Sophie Howard (3); Louisa Howard (1); Henry Howard (1).

1891: not found

1901: not found

1911 - 68 Millar's Road, Leyton: Jane Howard (72), widow, visiting her married daughter Jane Sophia Howard (married name Garrett, 33).

Jane Page's husband Arthur Howard died on 24th December 1881, and his death was registered on 2 January 1882 (1882, Mar, Barnet, 03A, 129). He died at the Lunatic Asylum, Friern Barnet, Middlesex, of '*Melancholia Exhaustion*'. There is no evidence to indicate how long he had been an inmate.

Jane died on 17th October 1917, aged 80 of "[1] *Bronchitis*, [2] *Heart failure*" (1917, Dec, West Ham, 04A, 265), when she lived at 23 Rosebank Road, Leyton. The death was registered by her daughter J(ane) Garrett.

Elizabeth Page (1840 – 1842; aged 15 months)

Elizabeth was born on 16th October 1840 at 8 Europa Place, in St Lukes, City Road. There appears to be no baptism record. (1840, Dec, St Luke, 2, 244)

Twentieth of 13 th October, 1840 at 8 Europa Place	Elizabeth Girl.	James Lewis Page.	Mary Ann Page. formerly Sanders	Carpenter.	Mary Ann Page's Mother. 8 Europa Place.	Twenty third of November 1840.	Henry Hamlin. Registrar	
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Tragically Elizabeth died on 4th January 1842 aged 15 months still at 8 Europa Place of *inflammation die to whooping cough*. Mary was present at the death. (1842, Mar, St Luke, 2, 207)

Emma Page* (1842 – 1902; aged 60)

Emma* was born on 25th December 1842 at 61 Provost Street.

Emma married Thomas Humphreys Gates* (1843 – 94), a bedstead maker on 25th December 1863 at St John the Baptist, Hoxton. They both gave their address as Willow Gardens. Witnesses were Thomas James Sargeant and Elizabeth Rutherford. The groom and the witnesses signed; Emma Page made a mark. They had 9 children:

Emma Gates	DEC 1864 Shoreditch 1c 148
Thomas Humphreys Gates	MAR 1866 Shoreditch 1c 158
Henry William Gates	DEC 1867 Shoreditch 1c 75
Charles Gates*	DEC 1869 Shoreditch 1c 165
Archibald Humphreys Gates	MAR 1872 Shoreditch 1c 129
Emma Jane Gates	JUN 1874 Shoreditch 1c 65
Frederick George Gates	SEP 1876 Shoreditch 1c 68
John Lewis Gates	DEC 1880 Mile End Old Town 1c 523
Edward James Gates	MAR 1883 Edmonton 3a 351

Appearance on censuses

1871 - 20 Mary Street, Shoreditch: Thomas H Gates (27); Emma Gates (27); Thomas H Gates (5); Henry W Gates (3); Charles Gates (1)

1881 - 6 North Square, Mile end Old Town: Thos Humphrey Gates (37); Emma Gates (37); Thos Humphrey Gates (17); Hy William Gates (15); Charles Gates* (11); Archibald Gates (9); Emma Gates (7); Frederick George Gates (4); John Lewis Gates (5 months)

1891 - 54 Coles Avenue, Edmonton: Thomas Gates (47); Emma Gates (47); Emma Gates (17); Frederick Gates (14); John Gates (11); Henry Gates (23).

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

1901 - 25 Beaconsfield Road, Edmonton: Emma Gates (47), Henry Gates (32) and Edward Gates (18)

Thomas Humphrey died in 1894.

Emma died on 11th August 1902 at 287 Beaconsfield Road, Edmonton of "cancer of the uterus" (SEP 1902 Edmonton 3a 237 aged 59). Her son, also Thomas Humphrey Gates was present and registered the death.

Full details of Emma and Thomas Humphrey can be found in the Chapter on them.

John Page (1845 – 1862; aged 17 years)

John was born on 7th April 1845 at 61 Provost Street, Hoxton New Town, Shoreditch. Baptised 17th March 1847 at St John the Baptist, Hoxton. (1845, Jun, Shoreditch, 2, 407)

John died on 6 Dec 1862 aged 19 of typhus at St Lukes Workhouse, Hoxton New Town (1862, Dec, Shoreditch, 01C, 139). The death was registered by Sarah Shepperd on 10 Jan 1862.

6 th December 1862 232 Saint Lukes Workhouse	John Page	male 19 years	Labourer	Typhus w/ Fever Certified	Hoxton New Town Sarah Shepperd Present at the death Saint Lukes Workhouse Hoxton New Town	South December 1862	William Barnes Deputy Registrar
11 th	"	"	Widow of	"	A. Day	"	William

William Jasper Page (1848 – 1895; aged 47)

William was born on 17th March 1848 at 2 Willow Gardens, Curtain Road, Shoreditch. Baptised on 17 May 1848 at St John the Baptist, Hoxton. (1848, Jun, Shoreditch, 2, 460).

William married Mary Ann Stone (1858 – 1908) on 14th June 1877 at the Congregational Chapel, Hythe Kent (1877, Jun, Elham, 02A, 1471). Their address was given as Shorncliffe Camp.

1877. Marriage solemnized at the Congregational Chapel in the district of Elham in the County of Kent								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
107	Fourteenth June 1877	William Jasper Page	29 years	Bachelor	Private 2 nd 25 th Foot	Shorncliffe Camp	James Page Carpenter	Carpenter
		Mary Ann Stone	19 years	Spinster		Shorncliffe Camp	David Stone	Labourer
Married in the Congregational Chapel according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Congregationalists by Certificate by me,								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		William Jasper Page		in the Presence of us,		R. W. Whitehead E. W. Piddler		Valentine Ward Congregational Minister John Gordon Deputy Registrar

"Shorncliffe Army Camp is a British Army installation near Cheriton in Kent, established in 1794. The camp, described as "the birthplace of the modern British Army", previously consisted of Ross Barracks, Burgoyne Barracks, Somerset Barracks, Napier Barracks, Risborough Barracks and Sir John Moore Barracks, however, due to closures, the latter is all that remains in military use.

Which suggested William was already serving in the army from 1864. The location of their children's birth also supports this since there were army barracks in both Fermoy and Kinsale.

It is likely that had William enlisted in the British army and joined the Kings Own Scottish Borderers, 2nd Battalion. This photograph is of William and Mary with probably William Jasper and Florence Lillian, possibly around 1884 when he was around 40 years old.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line



Fermoy Barracks was a military installation in Fermoy, County Cork. The East Barracks were designed and built by Abraham Hargrave on a site provided by John Anderson between 1801 and 1806. In June 1808 Sir Arthur Wellesley used the barracks as an assembly point from where 9,000 troops would depart for the Cove of Cork and then sail for Portugal to take part in the Peninsular War. The West Barracks and military hospital were added to the complex in 1809. The barracks were burnt to the ground by a group of Irish Republican Army irregulars after the British Army left in 1922. (Wikipedia)

Kinsale Barracks

The forgotten local heroes of the War of Independence period in Kinsale were also honoured and parallels were drawn between Ireland's struggle for independence and the war in Ukraine during the event at Charles Fort in Kinsale to commemorate the centenary of the 1922 handover by the crown forces to the Irish provisional government of two British barracks in the town, which had for centuries been a key strategic location in the British empire.

The British surrendered its two military barracks in Kinsale on February 19, 1922 - one on the town's Barrack Hill, where the ceremonial handover occurred but which is now the site of a supermarket, and Charles Fort, where the handover occurred with little or no ceremony. (Irish Examiner)

William and Mary appear to have had 9 children:

Child	Born	Birthplace	Baptised
William Jasper Page B: SEP 1878 Stoke Damerel 5b 319	1879	Devonport	
Florence Lilian Page	27 Dec 1880	Fermoy, Ireland	
James Edward Page	27 May 1883 <i>died 14 Sep 1885</i>	Kinsale, Ireland	
Alice Louise Page	22 Jun 1884	Kinsale, Ireland	
Ellen Mary Page	26 Oct 1886	Sittingbourne, Kent	
Rose May Page B: DEC 1889 Rochford 4a 450	26 Sep 1889	Southend, Essex	18 Feb 1898 St John the Baptist, Southend
Isabella Ada Page B: JUN 1892 Rochford 4a 514	6 March 1892	Southend, Essex	18 Feb 1898 St John the Baptist, Southend
Albert Ernest Alfred Page B: SEP 1894 Rochford 4a 496 D: SEP 1895 Rochford 4a 304	1894 <i>died 1895</i>	<i>Southend, Essex</i>	
Frederic George Page B: MAR 1896 Rochford 4a 554	29 Jan 1896	Southend, Essex	16 Feb 1896 St John the Baptist, Southend

Appearance on censuses

1881: not found (the family were probably living in Ireland)

1891 - Ebenezer Lodge, Sydney Villa, 74 Pleasant Road, Southend, Essex: William J. Page (43); Mary A. Page (33); William J. Page (12); Florence L. Page (10); Alice L. Page (7); Ellen M. Page (4); Rose M. Page (1).

1901: Mary A. Page, widow (42); Isabel A. Page (9); Frederick [sic] G. Page (5).

William died on 15th September 1895 at 74 Pleasant Rd, Southend aged 47 of "Pneumonia 5 days, Abscess of Lung 17 days" (1895, Sep, Rochford, 04A, 308). He was a Pensioner 2nd

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Battalion; Kings Own Borderers but employed as a gardener. The death was registered by Mary Ann Page.

264	September 1895 74 Pleasant Rd Southend	William Jasper Page	male 47 Years	Pensioner Kings Own Borderers	Pneumonia 5 days Absence of Army 17 days Certified by James Blake	Mary Ann Page Widow of deceased Present at his death 74 Pleasant Rd Southend	September 1895	Registered
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Following William Jasper Page's death in 1895, his widow Mary Ann Stone continued to live in Southend-on-Sea, Essex. On the 1901 census she is listed living at Chestnut Villa, Osborne Road, with two children, Isabella Ada Page and Frederic George Page (then aged 9 and 5 respectively). The family had a lodger George [William] Thomas whom Mary Ann Stone married the following year (1902, Sep, Rochford, 04A, 1106). Mary Ann Stone and George William Thomas appear to have had no children. She died aged 50 in 1908.

Section 4 - Great Grandparents

This section covers the lives of my great grandparents in the Gates line covering the period 1840-1900.

- Thomas Humphrey Gates and Emma Page

Perhaps one of the most significant developments in their lifetime was the coming and growth of the railways – which made such an impact on London and will have affected in a number of ways.

Historical Events During the Lives of My Great Grandparents

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_British_history)

1837	20 June	The reign of Queen Victoria begins.
1838	1 August	The Slavery Abolition Act 1833 enters into force, abolishing slavery in the British Empire.
1840	10 January	The first postage stamps (Penny Post) come into use.
	June	Vaccination for the poor is introduced.
1841	30 August	Robert Peel becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
1842	Summer	The first peacetime income tax is introduced.
1846	27 January	The Corn Laws are repealed.
	30 June	John Russell, 1st Earl Russell becomes Prime Minister.
1848	Late February	The Communist Manifesto is published by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.
1850		The East Coast Main Line opens.
1851	1 May	The Great Exhibition opens.
1852	23 February	Edward Smith-Stanley, 14th Earl of Derby becomes Prime Minister.
	19 December	George Hamilton-Gordon, 4th Earl of Aberdeen becomes Prime Minister.
1853-1856	16 October 1853 - 30 March 1856	The Crimean War is fought between Russia and a British alliance who feared Russian expansion in the Balkans, resulting in allied victory.
1854	?	Doctor John Snow discovers that cholera is from contaminated water
1855	6 February	Henry John Temple, 3rd Viscount Palmerston becomes Prime Minister.
	29 June	The Daily Telegraph is first published.
1858	20 February	Edward Smith-Stanley, 14th Earl of Derby becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
1859	12 June	Henry John Temple, 3rd Viscount Palmerston becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
1861	14 December	Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, dies at the age of 42.
1863	10 January	The London Underground opens, the oldest underground railway network in the world.
1865	29 October	John Russell, 1st Earl Russell becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
1866	28 June	Edward Smith-Stanley, 14th Earl of Derby becomes Prime Minister for the third time.
1867	15 August	The 1867 Reform Act doubles the franchise and the Dominion of Canada was created.
1868	27 February	Benjamin Disraeli becomes Prime Minister.
	29 May	The last public execution is carried out.
	3 December	William Ewart Gladstone becomes Prime Minister.
1869		The West Coast Main Line opens.

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1870	17 February	The Elementary Education Act (1870) is passed, introducing universal education in England and Wales.
1874	20 February	Benjamin Disraeli becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
1880	23 April	William Ewart Gladstone becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
	26 August	The Elementary Education Act (1880) is passed, making primary schooling compulsory in England and Wales between the ages of 5 and 10
1885	23 June	Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury becomes Prime Minister.
	25 June	The Reform Act 1885 is passed.
1886	1 February	William Ewart Gladstone becomes Prime Minister for the third time.
	21 June	Construction begins on Tower Bridge in London.
	25 July	Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
1887	November	The fictional detective Sherlock Holmes first appears in print.
1892	15 August	William Ewart Gladstone becomes Prime Minister for the fourth time.
1893		Elementary Education (1893) (School Attendance) Act Raises age of compulsory attendance to 11
1894	5 March	Archibald Primrose, 5th Earl of Rosebery becomes Prime Minister.
1895	25 June	Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury becomes Prime Minister for the third time.
1896	4 May	The Daily Mail is first published.
1899	11 October	Start of the Boar War
		Education Act (1899) Raises age of compulsory attendance to 12
1900	27 February	The Labour Party is founded.
1901	22 January	Queen Victoria dies and Edward VII ascends the throne.

Chapter 10 - Thomas Humphreys Gates (1843–1894) and Emma Page (1844–1902)

Thomas Humphreys Gates and Emma Page are two of my great grandparents. They had a son, Charles who was my grandfather

I have never seen a photograph of my paternal great grandparents Thomas Humphreys Gates and Emma Page, nor had I ever heard their names. Naturally I never met them, but knew nothing about them. Growing up, their lives were a mystery to me. I just never asked questions. There was so much I just never asked about when my parents and grandmothers were alive. So much was never said. I do not even know what my father knew of them, if he knew anything at

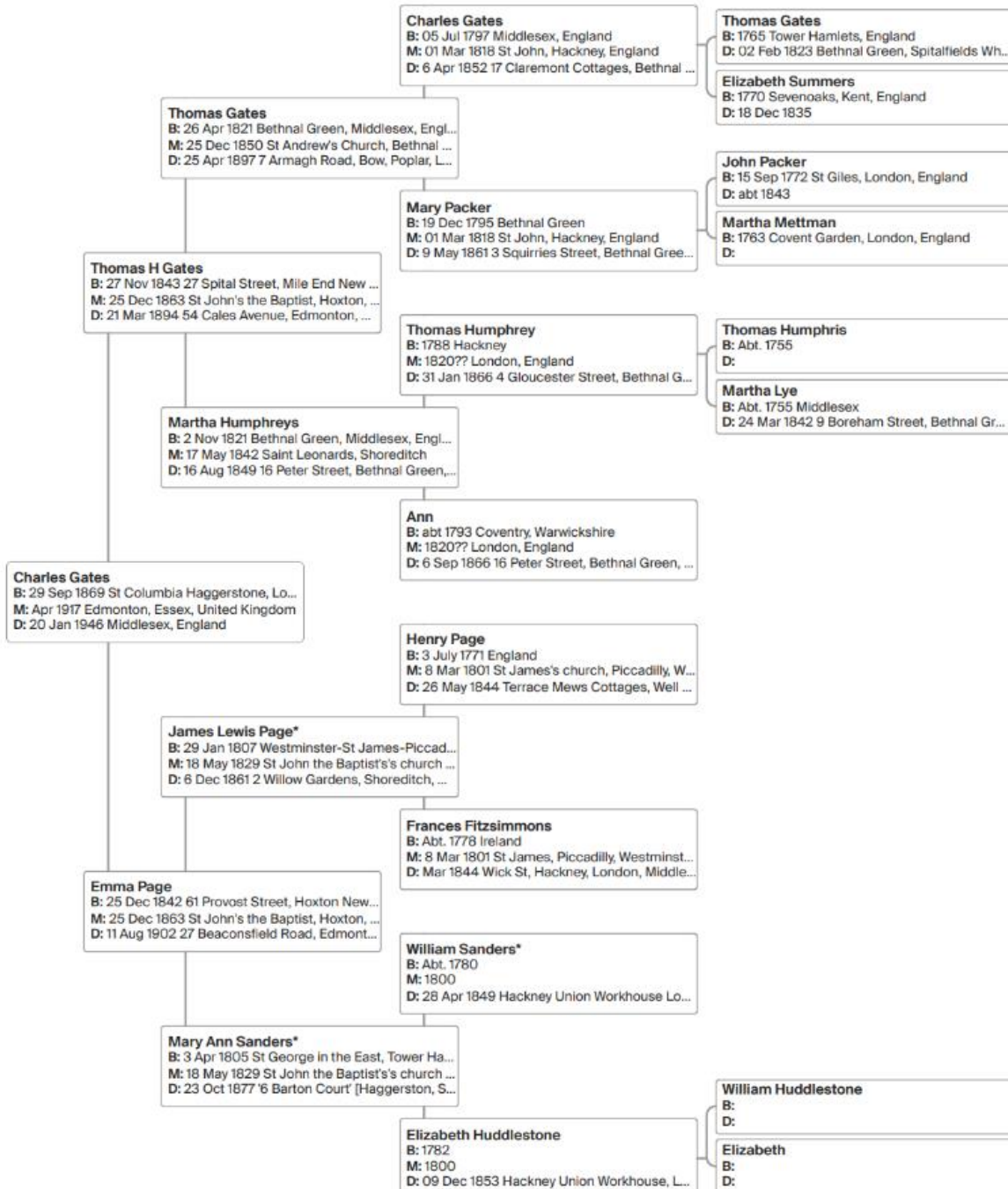
Thomas and Emma were both born in north London when Queen Victoria was newly on the throne, and only experienced the one monarch. Robert Peel was Prime Minister. They witnessed the abolition of slavery in the UK. Together they witnessed the introduction of income tax, the publication of Marx and Engels' Communist Manifesto, lived through the Crimean War, and would have witnessed the opening of the London Underground. They might have witnessed the last public execution in the UK in 1868 when they are 25, of Michael Barratt outside Newgate prison only a short walk from their house in 12 Gloucester Row Hoxton Old Town. They no doubt witnessed much, much more. After Thomas's death, Emma went on to witness the formation of the Labour Party, the start of the Boar War and the death of Queen Victoria.

Both came from large families, Thomas the first of 11 (two of his siblings died very young). Emma, the seventh of nine, one of whom died in infancy. They went on to have nine children themselves, the fourth of which was Charles, my grandfather. They appear to have had 27 grandchildren who lived to adulthood. I have not calculated how many of us great-grandchildren there were!

They appear to have been bought together by circumstances to do with their fathers' employment. Both Thomas Gates Snr and James Lewis Page were cabinet makers drawn to south Shoreditch in the mid-19th century, when it was the centre of the furniture trade (See final sections). We do not know where they worked nor where Thomas Humphreys himself worked, though it may well have been the same factory that James Lewis Page worked, from which he may have met Emma.

Both Thomas Humphreys and Emma died untimely of cancer; Thomas of skin cancer in 1894 aged 50, Emma of uterine cancer eight years later in 1902, aged 57.

4 Generation Family Tree of Thomas and Emma



Thomas Humphreys Gates (1843–1894)

Early Life

Thomas Gates (1821-1897) was born on 26th April 1821 in Bethnal Green to Charles Gates (1797-1852) and Mary Packer (1795-1861).

Martha Humphreys was born on 2nd Nov 1821 in Bethnal Green to Thomas Humphreys (1781-1866) and Ann ? (1791-1866).

Thomas Gates and Martha Humphreys were married on 17th May 1842 at Saint Leonards, Shoreditch. Thomas, like his father was "a weaver".

1842. Marriage solemnized at *St. Leonard's Church* in the Parish of *Shoreditch* in the County of *Middlesex*

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
53	17 th May 1842	Thomas Gates	20 th yrs	Single	Weaver	2 Newington Green	Charles Gates	Weaver
	do	Martha Humphreys	20 th yrs	Single	Seamstress	2 Newington Green	Thomas Humphreys	Plasterer

Married in the *Parish Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, after *Reading* by me *Edward West M. A. Curate*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *Thos. Gates* in the Presence of us, *George Brown* and *Ann Brown*

There has been a church on the site of St Leonards since at least 1140. The previous church had four aisles and a tower seventy-foot high, with five bells. The bells are famous for being in the nursery rhyme "Oranges and Lemons":

"When will you pay me
Say the bells of Old Bailey
When I grow rich
Say the bells of Shoreditch"

The church fell into disrepair and some of it actually fell down during divine service in 1716. The new church was built in 1736-1740 by George Dance the Elder in a neo-classical style.



Weaving in 19th Century Spitalfields

At its height of prosperity in the 18th century the Spitalfields weaving trade made the people at the top of the pyramid – the master weavers – very wealthy. But even at this time of enormous success when the neighbourhood's floral silk designs were appreciated far and wide, many workers at the bottom of the pile lived a precarious life. Things however deteriorated and yet more people in Spitalfields were brought into poverty over the course of the 19th century as work dried up. The 'Golden Ages' of silk weaving for Spitalfields occurred roughly between 1690 and 1760 and then again 1800 from 1820. The 1840 House of Commons Commission, which was set-up to study working conditions in the trade, found that although there were still 17,000 looms in operation in Spitalfields at the end of the 1830s, unemployment was high. By 1849 Mayhew found that it was a struggle for survival, with one weaver telling him "the workmen are obliged to take the low prices because they have not the means to hold out, and they know that if they don't take work others will... people are [now] compelled to do double the quantity of work they used to do, in order to live."

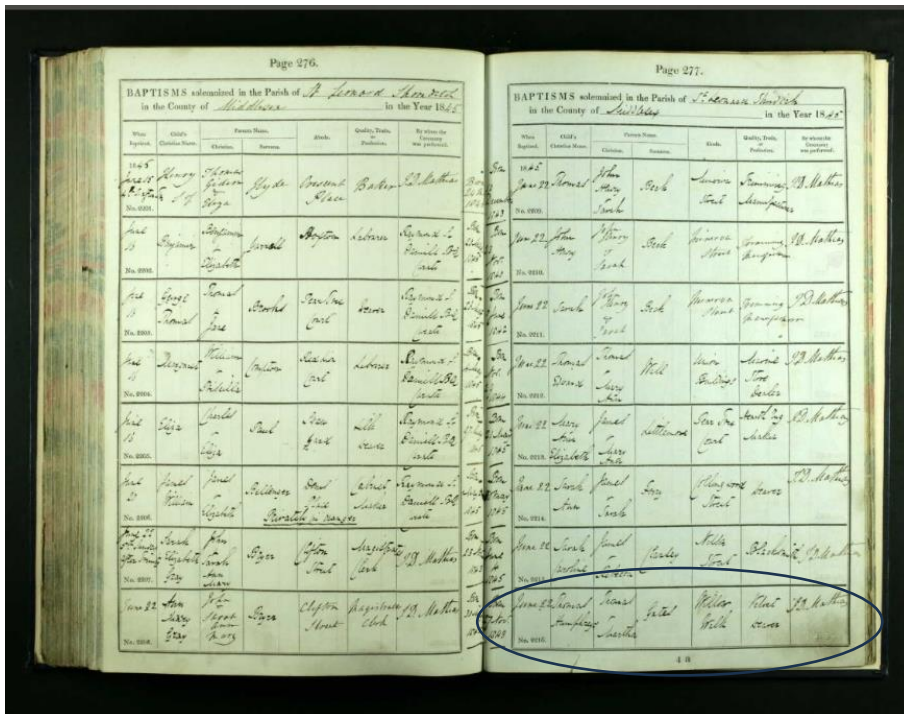
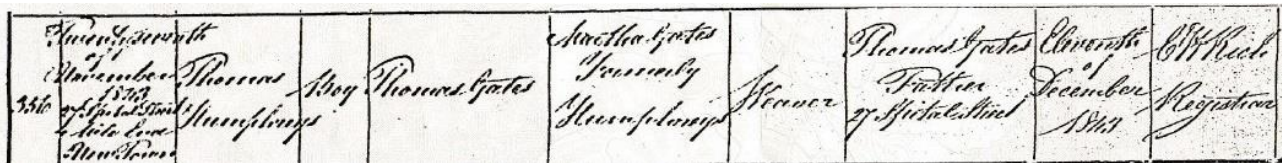
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For the weavers a free trade treaty with France in 1860 was the final straw for the Spitalfield's silk trade as it brought with it cheap imports. The Illustrated London News presented a snapshot of Spitalfields in 1863: "Poor, suffering, nearly starved, and living in a house which shares with the rest the evils of bad or no drainage and insufficient water supply, his business requires at least some of personal cleanliness, or the delicate fabrics on which he is employed could never come out unsullied from the touch of coarser hands."

(Source: Past in the Present; <https://pastinthepresent.net/2018/04/26/in-spitalfields-decline-of-a-neighbourhood-as-silk-weaving-collapses/>)

1840s

Thomas and Martha's first child, Thomas Humphreys Gates (1843-1894) was born on 27th November 1843, at 27 Spital Street, Mile End New Town. He was the first child for his young parents, Thomas Gates (1821-1897) (22) and Martha Ann Humphreys (1821-1849) (22). Thomas Humphreys was baptised on 22nd June 1845, when he was two years old at St Leonards, Shoreditch, where his parents married, on the same day as his younger sister Martha, born just three weeks earlier on 31st May 1845 (their entries on the register are consecutive but on different pages). He was the first of nine children born between 1843 and 1867. The address on the Baptism Register is Willow Walk.



Why Thomas and Martha gave Willow Walk as their address is a bit of a mystery. It was to become the address of James Lewis and Mary Page, whose daughter, Emma would marry Thomas Humphreys in twenty years' time. So, if the baptism register says "Willow Walk, Shoreditch," St Leonard's is exactly the right parish church for that address.

However, it may have been they gave a false address in Shoreditch so Thomas Humphrey could be baptised in St Leonards Shoreditch which has a number of familial associations. At that time in 1840 London (Church of England) baptisms were normally done in the church of the parish where the parents were living (i.e., within the parish boundaries). However, it is possible the

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family were living at Willow Walk (in St Leonard's parish) at the time of baptism, hence the ceremony at St Leonard's. "27 Spital Street, Mile End New Town" probably reflects the birth/home address at a different time (or simply a geographical shorthand), not the abode at baptism. Moves between birth and baptism were very common in the East End.

In the 1840s Thomas Humphreys' parents, Thomas and Martha, had three other children, Martha (1845) and Ann (1847), Samuel (1849). By 1845 the family was living in 14 then 16 Peter Street, Bethnal Green. (Unless this is a transcription error). Peter Street was subsequently renamed Rhoda Street, which still exists.



Rhoda Street is just off the north end of Brick Lane. This used to be called Peter Street, and it was here at No 16 that Thomas Gates and Martha lived in 1845 and where Martha died of cholera. Over the road where the white building is was Boreham Street, where Martha's parents lived at number 10, and where her sister Ann lived at the time of Martha's death.



This green space was where the houses on Peter Street would have stood.

1849 Death of Thomas Humphrey's Mother, Martha Humphreys

When Thomas Humphreys was 6 years old, his mother, Martha, died on 16 Aug 1849 at 16 Peter Street, Bethnal Green, at the young age of 27. She died of *Asiatic Cholera* seemingly in the 1849 pandemic. Apparently, there was an Asiatic Cholera Pandemic sweeping across the country in 1846-63.

"The spring of 1849 began with another round of cholera explosions. France and Italy were infected, as were Algeria and Tunisia in North Africa. England suffered a virulent onslaught; at its height, the epidemic claimed some 1,000 lives a day."

(Underwood, A. (1947) "The History of Cholera in Great Britain", *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Medicine*, Vol XLI, p 165-173)

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In England 53,000 died in 1848-49. In the next outbreak in 1853-54 over 20,000 died. In 1866 over 14,000 died.

Martha actually died in her parents' house on 10 Boreham Street just across the street from Peter Street. At 28, Thomas was still a relatively young man with three young children, and a young baby. Tragically, on 28th August 1849, just 12 days after Martha died, Thomas Humphrey's baby brother, Samuel died at just two months old of "Diarrhoea 12 days" – given that diarrhoea is a major symptom of cholera it seems likely to be related. Samuel died at 10 Boreham Street the home of Martha's parents and sister, Ann, who was possibly looking after the baby as Martha was so ill or deceased. By this time, Thomas Snr was a "cabinet maker", possibly because of the destruction of the weaving trade.

No.	When Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
118	Twenty Eighth August 1849 10 Boreham Street Bethnal Green	Samuel Gates	Male	9 Weeks	Son of Thomas Gates a cabinet maker	Diarrhoea 12 Days certified	Thomas Gates present at Death 16 Peter Street Bethnal Green	Twenty Ninth August 1849	H. Henry Gregory Registrar

1850 Thomas's Marriage to Ann Humphreys

Just over a year after Martha's death, Thomas Humphrey's father, Thomas, married Martha's younger sister, Ann Humphreys, on Christmas Day 25th December 1850 at St Andrews Church Bethnal Green. Hence Thomas Humphreys' aunt became his step-mother. Thomas was living at 16 Peter Street, and Ann at 10 Boreham Street. The wedding certificate however describes Thomas as a Bachelor, not a Widower. This is presumably because in 1850 it was illegal to marry your dead wife's sister. It was not until 1907 this law was changed.

*The **Deceased Wife's Sister's Marriage Act 1907** (7 Edw.7 c.47) was an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, allowing a man to marry his dead wife's sister, which had previously been forbidden. This prohibition had derived from a doctrine of canon law whereby those who were connected by marriage were regarded as being related to each other in a way which made marriage between them improper. (Wikipedia)*

1850. Marriage solemnized at <u>St. Andrew's</u> in the Parish of <u>Bethnal Green</u> in the County of <u>Middlesex</u>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
412	December 25	Thomas Gates Ann Humphreys	full full	Bachelor Spinster	Cabinet maker	16 Peter St 10 Boreham St	Charles Gates Thomas Humphrey	Weaver Blacklayer
Married in the <u>Church of St. Andrew</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by <u>Prayers</u> or after _____ by me,								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<u>Thomas Gates</u> <u>Ann Humphreys</u>			in the Presence of us, <u>Thomas Bird his x mark</u> <u>Sarah Shaw</u>			

With Ann (1823-1904) Thomas had a further 7 children and so Thomas Humphreys went on eventually to have 9 siblings: 2 sisters, 1 brother, 4 half-sisters and 2 half-brothers. Being the eldest child, he presumably had some responsibility to look after younger siblings.

Schooling in the 1850s

We know little of the education Thomas received between his 5th birthday in 1848, and his 10th in 1853 as school wasn't compulsory nor universal.

*Recording school attendance did not become compulsory until the 1870s, so statistics from earlier years are notoriously unreliable, but Raymond Williams in *The Long Revolution* suggests that in 1816, 875,000 of the country's 1.5m children 'attended*

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a school of some kind for some period' (Williams 1961:136). By 1835 the figure was 1.45m out of 1.75m. Although this was a considerable improvement, it should be noted that the average duration of school attendance was just one year. By 1851 the average length of school attendance had risen to two years, and in 1861 an estimated 2.5m children out of 2.75m received some form of schooling, 'though still of very mixed quality and with the majority leaving before they were eleven' (Williams 1961:137).

(Source: Education in the UK; <https://www.education-uk.org/history/chapter05.html>)

1850s

At the time of the 1851 census, Thomas Humphreys Gates (1843-1894) was 7, and was living with his father Thomas Gates and step-mother Ann, along with his sister Martha Gates (6) still at 16 Peter Street Bethnal Green. It seems they shared this house with another family of 5. His sister, Ann, appears to be missing in the 1851 census, but reappears on the 1861 census)

Parish or Township of	Ecclsiastical District of	City or Borough of	Town of	Village of			
Bethnal Green	St. Andrew's	Lower Hamlets					
Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surnames of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, or Lame
16 Peter Street	Thomas Gates	Head	Mar	42	Genl. Wash. Letter-Writer	St. Andrew's, Bethnal Green	
	Ann Gates	Wife	Mar	39	Widow, Needle-maker	St. Andrew's, Bethnal Green	
	Thomas Gates	Head	Mar	29	Widow, Needle-maker	St. Andrew's, Bethnal Green	
	Martha Gates	Wife	Mar	27	Widow, Needle-maker	St. Andrew's, Bethnal Green	
	Thomas Gates	Wife	W	7	Scholar	St. Andrew's, Bethnal Green	
	Martha Gates	Wife	W	5	Scholar	St. Andrew's, Bethnal Green	
	William Gates	Head	Mar	29	Butcher	St. Andrew's, Bethnal Green	
	Ann Gates	Wife	Mar	26		St. Andrew's, Bethnal Green	
	William Gates	Wife	W	15	Scholar	St. Andrew's, Bethnal Green	
	Elizabeth Gates	Wife	W	12		St. Andrew's, Bethnal Green	
	Charlotte Gates	Wife	W	10		St. Andrew's, Bethnal Green	

During the 1850s while still living in 16 Peter Street. Thomas and Ann had five other children, one of whom died young.

- **Rebecca Gates** was born at home on 24th September 1851. But she sadly died at home on 9th March 1853 aged just 1 year old of Pleurisy – two months after Mary Ann was born.

218	North March 1853 16 Peter Street	Rebecca Gates	Female	1 Year	Daughter of Thomas Gates a haberdashery-maker	Pleurisy 2 Weeks certified	Ann Gates present at Death 16 Peter Street Bethnal Green	North March 1853	Henry Gregory Registrar
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- **Mary Ann Gates** was born on 15th January 1853
- **Frederick George Gates** was born of 25th November 1854
- **Florence Gates** was born on 22 November 1856
- **Emily Gates** was born on 12th November 1858

1860s

When Thomas Humphreys was 17, his parents had twins **Alfred Gates** and **Alice Gates**, born 6th February 1861. Sadly, Alfred was to die on 22nd August 1861, aged just 6 months later of *croup and diphtheria*.

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60	Twenty second August 1861 16 Peter Street	Alfred Gates	Male	6	Son of Thomas Gates Group complicated with Diphtheria Certified	Bethnal Green	Present at Death	Twenty fourth August 1861	Henry Assford Registrar
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1861 Census

At the time of the 1861 census on 7th April, Thomas Humphreys Gates (1843) was 17, was still living with his father and step mother Ann at 16 Peter Street Bethnal Green with younger siblings Martha (15), Ann (14), Mary Ann (8), Frederick George (6), Florence (4), Emily (2), and twins Alfred and Alice just 2 months old. His father Thomas (1821-1897) was now a cabinet maker which he had been since c1849, though he had been a master to two employees since 1854. Like his father, Thomas Humphreys was also a cabinet maker and possibly worked with or for his father. Thomas's descendants would remain cabinet makers/carpenters for 120 years, until 1986, when I broke the chain. His sister Martha was a dressmaker. All other siblings were identified as "scholars". The family now appear to have the whole house unless the rest is empty or there was no census return.

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The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the											
Parish [or Township] of		City or Municipal Borough of		Municipal Ward of		Parliamentary Borough of		Town of		Hamlet or Tything, &c., of	
No. of Households	Household No. and No. or Name of House	Number of Persons	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of Person	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Head or Tail of Household	Ecclesiastical District of	
214			William Humphreys	Son		17	Labourer	Middlesex, Bethnal Green			
			William Humphreys	Head		37	Cab Driver	Do Do			
			Ann	Wife		30		Do Do			
			George	Son		2		Middlesex, Bethnal Green			
			Ann	Daughter		3		Do Do			
250	16 Peter St	1	Thomas Gates	Head		39	Cabinet Maker	Do Do			
			Ann	Wife		37	Employing 2 men	Do Do			
			Frederick George	Son		6	Cabinet Maker	Do Middlesex, Bethnal Green			
			Martha	Daughter		15	Dress Maker	Do Bethnal Green			
			Ann	Daughter		14		Do Do			
			Mary Ann	Daughter		8		Do Do			
			Frederick G	Son		6		Do Do			
			Emily	Daughter		2		Do Do			
			Alfred	Son		2 mos		Do Do			
			Alice	Daughter		2 mos		Do Do			
251	12 Do	1	Charles Bonden	Head		52	Wagon Driver	Middlesex, Bethnal Green			
			Elizabeth	Wife		48		London			
			George	Son		17	Coach Driver	Do			
			Frederick	Son		15	Coach Maker	Do			
			Edwin	Son		11		Do			
			Mary Ann	Daughter		6		Do Do			
252			James Dyer	Head		38	Wagon Driver	London			
			Ann	Wife		34		Do			
			John	Son		9		Do			
Total of Houses...		2	Total of Males and Females...		22	13					

Eng.—Sheet II.

Subsequently Thomas Gates and Ann Gates went on to have three more children in between 1863 and 1868 when Thomas Humphreys was in his 20s and married to Emma.

- **Selina** was born 6th December 1863
- **Eleanor** was born 13th July 1866
- **Alfred** was born 26th March 1868 at 413 Cambridge Road. Alfred died, aged 3, on 16th October 1871 of scarlatina at 45 Ash Grove, South Hackney.

Between 1820 and 1880, a worldwide pandemic of scarlet fever occurred. Both Europe and North America experienced severe epidemics of the disease.

Thomas Humphreys Gates Meets Emma Page

At some point between 1860 and 1863, **Thomas Humphreys Gates** met **Emma Page**. The distance between their two homes would have been of the order of a mile. They married on Christmas day 25th December 1863.

A brief summary of the lives of the children of Thomas Gates, Martha Humphreys and Ann Humphreys is covered in the chapter on Thomas, Martha and Ann.

Emma Page (1842–1902)

Early Life

James Lewis Page (1807-1861) was born on 29th January 1807 in Westminster-St James-Piccadilly to Henry Page (1771-1844) and Frances Fitzsimmons (1778-1844).

Mary Ann Sanders (1805-1877) was born on 25th May 1809 in St George in the East, Tower Hamlets, to William Sanders* (c. 1780 – 1849) and Mary Elizabeth Huddleston* (1780-1853)

James Lewis Page and Mary Ann Sanders married on 18th May 1829 at St John's Church, Hackney (St John-at-Hackney). They were living in Hackney when they married, moving to Shoreditch no later than 1835, where they spent the rest of their lives. James Lewis was a carpenter; a profession he remained in for the rest of his life.

1830s

Subsequent certificate dates suggest James Lewis Page and Mary Ann had five children in the first 6 years of their marriage:

- **James Richard Page**, baptised at St John-at-Hackney on 12 Jul 1829, resident at Hackney Wick.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <u>Hackney</u> in the County of <u>Middlesex</u> in the Year 18 <u>29</u>						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
18 <u>29</u> July 12 No. 609.	James Richard	James + Mary Ann	Page	Wick	Carpenter	Edward [Signature]

- **Henry William Page**, born 14th Dec 1830, baptised St John's Chapel, South Hackney on 5th Jun 1831
- **Marianne [Mary Ann] Page** baptised at St John's Chapel, South Hackney on 31st Mar 1833, Resident at Silk Mill Row
- **John Lewis Page** 12th Dec 1834 baptised at St John the Baptist, Hoxton on 17th May 1835. Resident at Red Lion Passage
- **Louisa Page** born 20th July 1836, baptised at St Leonards on 18th Sep 1836, resident at Hackney Road.

These births were before the official birth registration date of 1 July 1837 - when the civil registration service started in England and Wales when every birth and death occurring in England and Wales had to be registered by the local registrar. The service was the creation of the Registration Act 1836, which had established the post of Registrar General. The first in this post, Thomas Lister, was appointed in September that year and worked to establish the system which came into effect the following July, some eleven days after the new monarch, Victoria, came to the throne. It was based at Somerset House in Central London, where the General Register Office (GRO) was from 1837 to 1974, when it moved to St Catherine's House, also in London.

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-general-register-office-celebrates-175-years-of-civil-registration>)

1837 – Death of William IV and Accession of Queen Victoria

King William IV died June 20, 1837, at Windsor Castle. Personally opposed to parliamentary reform, he grudgingly accepted the epochal Reform Act of 1832, which,

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by transferring representation from depopulated "rotten boroughs" to industrialized districts, reduced the power of the British crown and the landowning aristocracy over the government. His daughter became Queen. (Encyclopaedia Britannica)

Victoria had a gift for drawing and painting; educated by a governess at home, she was a natural diarist and kept a regular journal throughout her life. On William IV's death in 1837, she became Queen at the age of 18.

Queen Victoria is associated with Britain's great age of industrial expansion, economic progress and, especially, empire. At her death, it was said, Britain had a worldwide empire on which the sun never set.

In the early part of her reign, she was influenced by two men: her first Prime Minister, Lord Melbourne, and then her husband, Prince Albert, whom she married in 1840. Both men taught her much about how to be a ruler in a 'constitutional monarchy', in which the monarch had very few powers but could use much influence.

Albert took an active interest in the arts, science, trade and industry; the project for which he is best remembered was the Great Exhibition of 1851, the profits from which helped to establish the South Kensington museums complex in London.

(Source: <https://www.royal.uk/encyclopedia/victoria-r-1837-1901>)

James Lewis and Mary Ann had two further subsequent, registered, births:

- **Jane Page** born on 3rd Oct 1838, baptised at St John the Baptist, Hoxton on 11 November 1838 resident at Red Lion Street.

414	Third of October, 1838 at 8 Europa Place	Jane	Girl	James Lewis Page	Mary Ann Page formerly Sanders	Carpenter	Mary Ann Page Mother, 8 Europa Place	Thirtieth of November, 1838	Henry Hamlin Registrar
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- **Elizabeth Page** their sixth child, was born on 16th October 1840 at 8 Europa Place, in St Lukes, City Road. There appears to be no baptism record.

	Sixteenth of October, 1840 at 8 Europa Place	Elizabeth	Girl	James Lewis Page	Mary Ann Page formerly Sanders	Carpenter	Mary Ann Page Mother, 8 Europa Place	Sixteenth of November, 1840	Henry Hamlin Registrar
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Tragically Elizabeth died on 4th January 1842 aged 15 months still at 8 Europa Place of inflammation die to whooping cough. Mary was present at the death.

344	Fourth of January, 1842 at 8 Europa Place	Elizabeth Page	Female	Daughter of James Page a Carpenter	Inflammation from Whooping Cough	Mother present at the death, 8 Europa Place	Mary Page Mother present at the death, 8 Europa Place	Fourth of January, 1842	Henry Hamlin Registrar
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In the 1841 census (6th June), James Lewis Page (34) and Mary Ann Page (30) still lived at 8 Europa Place, in St Lukes, City Road. With them were their six children, James (12), Henry (10), Mary Ann (8), Louisa (5), Jane (3) and Elizabeth (8 months).

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The image shows two pages of a handwritten census form. The left page is numbered 11 and the right page is numbered 15. Both pages are for the 'City or Borough of Shoreditch' and 'Parish or Township of St. Luke'. The form has columns for 'PLACE', 'HOUSE', 'NAMES', 'AGE and SEX', 'PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS', and 'Where Born'. The entries are handwritten in ink. The right page has a 'TOTAL in 2' box at the bottom right with the number '13/12'.

Sometime later, in 1842, the family moved to 61 Provost Street, Hoxton New Town, Shoreditch.

James Lewis Page (1807-1861) and Mary Ann (1809-1877) had their seventh child – fifth daughter - Emma Page - on Christmas day, 25th December 1842 at 61 Provost Street.

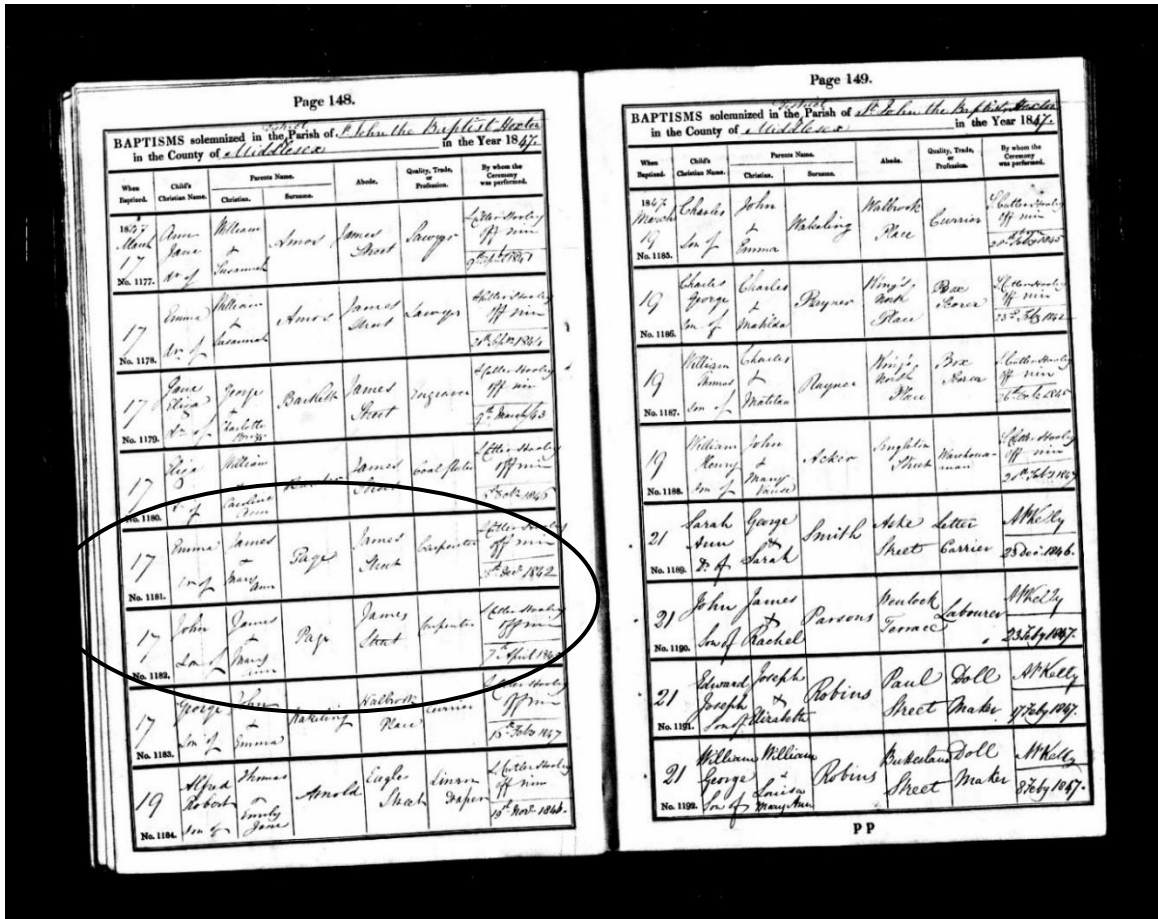
Twenty fifth of December 1842 at 61 Provost Street Hoxton New Town	Emma Girl	James Page	Mary Ann Page formerly Sanders	Carpenter and Joiner	Mary Ann Page Mother 61 Provost Street Hoxton New Town 1843	Second of W. H. Shreeve	Registrar
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Two more children were born in the second half of the 1840s when James was a joiner and later a carpenter – John and William:

- **John Page**, 7 April 1845 at 61 Provost Street, Hoxton New Town, Shoreditch.

Hoxton New Town	Seventh of April 1845 at 61 Provost Street Hoxton New Town	John Boy	James Page	Mary Ann Page formerly Sanders	Joiner	Mary Ann Page Mother 61 Provost Street Hoxton New Town 1845	Registrar
-----------------	--	----------	------------	--------------------------------	--------	---	-----------

However, James and Mary Ann must have moved from Provost Street between 1845 and 1847 because Emma and John were baptised together on 17th March 1847 in the parish church of St John the Baptist, Hoxton, when they lived in James Street.



- **William Jasper Page**, 17 March 1848 at 2 Willow Gardens, Curtain Road, Shoreditch.

392	Evening March 1848 2 Willow Gardens Curtain Road Shoreditch	William Jasper Boy	James Page	Mary Ann Page formerly, Swanders	Carpenter	Mary Ann Page Dresser 2 Willow Gardens Curtain Road Shoreditch	Twenty Seventh April 1848	George Darrow Registrar
-----	--	--------------------------	---------------	---	-----------	--	------------------------------------	-------------------------------

So between 1847 and 1848 they have moved again this time to Willow Gardens, off Curtain Road, Shoreditch.

According to the **Survey of London**, Willow Gardens was located on the western side of Shoreditch High Street. The property was part of the prebendal manor of Norton Folgate and was sold by Edmond Moore to Thomas Large in 1639. The property extended from Shoreditch High Street to Curtain Road and was held of the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's as of their manor of Norton Folgate.

British History Online

It is perhaps no surprise that the family lived in Shoreditch, as South Shoreditch was the centre of the London furniture trade in the Victorian period.

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The opening of the Regents Canal in 1820 made timber transportation cheaper and easier. South Shoreditch and Hoxton were near enough to trade with the City yet far enough from it to keep lower rents. By 1861 about 30 per cent of all London furniture makers worked in the East End. London's large population and housing growth led to a greatly increased demand for furniture. A wide variety of historic and modern styles were made. Curtain Road, Old Street and Great Eastern Street laid out in 1872-6, were centres of the trade.

A general history of Shoreditch and South Hoxton, Kay Owen, 1991

But Curtain Road was also significant in other ways:

It is perhaps not widely known that the first two London theatres were built in Shoreditch. The first playhouse, called simply "The Theatre" of 1576 was on Curtain Road at the junction with New Inn Yard, the first permanent playhouse in Britain. James Burbage, the head of the Earl of Leicester's Company of players, needed a permanent home for players to perform in, as the Lord Mayor had prohibited plays from being performed within the city walls.

A general history of Shoreditch and South Hoxton, Kay Owen, 1991

See <https://www.thestageshoreditch.com/discover/history-heritage>



Curtain Road in the 1890s facing north towards Hoxton some 40 years before James and Mary Ann lived there.

1850s

By the time of the 1851 census, at the end of March, the family had moved again to 33 Willow Gardens, St Leonards Shoreditch. The family now consisted of James (42), Mary Ann (46), James (22), Henry (20), Marion (18 it is possible this is Mary Ann), Louisa (12), Jane (14), Emma (8), John (5), William Jasper (3), and James Field, a lodger (22). James Page and son James, were journeyman carpenters, whereas Henry was unusually a "musician". Marion and Louise were house servants, and Emma and Jane were "scholars". Though where they attended is not yet known – especially Jane who at 14 would have been expected to have left education.

15

Parish or Borough of <i>St Leonards Shoreditch</i>		Enumeration District of <i>St Leonards Shoreditch</i>		City or Borough of <i>St Leonards Shoreditch</i>		Ward of <i>St Leonards Shoreditch</i>		Village of <i>St Leonards Shoreditch</i>	
Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of Male	Female	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind or Deaf	Whether Married
11 31 Willow Gardens	<i>Ellen Parker</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>46</i>			<i>St Leonards Shoreditch</i>		
	<i>Elizabeth Cox</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>66</i>			<i>St Leonards Shoreditch</i>		
12 32 Willow Gardens	<i>John Bardsfield</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>44</i>		<i>Letter press printer</i>	<i>St Leonards Shoreditch</i>		
	<i>Anna</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>41</i>			<i>St Leonards Shoreditch</i>		
	<i>John</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Un</i>	<i>12</i>		<i>Evangel boy</i>	<i>St Leonards Shoreditch</i>		
	<i>William</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Un</i>	<i>3</i>			<i>St Leonards Shoreditch</i>		
	<i>Emily</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Un</i>	<i>1</i>			<i>St Leonards Shoreditch</i>		
13 33 Willow Gardens	<i>James Page</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>42</i>		<i>Carpenter journeyman</i>	<i>West of James</i>		
	<i>Mary Ann</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>46</i>			<i>St Leonards Shoreditch</i>		
	<i>James</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Un</i>	<i>22</i>		<i>Carpenter journeyman</i>	<i>St Leonards Shoreditch</i>		
	<i>Henry</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Un</i>	<i>20</i>		<i>Musician</i>	<i>St Leonards Shoreditch</i>		
	<i>Marion</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Un</i>	<i>18</i>		<i>House servant</i>	<i>St Leonards Shoreditch</i>		
	<i>Louisa</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Un</i>	<i>14</i>		<i>Do</i>	<i>St Leonards Shoreditch</i>		
	<i>Jane</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Un</i>	<i>12</i>		<i>Scholar</i>	<i>St Leonards Shoreditch</i>		
	<i>Emma</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Un</i>	<i>8</i>		<i>Do</i>	<i>St Leonards Shoreditch</i>		
14 34 Willow Gardens	<i>John</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Un</i>	<i>5</i>			<i>St Leonards Shoreditch</i>		
	<i>William</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Un</i>	<i>3</i>			<i>St Leonards Shoreditch</i>		
	<i>James Field</i>	<i>Lodger</i>	<i>Un</i>	<i>22</i>		<i>Wood Turner</i>	<i>St Leonards Shoreditch</i>		
	<i>Edward Coleman</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Un</i>	<i>22</i>		<i>Cabinet Maker journeyman</i>	<i>St Leonards Shoreditch</i>		
				Total of Persons		<i>10</i>	<i>9</i>		

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1860s

By 7th April 1861, James Lewis Page (52) and Mary Ann (56) were living with Emma, (18), John (16), and William (13) at 2 Helena Place, Willow Gardens. Emma's five older siblings have left home by now. Emma's profession is not given on the census.

43

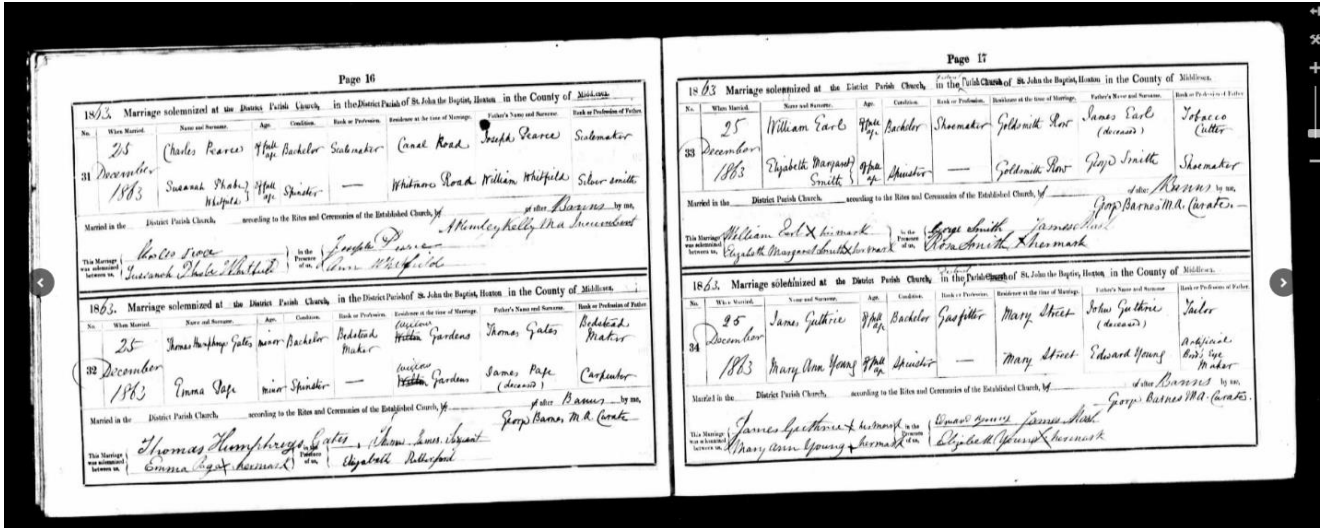
The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the Page 3

No. of Schedule		City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Hamlet or Tything, &c., of	Ecclsiastical District of	Whether Blind, or Deaf and Dumb
12	3	Willow Gardens						
		James Lewis Page	son	52				
		Mary Ann	wife	56				
		Emma	daughter	18				
		John	son	16				
		William	son	13				
		George	son	11				
		Elizabeth	daughter	11				
		James	son	11				
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1863 Marriage of Thomas Humphreys Gates and Emma Page

Thomas Humphreys Gates (1843 - 1894) married Emma Page (1842-1902) on 25th December 1863, at St John the Baptist, 85, Pitfield Street, Shoreditch, now Grade II* listed.

They both seem to have been living at Willow Gardens at the time of their marriage. Note that this was the residence of Emma's family. Although this was Emma's 21st birthday, she was, along with Thomas Humphreys (20), declared a "minor", so both should have needed the permission of their parents to marry. Emma appears to be illiterate. Witnesses were Thomas James Sergeant and Elizabeth Rutherford. All signed except Emma who made her mark. At the time Thomas Humphreys was a bedstead maker. Thomas's father also Thomas was a bedstead maker and Emma's father James Page had died two years previously.



Altogether in the next 20 years, Thomas Humphreys and Emma went on to have 9 children. The first was Emma, named after her mother:

Emma Gates (8th October 1864 - 5th November 1864)

<i>Misc</i>			<i>Southern</i>	<i>Master</i>	<i>Boston Old Town</i>	<i>1864</i>	<i>Registrar</i>
<i>8th October 1864</i>	<i>Emma</i>	<i>Girl</i>	<i>Thomas Humphreys Gates</i>	<i>Emma Gates</i>	<i>T. H. Gates</i>	<i>Fifth</i>	<i>George Pearce</i>
<i>12 Gloucester Row</i>			<i>formerly</i>	<i>formerly</i>	<i>2 Gloucester Row</i>	<i>November 1864</i>	<i>Junior</i>

Emma Gates was four weeks old when she died on 5 Nov 1864, according to her death certificate. (DEC 1864 Shoreditch 1c 140) Age '4 Weeks'. Occupation given as 'Daughter of Thomas Humphreys Gates Cabinet Maker Journeyman' 'Congestion of lungs Certified' Notified on 5 Nov 1864 by 'T.H. Gates, present at the death [of] 12 Gloucester Row Hoxton Old Town'. Congestion of the lungs is now termed "pulmonary oedema".

Three more children were born in the 1860s, Thomas Humphreys, Henry William and Charles:

Thomas Humphreys Gates - 25th November 1866-4th March 1945; aged 79 years

<i>25th November 1866</i>	<i>Thomas Humphreys</i>	<i>Boy</i>	<i>Thomas Humphreys Gates</i>	<i>Emma Gates</i>	<i>Bedstead Maker</i>	<i>the mark of Emma Gates</i>	<i>Fifth</i>	<i>G. Rob</i>
<i>44320 Street</i>			<i>formerly</i>	<i>formerly</i>	<i>Journeyman</i>	<i>Mary Street</i>	<i>January 1866</i>	<i>Registrar</i>

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Henry William Gates - 26th August 1867 - 21st October 1940, aged 73

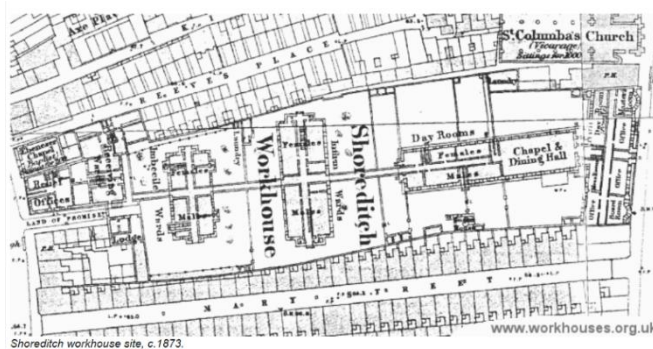
139	County South August 1867 8 Miller Gardens Shoreditch	Henry William	Thomas Gates	Emma Gates formerly Page	Redstead Marker	+ the mark of Emma Gates Miller Gardens Shoreditch	Seventh 1867	McHunks Register
				Mary Mason		M. M. Woodhouse		

1869 Baptism of children

On 1st June 1869 Thomas Humphreys and Emma baptised Thomas Humphrey Jnr and Henry William in St Columbia Haggerstone. They were now living at 20 Mary Street.

Page 62							Page 63						
BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>St. Columbia, Haggerstone</i> in the County of <i>Middlesex</i> in the Year 1869							BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>St. Columbia, Haggerstone</i> in the County of <i>Middlesex</i> in the Year 1869						
When Baptized	Child's Christian Name	Parent's Names		Abode	Quality, Trade, or Profession	By whom the Ceremony was performed	When Baptized	Child's Christian Name	Parent's Names		Abode	Quality, Trade, or Profession	By whom the Ceremony was performed
		Christian	Surname						Christian	Surname			
1869 May 25	Allen	Thomas	Lincoln	47 St. John's Road	Glazier	Timothy S. Lynde	1869 June 29	Thomas John	Henry Maria	Harris	1 Lower John St. Hoxton	Tailor	Sam. W. Mangin
1869 June 10	Thomas	Thomas Humphreys	Gates	20 Mary St	Labourer	Timothy S. Lynde	1869 June 29	Grace	George	Winst	1 North Building	Cabinet-maker	Sam. W. Mangin
1869 June 14	Henry William	Thomas Humphreys	Gates	20 Mary St	Labourer	Timothy S. Lynde	1869 June 29	Alice	George	Winst	1 North Building	Cabinet-maker	Sam. W. Mangin
1869 June 8	Harriet Elizabeth	John	Pierce	30 Essex St. Tottenham	Labourer	Timothy S. Lynde	1869 July 1	Elizabeth	John	Hunt	63 Mary St	Shoemaker	Timothy S. Lynde
1869 June 15	Alice	Thomas	Brown	17 Essex St	Shoemaker	Timothy S. Lynde	1869 July 6	Kate	William	Levett	3 1/2 dead of lane	Fancy Worker	Timothy S. Lynde
1869 June 19	Martha	Thomas	Hicks	36 Mary St	Labourer	Timothy S. Lynde	1869 July 6	Edward	William	Levett	3 1/2 dead of lane	Fancy Worker	Timothy S. Lynde
1869 June 20	Louisa	Frederick	Booby	8 Lyden St	Baker	Timothy S. Lynde	1869 July 6	William	William	Levett	3 1/2 dead of lane	Fancy Worker	Timothy S. Lynde
1869 June 27	Robert	James	Brewer	63 Essex St	Water-carrier	Sam. W. Mangin	1869 Aug 11	Sarah	George	Barrington	3 James St. Upper St	Wine-shop	Sam. W. Mangin

Mary Street no longer exists. Mary Street can be seen here immediately south of Shoreditch Workhouse.



(Source: <https://www.workhouses.org.uk/Shoreditch/>)



20 Mary Street, Hoxton, Shoreditch

Mary Street lay immediately south of Shoreditch Workhouse, running between Hoxton Street and Kingsland Road. By the 1890s it had been renamed Lynedoch Street. The street no longer exists, having been swallowed by St Leonard’s hospital, (the former Shoreditch workhouse) which was extended southwards. The street was apparently demolished in the late 1930s. A photograph taken towards the end of its existence shows a street of neat two-storey houses paved with large stone slabs. Charles no doubt would have played on those pavements as a young boy.

1869 Birth of Charles

On 29th September 1869, Charles Gates their 4th child, was born at 20 Mary Street. Emma was still illiterate. Charles was baptised on 22nd October 1869 at St Columba, Haggerstone, Kingsland Road, which still exists next door to Shoreditch Hospital. It is now The Christ Apostolic Church (Bethel) and is now Grade II listed.

377	Twenty ninth September 1869 20 Mary Street	Charles	Boy	Thomas Humphreys Gates	Emma Gates formerly Page	Bedford Makin	the mark of Emma gates at Makin 20 Mary Street Hoxton	22 nd November 1869	G. Ross Registrar
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The birth was registered on 9th November.

Page 66							Page 67						
BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>St. Andrew, Haggerston</i>							BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>St. Andrew, Haggerston</i>						
in the County of <i>Middlesex</i>							in the County of <i>Middlesex</i>						
in the Year 1869							in the Year 1869						
When Baptized	Child's Christian Name	Parent's Name		Age	Quality, Trade, or Profession	By whom the Ceremony was performed	When Baptized	Child's Christian Name	Parent's Name		Age	Quality, Trade, or Profession	By whom the Ceremony was performed
1869 22 nd October	Charles	Thomas Ann	Gates	20	Bedstead maker	Rev. J. H. ...	1869 Nov. 27	Maria John	John Joseph Sarah	Gates	16	Harving Carpenter	Rev. J. H. ...
No. 611							No. 622						
1869 5 th Nov	Herbert	Henry Mary	White	15	Freehold Carpenter	Rev. J. H. ...	1869 Dec 5	Anna John Robert	Thomas Thomas John	Watson	6	Agent Carpenter	Rev. J. H. ...
No. 612							No. 630						
1869 20 th Nov	William	Henry Elizabeth	White	5	Shawing Carpenter	Rev. J. H. ...	1869 Dec 5	James William John	James Thomas John	Highgate	4	Free Carpenter	Rev. J. H. ...
No. 613							No. 631						
1869 20 th Nov	Henry	John Mary	Hunt	17	Highway Carpenter	Rev. J. H. ...	1869 Dec 5	William John	William John	Goldat	20	Free Carpenter	Rev. J. H. ...
No. 614							No. 632						
1869 18 th Nov	John	William Elizabeth	Hawthorn	22	Goldat Carpenter	Rev. J. H. ...	1869 Dec 5	Louisa Charles Ann	Charles Ann	Bolton	24	Harving Carpenter	Rev. J. H. ...
No. 615							No. 633						
1869 18 th Nov	John	Henry Ann	Hunter	33	Goldat Carpenter	Rev. J. H. ...	1869 Dec 14	Charles Henry Elizabeth	George Thomas Elizabeth	Thorn	51	Free Carpenter	Rev. J. H. ...
No. 616							No. 634						
1869 16 th Nov	Edward	Edward Emily	Smith	1	Free Carpenter	Rev. J. H. ...	1869 Dec 27	George William Elizabeth	George Thomas Elizabeth	Thorn	51	Free Carpenter	Rev. J. H. ...
No. 617							No. 635						
1869 16 th Nov	Samuel	Samuel Elizabeth	Gewell	4	Free Carpenter	Rev. J. H. ...	1869 Dec 27	James George Elizabeth	James George Elizabeth	Thorn	51	Free Carpenter	Rev. J. H. ...
No. 618							No. 636						

(NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE THAN THAT SPECIFIED BELOW.)
CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY of BIRTH.
 (Issued for the purposes of the National Health Insurance Acts, 1911 to 1920,
 or of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.)

Registration District of *Shoreditch*
 Sub-District of *Haggerstone West* in the County of *Middlesex*

No.	When and where born.	Name of child.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Signature of Birth Registrar.
371	20 th September 1869	Charles	Boy	Thomas Ann Gates	Emma Gates family Sage	Bedstead maker	* the mark of Emma Gates Mother 20 Mary Street Hoxton	North November 1869	S. Ross	Registrar

I hereby certify that the above is a true Copy of an Entry of Birth in a Register Book in my custody.
 Witness my hand this *23rd* day of *September* 192*1*.

Asseclatona
 Deputy Superintendent Registrar.
 [NOTE.—This certificate is to be issued only when the Certificate is given by the Registrar.]

1870s

Between 1866 and 1897 Thomas was known as a "bedstead maker" for census purposes, but this was a well-established profession in the nineteenth century and appears frequently in Patricia Anne Kirkham's 1998 PhD Thesis at Queen Mary, University of London, "Furniture-making in London c. 1700-1870: craft, design, business and labour":

In the 1870s, the East End superseded the West End as the largest furniture making centre in London (p. 14). Bedstead making was considered less skilful than cabinet makers (p. 19). The bedstead-maker was essentially a frame-maker and 'put-together' of parts made by others (p. 40). In the East End, firms tended to be smaller than those in the West End. In the East End streets of Curtain Road, Worship Street and Skinner Street, just over 90% of all furniture-making firms employed between one and ten workers (Kirkham, 1981, p. 148).

It is remarkable how a large and increasing number of Jewish immigrant cabinet-makers were absorbed into the East End furniture trade. Part of the explanation must lie in the resilience and the expansion of the trade itself. (Smith, 2004, p. 120)

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Having said that, the centre of the furniture trade at the time was in Tottenham Court Road (Edwards, 2011).

At the time of the 1871 census (2nd April), Thomas Humphreys and Emma were still living at 20 Mary Street, St Leonard Shoreditch, Haggerstone West (now N1 7DL). Thomas Humphreys Gates was 27, Emma Gates was (27) lived with children: Thomas Henry Gates (5), Henry William Gates (3) and Charles Gates* (1). All were born in Shoreditch. Thomas was a bedstead maker and Emma a bonnet maker. Thomas and Emma shared this house with two other families – the Collingwoods (in their 40s with two children) and the Trews (in their 20s with three children).

No. of Dwelling	ROAD STREET, etc. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSEHOLDERS	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION	AGE of Person	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	Year of Birth
128	20 Mary St	1	William Collingwood	Head	Mar	56	Styer	Shoreditch	1815
			George	son	Mar	23	Printer	Shoreditch	1848
			Elizabeth	daugh	Mar	18		Shoreditch	1853
129	24 "	1	Henry Bayliff	Head	Mar	63	Wine and Beer	Greenwich	1808
130	"	"	Henry Collin	Head	Mar	30	Chairman	St. Paul's	1840
			John	son	Mar	21		St. Paul's	1849
			John	son	Mar	18		St. Paul's	1852
			Henry	son	Mar	15		St. Paul's	1856
			Charles	son	Mar	12		St. Paul's	1859
131	22 "	1	Benjamin Wilson	Head	Mar	39	Wine and Beer	St. Paul's	1832
			Henry	son	Mar	34		St. Paul's	1837
			William	son	Mar	27	Black	St. Paul's	1844
			William	son	Mar	24	Wine and Beer	St. Paul's	1847
			Thomas	son	Mar	19		St. Paul's	1852
			Thomas	son	Mar	17		St. Paul's	1854
132	20 "	1	Thomas H. Gates	Head	Mar	27	Bedstead Maker	Shoreditch	1844
			Emma	Wife	Mar	27	Bonnet Maker	Shoreditch	1844
			Thomas H.	son	Mar	5		Shoreditch	1866
			Henry W.	son	Mar	3		Shoreditch	1868
			Charles	son	Mar	1		Shoreditch	1870
Total of Houses..			Total of Males and Females..			11	9		

Thomas Humphreys and Emma's fifth child, Archibald Humphreys Gates was born on 16th December 1871 at 4 Britannia Gardens, Hoxton Old Town and baptised on 29th December 1871 at Saint John the Baptist, Shoreditch.

Sixteenth December 1871	Archibald Humphreys Gates	Thomas Humphreys Gates	Emma Gates formerly Page	Bedstead Maker	29th December 1871	George Pearce
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In 1870, Gladstone was Prime Minister and his MP William Forster introduced the Elementary Education Act (1870) setting up Board Schools. Subsequently in the first year of Gladstone's Government in 1880 *The Elementary Education Act (1880)* is passed, making primary schooling compulsory in England and Wales between the ages of 5 and 10, though some attended up to age 14.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

By 26th March 1874, the family had moved again to 7 Saint James Place, Shoreditch, where Emma Jane Gates was born on 26th March 1874.

	Sex	Name	of father	of mother	Residence of Informant	When registered	Name of Registrar	added after Registration of Birth
446	Female	Emma Jane	Thomas Gates	Emma Redstead Gates formerly Page	The market Emma Gates mother 7 Saint James Place Shoreditch	Seventh May 1874	W. H. Hinks Registrar	
	Female		P. Hinks	Marietta				

By now some of the children would have been covered by the 1870 Education Act. Over the next 6 years however the family would live in 4 different locations which might have affected how and where their children attended school. It appears Charles* and Henry at some time attended Scruton Street School, in Shoreditch according to their entry to Essex Street School in 1880. (LMA Reference LCC/EO/PS/6/28)

By 12th July 1876 the family had moved again to 100 Granville Buildings, Luke Street Shoreditch when Frederick George was born.

	Sex	Name	of father	of mother	Residence of Informant	When registered	Name of Registrar	added after Registration of Birth
350	Male	Frederick George	Thomas Humphreys Gates	Emma Redstead Gates formerly Page	The market Emma Gate mother 100 Granville Buildings Shoreditch	Twenty fifth August 1876	W. H. Hinks Registrar	
	Female							

The family lived in Shoreditch until at least January 1879, when Frederick George was baptised there (aside from Emma, for whom no baptism record can be found, all of Charles' siblings were baptised). Shoreditch was then the centre for London's furniture trade, so providing employment over many years for Thomas Humphreys Gates. In addition, both he and his wife Emma had numerous family connections in the locality. It is therefore somewhat surprising that, at some point between January 1879 and the birth of their final child, John Lewis Gates in September 1880, the family moved for reasons unknown to Mile End Old Town, several miles away.

In 1879 they still lived in Granville Buildings, Luke Street, Shoreditch, which was just off Curtain Road where the furniture trade was most concentrated so possibly providing employment for Thomas Humphrey. Granville Buildings was a block of flats. It can be suspected that their accommodation was not suitable for a family of eight. It was however close to Willow Gardens, where Emma's parents lived. Granville Buildings is now demolished and contains office space.

By 22nd September 1880 the family moved again to 6 North Square, Mile End Old Town, Tower Hamlets, a small dead-end street which backed on to the Great Eastern Railway's main line from Liverpool Street station (a mile-or-so down the track) to Norwich. As it ran past North Square the railway line was carried on a high embankment overlooking the street, so the frequent trains must have been conspicuous and noisy. North Square no longer exists and its site now lies within the grounds of a school.

North Square, was a small dead-end street which backed on to the Great Eastern Railway's main line from Liverpool Street station (a mile-or-so down the track) to Norwich. As it ran past North Square the railway line was carried on a high embankment overlooking the street, so the frequent trains must have been conspicuous and noisy. North Square no longer exists and its site now lies within the grounds of a school.

If the location of North Square sounds insalubrious, it was perhaps better than the family's last known address in Shoreditch. In 1879 they lived in Granville Buildings, Luke Street, just off Curtain Road where the furniture trade was most concentrated. Granville Buildings was a block of flats, and it can be suspected that their accommodation was not suitable for a family of eight.

It was here that their 8th child, John Lewis Gates, was born.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Shoreditch Second John 413 Septembar Jones 1880 6 North Square	Thomas Gates	Emma Gates formerly Page	bedstead maker	the death of Emma Gates November 1880 Mile End	First Scruton Request
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On 3rd November 1880, Charles, aged 11 and Henry aged 13, were admitted to Essex Street School in Mile End, Tower Hamlets, run by London School Board. They were previously at Scruton Street School in Shoreditch and it may have been their move that caused a change of school. On Monday 13 December their brother Archibald Gates, aged 9, was admitted to Essex Street School having previously attended Portman Place School, in Mile End (LMA Ref LCC/EO/DIV05)

Admission Number	DATE OF ADMISSION			NAME OF CHILD	NAME OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN	ADDRESS	Whether exemption from Education is claimed	DATE OF CENSUS		
	Day	Month	Year					Day	Month	Year
881	10	9	80	Cornick Albert	Charles	48 West Street		16	1	78
882	14	9	80	Bundy George	William	4 Chester Street		17	7	78
883	20	9	80	Edson John	Edison	5 Union Street		10	10	78
883	21	9	80	Box Henry	Charles	65 Devonshire St.		10	7	78
884	20	9	80	Jordan James		6 Essex Street		4	8	78
885	"	"	"	William Walter	Walter	12 King St.		28	9	72
886	"	"	"	Benneman Frank	"	"		27	6	72
887	"	"	"	Edwards Wm	"	5 Mordy Street		18	8	72
888	27	9	80	Smiley Wm	Joseph	11 Albert Street		20	6	69
889	"	"	"	Noble Wm	James	64 West Street		17	5	74
890	"	"	"	Gates Wm	William	126 Devonshire St.		27	10	70
891	"	"	"	Wardman Joseph	Joseph	178 Cambridge St.		21	12	64
892	"	"	"	Wardman Robert	"	"		16	8	73
893	"	"	"	Brown Charles	Charles	9 Queens Building		2	8	73
894	"	"	"	Anderson Wm	John	"		5	12	72
895	2	10	80	Fish John	George	2 Thurlow Place		8	10	64
896	8	10	80	Dean John	"	"		8	18	74
897	11	10	80	Fish Henry	George	Thurlow Place		5	4	71
898	"	"	"	Fish Thomas	"	"		1	9	72
899	"	"	"	Baswell John	Charles	84 James St.		4	10	72
899	16	10	80	Colston Fred	John	16 Brunswick Rd.		17	11	70
899	"	"	"	Colston William	William	88 West St.		9	2	74
899	25	10	80	Spencer William	William	11 1/2 St. Pauls		12	3	76
899	15	11	80	Wells John	John	3 Pine Place Black		18	4	73
899	2	11	80	Mitchell William	William	24 James Street		4	7	72
899	8	11	80	Eden Henry	Thomas	6 North Square		26	7	67
899	"	"	"	Eden Charles	"	"		28	8	67
899	30	11	80	Goole Edward	Edward	202 Globe Road		5	2	69
899	8	12	80	Goodwin James	James	10 Global Way		5	2	74
899	4	12	80	Nicholls George	William	2 Cornwall St.		20	4	73
899	"	"	"	Nicholls Charles	"	"		8	6	71
899	15	12	80	Braschaw Ed	Henry	178 West St.		1	12	71
899	23	12	80	Toulson John	Robert	25 Durovors Alley		21	9	72
899	30	12	80	Jordan William	William	44 3/4 Globe Rd.		1	2	73
899	6	1	81	Ames Edmund	Alfred	2 Three Cole Lane		1	1	71
899	6	1	81	Brooks William	William	2 Grosvenor St.		1	2	70
899	13	12	80	Sales Archibald	Thomas	6 North Square		1	2	70
899	10	1	81	Burke Samuel	Samuel	15 North Street		8	6	72
899	10	1	81	Mallett Albert	Albert	26 Nicholas St.		5	3	72
899	10	1	81	Shooter Lewis	"	3 Cornwall St.		2	3	71
899	10	1	81	Richards George	George	20 Kings Street		28	6	72
899	10	1	81	Eden Charles	George	20 James St.		28	6	72
899	10	1	81	Hayward Fred	Fredrick	8 Swan St.		24	5	74

1881 Census

On the census day of 3rd April 1881, the family were still living at 6 North Square, Mile End Old Town, Tower Hamlets -, nominally within the county of Middlesex but in fact part of the densely built-up urban area of east London. Thomas Humphreys Gates (37) was still a bedstead maker, Emma Gates (37) living with their children: Thomas Humphreys (17), Henry William (18, light porter), Charles Gates (11), Archibald (9), Emma (7), Fredrick George (4), John Lewis (5 months). All were born in Shoreditch apart from John Lewis, who was born at 6 North Square, Mile End Old Town. This suggests, they were still in Shoreditch in 1877 and moved between 1877 and 1880. These seem smaller houses with single families.

Emma appears not to be employed, which was not surprising for women those days, especially as she had 5 children under 12.

Those Who Went Before Me - 1a The Gates Line

So, in 1881, Thomas Humphreys was the only child working - as a porter. One, John Lewis, was a baby. Those between 4 and 15 were "scholars": Henry William Gates (aged 15), Charles Gates* (aged 11), Archibald Gates (aged 9), Emma Gates (aged 7), Fredrick George Gates (aged 4). Which raises the question of where they went to school.

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

City of London Municipal Borough of *North Hamlets* Urban Sanitary District of *Mile End Old Town* Local Sanitary District of *56* Electoral Division of *St. Anthony's, Stepney*

No. of Inhabitants	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES (Total) (1) (2) (3) (4)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday or Date of Birth	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	(1) Dist. and Parish (2) Dist. (3) Inhabitant or Elector (4) Elector
1493	North Square 1		Thomas Crowe	Head	Mar	48	Labourer Dock	Midd: Bethnal Green	
			Josephine	Wife	"	48	"	" Mile End	
			Edward	Son	U.N.M.	25	Laundress	" Do	
			Edna	Son	"	20	Artificial Florist	" Do	
			James	Son	"	18	Labourer Dock	" Do	
			Agnes	Son	"	16	Coal-dust (unemployed)	" Do	
1494	" 1		Thomas	Head	Mar	36	Porter	" N. H.	
			Susannah	Wife	"	34	"	Midd: Stepney	
			Thomas	Son	"	16	Boys Boy Stationer	" Do	
			William	"	"	12	Chemist	" Do	
			Lucy	Son	"	11	Soda-Can	" Do	
			Mary	Son	"	10	do	St. Paul's	
			Harriet	Son	"	6	do	Midd: Stepney	
			Alice	Son	"	8	do	St. Paul's	
			Richard	Son	"	3	do	" Do	
1495	" 4		Thomas Humphreys	Head	Mar	24	Boat Painter	" Bethnal Green	
			Agnes	Wife	"	19	"	" Do	
1496	" 1		Thomas Humphreys	Head	Mar	39	Bedstead Maker	" St. Paul's	
			Emma	Wife	"	37	"	" Do	
			Thomas Humphreys	Son	"	12	Light Porter	" Do	
			Henry William	"	"	11	Scholar	" Do	
			Charles	"	"	7	do	" Do	
			Archibald	"	"	9	do	" Do	
			Emma	"	"	7	do	" Do	
4	Total of Houses..	4	Total of Males and Females..			13	11		

Note.—Draw the pen through each of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

Eng.—Sheet N.

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

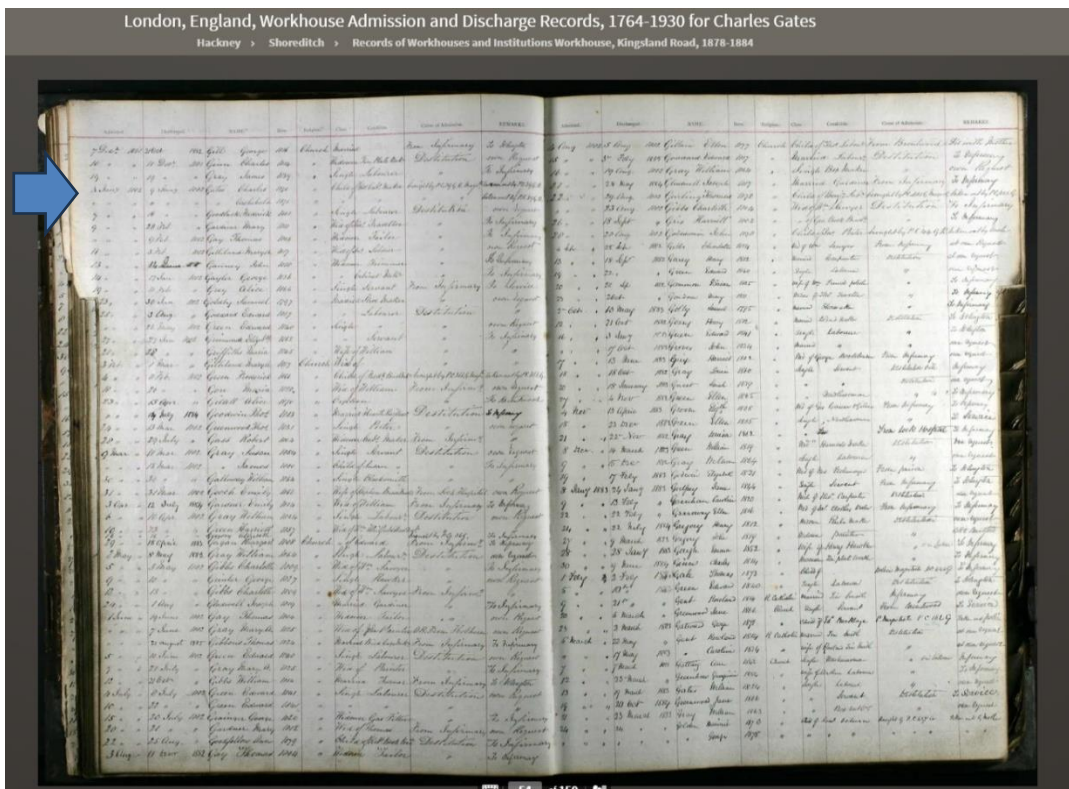
City of London Municipal Borough of *North Hamlets* Urban Sanitary District of *Mile End Old Town* Local Sanitary District of *St. Anthony's, Stepney*

No. of Inhabitants	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES (Total) (1) (2) (3) (4)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday or Date of Birth	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	(1) Dist. and Parish (2) Dist. (3) Inhabitant or Elector (4) Elector
1497	6 North Square		And Geo Gates	Son	Mar	48	Scholar	Midd: St. Paul's	
			John Lewis	Son	"	1	"	" Mile End Old Town	
1498	7 North Square 1		William Phillips	Head	Mar	42	Workman, Dist.	Midd: Bethnal Green	
			Elizabeth	Wife	"	42	"	" Midd: Bethnal Green	
			William	Son	"	11	Scholar	" Do	
			John Collender	"	"	6	do	" Do	
			Robert	"	"	5	do	" Bethnal Green	
1498	" 1		Robert	Head	Mar	64	Laundress	" Mile End	
			James	Son	U.N.M.	24	Workman Stationer	" Do	
			Henry	Son	"	20	Workman Stationer	" Do	
2009	" 1		Alfred	Head	Mar	24	Carman	St. Paul's	
			Mary Ann	Wife	"	24	"	" Do	
2010	" 1		Robt Barnett	Head	U.N.M.	24	Shoe Lather	London	
201	" 1		John Hodgson	Head	Mar	24	Wood Turner	Buckingham	
			Alma	Wife	"	23	"	" Do	
			Robert	Son	"	13	Home Help	" Do	
			William	Son	"	7	Scholar	St. Paul's	
			Henry	Son	"	6	do	" Do	
			George	Son	"	6	do	" Do	
203	" 1		William Pitt	Head	Mar	24	Workman	Midd: Bethnal Green	
			Mary	Wife	"	24	"	" Mile End	
6	Total of Houses..	6	Total of Males and Females..			15	6		

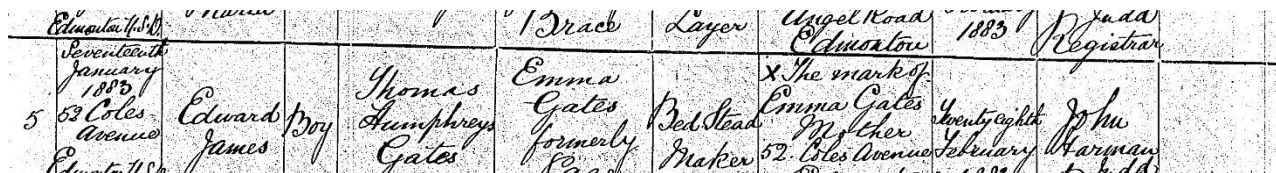
Note.—Draw the pen through each of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

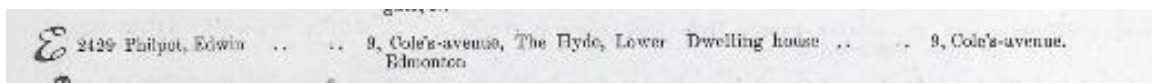
Less than a year later, on 3rd January 1882, Charles (aged 12) and Archibald (aged 10) were admitted to Shoreditch Workhouse for six days, having been taken there for reasons unknown by a police constable PC 39. (The documentary trace disappears for Charles here until his marriage to Ann Marie Hudson.) We do not know exactly where the family lived at the time of Charles and Archibald's encounter with the law.



So, in the twenty years between their marriage in 1863 and the census of 3rd April 1881, Thomas Humphreys and Emma had 7 different addresses around Shoreditch and Tower Hamlets. At some point between the census of April 1881 and January 1883 the family uprooted itself again, this time moving to live in 52 Coles Avenue, Edmonton, Middlesex, some eight miles to the north of the East End. We know the date by which time the family had certainly made the move because the ninth and last child of Thomas Humphreys Gates and Emma – Edward James Gates – was born in Edmonton on 17 January 1883 at 52 Coles Avenue, Edmonton



Intriguingly, at the time, at no 9 Coles Avenue lived Edwin Philpott and his wife, Julia Jane who had moved recently from Essex with their children – including the 6-year-old Harriet Philpott. In 1951 Harriet's daughter, Maud (Robinson) would marry Charles Gates, the grandson of Thomas and Emma. Did Harriet know and play out with Charles? It is indeed a possibility.



The family moves to Edmonton³⁶

(Text provided by Charles Parry).

The 1894 map shows Coles Avenue (by then re-named West Street) adjacent to open countryside on its western and southern sides. The family went on to live in the street for a period of about ten years, possibly longer. In their previous life in the East End, Thomas Humphreys Snr and Emma had lived in at least six streets (and maybe more) over a period of seventeen years

The precise reasons behind the move out of the East End are unknown. However, it should not be viewed as particularly unusual for the time. Between 1881 and 1901 the population of outer London more than doubled, and many of the new inhabitants were migrants from east London attracted by the rapidly expanding towns of Essex and north Middlesex and Edmonton in particular. The departure of the Gates' family from the East End should therefore be viewed as part of a more widespread shift in population.

One possible reason the family choose to re-locate to Edmonton, in preference to anywhere else is that a significant element of the local economy was the manufacture of furniture (timber was transported there cheaply by barge up the River Lea Navigation from London). In view of Thomas Humphreys Gates' occupation as a cabinet maker this may have been a major factor in the selection of Edmonton as the family's new home. However, there is no direct evidence that Thomas Humphreys Gates ever worked as a cabinet maker in Edmonton.

Another favourable aspect of Edmonton was that it had direct and affordable trains to London. From the early 1870s the Great Eastern Railway offered cheap workmen's fares from the Edmonton area to Liverpool Street station, and the Cheap Trains Act of 1883 made such fares a statutory requirement. By the 1880s Edmonton had effectively become a London suburb. Thomas Humphreys Gates may have felt that, while the move to Edmonton entailed the risk of finding new employment in the locality, in the last resort it would be possible for him to commute for work back to the East End.

Some idea of the appearance of Edmonton in the 1880s can be gained from the Ordnance Survey's 25-inch map published in 1896, surveyed in 1894. The area was at the beginning of its transformation from a rural to an urban landscape, with streets of houses being carved out here-and-there from the agricultural fields surrounding Lower Edmonton, which was then no more than a large village. The 1894 map shows the street (by then re-named West Street) adjacent to open countryside on its western and southern sides. The family went on to live in the street for a period of about ten years, possibly longer. In their previous life in the East End, they had lived in at least six streets (and maybe more) over a period of seventeen years.

The contrast of the Gates's new, nearly-rural, surroundings with the densely built-up areas of Shoreditch and Mile End Old Town must have seemed to them immense. It seems beyond much doubt that a desire for a substantial improvement in their living conditions was a key factor in the family's decision to leave the East End.

It is perhaps overly simplistic to view the family's departure from the East End solely as a flight from a poor environment. Were conditions there in any case so unbearable. Thomas Humphreys Gates Jnr, returned to Shoreditch after his marriage to work as a cabinet maker and stayed there for ten years-or-so, raising a young family, which might suggest not. Yet he too eventually returned to Edmonton, and all of Thomas Humphreys Gates' Snr children were to live in the town for much of their adult lives, and all ended their days there. This strongly suggests that Edmonton provided them all with a much better quality of life than the East End could offer, whatever the reasons the family originally had for leaving.

It may be relevant to note here that some 50 years later, in the mid-1930s, Thomas Humphreys Gates' grandson, Charles Humphries Gates (1909 – 1996), decided to relocate his family away from the polluted air of Edmonton to rural Goff's Oak, Hertfordshire, in order to improve the health of his daughter, Shirley Marion Gates.

³⁶ Text on the next 3 pages is adapted from the text by Charles Parry

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

An electoral roll relating to 1885 recorded the family living at 22 Coles Avenue. Coles Avenue/West Street no longer exists. It was formerly situated a little to the south-west of Edmonton Green, running westwards from a junction with Victoria Road. The locality has been comprehensively redeveloped, and only the Hyde Arms public house on the corner with Victoria Road survives from the 19th century arrangement.

In 1885 Thomas Humphreys still lived in 54 Coles Avenue according to the Overseers record. (*London Metropolitan Archives MR/PEO/1885/003/01*)

13

Name of Claimant in full, surname being first.	Place of Abode.	Nature of Qualification.	Description of Qualifying Property.
*Fowler, Charles	8, Eaton Place, Upper Edmonton	House as occupier	8, Eaton Place
Fowler, George Edward	21, St. Joseph's Road, Lower Edmonton	House as occupier	14, Croyland Road, and 21, St. Joseph's Road
Frays, John	Bury Street Gatehouse, Lower Edmonton	House as occupier	Bury Street Gatehouse
Francis, Stephen	No. 1 George's Cottages Orchard Estate, New Road, Lower Edmonton	Occupier of house	No. 1 George's Cottages, Orchard Street, New Road, Lower Edmonton
French, Joseph	3, Faversham Cottages, Sebastopol Road, Lower Edmonton	Occupier of houses in immediate succession	3, George Street, Edmonton, and 2, Faversham Cottages, Sebastopol Road
Fuller, Frederick William	Harwoods Yard, Winchmore Hill	House as occupier	Harwoods Yard, Winchmore Hill
Fuller, John Grist	Gibbshar Cottage, Winchmore Hill	House as occupier	Gibbshar Cottage, Winchmore Hill
Fullstone, John	5, Aberdeen Road, Upper Edmonton	Occupier of houses in immediate succession	5, Rainham Road, Edmonton, and 5, Aberdeen Road, Edmonton
Fullstone, Joseph	Chase Side, Southgate	House as occupier	Chase Side, Southgate
Fullstone, Vincent	18, Kirkdale Terrace, New Southgate, N.	House as occupier	18, Kirkdale Terrace
Garrett, Tom	8, Brook Cottages, Tamers End, Upper Edmonton	Occupier of houses in immediate succession	Tamers End, Edmonton, and 8, Brook Cottages, Tamers End, Edmonton
Gates, Thomas Humphreys	22, Cole's Avenue, Lower Edmonton	House as occupier	22, Cole's Avenue, Edmonton
Gibson, John Charles	4, Styles Almshouses, Lower Edmonton	House as occupier	No. 5, Claremont Street, Upper Edmonton; No. 4, Styles Almshouses, Lower Edmonton
Geary, Joseph	Covera Lane, Chase Side, Southgate, N.	House as occupier	Stanton's Cottages, Covera Lane, Southgate
*George, Arthur John	4, Claremont Place, Claremont Street, Upper Edmonton	House as occupier	4, Claremont Place, Claremont Street
*George, Samuel	8, Union Road, Upper Edmonton	House as occupier	8, Union Road
George, Timothy	Tanyard Cottages, Bury Street, Lower Edmonton	House as occupier	Tanyard Cottages, Bury Street
Giles, William James	2, Prospect Cottages, Snell's Park, Upper Edmonton	House as occupier	2, Prospect Cottages, Snell's Park
Gladwin, Ernest	Baker's Cottages, Chase Side, Southgate	Occupier of houses in immediate succession	Cottages in Winchmore Hill Road, Southgate, and Baker's Cottages, Chase Side, Southgate
Gladwin, George	Palmer's Hill, Southgate	House as occupier	Palmer's Hill, Southgate
Gladwin, George jun.	Rose Cottages, Palmers Green	House as occupier	Rose Cottages, Palmers Green
Gladwin, John Frederick	High Street, Southgate	House as occupier	High Street, Southgate

John Russell

But in 1886 was living in 22 Coles Avenue. It seems strange that this looks like a move to 22 then a move back to 54. It may well have been a mistake.

58 EDMONTON POLLING DISTRICT (DISTRICT A)—CONTINUED.

PARISH OF EDMONTON—continued.

1410	Garrett, Tom	8, Brook-cottages, Upper Edmonton	Tamers's-end, Occupier of houses in immediate succession	Tamers's-end, Edmonton, and 8, Brook-cottages, Tamers's-end, Edmonton.
1311	Garrett, William	20, Claremont-street, Upper Edmonton	Dwelling house	20, Claremont-street.
1312	Garton, John	9, Angel Road-terrace, Upper Edmonton	Angel-road, Dwelling house	9, Angel Road-terrace, Angel-road.
1349	Gates, James	3, Claremont-street, Upper Edmonton	Dwelling house	3, Claremont-street.
1344	Gates, John	Enfield-chase, Southgate, N.	Dwelling house	Enfield-chase.
1345	Gates, Thomas	1, Dunmow-place, Fore-street, Lower Edmonton	Dwelling house	1, Dunmow-place.
1346	Gates, Thomas Humphreys	22, Cole's-avenue, Lower Edmonton	House as occupier	22, Cole's-avenue, Edmonton.
1317	Gates, William	Enfield-chase, Southgate, N.	Dwelling house	Enfield-chase.
1318	Gaulton, John	12, Silver-street, Upper Edmonton	Dwelling house	12, Silver-street.
1319	Gaulton, Beuben	1, Pritchett-villas, Upper Edmonton	Fairfield-road, Dwelling house	1, Pritchett-villas, Fairfield-road.
1320	Gaywood, Samuel	1, Cornwall-cottages, Lower Edmonton	Town - road, Dwelling house	1, Cornwall-cottages.
1321	Geach, William	3, Tash-cottages, Lower Edmonton	Sebastopol-road, Dwelling house	3, Tash-cottages.
1322	Geahy, William	High-path, Upper Edmonton	Fore-street, Lower Land and basement (gate)	1, Ash Pure-street.
1323	Geeres, Henry Edward	13, Bretenham-road, Upper Edmonton	East, Upper Dwelling house (successive)	Lower Edmonton, and 13, Bretenham-road East.
1324	George, Arthur John	4, Claremont-place, Upper Edmonton	Claremont-street, House as occupier	4, Claremont-place, Claremont-street
1325	George, Frederick	72, St. Mary's-road, Lower Edmonton	Dwelling house	72, St. Mary's-road.
1326	George, George	Tanyard, Bury-street, Lower Edmonton	Dwelling house	Tanyard, Bury-street.
1327	George, Samuel	8, Union-road, Upper Edmonton	House as occupier	8, Union-road.
1328	George, Timothy	Tanyard-cottages, Lower Edmonton	Bury - street, House as occupier	Tanyard-cottages, Bury-street.
1329	Gibbons, Robert William	29, Millfield-road, Upper Edmonton	Tamers-end, Dwelling house	29, Millfield-road.
1330	Gibbins, Walter	6, Pleas-road, Lower Edmonton	Dwelling house	6, Pleas-road.
1331	Gibbins, William Henry	Japonica Cottage, Lower Edmonton	Hertford - road, Dwelling house	Japonica Cottage, Hertford-road.
1332	Gibbs, Walter	22, Woodland-road, Lower Edmonton	New Southgate, N. Dwelling house	22, Woodland-road.
1333	Gibson, John Charles	35, Barbot-street, Lower Edmonton	The Hyde, Dwelling house	35, Barbot-street.
1334	Giles, William James	2, Prospect-cottages, Upper Edmonton	Snell's - park, House as occupier	2, Prospect-cottages, Snell's-park.
1335	Gilbert, James	159, Fore-street, Upper Edmonton	Dwelling house	159, Fore-street.
1336	Gill, Aaron	37, Cole's-avenue, Lower Edmonton	The Hyde, Dwelling house	37, Cole's-avenue.
1337	Gill, Jack	32, Cole's-avenue, Lower Edmonton	Dwelling house	32, Cole's-avenue.
1338	Gill, Thomas	3, Dowling's-cottages, Lower Edmonton	Hertford-road, Dwelling house	3, Dowling's-cottages.
1439	Gillett, Arthur	9, St. George's-terrace, Lower Edmonton	New-road, Dwelling house	9, St. George's-terrace.

The Overseer Return (electoral roll) relating to 1885 recorded Thomas Humphreys living at 22 Coles Avenue. At the time, voting was only for males over 21 fulfilling a property qualification. Women over 30 were not given the vote until the Representation of the People Act, 1918. It was not until Representation of the People Act (1928) that all women over 21 were given the vote.

Coles Avenue/West Street no longer exists. It was formerly situated a little to the south-west of Edmonton Green, running westwards from a junction with Victoria Road. The locality has been comprehensively redeveloped, and only the Hyde Arms public house on the corner with Victoria Road survives from the 19th century arrangement.

Also 1885, Charles's brother Thomas lived at 1 Dunmow Place, Fore Street Upper Edmonton and in 1886 the overseer report places him at 7 Inkerman Cottages, Sebastopol Road Lower Edmonton,

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Some five years after the move to Edmonton, on 16th September 1888, Their son Thomas Humphreys Gates Jnr, married Alice Holloway at All Saints' Church, Edmonton. The groom's father was one of the witnesses to the marriage; the other witness was Ellen Holloway, probably the bride's mother. The groom was 22 years old and like his father he was a cabinet maker. The bride was also aged 22. At the time of their marriage the couple both lived in Coles Avenue, which might explain how they met. However, like the groom the bride had been born in Shoreditch, so it is possible that the two families had known each other back in the East End.

At the time of the wedding Charles would have just past his nineteenth birthday. It seems likely that he attended the ceremony but there is no certain evidence for this as we do not know where Charles is for 10 years between 1882 (aged 12) and his marriage to Ann Marie Hudson in 1893 (aged 24).

1891 census

The census of 5th April 1891 recorded Thomas Humphreys and Emma Gates' household living at 54 Coles Avenue, Edmonton. The family were listed as follows:

- Thomas Gates (aged 47), Cabinet Maker
- Emma Gates (aged 47)
- Henry Gates (aged 23), Greengrocer's Assistant
- Emma Gates (aged 17), Dress Maker
- Frederick Gates (aged 14), Scholar*
- John Lewis Gates (aged 11), Scholar*

It should not be presumed that identification as "scholar" meant the child was at school. It merely means not working.

Charles would have been 22 and Archibald Humphreys 20, but both had evidently left home by then, but we do not know Charles' whereabouts.

Administrative County of <u>Westminster</u>										The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										Page 26	
Civil Parish		Municipal Borough		Municipal Ward		Urban Sanitary District		Town or Village or Hamlet		Rural Sanitary District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Ecclesiastical Parish or Hamlet							
<u>Edmonton</u>						<u>Edmonton</u>						<u>Edmonton</u>		<u>St. James's</u>							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18				
No. of HOUSEHOLD	ROAD, STREET, etc., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSEHOLD No. or NAME of HOUSE	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	SEX	AGE last Birthday or Date of Birth	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	WEEKS WORKED	WEEKS WORKED	WEEKS WORKED	WEEKS WORKED	WEEKS WORKED	WEEKS WORKED	WEEKS WORKED	WEEKS WORKED	WEEKS WORKED	WEEKS WORKED				
144	177	30	3	1	Thomas Gates	Head	M	47	Cabinet Maker	X											
					Emma Gates	Wife	F	47		X											
					Henry Gates	Son	M	23	Greengrocer's Assistant	X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17	Dress Maker	X											
					Frederick Gates	Son	M	14	Scholar	X											
					John Lewis Gates	Son	M	11	Scholar	X											
					Thomas Gates	Son	M	22		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Henry Gates	Son	M	23		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Frederick Gates	Son	M	14		X											
					John Lewis Gates	Son	M	11		X											
					Thomas Gates	Son	M	22		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Henry Gates	Son	M	23		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Frederick Gates	Son	M	14		X											
					John Lewis Gates	Son	M	11		X											
					Thomas Gates	Son	M	22		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Henry Gates	Son	M	23		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Frederick Gates	Son	M	14		X											
					John Lewis Gates	Son	M	11		X											
					Thomas Gates	Son	M	22		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Henry Gates	Son	M	23		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Frederick Gates	Son	M	14		X											
					John Lewis Gates	Son	M	11		X											
					Thomas Gates	Son	M	22		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Henry Gates	Son	M	23		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Frederick Gates	Son	M	14		X											
					John Lewis Gates	Son	M	11		X											
					Thomas Gates	Son	M	22		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Henry Gates	Son	M	23		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Frederick Gates	Son	M	14		X											
					John Lewis Gates	Son	M	11		X											
					Thomas Gates	Son	M	22		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Henry Gates	Son	M	23		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Frederick Gates	Son	M	14		X											
					John Lewis Gates	Son	M	11		X											
					Thomas Gates	Son	M	22		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Henry Gates	Son	M	23		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Frederick Gates	Son	M	14		X											
					John Lewis Gates	Son	M	11		X											
					Thomas Gates	Son	M	22		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Henry Gates	Son	M	23		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Frederick Gates	Son	M	14		X											
					John Lewis Gates	Son	M	11		X											
					Thomas Gates	Son	M	22		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Henry Gates	Son	M	23		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Frederick Gates	Son	M	14		X											
					John Lewis Gates	Son	M	11		X											
					Thomas Gates	Son	M	22		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Henry Gates	Son	M	23		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Frederick Gates	Son	M	14		X											
					John Lewis Gates	Son	M	11		X											
					Thomas Gates	Son	M	22		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Henry Gates	Son	M	23		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Frederick Gates	Son	M	14		X											
					John Lewis Gates	Son	M	11		X											
					Thomas Gates	Son	M	22		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Henry Gates	Son	M	23		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Frederick Gates	Son	M	14		X											
					John Lewis Gates	Son	M	11		X											
					Thomas Gates	Son	M	22		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Henry Gates	Son	M	23		X											
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					Frederick Gates	Son	M	14		X											
					John Lewis Gates	Son	M	11		X											
					Thomas Gates	Son	M	22		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Henry Gates	Son	M	23		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Frederick Gates	Son	M	14		X											
					John Lewis Gates	Son	M	11		X											
					Thomas Gates	Son	M	22		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Henry Gates	Son	M	23		X											
					Emma Gates	Daughter	F	17		X											
					Frederick Gates	Son	M	14		X											

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

At some time around now, Archibald Humphreys, then a labourer, joined the army – The Second Battalion, Somerset light Infantry where he was a Private for some 20 years – being discharged at his own request in 1912. His discharge papers indicate he served in India and Malta. We knew from that document that that he had a sallow complexion with brown hair and eyes, a scar on his forehead and tattoos on his hands and forearms. He was "of good character. Honest Truthful, hardworking and reliable".

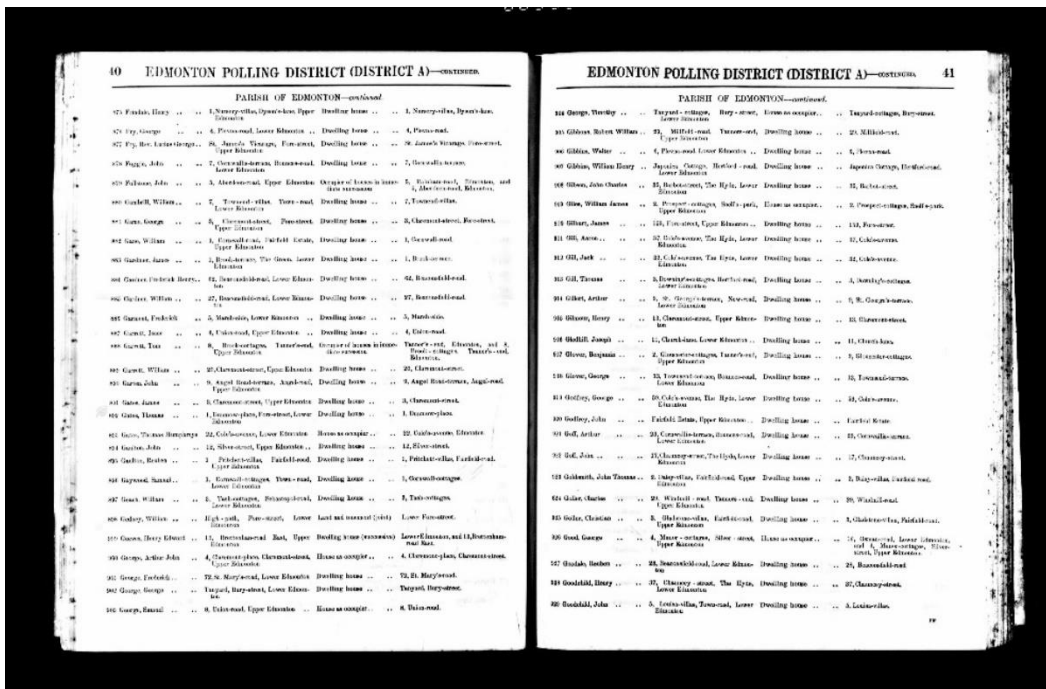
The Gates' family were living at 54 Coles Avenue a year later, when Thomas Humphreys Gates was listed there on an electoral roll relating to 1892. That is the last known record of the family's residence there. They appear to have moved around Coles Avenue (presuming these are not transcription errors). Coles Avenue was renamed West Street.

- 1883 52 Coles Avenue
- 1885 22 Coles Avenue
- 1892 54 Coles Avenue

Charles has not been found on the 1891 Census so we have no record of his whereabouts since 3rd April 1881 when he was 11, and he does not reappear until he marries Ann Marie Hudson in 1893 when he was 24. This is not necessarily mysterious, and may be down to a lack of official events which would mark his residence. He could have left school around the time of his encounter with the police, and started to train for his career as a carpenter.

Some five years after the move to Edmonton, on 16 September 1888, Charles' eldest brother, Thomas Humphreys Gates named after their father, married Alice Holloway at All Saints' church, Edmonton.

At the time of the wedding Charles would have just past his nineteenth birthday. It seems likely that he attended the ceremony but there is no certain evidence for this.



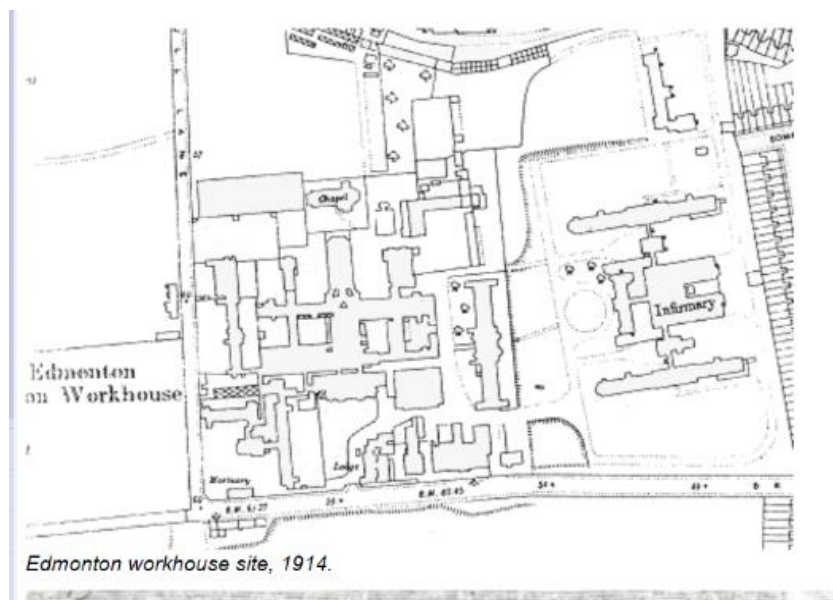
1890s

In the 1891 Census, Thomas Humphreys (47) and Emma (47) were living at 54 Coles St Edmonton. Thomas was now a Cabinet Maker and that profession would stay in the family for three generations. They lived with Henry (23 – Greengrocer's assistant), Emma (17- Dress? maker), Frederick (14), John (11). Charles would have been 21 but is not at home.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

and could accommodate 500 inmates. The old Enfield workhouse in Chase Side was used as school and an infirmary was added in 1844. Hampstead became an independent union in 1848.

By the last quarter of the 19th century conditions in the workhouse were improving slightly. Inmates were allowed small 'luxuries' such as books, newspapers and the occasional outing. The photograph below, possibly taken in the 1860s, shows the Hornsey ladies who were in the Edmonton Union Workhouse on a visit to their home parish where they were entertained to tea by the Rector of Hornsey, Canon Richard Harvey. He witnessed many Poor Law changes during his years in Hornsey 1829 – 1880. (Source: <https://hornseyhistorical.org.uk/edmonton-union-workhouse-still-housing-poor-1919/>)



Edmonton Poor Law Union was formed in February 1837. It had 7 constituent parishes spanning 3 counties: from Middlesex: Edmonton, Enfield, Hampstead, Hornsey (including Highgate) and Tottenham; from Essex: Waltham Abbey and from Hertfordshire: Cheshunt. In 1894 Southgate and Wood Green parishes were added, while Hampstead separated from the Union.

There were several workhouses already existing in these areas but most of them were too dilapidated for use. The Union constructed a new workhouse at Tanners End in Edmonton. This later became the North Middlesex Hospital. The old Enfield workhouse was converted into a school, but proved inadequate. New school buildings were constructed at Chase Farm, which later became Chase Farm Hospital. (Source: London Archives)

1900s

In 1901 Emma (57) was living at 25 Beaconsfield Road, Edmonton with Henry (32) and Edward (18) both were labourers in a floor cloth factory. She has a boarder - Richard Abbott also 18 and a labourer in a floor cloth factory. It is likely this was a friend of Edward's.

A summary of the lives of the children of Thomas and Emma

(I am very grateful to Charles Parry for much of this information and text, which I have edited)

Appearance on Early Censuses

1871: Thomas Humphreys Gates (27); Emma Gates (27); Thomas Humphreys Gates (5); Henry William Gates (3); Charles Gates (1).

1881: Thomas Humphrey Gates (37); Emma Gates (37); Thomas Humphrey Gates (17); Henry William Gates (15); Charles Gates (11); Archibald Gates (9); Emma Gates (7); Frederick George Gates (4); John Lewis Gates (5 months).

1891: Thomas Humphreys Gates (47); Emma Gates (47); Henry William Gates (23); Emma Gates (17); Frederick Gates (14); John Lewis Gates (11).

1901: Emma Gates (57), Edward Gates (18) Henry William Gates (32).

Most of the siblings lived for many decades in streets located just a few minutes' walk away from each other. Emma Jane lived at 59 Gordon Road for 40 years-or-more, from at least 1911 until her death in 1951. Emma provided a home for her disabled brother, Edward James, from 1911 (if not before) until his death in 1931. Another brother, Henry William, was living with Emma on his death in 1940. (Henry William's death certificate indicates that suffered from epilepsy, and he may not have been able to live independently). Archibald was living in 19 Westminster Road at the time of his death in 1917, and Charles was living at a different address in 79 Westminster Road that same year. Charles lived at 9 Ranworth Road from the early 1930s, (when John Lewis's daughter May Florence and son Charles Humphries also lived in the street), until his death in 1946. Frederick George was living in Montague Road on his death in 1949 (and he or his son had lived with John Lewis in Chester Road for much of the 1920s). John Lewis Gates was the last to die in 1956. Thomas and Emma went on to have 32 grandchildren; my father, Charles Edward (1921-2001) was one.

Emma Gates (8th October 1864 - 5th November 1864, aged 4 weeks)

Birth

Street				Southon	Master	Hoxton Old Town	1864	Registrar
17 1/2 Gloucester Row	Emma	Girl	Thomas Humphreys Gates	Formerly Pace	Cabinet Maker	T. H. Gates Father 12 Gloucester Row	Fifth November 1864	George Pearce Junior

(1864, Dec, Shoreditch, 01C, 148)

Death

Emma Gates was four weeks old when she died on 5th November 1864, according to her death certificate. Age '4 Weeks'. Occupation given as 'Daughter of Thomas Humphreys Gates Cabinet Maker Journeyman' 'Congestion of lungs Certified' Notified on 5 Nov 1864 by 'T.H. Gates, present at the death [of] 12 Gloucester Row Hoxton Old Town'. Congestion of the lungs is now termed "pulmonary oedema" (1864, Dec Shoreditch, 01C, 140).

Street				Journeyman	present at the death	Hoxton Old Town	1864	Registrar
17 1/2 Gloucester Row	Emma Gates	Female	Daughter of Thomas Humphreys Gates	Cabinet Maker Journeyman	Congestion of Lungs Certified	T. H. Gates Present at the death 12 Gloucester Row Hoxton Old Town	Fifth November 1864	George Pearce Junior

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Henry William Gates (26th August 1867 – 21st October 1940, aged 73)

Birth

139	Twenty-sixth August 1867 Willow Gardens	Henry William	Boy	Thomas Gates	Emma Gates formerly Page	Protestant Baker	+ the mark of Emma Gates Mother Willow Gardens Shoreditch	Twenty-sixth October 1867	M. Hanks Registrar
	Shoreditch				Mary Elton		M. Hanks		

(1867, Dec, Shoreditch, 01C, 75)

Henry William Gates never married and no children are known. His death certificate states that he suffered from epilepsy, and possibly if this was severe enough, he may not have been capable of living independently.

The available evidence indicates that Henry William Gates lived with his mother until she died in 1902. He has not been found on the 1911 census. The 1921 census locates him in Enfield Workhouse. The 1939 national register lists what appear to be workhouse inmates at Raynham Road school in Edmonton. Possibly some or all of the workhouse had been relocated (temporarily?) on the outbreak of war.

Death

Henry William Gates died in October 1940 in Enfield Workhouse. His death certificate refers to him being 'of 59 Gordon Road, Edmonton', his sister Emma Jane Gates' residence, and it was she who notified the death. Perhaps Henry William Gates had lived with Emma Jane at some point following their mother's death. Probably she stayed in contact with him during his years in the workhouse.

81	Twenty-first October 1940 19 Chase Side Crescent Enfield	Henry William Gates	Male	73 years	of 59 Gordon Road Edmonton in formerly fishmonger Assistant	1 (a) Lobar Pneumonia (b) Epilepsy Certified by E. A. Pennington M.D.	E. J. Donne Sister 59 Gordon Road Edmonton	Twenty-second October 1940	J. H. Burt Registrar
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Charles Gates (26th September 1869 – 27th January 1946; aged 76)

Birth

377	Twenty-sixth September 1869 20 Mary Street	Charles	Boy	Thomas Humphreys Gates	Emma Gates formerly Page	Protestant Baker	+ the mark of Emma Gates Mother 20 Mary Street Shoreditch	Twenty-sixth November 1869	G. Pops Registrar
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(1869, Dec, Shoreditch, 01C, 165)

Charles Gates (1869 – 1946) married Ann Maria Hudson (1850 – 1915) in August 1893: she was a widow born Aries. Ann Maria died of pneumonia in 1915.

Charles subsequently married Ellen Catherine Titchen* (1883 – 1966), married April 1917, she was a widow born Evans. They had three children:

- Amelia Rose Gates (1918, Sep, Edmonton, 3a, 818)
- Margery Vera Gates (1919, Dec, Edmonton, 3a, 1236)
- Charles Edward Gates (1921, Mar, Edmonton 3a, 1132)

They appeared on the censuses as follows:

- 1901: Charles Gates (31); Ann M. Gates (37); Bertie Hudson (14); John ?Chorley (Chalkley?) (1).
- 1911: Charles Gates (40); Ann Maria Gates (60).
- 1921: Charles Gates (49); Ellen Catherine Gates (38); Henry Edwin Martin Titchen (15); John Alfred Titchen (13); George Geoferies [sic] Titchen (9); Edith Alice Titchen (8);

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Edwin Frederick Titchen (5); Amelia Rose Gates (3); Margery Vera Gates (1); Charles Edward Gates (5 months)

- 1939: Charles Gates (born 29 September 1869); Ellen C. Gates (born 13 December 1883); Amelia R. Gates (born 2 June 1918); Margery V. Gates (born 10 November 1919; Charles E. Gates (born 9 January 1921); Edwin Titchen (born 22 August 1915).

Death

105	Twenty seventh January 1946 North Middlesex County Hospital U.D.	Charles GATES	Male	76 years	of 9 Renworth Road Edmonton U.D. Maintenance Carpenter. Gas Stove Factory (Retired)	L.A. Carcinoma of colon Certified by B. Gans M.B.	E. C. Gates Widow of deceased 9 Renworth Road Edmonton	Twenty eighth January 1946	J. N. Saxby Interim Registrar
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Charles died in 1946 of colon cancer. Ellen died in 1966 after a fall. Charles and Ellen are buried in the same grave in Edmonton Cemetery, plot 690.

Archibald Humphreys Gates (16th December 1871 – 9th January 1917; aged 44)

Birth

16 th December 1871	Archibald Humphreys Gates	Thomas Humphreys Gates	Emma Gates	Bedstead formerly Page	The mark of Emma Gates Mother 4. Britannia Gardens Shoreditch 1872	Twenty Fourth January 1872	George Pearce Registrar
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(1872, Mar, Shoreditch 01C, 129)

Archibald Gates never married and there is no record of any children. He joined the army aged around 20 and served for 20 years as a private soldier in the Somerset Light Infantry, which included postings to India and Malta. It is uncertain if he returned to England during that time. In May 1912 he was discharged from the army and granted a pension. He died in Edmonton of 'flu in 1917.

Death

381	Ninth January 1917 19 Westminster Road U.D.	Archibald Humphreys Gates	Male	44 years	Labourer Munitions factory	(1) Influenza (2) Pneumonia Certified by Norman B. Benjafield M.D.	Thomas H. Gates Brother In attendance 337 Breitenhays Road Edmonton	Ninth January 1917	W.D. Miller Registrar
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Emma Jane Gates (26th March 1874 – 2nd January 1951; aged 76)

Birth

26 th March 1874	Emma Jane Gates	Thomas Gates	Emma Gates	Bedstead formerly Page	The mark of Emma Gates Mother 4. Britannia Gardens Shoreditch	Seventh May 1874	W. H. Harker Registrar
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(1874, Jun Shoreditch, 1c, 65)

Emma Jane Gates (1874 – 1951) married Percy Owen Donne (1876 – 1937), in December 1899 They had a total of 6 children.

- Percy Charles Donne DEC 1900 Edmonton 3a 487
- Archibald Ernest Donne JUN 1902 Edmonton 3a 524
- Leslie Owen Donne DEC 1905 Edmonton 3a 589

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

- John William Donne SEP 1907 Edmonton 3a 652
- Henry Victor Donne JUN 1910 Edmonton 3a 637
- Amelia Honora Grace Donne SEP 1911 Edmonton 3a 1305

They appeared on the censuses as follows:

- 1901: Percy O Donne (25); Emma J Donne (27); Percy C Donne (5 months)
- 1911: Percy Owen Donne (35); Emma Donne (37); Percy Charles Donne (10); Archibald Ernest Donne (9); Leslie Owen Donne (5); John William Donne (3); Henry Victor Donne (1)
- 1921: Percy Owen Donne (45); Emma Jane Done (47); Percy Charles Donne (20); Archibald E Donne (19); Leslie O Donne (15); John W Donne (13); Henry Victor Donne (11); Amelia G Donne (9)
- 1939: Emma J. Donne (widow born 26 March 1874); Archibald E. Donne (born 21 February 1902); John W. Donne (born 3 July 1907); Henry V. Donne (born 2 March 1910)

Percy died in 1937

Death

335	Second January 1951 North Middlessex Hospital U.D.	Emma Jane DONNE	Female 76 years	of 59 Gordon Road Edmonton U.D. Widow of Percy Owen Donne Builder's Painter	1a. Atelectasis b. Operation c. Strangulation of hernia (femoral) Certified by Shelagh E. Aldersmith L.R.C.P.	J. W. Donne Son 8 Eastfield Road Waltham Cross	Third January 1951	K. Maylan Registrar
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Emma died in 1951 and is buried at Edmonton Cemetery, Grave No 569, Section Z

Frederick George Gates (12th July 1876 – 13th February 1949; aged 72)

Birth

350	July 1876 700 Granville Buildings Shoreditch	Frederick George Gates	Thomas Humphrey Gates	Emma Gates formerly Page	Redhead Maker 100 Shoreditch	Also marked Emma Gate Mother 100 Shoreditch	Twenty Fifth August 1876	W. H. Hines Registrar
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(1876, Sep, Shoreditch, 01C, 68)

Frederick George Gates (1876 – 1949) married Alice Mary Ann Church (1879 – 1962), in July 1898

They had 6 children

- Frederick George Archibald Gates MAR 1899 Edmonton 3a 508
- Robert Thomas Gates SEP 1902 Edmonton 3a 585
- Charles Edward Gates JUN 1905 Edmonton 3a 601
- John Gates DEC 1913 Edmonton 3a 1158
- Violet Alice Gates SEP 1920 Edmonton 3a 1218
- Alice Kathleen Gates DEC 1924 Edmonton 3a 890

They appeared on the censuses as follows:

- 1901: Frederick Gates (24); Alice Gates (21); Frederick Gates (2)
- 1911: Frederick Gates (34); Alice Gates (31); Frederick Gates (12); Robert Gates (9); Charles Gates (6)
- 1921: F. G. Gates (44); A. M. A. Gates (41); F. G. A. Gates (22); R. T. Gates (19); C. E. Gates (16); J. Gates (7); V. A. Gates (1)
- 1939: Fredk. G. Gates (born 8 July 1876); Alice M. Gates (born 25 Oct 1879); Violet A. Gates (born 3 June 1920); Alice K. Gates (born 5 September 1924)

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Death

470	Tenth September 1956 36 Chester Road Edmonton	John Lewis GATES	Male	75 years	Retired Foreman (Middlesex Main Drainage)	1a Coronary thrombosis b. Arteriosclerosis Certified by G.B. Duncan MB	E. Gates Widow of deceased 36 Chester Road N.9.	Eleventh September 1956	D.T. Nutter Deputy Registrar
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John Lewis died in 1956 of a heart attack when living in 36 Chester Road, Edmonton.

Edward James Gates (17th January 1883 – 1931; aged 47)

Birth

5	Seventeenth January 1883 53 Coles Avenue Edmonton, U.S.A.	Edward James Gates	Boy	Thomas Humphrey Gates	Emma Gates formerly Gates	Red Stead Maker	52. Coles Avenue Edmonton	Twenty eighth January 1883	John Harman Registrar
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(1883, Mar, Edmonton 03A, 351)

Edward James Gates never married and had no children. Census returns indicate that he was in some way crippled, but how exactly has not been established. It seems that he never lived independently. After his mother's death in 1902 Edward James Gates is recorded on the 1911 and 1921 censuses living at 59 Gordon Road, Edmonton, the residence of his elder sister.

Death

10	Nineteenth July 1931 North Middlesex Hospital U.S.A.	Edward James Gates	Male	47 years	59 Gordon Road Edmonton U.S.A. Stick trimmer motor car hood making	1. a. Chr. Myocarditis b. Chr. Bronchitis No P.M. Certified by H.K. Houston M.B.	E. Donne Sister 59 Gordon Road Edmonton	Twentieth July 1931	H.T. Miller Registrar
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(1931, Sep, Edmonton, 03A, 528)

Section 5 – Grandfather

Charles Gates

Key Events During the Life of Charles and Ellen 1870–1970

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_British_history)

1870	17 February	The Elementary Education Act (1870) is passed, introducing universal education in England and Wales.
1874	20 February	Benjamin Disraeli becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
1880	23 April	William Ewart Gladstone becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
	26 August	Elementary Education Act (1880), making primary schooling compulsory in England and Wales between the ages of 5 and 10
1885	23 June	Robert Gascoyne-Ceci 3rd Marquess of Salisbury is Prime Minister.
	25 June	The Reform Act 1885 is passed.
1886	1 February	William Ewart Gladstone becomes Prime Minister for the third time.
	21 June	Construction begins on Tower Bridge in London. Completed 1894
	25 July	Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
1887	November	The fictional detective Sherlock Holmes first appears in print.
1892	15 August	William Ewart Gladstone becomes Prime Minister for the fourth time.
1893		Elementary Education (1893) (School Attendance) Act Raises age of compulsory attendance to 11
1894	5 March	Archibald Primrose, 5th Earl of Rosebery becomes Prime Minister.
1895	25 June	Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury becomes Prime Minister for the third time.
1896	4 May	The Daily Mail is first published.
1899	11 October	Start of the Boar War
		Education Act (1899) Raises age of compulsory attendance to 12
1900	27 February	The Labour Party is founded.
1901	22 January	Queen Victoria dies and Edward VII ascends the throne.
1902	12 July	Arthur Balfour becomes Prime Minister.
	9 August	Coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra.
	31 May	Treaty of Vereeniging ends the Second Boer War.
1903	September	The Lib-Lab pact enables Labour to break into national politics.
1905	5 December	Henry Campbell-Bannerman becomes Prime Minister.
1908	5 April	H. H. Asquith becomes Prime Minister.
	27 April	The Summer Olympics open at White City in London.
	27 October	Parliament approves old age pensions.
1910	6 May	King Edward VII dies and George V ascends the throne.
1911	22 June	Coronation of King George V and Queen Mary.
1912	13 April	Royal Flying Corps established.
	14 - 15 April	The RMS Titanic sinks after hitting an iceberg.
1914	4 August	World War I: Great Britain declares war on Germany in response to the invasion of Belgium.
1914	5 November	Britain declares war on the Ottoman Empire.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

1916	6 December	David Lloyd George becomes Prime Minister.
1918	6 February	Women get the vote for the first time - women over the age of 30 who met a property qualification could vote as a result of the Representation of the People Act 1918.
		Education Act (1918) Raises school leaving age to 14, and abolishes elementary school fees
	1 April	Royal Air Force founded, the first independent air force in the world.
	11 November	World War I ends.
1919	1 December	Nancy Astor becomes the first woman to take her seat in parliament.
1921		The Great Britain road numbering scheme.
1922	18 October	The BBC is founded as the British Broadcasting Company.
	23 October	Bonar Law becomes Prime Minister.
1923	22 May	Stanley Baldwin becomes Prime Minister.
1924	22 January	Ramsay MacDonald becomes Prime Minister.
	4 November	Stanley Baldwin becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
1926	4 - 12 May	The 1926 United Kingdom general strike takes place.
1928	2 July	Women get the right to vote on the same terms as men (over the age of 21) as a result of the Representation of the People Act 1928.
	September	The first film with dialogue is shown in Britain, The Jazz Singer.
	30 September	Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin.
1929	5 June	Ramsay MacDonald becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
1934	30 November	The LNER Class A3 4472 Flying Scotsman built in Doncaster becomes the first steam locomotive to reach 100 mph (160 km/h).
1935	7 June	Stanley Baldwin becomes Prime Minister for the third time.
1936	20 January	King George V dies and Edward VIII ascends the throne.
	5 - 31 October	The Jarrow March protest occurs.
	10 December	King Edward VIII abdicates over his proposal to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson. Automatic accession of George VI.
1937	12 May	Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.
	28 May	Neville Chamberlain becomes Prime Minister.
	30 June	First available in the London area, the 999-telephone number is introduced as the world's first emergency telephone service.
1939	3 September	British entry into World War II.
1940	10 May	Sir Winston Churchill becomes Prime Minister.
1944		Education Act (1944) raises school leaving age to 15 (with future provision for it to be raised to 16), and provides free secondary education for all pupils
1945	8 May	World War II ends in Europe.
	26 July	Clement Attlee becomes Prime Minister.
	24 October	Britain becomes a founding member of the United Nations.
1947	15 August	India gains independence from Britain.
1948	1 January	British Rail is established.
	5 July	The National Health Service is founded.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

	29 July-14 Aug	London hosts the 1948 Summer Olympics.
	14 November	Birth of Charles, Prince of Wales.
1950	15 August	Birth of Anne, Princess Royal.
	29 August	British troops arrive to support US forces in the Korean War.
1951	26 October	Sir Winston Churchill becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
1952		Autocode, regarded as the first compiled programming language, is developed by Alick Glennie.
	6 February	Death of King George VI. Automatic accession of Queen Elizabeth II.
1953	25 April	James Watson and Francis Crick publish the discovery of the structure of DNA.
	2 June	Coronation of Elizabeth II.
1954	6 May	Roger Bannister breaks the four-minute mile with a time of 3:59.4.
1955	6 April	Anthony Eden becomes Prime Minister.
	22 September	Commercial television starts with the first ITV broadcast.
1956	17 October	Britain opens its first nuclear power station, Calder Hall.
1957	10 January	Harold Macmillan becomes Prime Minister.
1958	5 December	The British motorway system opens with the M6 Preston bypass.
1960	19 February	Birth of Prince Andrew, Duke of York.
1961	1 July	Birth of Diana, Princess of Wales.
1963	27 March	The first report of the Beeching cuts - a railway restructuring plan - was published, The Reshaping of British Railways.
	19 October	Alec Douglas-Home becomes Prime Minister but lasts only 363 days.
1964	10 March	Birth of Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex.
	16 October	Harold Wilson becomes Prime Minister.
1965	24 January	Death of Sir Winston Churchill.
	8 November	The death penalty is abolished officially.
1967	27 July	Sexual Offences Act 1967 legalises homosexuality for men over 21.
	27 October	The Abortion Act 1967, legalising abortion on certain grounds.
1969	2 March	Concorde, the first supersonic airliner, makes its maiden flight.
1970	19 June	Edward Heath becomes Prime Minister.

Chapter 11 - Charles Gates (1869-1946)



That photograph is one of the few I have ever seen of my paternal grandfather, Charles Gates, but I do share his name. I never met him, and knew little about him. I only ever knew Ellen Catherine as my older grandmother aged 69-83. Growing up, their lives were an unwritten book to me. I knew Charles had died before I was born, but had no idea why. I just never asked. I knew nothing else about him. I knew Ellen must have had a first husband since my three eldest uncles had the surname "Titchen". So, Charles must have been her second husband. I never knew what happened. I just never asked even though my first 7 years I lived with my parents, in her house. I knew Ellen died in 1966 after a fall down the stairs. That was all I knew. So much I just never asked. So much was never said.

There were many surprises in researching their lives. None of my generation of the family knew Charles was had been previously married to a widow for over 20 years, inheriting several stepchildren before his wife died of pneumonia, nor that his youngest step-son, Bertie Hudson, had emigrated to Canada and there raised a family. None of us knew that as a young boy, Charles had been taken to a workhouse for a week by the police, and we still do not know why. None of us knew Ellen and her first husband, Henry Edwin Titchen, cohabited for several years, having three children, before eventually getting married in 1912. - only for Ellen to be widowed three years later as a result of Henry Titchen being killed in Ypres in WWI. None of us knew Henry was himself a widower. We previously knew nothing of the strange connections between Charles Gates, Ellen Evans and Henry Titchen, and how they came to be connected through a fatal brawl in a Shoreditch pub, on 6th October 1890.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Ellen and Charles were both born in London when it was in Middlesex, when Queen Victoria was on the throne, and Benjamin Disraeli was Prime Minister. Ellen witnessed the death of four monarchs, Charles witnessed three. Together they lived through the Boar War, two World Wars, the sinking of the Titanic, the independence of India and the birth of the NHS and much, much more. After Charles' death, Ellen went on to witness the first Labour Government, commercial television, legalisation of homosexuality, the invention of the computer, Concorde, decimalisation, the UK's entry into the Common Market – and more. One current mystery is where Charles was between 1882 aged 12, and 1892 aged 22. Most likely he was learning his trade – a carpenter – but we do not know where.

Both came from large families; Charles was the fourth of 9, Ellen the seventh of 10. Both had siblings who died in infancy and Ellen lost two children in adolescence. Ellen had six children with Henry Edwin Titchen (two of whom died young) and three with Charles Gates – his only children.

But in many respects, Charles and Ellen have come alive in these pages. Not just as my grandparents, but as children, lovers, parents, who endured so much which I can only imagine. Both lost a spouse. Were it not for them coincidentally moving into the same street after each losing their first spouse, sometime around 1917, meeting, and falling in love, I would not be here now. For that I owe them much.

Both Charles and Ellen moved house many times before they married in 1917 and then settled, eventually purchasing a house on a mortgage. Charles moved at least 12 times and Ellen around 10. Each living in small houses in working class streets most of which have now been demolished and the street redeveloped. Ellen spent much of her first marriage in various locations in Bethnal Green. Charles started in Shoreditch, Hoxton, Mile End before his family moved to Edmonton sometime in 1882. Once married, they stayed put for 30 years in 15 York Road, then 9 Ranworth Road where Charles died of prostate cancer in 1946, and where I lived after I was born in July 1952. This was probably their only house purchase. Ellen, Henry and Charles each faced considerable sadness in their relationships, each experiencing the death of a spouse; Ellen went on to lose two husbands. Between them, Ellen, Henry and Charles had 9 children, two of whom died young, and several grandchildren and great grandchildren. Of that they can rightfully feel very proud. I too feel very proud of them.

So, this is my attempt to tell the story of the lives and times of my paternal grandparents – Charles Gates and Ellen Evans. It has been a roller-coaster of discoveries and surprises since, as with many families, little was said of previous histories when they were alive. We tended to just get on with our lives. This is a story of struggles; of loves found and lost; of children loved and children lost.

In 2024 I made a visit to Shoreditch, where the Gates side of my family lived for generations. I wanted to seek out some of the places and connections in this chapter, and much slotted into place. Most of all I got a sense of history, and of coming home. One thing that struck me very much that week was just how small the area was in which they lived for most of their lives. In fact, it could be covered virtually by a double page spread in the London A-Z. The same can be said of the Robinson side of my family in Edmonton (See Part 2).

The London working classes were remarkably mobile over short distances (often moving from house to house within a neighbourhood every two or so years), they were much less mobile over greater distances. Historians have not paid sufficient attention to the sense of local community in London and its effect on working class mobility. (Wohl, 1971, p44, footnote 13)

During those times, there was considerable overcrowding and insanitary conditions given the unsuitability of the sewage system and poor sanitary standards. Before the 1891 census, the four most overcrowded working-class districts of London were exactly those the Gates family lived in: Shoreditch, Bethnal Green, Stepney and Southwark – all of which experienced a decline in overcrowding between 1891 and 1911 as people moved away. However, in 1911, 30% of the population of Stepney, Bethnal Green, Shoreditch and Southwark were living in one or two room tenements.

During the period covered here, the building of the railways also caused considerable disruption across London, and many houses were demolished as new lines were built across the city. The

other side of that transport infrastructure coin was that it enabled working class employees to move out of the central metropolis to the new suburbs and travel in (Wohl, 1971).

The infinitely cheaper land outside the built-up areas of the metropolis presented an opportunity to develop working classes estates if only cheap transport facilities could be provided. (Wohl, 1971, p. 29)

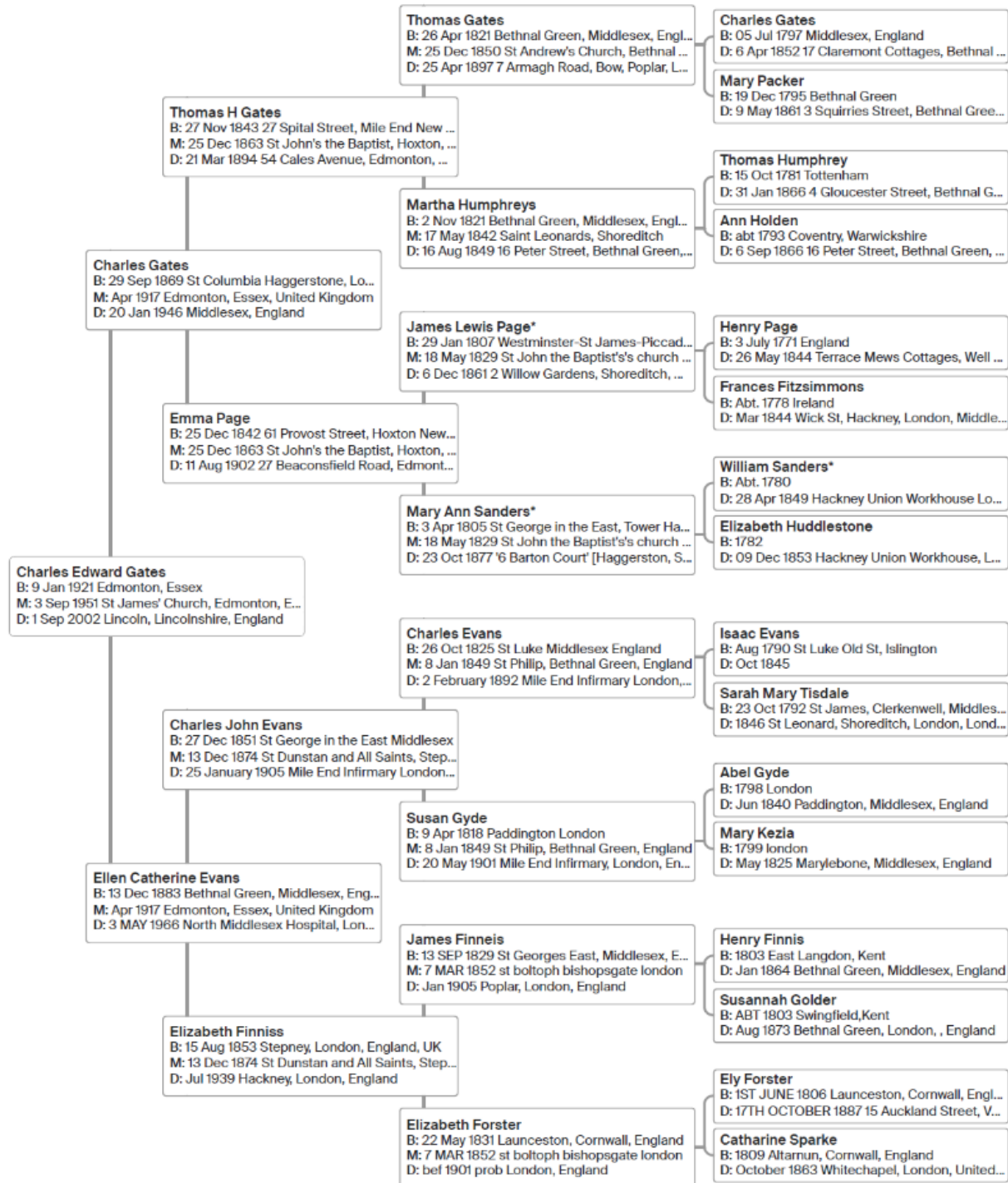
We see this in the move of the Gates family from Shoreditch to Edmonton around 1880. But in addition, we see with the other side of my family, the Robinson and Philpott families, the migration of working-class families from small villages in Kent and Essex, into the city looking for work in the fast-developing suburbs of London. It would appear that the precarious start to life my grandparents had, this had settled down by around 1920.

There are many coincidences between the families here as they all slowly gravitated to N9 and N18. One serendipitous outcome of that migration, is me. One further aspect of that is the discovery over marriages. We never knew that Charles was previously married to a widow, whose daughter married into the Titchen family. This connection was only uncovered in May 2024. It changes the presumption that Charles and Ellen met by chance though living in the same street in Edmonton. It suggests they had known each other for some time, and may have deliberately moved into the same street after they were both bereaved in 1915. They could both be described as "a bit of a dark horse"!

The history of the time is made up of the history of the people, and the stories unfolded in this chapter makes clear the lives of working-class Londoners in the 19th century.

There are many who owe their lives to these two people, many of whom will know little about them. I hope this goes some way to fill the gap.

4 Generation Family Tree of Charles and Ellen



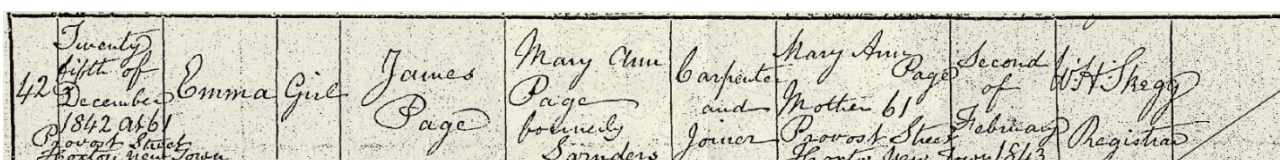
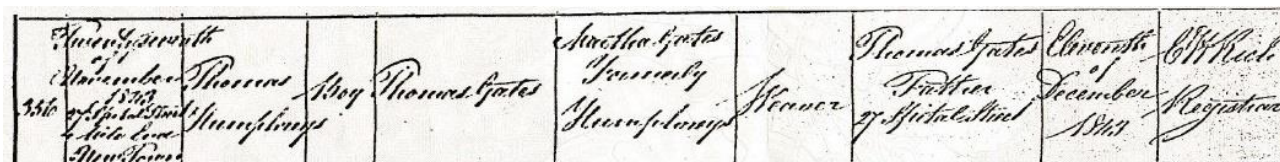
Charles Gates (1869-1946)

Early Life

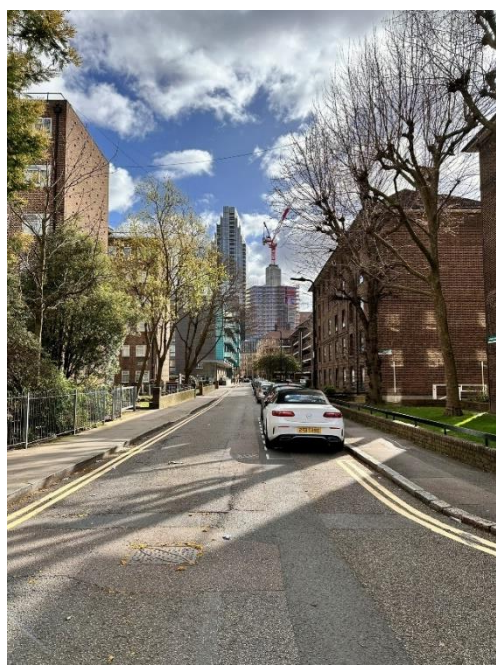
Thomas Humphreys Gates (1843-1894) was born on 27th November 1843 to at 27 Spital Street, Mile End New Town to Thomas Gates (1821-1897) and Martha Humphreys (1821-1849).

Spital Street still exists, (see K4-5 of the Shoreditch map below) running parallel to Brick Lane between Buxton Street and Hanbury Street. (E1 5EU). It has been considerably redeveloped.

Emma Page (1842-1902) was born on 25th December 1842 at 61 Provost Street, Hoxton New Town, Shoreditch to James Lewis Page (1807-1861) and Mary Ann Sanders (1809-1877).



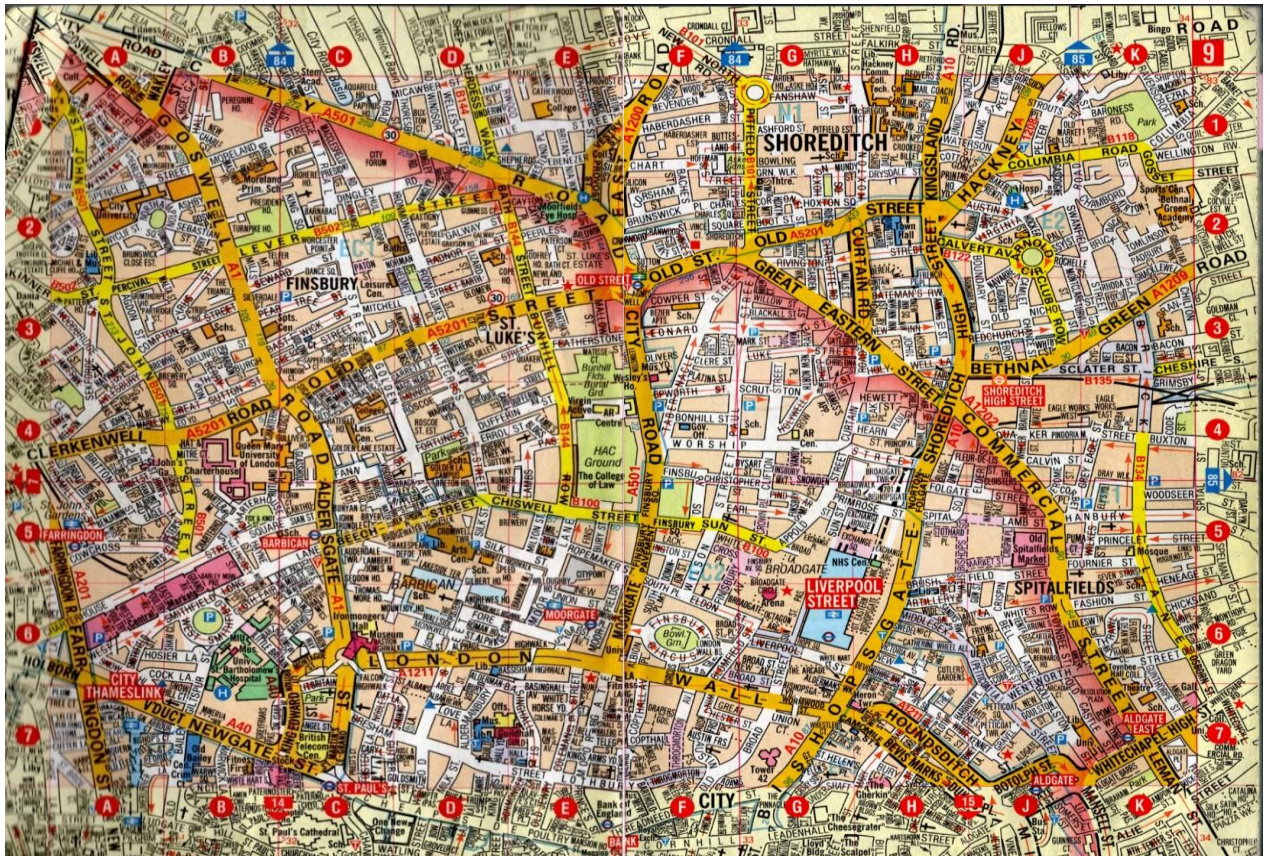
Emma Page* (1842 – 1902), was born in Provost Street, Hoxton New Town, in Shoreditch (now N1 7FD) and grew up there. Provost Street still exists just close to Old Street Station – see E1 on street map of Shoreditch. Being so close to the city of London the area has been extensively developed.



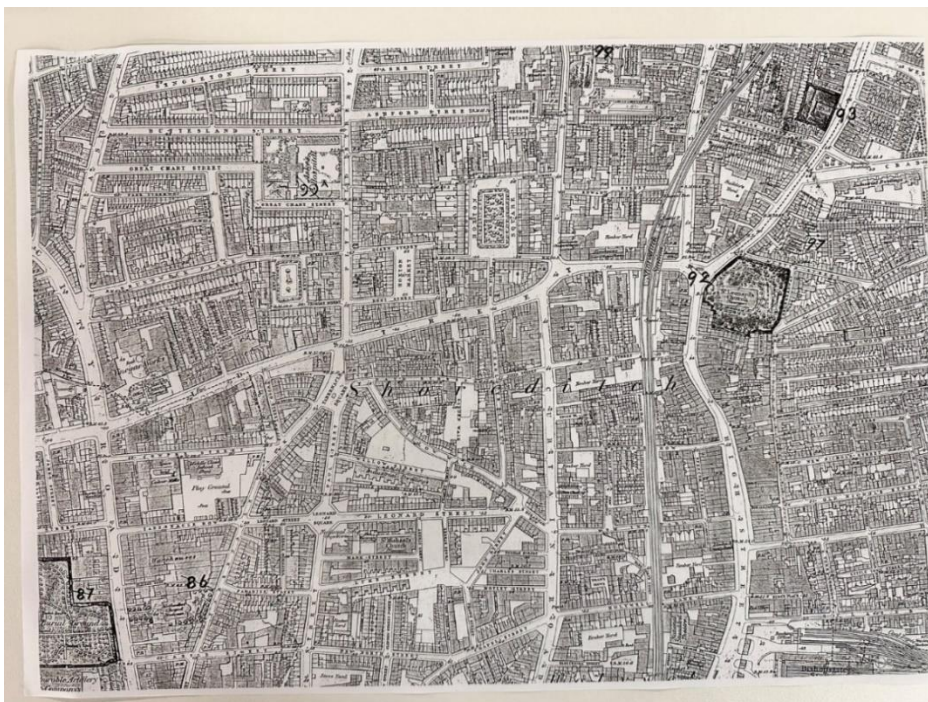
Emma's parents were James Lewis Page (1807 – 1861), a carpenter and joiner born in the Piccadilly area of London, and Mary Ann Sanders (c. 1805 – 1877), born in Hackney. They were living in Hackney when they married in 1829, moving to Shoreditch no later than 1835, where they spent the rest of their lives. Not always happily, it would seem, since in 1856 when Emma was thirteen years old the family's eligibility to receive relief from Shoreditch parish was assessed. What prompted the assessment has not been established.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

This contemporary map of Shoreditch shows a number of streets referred to in this chapter.



Street Map of Shoreditch (as of 2015)



A map of Shoreditch of around 1860 from the London Metropolitan Archives

Here we can see, Willow Walk (now developed as Great Eastern Street), New Inn Yard (which goes back before 1760), Luke Street and New North Street which became Scruton Street.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Thomas Humphreys' parents, Martha and Thomas had four children before Martha died aged 27 in August 1849, along with her youngest child, Samuel, who was only two months old, in the cholera epidemic that swept through London that year. In December 1850 the widowed Thomas Gates married Martha's younger sister Ann Humphreys (1823 – 1904), even though at the time it was not then legal to marry the sister of a dead spouse. Thomas Gates died in 1897; his second wife Ann died in 1904. (More can be read about Thomas, Martha and Ann in the chapter "The Lives of Thomas Humphrey, Martha Humphrey and Ann Humphrey").

Thomas Humphreys Gates (20) and Emma Page (21) married on 25th December 1863 in St John's Church, Hoxton, Shoreditch, Middlesex. They both gave their address as Willow Gardens which at number 2 was Emma's parents' house.

Willow Gardens no longer exists having been redeveloped as Great Eastern Street (See G3-H4), though at the north end, Willow Street and Willow Court still exist, just a short distance from Old Street underground station which opened on 17th November 1901. The area around the station was originally a mix of light industry, commerce and warehouses.

The given name 'Humphreys' (or 'Humphries') is unusual, but it connects to the family of Martha Humphreys (1821 – 49). Her father was Thomas Humphreys (1789 – 1866). In 1842 Martha Humphreys married Thomas Gates (1821 – 1897) and they named their first child (Charles' father) Thomas Humphreys Gates, who in turn was to give his own eldest son the same name.

was solemnized between us, *Jessie Ann Threlkeld*

1863. Marriage solemnized at the District Parish Church in the District Parish of St. John the Baptist, Hoxton in the County of Middlesex.

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
	25	Thomas Humphreys Gates	minor	Bachelor	Bedstead Maker	Willow Gardens	Thomas Gates	Bedstead Maker
32	December 1863	Emma Page	minor	Spinster	—	Willow Gardens	James Page (deceased)	Carpenter

Married in the District Parish Church, according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by *George Barnes, M.A. Curate*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *Thomas Humphreys Gates* in the presence of us, *Thomas James Bryant*
Emma Page *her maid* *Elizabeth Rotherford*

Birth and family background

Altogether Thomas Humphreys Gates and Emma Page went on to have 9 children between 1864 and 1883, Charles Gates was the 4th:

- Emma Gates (1864-1864) (DEC 1864 Shoreditch 1c 148)
- Thomas Humphreys Gates (1866-1945) (MAR 1866 Shoreditch 1c 158)
- Henry William Gates (1867-1940) DEC 1867 Shoreditch 1c 78)
- Charles Gates (1869-1946) DEC 1869 Shoreditch 1c 165)
- Archibald Humphreys Gates (1871-9 January 1917) (MAR 1872 Shoreditch 1c 129)
- Emma Jane Gates (26 March 1874 Shoreditch 1874-1951) (JUN 1874 Shoreditch 1c 65)
- Frederick George Gates 8 Jul 1876 Shoreditch-1949 (SEP 1876 Shoreditch 1c 68)
- John Lewis Gates (22 Sep 1880 - 10 Sep 1956) (DEC 1880 Mile End Old Town 1c 523)
- Edward James Gates (1883-1931) (MAR 1883 Edmonton 3a 351)

Their first child was Emma Humphreys born 8th December 1864 at 2 Gloucester Row, Hoxton Old Town.

<i>Place</i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Parents</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Registrar</i>
<i>Gloucester Row</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Emma Humphreys Gates</i>	<i>Girl</i>	<i>Thomas Humphreys Gates</i>	<i>2 Gloucester Row</i>	<i>1864</i>	<i>George Pearce Junior</i>

Those Who Went Before Me - 1a The Gates Line

Emma Gates was four weeks old when she died on 5 Nov 1864, according to her death certificate. (1864, Dec, Shoreditch, 01C, 140) Age '4 Weeks'. Both birth and death were registered on the same day, 5th November 1864, by the same Registrar. Her "occupation" was given as 'Daughter of Thomas Humphreys Gates Cabinet Maker Journeyman' 'Congestion of lungs Certified' Notified on 5th November 1864 by 'T.H. Gates, present at the death [of] 12 Gloucester Row, Hoxton Old Town' which may have been a transcription error unless they moved along the street between 8th October and 5th November, with a newborn baby.

Street			Journeyman	Journeyman	Hoxton Old Town		
5th November 1864	Emma Gates	Female	Daughter of Thomas Humphreys Gates Cabinet Maker Journeyman	Congestion of Lungs Certified	Present at the death T.H. Gates 12 Gloucester Row Hoxton Old Town	5th November 1864	George Pearce Junior Registrar

Thomas and Emma had their second child, whom they also called Thomas Humphreys, at 20 Mary Street, Hoxton in 1866.

Street			Journeyman	Journeyman	Hoxton Old Town		
5th November 1865	Thomas Humphreys	Boy	Thomas Humphreys Gates	Bedstead Maker	The mark of Emma Gates Mother 20 Mary Street Hoxton	5th November 1865	G. Ross Registrar

Their third child, Henry William was born 26th August 1867 in 2 Willow Gardens, Shoreditch which again was Emma's parents' house.

Street			Journeyman	Journeyman	Hoxton Old Town		
26th August 1867	Henry William	Boy	Thomas Gates	Bedstead Maker	The mark of Emma Gates Mother 2 Willow Gardens Shoreditch	26th August 1867	M. C. Hanks Registrar

Thomas Humphrey (3) and Henry William (22 months) were both baptised on the same day, 1st June 1869 in the church of St Columbia, Kingsland Road, Haggerstone adjacent to Shoreditch Workhouse, which still exists.

1868

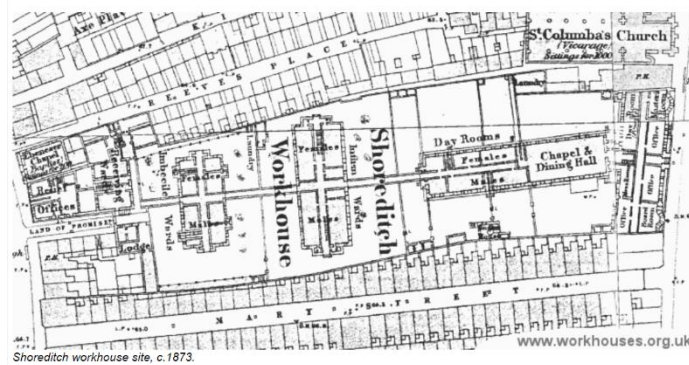
In 1868 Gladstone won the general election.

Thomas Humphreys Gates (26) and Emma (27) had been married for nearly six years when Charles Gates was born. He was the fourth of 9 children, born on 29th September 1869 at 20 Mary Street, Hoxton, Shoreditch then nominally within the county of Middlesex but in fact part of the densely built-up urban area of east London, also referred to variously as Shoreditch, in the subdistrict of Haggerstone West, also known as Bethnal Green, Mile End.

Street			Journeyman	Journeyman	Hoxton Old Town		
29th September 1869	Charles	Boy	Thomas Humphreys Gates	Bedstead Maker	The mark of Emma Gates Mother 20 Mary Street Hoxton	29th September 1869	G. Ross Registrar

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Charles' birth certificate states that his father was Thomas Humphreys Gates, a "bedstead maker", though by Charles' baptism in October this changed to "cabinet maker", a profession that would last in his family for several generations. Shoreditch was the centre of the London furniture trade for many years. Mary Street can be seen here immediately south of Shoreditch Workhouse.



(Source: <https://www.workhouses.org.uk/Shoreditch/>)

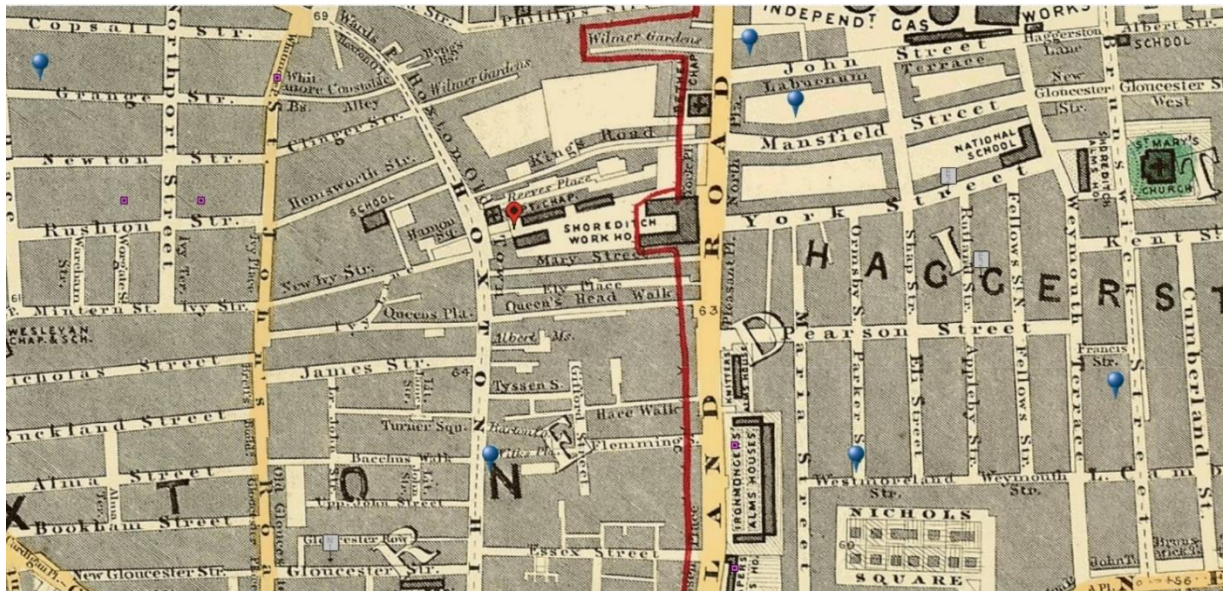


20 Mary Street, Hoxton, Shoreditch

Mary Street lay immediately south of Shoreditch Workhouse, running between Hoxton Street and Kingsland Road. By the 1890s it had been renamed Lynedoch Street. The street no longer exists, having been swallowed by St Leonard's hospital, (the former Shoreditch workhouse) which was extended southwards. The street was apparently demolished in the late 1930s. A photograph taken towards the end of its existence shows a street of neat two-storey houses paved with large stone slabs. Charles no doubt would have plays on those pavements as a young boy.

On both sides of his family Charles' background was firmly rooted in London's East End. His father, Thomas Humphreys Gates (1843 – 1894), was born in Mile End New Town, Whitechapel, but grew up in Bethnal Green. Charles' paternal grandparents were Thomas Gates (1821 – 1897) and Martha Humphreys (1821 – 1849), both of whom were from Bethnal Green.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line



(Source: <https://www.theundergroundmap.com/>)

Lynedoch Street is mentioned in Charles Booth's 'Poverty Survey of London', completed between 1886 and 1903:

'...better looked after than Ely Place, paving good, entered at either end through handsome iron gates. Known in the neighbourhood as the street with the beautiful gates. Property of an old maiden lady who takes an interest in it. Houses always well let, 3 rooms 7/6, two-storied house, inhabited by small home workers, tailors and boot finishers....'.

The new workhouse was built on land known as the 'Land of Promise', which had been given to the Trustees of the Parish Poor. The three-storey building, fronting onto Kingsland Road, opened in 1777. It included an infirmary and apothecary. In 1784, a burial ground for deceased inmates was consecrated at the southwest corner of the site. (<http://health.hackneysociety.org/> - Shoreditch Workhouse)

(NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE THAN THAT SPECIFIED BELOW.)
CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY of BIRTH.
 (Issued for the purposes of the National Health Insurance Acts, 1911 to 1920,
 or of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.)

Registration District of Shoreditch
 Sub-District of Haggerstone West in the County of Middlesex

No.	When and where born.	Name (if any)	Sex	Name and Christian Name of Father.	Name and Christian Name of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Registrar.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Registration Office.
371	London Middle September 1869 20 May Street	Charles	Boy	Thomas Humphrey Bates	Emma Bates formerly Page	Resident Maker	* The Mark of Emma Bates Mother 20 May Street Haggerstone	North November 1869	S. Hess Registrar	

I hereby certify that the above is a true Copy of an Entry of Birth in a Register Book in my custody.
 Witness my hand this 23rd day of September 192 h.c.

Asscher
 Deputy Superintendent Registrar.
 [NOTE.—The word "Superintendent" is to strike out when the Certificate is given by the Registrar.]

Charles' mother Emma Gates (formerly Page) registered the birth on 9th November 1869. Emma seems to have been illiterate as she signed the certificate with a mark.

Charles was baptised on 22nd October 1869 at St Columba, Haggerstone, Kingsland Road, which still exists next door to Shoreditch Hospital. It is now The Christ Apostolic Church (Bethel) and is now Grade II listed.

Charles' forename appears to come from his paternal great grandfather, Charles Gates (1796-1852). He named his only son Charles Edward, who in turn named his only son Peter Leonard Charles, who named his second daughter Megan Charlotte.



St Leonard's Hospital taken Shoreditch 2024

Those Who Went Before Me - 1a The Gates Line

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BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of *St. Leonard, Haggerstone*
in the County of *Middlesex* in the Year 186*6*

When Baptized	Child's Christian Name	Parent's Name		Aged	Quality, Trade, or Profession	By whom the Ceremony was performed
		Christian	Surname			
1862	Charles	Thomas	Gates	20	Bedstead maker	St. Leonard's
22 nd	Emma	Thomas	Gates	15	Bedstead maker	St. Leonard's
No. 221	Henry	William	Gates	5	Bedstead maker	St. Leonard's
No. 222	William	Henry	Gates	3	Bedstead maker	St. Leonard's
No. 223	Charles	Henry	Gates	1	Bedstead maker	St. Leonard's

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BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of *St. Leonard, Haggerstone*
in the County of *Middlesex* in the Year 186*9*

When Baptized	Child's Christian Name	Parent's Name		Aged	Quality, Trade, or Profession	By whom the Ceremony was performed
		Christian	Surname			
1869	Henry	Thomas	Gates	5	Bedstead maker	St. Leonard's
22 nd	Emma	Thomas	Gates	15	Bedstead maker	St. Leonard's
No. 221	Henry	William	Gates	5	Bedstead maker	St. Leonard's
No. 222	William	Henry	Gates	3	Bedstead maker	St. Leonard's
No. 223	Charles	Henry	Gates	1	Bedstead maker	St. Leonard's

1871 Census

At the time of the 1871 census (2nd April), the family were still living at 20 Mary Street, St Leonard Shoreditch, Haggerstone West and consisted of Thomas Humphreys Gates (27), Emma Gates (Page) (27) (Bedstead makers) with children: Thomas Henry Gates (5), Henry William Gates (3) and Charles Gates (1). All were born in Shoreditch.

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the
Parish of *St. Leonard, Haggerstone*

No. of House	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON. STATE	AGE	Sex	Birth, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
118	Thomas Humphreys Gates	Head	M	27	M	Bedstead maker	Shoreditch
	Emma Gates	Wife	F	27	F	Bedstead maker	Shoreditch
	Thomas Henry Gates	Son	M	5	M	Bedstead maker	Shoreditch
	Henry William Gates	Son	M	3	M	Bedstead maker	Shoreditch
	Charles Gates	Son	M	1	M	Bedstead maker	Shoreditch

Total of Houses... 3 Total of Males and Females... 19

Their fifth child, Archibald Humphreys Gates was born on 16th December 1871 at 4 Britannia Gardens, Hoxton Old Town and baptised on 29th December 1871 at Saint John the Baptist, Shoreditch.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

241	December 1871 Britannia Gardens Suffolk	Archibald Humphreys	Thomas Humphreys Gates	Emma Redstead Gates formerly Page	Bedstead Maker	4 The mark of Emma Gates Mother Britannia Gardens New Old Town	20th January 1872	Twenty George Pearce Registrar
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Rentals	Names of Proprietors	Names of Occupiers	Names or Description of Estates or Property	Sums Assessed and Exonerated	Sums Assessed and not Exonerated
	Britannia Gardens				
16	J J Canrow	for tenants	5		4
34	"	"	12.3.241		8 6
	Pounds Buildings				
100	J Keble	"	1 to 12		1 5
	Hoxton Street				
48		John Hall	111		12
39		Wm Aubill	109		9 9
48		Hy Holdew	107		12
38		Hy Simms	105		9 6
60		R Thompson	103		15

According to the Land Tax Records of 1873, this property (and most of the street) was rented from a J. J. Canrow

(Source: London, England, Land Tax Records, 1692-1932, London Metropolitan Archives)

This is one piece of evidence to have been uncovered that like the majority of working-class residents, the family lived in rented accommodation. J.J. Canrow seems to have owned most of Britannia Gardens.

By 26th March 1874, the family had moved again to 7 Saint James Place, Shoreditch, where Emma Jane Gates was born on 26th March 1874.

Age	Sex	Name	Parents	Residence of Informant	When registered	Name of Registrar	added after Registration of Birth
446	Female	Emma Jane	Thomas Humphreys Gates	Emma Redstead Gates formerly Page	4 The mark of Emma Gates Mother 7 Saint James Place Shoreditch	Seventh May 1874	M B Hinkes Registrar
7	Female	Marietta	P. Hinkes	Marietta			

By now Charles would have been 5 years old, and covered by the 1870 Education Act. Over the next 6 years however the family would live in 4 different locations which might have affected how and where Charles attended school.

By 12th July 1876 the family had moved again to 100 Granville Buildings, Luke Street Shoreditch when Frederick George was born.

350	July 1876 100 Granville Buildings Shoreditch	Frederick George	Thomas Humphreys Gates	Emma Redstead Gates formerly Page	4 The mark of Emma Gates Mother 100 Granville Buildings Shoreditch	Twelfth August 1876	M B Hinkes Registrar
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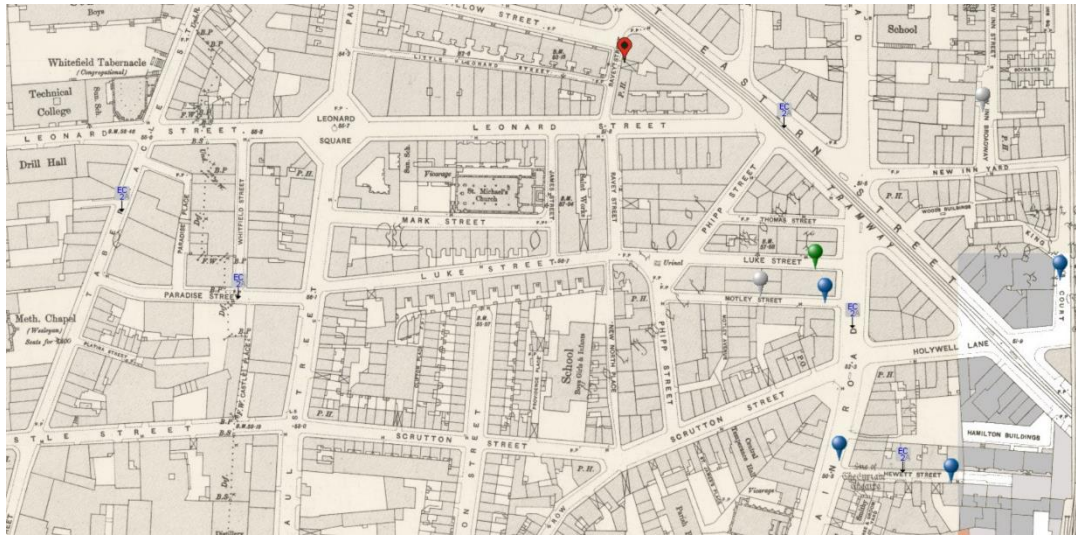
It appears Charles and Henry at some time attended Scruton Street School, in Shoreditch according to their entry to Essex Street School in 1880. (LMA Reference LCC/EO/PS/6/28). Scruton Street runs parallel to Luke Street, Shoreditch – both still exist and are both just off Curtain Road. (See G3 on the map of Shoreditch). These can be seen below on the 1860 and 1900 maps of the area (from The Underground Map website). New North Street/Chapel Street was renamed Scruton Street.

In 1879 the family still lived in Granville Buildings, Luke Street, Shoreditch, which was just off Curtain Road where the furniture trade was most concentrated, possibly providing employment for Thomas Humphrey. Granville Buildings was a block of flats. It can be suspected that their accommodation was not suitable for a family of eight. It was however close to Willow Gardens, where Emma's parents lived.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line



Luke Street circa 1860



Luke Street circa 1900



This extract of and 1860 map on London schools shows Luke Street and Scrutton /Street School.

Since then, Luke Street has been extended across to include Charles Street. Similarly with New North Street with Chapel Street, subsequently renamed Scruton Street.



Luke Street 2024



Scruton Street 2024

Granville Buildings in Luke Street (above left) has now been demolished and contains office space. The school on Scruton Street (above right) has now gone but was on this site (right).

Between 1866 and 1897 Thomas was known as a “*bedstead maker*” for census purposes, but this was a well-established profession in the nineteenth century and appears frequently in Patricia Anne Kirkham’s 1981 PhD Thesis at Queen Mary, University of London, “*Furniture-making in London c. 1700-1870: craft, design, business and labour*”:

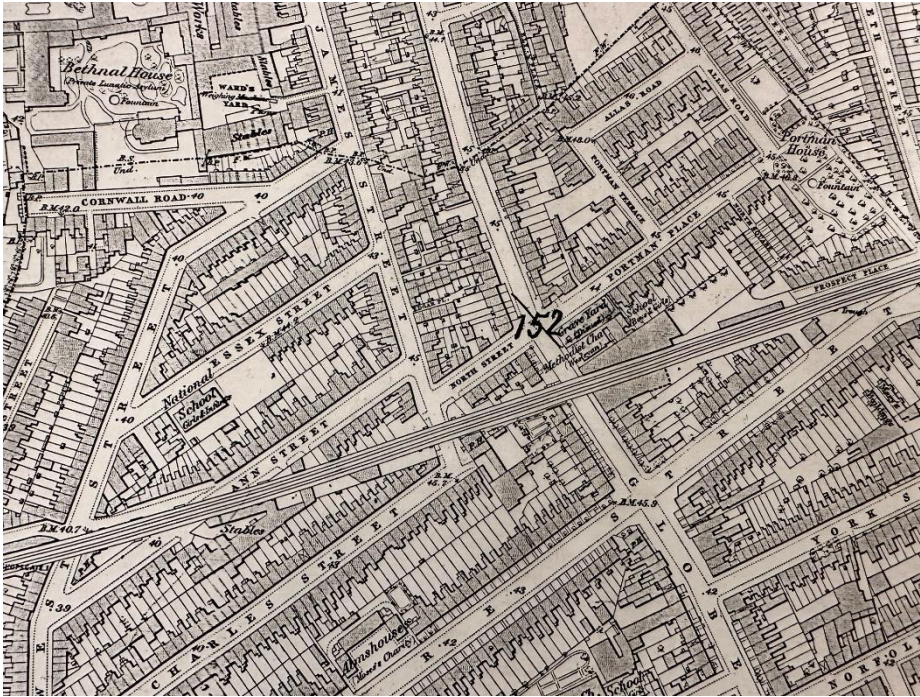
In the 1870s, the East End superseded the West End as the largest furniture making centre in London (p. 14). Bedstead making was considered less skilful than cabinet makers (p. 19). The bedstead-maker was essentially a frame-maker and 'putter-together' of parts made by others (p. 40). In the East End, firms tended to be smaller than those in the West End. In the East End streets of Curtain Road, Worship Street and Skinner Street, just over 90% of all furniture-making firms employed between one and ten workers (Kirkham, 1981, p. 148).

It is remarkable how a large and increasing number of Jewish immigrant cabinet-makers were absorbed into the East End furniture trade. Part of the explanation must lie in the resilience and the expansion of the trade itself. (Smith, 2004, p. 120)

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Having said that, the centre of the furniture trade at the time was in Tottenham Court Road (Edwards, 2011).

By 22nd September 1880 the family had moved again to 6 North Square, Mile End Old Town, Tower Hamlets, just 1.5 miles away from Luke Street along Bethnal Green Road.



North Square (seen here on the top right just above the railway line) was a small dead-end street off Portman Place which backed on to the Great Eastern Railway's main line from Liverpool Street station to Norwich.

As it ran past North Square the railway line was carried on a high embankment overlooking the street, so the frequent trains must have been conspicuous and noisy.



Although Portman Place still exists, North Square has gone and its site now lies within the grounds of Morpeth School.

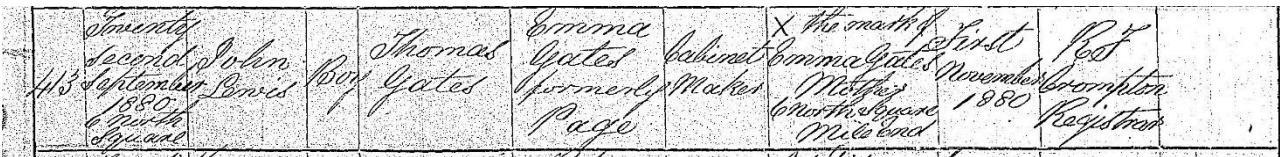
Looking down Portman Place in 2024 toward Morpeth School, to where North Square would have been is Morpeth School, a comprehensive secondary school and sixth form located in Bethnal Green. The school serves nearly 1200 pupil. The school was founded by London County Council in 1910 as a central school with the name Morpeth Street School. The school was enlarged in 1927 by taking over premises of a primary school in Portman Place.





The railway line that would have passed by the end of North Square.

It was here that their 8th child, John Lewis Gates, was born on 22nd September 1880.



Schools



Shortly after John Lewis' birth, on 3rd November 1880, Charles, aged 11 and Henry aged 13, were admitted to Essex Street School in Mile End, Tower Hamlets, run by London School Board. They were previously at Scruton Street School in Shoreditch and it is likely to have been their move that caused a change of school.



Shortly after, on Monday 13th December their brother Archibald Gates, aged 9, was admitted to Essex Street School having previously attended Portman Place School, in Mile End (Source: LMA Ref LCC/EO/DIV05).

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line



Part of Essex Street School still exists and is now part of the Morpeth School Sixth Form Centre. Indeed, the entrance for "Girls and Infants" still exists as an entry to the school. Though Essex Street has been demolished and replaced with a primary school.

An interesting coincidence arose when I was walking this area in 2024. When Charles lived in North Place in 1883, just half a mile away in West Street, a baby had been born - Ellen Evans. Whom, 34 years later, Charles would meet and marry on 18th April 1917 after they had both been widowed. They went on to give birth to my father.

109A

Admission Number	Date of Admission			Name of Child	Name of Father or Guardian	Residence	Whether certificate from School Inspector is obtained	Date of Child's Birth		
	Day	Month	Year					Day	Month	Year
861	10	9	80	Cornish Albert	Charles	48 West Street		16	1	73
862	14	9	80	Bundy George	William	4 Chester Street		10	7	73
863	20	9	80	Sison Nath	William	5 Union Street		10	7	70
863	21	9	80	Box Henry	Charles	65 Devonshire St.		10	7	70
864	20	"	"	Jordan James		6 Essex Street		4	8	70
865	"	"	"	Wilson Walter	father	12 King St		28	9	72
866	"	"	"	Barnshaw Frank	mother	" "		27	6	72
867	"	"	"	Edwards Wm		5 Monday Street		18	8	72
868	27	9	80	Smiley Wm	Joseph	11 Albert Street		20	6	69
869	"	"	"	Noble Wm	James	66 West Street		17	8	71
870	"	"	"	Dated Wm	William	126 Devonshire St.		27	10	70
871	"	"	"	Hudson Joseph	Joseph	105 Cambridge St		21	12	64
872	"	"	"	Hudson Wm				16	8	73
873	"	"	"	Brown Charles	Charles	9 Drovers Alley		2	8	73
874	"	"	"	Anderson John	John			5	12	72
875	4	10	80	Fish John	George	2 Thurlow Place		8	10	74
876	8	10	80	Benson John				8	10	74
877	11	10	80	Fish Henry	George	Thurlow Place		8	10	71
878	"	"	"	Fish Thomas				1	9	72
879	"	"	"	Barnett John	Charles	84 James St		4	10	72
880	16	10	80	Volleton Fred	John	16 Brunswick Rd		7	11	70
881	"	"	"	Copson William	William	80 West St		9	2	74
882	25	10	80	Spencer William	William	211 Globe Road		12	3	74
883	1 st	11	80	Wheeler John	John	3 Pace Place Cobble		18	4	73
884	2	11	80	Mitchell William	William	41 James Street		7	7	72
885	8	11	80	Sales Henry	Thomas	6 North Square		26	7	67
886	"	"	"	Sales Charles				20	8	69
887	3 rd	11	80	Cooke Edward	Edward	242 Globe Road		5	2	69
888	8 th	11	80	Goodwin James	James	110 Globe Road		5	2	72
889	14 th	11	80	Nicholls George	William	2 Cornwall Sq		20	4	73
890	1 st	12	80	Nicholls Charles				8	6	71
891	15	12	80	Bradshaw Alf	Henry	173 West St		1	12	71
892	28	12	80	Lorimer John	Robt	25 Drovers Alley		21	9	72
893	30 th	11	80	Jordan William	William	403 rd Globe Rd		1	2	73
894	6 th	12	80	Ames Reginald	Alfred	2 Three Gables Lane		1	1	71
895	6 th	12	80	Brooks William	William	2 Grosvenor St		1	2	70
896	13 th	12	80	Sales Archibald	Thomas	6 North Square		12	7	71
897	14 th	12	80	Brooks Samuel	Samuel	15 York Street		8	6	72
898	10 th	1	81	Messer Albert	Albert	461 Nicholas St		5	3	72
899	10 th	1	81	Shooter Lewis		5 Cornwall Sq		2	3	71
900	10 th	1	81	Richardson Thomas	George	8 Kings Street		28	6	72
901	10 th	1	81	Evans Charles	George	100 James St		20	5	72
902	10	1	81	Rayward Fred	Fredrick	8 Green St		24	5	72

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

1881 Census

On the census day of 3rd April 1881, the family were still living at 6 North Square, Mile End Old Town, Tower Hamlets -. Thomas Humphrey Gates (37), Emma Gates (Page) (37) were still bedstead makers living with their children: Thomas Humphry (17), Henry William (18), Charles Gates (11), Archibald (9), Emma (7), Fredrick George (4), John Lewis (5 months). All were born in Shoreditch apart from John Lewis, born here in 6 North Square.

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										[Page 59]
City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Borough of	Parliamentary Borough of	Ward or Division of	Urban Sanitary District of	Rural Sanitary District of	Electoral District of				
		Tower Hamlets	Mile End Old Town			56	Shoreditch			
No. of Houses	ROAD STREET, No. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES in the Year 1881	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday or Date of Birth	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WEEKS BOEN	(1) Dead and Death (2) Blind (3) Imbecile or Idiot (4) Lunatic	
149	3 North Square	1	Thomas Crowe	Head	Mar	48	Laborer Dock	Widow: Ruthal Green		
			Stephen	Wife	"	48	"	"	Mile End	
			Anna	Daughter	U.N.M.	20	Laundress	"	Do	
			Eda	Daughter	"	20	Artificial Florist	"	Do	
			James	Son	"	18	Laborer Dock	"	Do	
			James	Son	"	18	Foot-drill (Manufacture)	"	Do	
149	4	1	Samuel	Head	Mar	34	Printerman	"	19 11	
			Isabella	Wife	"	34	"	Widow: Stephen		
			James	Son	"	12	Boys Boy Stationer	"	Do	
			William	Son	"	12	Chemist	"	Do	
			Sarah	Daughter	"	12	Scholar	"	Do	
			Henry	Son	"	10	do	Widow: Stephen		
			Harriet	Daughter	"	6	do	"	Widow: Stephen	
			Alice	Daughter	"	8	do	"	Widow: Stephen	
			Richard	Son	"	3	do	"	Do	
149	5	1	Thomas Humphrey	Head	Mar	37	Boot Finisher	"	Ruthal Green	
			Emma	Wife	"	37	"	"	Do	
149	6	1	Thomas Humphrey	Head	Mar	37	Bedstead maker	"	Shoreditch	
			Emma	Wife	"	37	"	"	Do	
			Thomas Humphrey	Son	"	17	Light Porter	"	Do	
			Henry William	Son	"	18	Scholar	"	Do	
			Charles	Son	"	11	do	"	Do	
			Archibald	Son	"	9	do	"	Do	
			Emma	Daughter	"	7	do	"	Do	
4	Total of Houses	4	Total of Males and Females			13	11			

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										[Page 40]
City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Borough of	Parliamentary Borough of	Ward or Division of	Urban Sanitary District of	Rural Sanitary District of	Electoral District of				
		Tower Hamlets	Mile End Old Town				Shoreditch			
No. of Houses	ROAD STREET, No. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES in the Year 1881	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday or Date of Birth	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WEEKS BOEN	(1) Dead and Death (2) Blind (3) Imbecile or Idiot (4) Lunatic	
149	6 North Square	1	And-Geo Gates	Son	Mar	11	Scholar	Widow: Charles		
			John Lewis	Son	"	5 months	"	"	Mile End	
149	7 North Square	1	William Phillips	Head	Mar	42	Manrowseman, Dock	Widow: Elizabeth		
			Elizabeth	Wife	"	42	"	"	Mile End Old Town	
			William	Son	"	11	Scholar	"	Do	
			John Alexander	Son	"	6	do	"	Do	
			Robert	Son	"	5	do	"	Ruthal Green	
149	8	1	James Robert	Head	Mar	69	Laundress	"	Mile End	
			James	Son	U.N.M.	24	Manrowseman, Dock	"	Do	
			Henry	Son	"	24	Manrowseman, Dock	"	Do	
209	9	1	Alfred Brown	Head	Mar	29	Carman	Widow: Charles		
			Mary Ann	Wife	"	29	"	"	Do	
209	10	1	Robt Barnett	Head	U.N.M.	24	Shoe Slaker, Man	Widow: Charles		
209	11	1	John Alexander	Head	Mar	33	Wood Turner	Widow: Charles		
			Anna	Wife	"	33	"	"	Do	
			Robert	Son	"	7	Worms Help	"	Widow: Charles	
			William	Son	"	6	Scholar	"	Widow: Charles	
			Henry	Son	"	6	do	"	Widow: Charles	
			George	Son	"	6 months	"	"	Do	
209	11	1	William Hill	Head	Mar	34	Housekeeper	Widow: Charles		
			Mary	Wife	"	34	"	"	Mile End	
5	Total of Houses	5	Total of Males and Females			15	6			

So, in 1881, Thomas Humphreys was the only child working – as a porter. One, John Lewis, was a baby. Those between 4 and 15 were “scholars”: Henry William Gates (aged 15), Charles Gates (aged 11), Archibald Gates (aged 9), Emma Gates (aged 7), Fredrick George Gates (aged 4). Which raises the question of where they went to school, although classification as “scholar” did not imply they were at school, rather that they were not working.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Less than a year after the 1881 census date, on 3rd January 1882, Charles (aged 12) and Archibald (aged 10) were admitted to St Leonard's Shoreditch Workhouse on Kingsland Road for six days, having been taken there for reasons unknown by a police constable PC 39. PC39 came back on 9th January to take them both out. We don't know exactly where the family lived at the time of Charles and Archibald's escapade.

Source: Records of Workhouses and Institutions Workhouse, Kingsland Road, 1878-1884, London Metropolitan Archives; Workhouse Admission and Discharge Records, 1764-1921; Reference Number: Shbg/139/003

There is no longer any information on the reasons why this happened. However, Shoreditch Workhouse was very close to where Charles and Archibald were born and lived for 10 years. Whether this was a result of their taking a trip to their previous address and not knowing where they had moved to, whether it was a punishment, or poor relief we will probably never know. Aged 13 however we might expect him to be returned by PC39 to his family in Mile End. It is strange that he has not been found on the 1891 census when he would have been 22 years old. The documentary trace disappears for Charles here until his marriage to Ann Maria Hudson in 1892.

The family moves to Edmonton³⁷

However, in the year after Charles and Archibald's detention, the Gates family decided to uproot itself and move away from their ancestral roots in Shoreditch/Mile End. Charles would have been 13/14 and of an age to leave school and start work. In the twenty years between Thomas Humphreys' and Emma's marriage in 1863 and when they moved from the East End in 1883, The Gates family had 7 different addresses around Shoreditch and Tower Hamlets. At the time accommodation for the working class was largely rented, and we can assume this was the case for Thomas and Emma. At no time do they appear to have owned a property.

³⁷ Text on the next 3 pages is adapted from the text by Charles Parry.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

At some point between the census of April 1881 and the birth of Edward James Gates on 17th January 1883 the family uprooted itself from Mile End Old Town, moving to live in Edmonton, Middlesex, some eight miles to the north of the East End. Charles would have been 14. The family's earliest known address in Edmonton was 52 Coles Avenue, Edmonton.

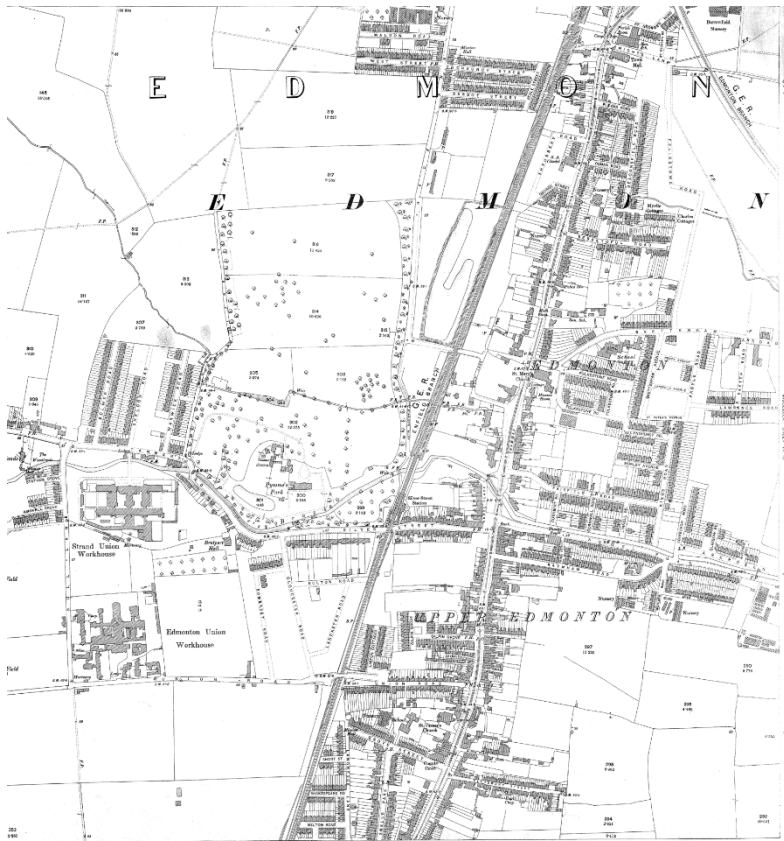
Edmonton, M.S.	1883		1 Drack	Layer	Angel Road	Edmonton	1883	Registrar
Seventeenth January 1883	Edward James	Boy	Thomas Humphreys Gates	Emma Gates formerly Bedstead Maker	X The mark of Emma Gates Mother 52 Coles Avenue	Edmonton	Twenty eight February 1883	John Harman

The precise reasons behind the move out of the East End are unknown. However, it should not be viewed as particularly unusual for the time. Between 1881 and 1901 the population of outer London more than doubled, and many of the new inhabitants were migrants from east London attracted by the rapidly expanding towns of Essex and north Middlesex and Edmonton in particular. The departure of the Gates' family from the East End should therefore be viewed as part of a more widespread shift in population.

One possible reason the family choose to re-locate to Edmonton, in preference to anywhere else is that a significant element of the local economy was the manufacture of furniture (timber was transported there cheaply by barge up the River Lea Navigation from London). In view of Thomas Humphreys Gates' occupation as a cabinet maker this may have been a major factor in the selection of Edmonton as the family's new home. However, there is no direct evidence that Thomas Humphreys Gates ever worked as a cabinet maker in Edmonton.

Another favourable aspect of Edmonton was that it had direct and affordable trains to London. From the early 1870s the Great Eastern Railway offered cheap workmen's fares from the Edmonton area to Liverpool Street station, and the Cheap Trains Act of 1883 made such fares a statutory requirement. By the 1880s Edmonton had effectively become a London suburb. Thomas Humphreys Gates may have felt that, while the move to Edmonton entailed the risk of finding new employment in the locality, in the last resort it would be possible for him to commute for work back to the East End.

The direct line from London to Enfield Town was opened in four stages, from Bethnal Green to Stoke Newington on 27 May 1872; from Stoke Newington through to Lower Edmonton High Level on 22 July 1872, with stations in Edmonton at Silver Street and a new High Level station at Lower Edmonton, which was renamed Edmonton Green in 1992; the short section from Lower Edmonton High Level to Edmonton Junction (where the new line met the original Eastern Counties Railway route from Angel Road to Enfield Town via Lower Edmonton Low Level) on 1 August 1872; and the suburban platforms on the west side of Liverpool Street station on 2 February 1874. The stations were well sited and offered exceptionally cheap workmen's fares of just 2d on trains arriving at Liverpool Street prior to 07:00, 3d on those arriving between 07:00 and 07:30, and half-price returns on those arriving between 07:30 and 08:00. A horse tramway along Fore Street opened in 1881 (Wikipedia)



The OS Map of 1894

Coles Avenue (seen here to the north) was probably built sometime around 1875. It was formerly situated a little to the south-west of Edmonton Green, running westwards from a junction with Hyde Road. Coles Avenue was renamed West Street, by the publication of the 1894 edition of the OS Map of Middlesex.

Some idea of the appearance of Edmonton in the 1880s can be gained from the Ordnance Survey's 25-inch map published in 1896, surveyed in 1894 (above). The area was at the beginning of its transformation from a rural to an urban landscape, with streets of houses being carved out here-and-there from the agricultural fields surrounding Lower Edmonton, which was then no more than a large village.

The 1894 map shows Coles Avenue (by then re-named West Street) adjacent to open countryside on its western and southern sides. The family went on to live in the street for a period of about ten years, possibly longer. In their previous life in the East End, they had lived in at least six streets (and maybe more) over a period of seventeen years.

The contrast of the Gates's new, nearly-rural, surroundings with the densely built-up areas of Shoreditch and Mile End Old Town must have seemed to them immense. It seems beyond much doubt that a desire for a substantial improvement in their living conditions was a key factor in the family's decision to leave the East End.

An interesting set of coincidences

Charles would go on to marry twice. With his second wife, Ellen, he would have his final child Charles Edward Gates on 9th January 1921.

Sometime after 1881, a family called the Philpotts moved from their house in Bush Hills Park, Enfield, to 9 Coles Avenue, just along the road from where the Gates family moved into. Their daughter Harriet Philpot was 4 years old. By 1891, the Philpotts had moved south along the railway line to 35 Cottages, off Union Street (seen here just to the left of the words UPPER EDMONTON).

Around this time, a young man called Leonard Victor Robinson had left his family in a small village in Essex and moved to 3 St John Cottages, Union Road right in the centre of the development of Edmonton from fields to a part of the growing suburb of Middlesex. More importantly, he lived just over the road from Linton Cottages where the young Harriet Frances Philpott lived.

Harriet and Leonard married on 8th March 1896 in St James Church, Upper Edmonton (just south of Union Road) when Charles was 21 and Harriet was 19. Their final child, Maud Robinson was born on 13th April 1920. Charles Edward Gates married Maud Robinson on 3rd September 1951 probably never knowing Charles's father and Maud's mother had lived in the same street. Their first child, Peter Leonard Charles – me – was born on 23rd July 1952.

It is perhaps overly simplistic to view the Gates family's departure from the East End solely as a flight from a poor environment. Were conditions there in any case so unbearable? Charles' eldest

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

brother, Thomas Humphreys Gates, returned to Shoreditch after his marriage to work as a cabinet maker and stayed there for ten years or so, raising a young family, which might suggest not. Yet he too eventually returned to Edmonton, and all of Thomas Humphreys Gates' children were to live in the town for much of their adult lives, and all ended their days there. This strongly suggests that Edmonton provided them all with a much better quality of life than the East End could offer, whatever the reasons the family originally had for leaving.

PARISH OF EDMONTON—continued.

No.	Name	Address	Occupier of houses in immediate succession	Address
1410	Garrett, Tom	8, Brook-cottages, Upper Edmonton	Tanner's-end, Edmonton, and 8, Brook-cottages, Edmonton	Tanner's-end, Edmonton, and 8, Brook-cottages, Edmonton
1311	Garrett, William	20, Claremont-street, Upper Edmonton		20, Claremont-street.
1312	Gaston, John	9, Angel Road-terrace, Angel-road, Upper Edmonton		9, Angel Road-terrace, Angel-road.
1313	Gates, James	3, Claremont-street, Upper Edmonton		3, Claremont-street.
1314	Gates, John	Enfield-chase, Southgate, N.		Enfield-chase.
1315	Gates, Thomas	1, Dunmow-place, Fore-street, Lower Edmonton		1, Dunmow-place.
1316	Gates, Thomas Humphreys	22, Cole's-avenue, Lower Edmonton		22, Cole's-avenue, Edmonton.
1317	Gates, William	Enfield-chase, Southgate, N.		Enfield-chase.
1318	Gaulton, John	12, Silver-street, Upper Edmonton		12, Silver-street.
1319	Gaulton, Benben	1, Pritchett-villas, Fairfield-road, Upper Edmonton		1, Pritchett-villas, Fairfield-road.
1420	Gaywood, Samuel	1, Cornwall-cottages, Town-road, Lower Edmonton		1, Cornwall-cottages.
1321	Gesch, William	3, Taab-cottages, Sebastopol-road, Lower Edmonton		3, Taab-cottages.
1422	Gedway, William	High-path, Fore-street, Lower Edmonton		Land and tenement (joint) Lower Fore-street.
1323	Geeres, Henry Edward	13, Brestonham-road East, Upper Edmonton		Dwelling house (successive) Lower Edmonton, and 13, Brestonham-road East.
1324	George, Arthur John	4, Claremont-place, Claremont-street, Upper Edmonton		4, Claremont-place, Claremont-street
1325	George, Frederick	72, St. Mary's-road, Lower Edmonton		72, St. Mary's-road.
1326	George, George	Tanyard, Bury-street, Lower Edmonton		Tanyard, Bury-street.
1327	George, Samuel	8, Union-road, Upper Edmonton		8, Union-road.
1328	George, Timothy	Tanyard-cottages, Lower Edmonton		Tanyard-cottages, Bury-street.
1329	Gibbons, Robert William	29, Millfield-road, Upper Edmonton		29, Millfield-road.
1330	Gibbins, Walter	6, Pleva-road, Lower Edmonton		6, Pleva-road.
1331	Gibbins, William Henry	Japonica Cottage, Hertford-road, Lower Edmonton		Japonica Cottage, Hertford-road.
1332	Gibbs, Walter	22, Woodland-road, New Southgate, N.		22, Woodland-road.
1333	Gibson, John Charles	35, Barbot-street, The Hyde, Lower Edmonton		35, Barbot-street.
1334	Giles, William James	2, Prospect-cottages, Snell's-park, Upper Edmonton		2, Prospect-cottages, Snell's-park.
1335	Gilbert, James	159, Fore-street, Upper Edmonton		159, Fore-street.
1336	Gill, Aaron	37, Cole's-avenue, The Hyde, Lower Edmonton		37, Cole's-avenue.
1337	Gill, Jack	32, Cole's-avenue, The Hyde, Lower Edmonton		32, Cole's-avenue.
1338	Gill, Thomas	3, Downing's-cottages, Hertford-road, Lower Edmonton		3, Downing's-cottages.
1439	Gillett, Arthur	5, St. George's-terrace, New-road, Lower Edmonton		5, St. George's-terrace.

The Overseer Return (electoral roll) relating to 1885 recorded Thomas Humphreys living at 22 Coles Avenue.

At the time, voting was only for males over 21 fulfilling a property qualification. Women over 30 were not given the vote until the Representation of the People Act, 1918. It was not until Representation of the People Act (1928) that all women over 21 were given the vote. Charles would have been 16 and no doubt working somewhere.

1886-1894 Construction of Tower Bridge

In the 1870s some 1 million people lived to the east of the Tower of London (Tower Hamlets). To cross the Thames, the nearest bridge was London Bridge some half a mile away. So, Tower Bridge was proposed between Tower Hamlets and Shoreditch. It commenced on 21st June 1886 and was officially opened on 30th June 1894. The total cost of construction was £1,184,000, roughly equivalent to £145 million in 2024.



Some five years after the move to Edmonton, on 16th September 1888, Charles' eldest brother, also Thomas Humphreys Gates, married Alice Holloway at All Saints' Church, Edmonton. At the time of the wedding Charles would have just past his nineteenth birthday. It seems likely that he attended the ceremony but there is no certain evidence for this as we do not know where Charles is for 10 years between 1882 (aged 12) and his marriage to Ann Marie Hudson in 1893 (aged 24).



The OS Map of 1914

Hyde Road renamed Victoria Road by the publication of the 1914 map, and significant development has taken place.



This area was redeveloped in the 1960s and the road was lost, though the short stub of access road by the side of the Hyde Arms is presumably the original line. Coles Avenue/West Street no longer exists. The locality has been comprehensively redeveloped, and only the Hyde Arms public house on the corner with Victoria Road survives from the 19th century arrangement.

Also in 1885, Charles's brother Thomas lived at 1 Dunmow Place, Fore Street Upper Edmonton and in 1886 the overseer report places him at 7 Inkerman Cottages, Sebastopol Road Lower Edmonton.

1891 census

The census of 5th April 1891 recorded Thomas Humphreys Gates' household living at 54 Coles Avenue, Edmonton. The family were listed as follows:

- Thomas Gates (aged 47), Cabinet Maker
- Emma Gates (aged 47)
- Henry Gates (aged 23), Greengrocer's Assistant
- Emma Gates (aged 17), Dress Maker
- Frederick Gates (aged 14), Scholar
- John Lewis Gates (aged 11), Scholar

Dist. Parish	Municipal Borough	Municipal Ward	Urban Sanitary District	Town or Village or Hamlet	Electoral Division	Parliamentary Borough or District	Registration District	Electoral Ward or Division
Edmonton			Edmonton			Edmonton		
142	54	3						
143	54	3						
144	54	3						
145	54	3						
146	54	3						
147	54	3						
148	54	3						
149	54	3						
150	54	3						
151	54	3						
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194	54	3						
195	54	3						
196	54	3						
197	54	3						
198	54	3						
199	54	3						
200	54	3						

Charles would have been 22 and Archibald Humphreys 20, but both had evidently left home by then. Archibald seemingly joined the army around 1892, serving for 20 years. but we do not know Charles' whereabouts until 1893. Charles' youngest brother, Edward James, who would have been aged eight, is also not listed, but can be found elsewhere on the census as a patient in Tottenham Hospital. Why he was in hospital is not known, but ten years later the 1901 census listed Edward James, then aged 18, as part of his widowed mother Emma Gates's household, and stated that he had been a 'Cripple Some Years'.

The Gates' family were living at 54 Coles Avenue a year later, when Thomas Humphreys Gates was listed there on an electoral roll relating to 1892. That is the last known record of the family's residence there. They appear to have moved around Coles Avenue (presuming these are not transcription errors). Coles Avenue was renamed West Street sometime around 1894.

- 1883 52 Coles Avenue
- 1885 22 Coles Avenue
- 1892 54 Coles Avenue

One explanation for the moves is that the properties were rented, but we do not know from whom.

Charles has not been found on the 1891 Census so we have no record of his whereabouts since 3rd April 1881 when he was 11. He does not reappear in the documentary record until he marries the widowed Ann Maria Hudson in August 1893 when he was 24. This is not necessarily mysterious, and may be down to a lack of official events which would mark his residence. He could have left school around the time of his encounter with the police, and started to train for his career as a carpenter.

1893 Marriage of Charles to Ann Maria Hudson

Ann Maria Aris, was born on 12th November 1848 in New Road, Halesowen, Worcestershire to Fanny Aris (1830-) with no father's name on the birth certificate.

171	Tenth November 1850 New Road Halesowen	Ann Maria	Girl	Fanny Aris	X The Mark of Fanny Aris clothes New Road Halesowen	Fifth December 1850	A. G. Jackson Registrar
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Four weeks, later on 9th December 1850 in Halesowen, Fanny Ari(e)s married William Frankham (1822 – 1882). It would appear that Fanny was illiterate. Ann Maria took William's name along with her mother's however. Sometime after her birth the family moved to Shoreditch.

1850. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Halesowen in the County of Worcester								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
121	9 December	William Frankham	off full age.	Bachelor	Chair maker	Halsbury	Samuel Frankham	Blacksmith
		Fanny Aris	20 years	Spinster	Servant	Boro'	Benjamin Aris	Labourer
Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Banns by me, Edward Roberts Curate								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		William Frankham		in the Presence of us,		The Mark X of Benjamin Aris		

Ann Maria Frankham married George Hudson on 30th August 1868 in St James Church, Shoreditch.

1868 Marriage solemnized at St James Church in the Parish of Shoreditch in the County of Middlesex								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
442	Aug 30	George Hudson	20	Bachelor	Chair Maker	21 years 5'	Joseph Hudson	Chair Sawyer
		Ann Maria Aris Frankham	20	Spinster	Servant	4 years 5'	William Frankham	Blacksmith
Married in the Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Banns by me, [Signature]								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		George Hudson X		in the Presence of us,		Ann Maria Aris X		

Two years later her mother, Fanny, died, in London of heart disease.

134	Hospital Thirteenth November 1866 St. Bartholomew's Hospital	Mrs Fanny Frankham	female	30 years	Wife of William Frankham a Mercantile Gentleman	London	Disease of Heart Pulmonary Congestion Pneumonia	Mark Morris Occupier St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London	Southwark November 1866 Registrar
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In the 1881 Census she lived at 18 Haggerstone Road, Shoreditch with George Hudson and their 6 children. However, on 4th October 1890, while living at 13 Queens Road, St Leonards Shoreditch, Haggerstone, George Hudson died of "concussion to the brain caused by a blow. Violent" and died in the Metropolitan Hospital Kingsland Road. The story of George's death appeared in the local Hackney and Kingsland Gazette around 6th October 1890. He was involved in a fracas with two other men outside the Swan Public House on Kingsland Road which led to him allegedly being punched and hitting his head on the pavement, dying in hospital of concussion. The Swan is now called The Haggerston, 438 Kingsland Rd, London E8 4AA.

This story is important because it appears to be in some way linked to the eventual marriage of Charles to Ellen, through the daughter of Ann Maria.

Articles in the Hackney and Kingsland Gazette, October 1890

ANOTHER KINGSLAND TRAGEDY.

ARREST OF TWO MEN.

A fatal affray took place in the early hours of Saturday morning within 500 yards of the Swan public house, Kingsland road, at the corner of Richmond road, about twelve o'clock on Friday night. The houses were conducted, and no altercation took place inside, but as soon as the men had left by the side door a dispute arose, and it is stated that Hudson took off his coat and prepared to fight. He was struck severely about the head and body, and twice fell, the second time striking his head heavily on the pavement, causing the blood to flow freely. He was picked up in an unconscious condition, and conveyed to the Metropolitan Hospital, Kingsland road, where he was seen by the house surgeon. He did not, however, recover consciousness, and died at half-past eight on Saturday morning.

The body of the deceased was yesterday identified by his wife. An inquest will be held on Tuesday at the hospital.

This morning at the North London Police Court, before Mr. Slado, John Williams, age 21, a furrier, of 14, Bay street, Dalston, and Henry Ward, age 20, drayman, of 40, Bay street, Dalston, were charged with a conspiracy entered together in causing the death of George Hudson, age 42, by knocking him down on the pavement at Kingsland road, at 12.30 a.m. on the 4th inst.

Inspector J. Cockrell watched the case on behalf of the Commissioners of Police; Mr. Charles V. Young, solicitor, laid a watching brief for Mr. Richards, landlord of the 'Swan' public-house; the prisoners were not defended. Mr. C. V. Young said he appeared for the landlord of the public-house outside which this occurrence took place. It was only fair to say that nothing occurred inside the house, and that the landlord and his manager rendered the police all the assistance they could.

Inspector Stannard said he proposed to call sufficient evidence to justify a remand. About 7 a.m. on the 14th he received information that the deceased man was in the Metropolitan Hospital. He went there at 8.30 and heard that the man had just died. Witness made enquiries and at 3.15 on Sunday afternoon he was in Ball's Pond road when he saw the prisoner Ward in company with Cagney. He told the men he was a police officer and should take them into custody for assaulting George Hudson, Ward said 'I know all about it, man. Jack Williams struck the blow. This man (referring to Cagney) was not there.' The men were taken to Dalston Station, but Cagney was subsequently released. P.S. Nuryse afterwards arrested the other man. Williams said he knew all about it, and expected to be arrested.

Detective-sergeant R. Nuryse, said on Sunday afternoon he went to 14, Bay street, Dalston, where he saw the prisoner Williams and told him he should arrest them for being concerned with Ward in causing the death of George Hudson on Saturday morning. Williams said 'I was there with Ward; I expected this.' Witness told him Ward had made a statement, and said Williams was the man who struck the blow. On the way to the station he said, 'This is a mistake; I did not strike him. When we came out of the house I went to the outhouse, and when I went back they were fighting. I did not know the man was dead till you told me.' On being charged Williams said, 'I did not knock him down.'

Thomas Knatchbull, painter, 6, Sutton place, Boleyn rd., said he did not know the deceased man, but he knew the prisoner Williams. On Friday night witness was inside the Swan public house. Nothing took place there, but when they got outside at closing time a man came up and asked for a bag, which he said some one had taken. Ward said he was not going to be called a thief. Hudson, who was standing by, had something to say about the bag, and Ward took his coat off and struck at Hudson. Hudson said 'I'll fight you; you've brought it on yourself.' Hudson went into the road, and before he could get his coat off he was knocked down. Witness could not say who the man was who knocked him down. Hudson took his coat off and stood on the kerb. Someone then came from Richmond road, struck Hudson in the face, and knocked him down. Witness saw Williams standing beside Hudson after he fell, and Ward went away patting his coat on. Witness with some other men assisted Hudson to the hospital, and afterwards told two constables of the occurrence. The men did not appear to be drunk. Nothing occurred inside the public-house.

Williams: Did I knock the man down. Witness: I did not see you do it, but you were there after he was down.

The prisoners were remanded until to-mor-

THE FATAL AFFRAY IN KINGSLAND ROAD.

As was briefly stated in a portion of our issue on Wednesday, Dr. Macdonald, M.P., opened on that afternoon, at the Metropolitan Hospital, his inquiry relative to the death of George Hudson, a chair-maker, whose death occurred in that institution on Saturday from injuries alleged to have been received at the hands of the two men, Williams and Ward, who are at present on remand from the North London Police Court, where they have been accused of causing Hudson's death.

Mr. D. A. Romain appeared on behalf of Williams; and Mr. C. V. Young for the proprietor of the Swan, Kingsland road, outside which house the affray occurred. Inspectors Stannard and Cockrell were present on behalf of the police.

John Palmer, a fellow worker with the deceased, said the latter and he, after leaving work on Friday, called at several publichouses on their way home, passing their time there until 12.30. Both were sober enough to know what they were about. Witness had a bag with him in which he carried his food. There were several other men in the compartment of the Swan into which he and deceased went; and when he and deceased left he missed his bag. Witness searched for it, but could not find it, and on finally leaving the Swan witness saw the deceased lying on the ground with his head on the kerb and his legs and body in the road.

Mrs. Blundell, a widow, said she was in the Swan until closing time and saw the deceased and his friend there. There was no quarrel in the house, but outside she heard an altercation concerning a bag. She saw deceased take a bag from another man, and the latter then took off his coat and gave the deceased a blow. She had since identified that man. The deceased fell after the first blow, and then got up in a sitting posture and attempted to take his coat off. Whilst in this position the other man struck deceased a second blow, which knocked him backwards with his head on the kerb. There was blood on the deceased's head before the second blow was struck. Only one man struck the deceased, and the blow was given by the man Williams now present in the court. (The witness walked across the room and pointed to the accused).

By a juror: The blows were not struck in a fight, but apparently unprovoked on the part of the deceased.

Thomas Knatchbull, a painter, repeated the evidence given before the Magistrate.

After evidence as to the arrest of the prisoners had been given,

Dr. Bryant, house surgeon at the hospital, said he saw the deceased man when brought to the hospital, and dressed a wound at the back of the head. There was no fracture, but death was due to concussion of the brain. Deceased appeared to have been drinking.

The Coroner said the statements of the woman Blundell—who identified one man one time and another at another as the one who struck the blow—had utterly confused the matter, and he thought it would be well to adjourn the case for some further evidence.

A jurymen said he hoped the case would be thoroughly sifted, as that district had obtained a thoroughly unenviable notoriety. The inquiry was adjourned until Monday.

WEDNESDAY: Before Mr. Bros.

THE FATAL AFFRAY AT KINGSLAND.

John Ward and Henry Williams were charged on remand with the manslaughter of George Hudson, a chair maker, of Queen's road, Dalston.

Mr. C. V. Young defended Ward; Mr. Romain was for Williams.

The case had been remanded for the Treasury to take the matter in hand, but no one represented the Public Prosecutor.

Mr. Thomas Barham, manager of the Swan Public-house, Kingsland road, said that on the morning of the 4th inst., at twenty minutes to one, after the house had been closed, he heard a row outside. On looking out he saw a man in the gutter and Ward was standing over him in a fighting attitude. Witness blew a police whistle, and three men, one of whom was Ward, ran away. Some one else then took the man in the gutter away, and then all was quiet.

Cross-examined by Mr. Young: He did not make that statement at the inquest. He was not asked the question. As a matter of fact, he was not asked questions at the inquest at all.

By the Magistrate: He did not hear Ward use any expression while standing over the man.

Westrop Pettit, a clerk in the boot trade, and living in Gifford street, Kingsland road, said he was passing the public-house when he saw the row. The deceased man Hudson at that moment was rising from the ground, and endeavouring to get his coat off. At that moment Williams struck him a heavy blow, which knocked him down. Deceased's head struck the pavement with a heavy crash, and he fell senseless. Williams and Ward then hurried away. Witness and others helped to take Hudson to the hospital. He (witness) had not been in the public-house that night.

Mr. Romain wished to know how it was that the witness appeared on the scene now for the first time.

Witness said he saw by the papers that there was not sufficient evidence in the case, so he thought he had better come forward.

Inspector Stannard said it was known there was another man who saw the occurrence, but they had been unable to discover him until that morning, when Pettit communicated with the police.

Cross-examination continued: He had never seen Williams before that night, and not since then until now, but he took particular notice of his face. It was a face he should not forget having once seen, and, moreover, he heard one prisoner say to the other, 'We must make haste.'

By the Magistrate: He came direct to the court to give evidence. He had not made any previous communication to the police. He saw Williams outside the court that morning and pointed him out to the police.

Dr. Edward Bryant, house surgeon, Metropolitan Hospital, Kingsland, said the man died the day following admission, from concussion of the brain. The injury was caused by a fall on some hard substance. There was not a single mark on the face. Deceased had been drinking; he vomited beer. He might not have been drunk.

Evidence heard at the inquest was next repeated.

Mr. Bros said he should commit the prisoners for trial on the charge of being concerned together in causing the death of George Hudson.

The prisoners, through their respective solicitors, pleaded not guilty, and reserved their defence and evidence.

The prisoners were then formally committed.

Mr. Bros, addressing Inspector Stannard, said the case was complicated, and the evidence in some respects contradictory. He would certify for legal aid.

The plans of the 'Swan' and surrounding neighbourhood were prepared and handed in by p.c. George Sutton, 92J.

THE FATAL AFFRAY AT KINGSLAND.

John Williams and Henry Ward were charged on remand with causing the death of George Hudson.

Inspector Stannard informed the Magistrate that the jury at the inquest had returned a verdict of manslaughter.

Mr. D. A. Romain said that was a verdict with which the Coroner disagreed.

Inspector Stannard said the Treasury had been requested to take up the case, and asked for another remand.

Mr. Romain thought that the police were simply playing with the case.

Mr. C. V. Young, representing Ward and the landlord of the public house, did not object to another remand.

Mr. Bros decided to remand the prisoners for another week, but allowed them out on the same bail.

FATAL FIGHT AT KINGSLAND.

On Monday at the North London Police Court, before Mr. Slade, John Williams, age 21, a furrier, of 14, Bay street, Dalston, and Henry Ward, age 20, drayman, of 10, Bay street, Dalston, were charged with 'being concerned together in causing the death of George Hudson, age 42, by knocking him down on the pavement at Kingsland road, at 12.30 a.m. on the 4th inst.'

Inspector J. Cockrell watched the case on behalf of the Commissioners of Police; Mr. Charles V. Young, solicitor, held a watching brief for Mr. Richards, landlord of the 'Swan' public-house; the prisoners were not defended. Mr. C. V. Young said he appeared for the landlord of the public-house outside which this occurrence took place. It was only fair to say that nothing occurred inside the house, and that the landlord and his manager rendered the police all the assistance they could.

Inspector Stannard said he proposed to call sufficient evidence to justify a remand. About 7 a.m. on the 14th he received information that the deceased man was in the Metropolitan Hospital. He went there at 8.30 and heard that the man had just died. Witness made enquiries and at 3.15 on Sunday afternoon he was in Ball's Pond road when he saw the prisoner Ward in company with Cagney. He told the men he was a police officer and should take them into custody for assaulting George Hudson. Ward said 'I know all about it. I was there; I did not assault the man. Jack Williams struck the blow. This man (referring to Cagney) was not there. The men were taken to Dalston Station, but Cagney was subsequently released. P.S. Nurse afterwards arrested the other man. Williams said he knew all about it, and expected to be arrested.

Detective-sergeant B. Nurse, said on Sunday afternoon he went to 14, Bay street, Dalston, where he saw the prisoner Williams and told him he should arrest him for being concerned with Ward in causing the death of George Hudson on Saturday morning. Williams said 'I was there with Ward; I expected this.' Witness told him Ward had made a statement, and said Williams was the man who struck the blow. On the way to the station he said, 'This is a mistake; I did not strike him. When we came out of the house I went to the urinal, and when I went back they were fighting. I did not know the man was dead till you told me.' On being charged Williams said, 'I did not knock him down.'

Thomas Knatchbull, painter, 6, Sutton place, Boleyn rd, said he did not know the deceased man, but he knew the prisoner Williams. On Friday night witness was inside the Swan public house. Nothing took place there, but when they got outside at closing time a man came up and asked for a bag, which he said some one had taken. Ward said he was not going to be called a thief. Hudson who was standing by, had something to say about the bag, and Ward took his coat off and struck at Hudson. Hudson said 'I'll fight you; you've brought it on yourself.' Hudson went into the road, and before he could get his coat off he was knocked down. Witness could not say who the man was who knocked him down. Hudson took his coat off and stood on the curb. Someone then came from Richmond road, struck Hudson in the face, and knocked him down. Witness saw Williams standing beside Hudson after he fell, and Ward went away putting his coat on. Witness with some other men assisted Hudson to the hospital, and afterwards told two constables of the occurrence. The men did not appear to be drunk. Nothing occurred inside the public-house.

Williams: Did I knock the man down.

Witness: I did not see you do it, but you were there after he was down.

The prisoners were remanded until next Tuesday.

THE INQUEST.

Dr. Macdonald, to-day, held the inquest at the Metropolitan Hospital, on the body of George Hudson, chairmaker, Queen's road, Dalston, who met with his death from injuries received outside of the 'Swan' public-house, Kingsland road, shortly after midnight on Friday last.

Mr. C. V. Young watched the case on behalf of Mr. Richards, landlord of the 'Swan'; Inspectors Stannard and Cockerell represented the police. Mr. Romain appeared for John Williams, one of the men implicated, who was out on bail, and was present during the inquiry.

After the voluminous evidence had been taken,

The inquest was adjourned for the production of further evidence until Monday next.

THE FATAL AFFRAY AT KINGSLAND.

On Monday evening Dr. Macdonald, M.P., resumed the inquiry at the Metropolitan Hospital, Kingsland road, into the circumstances attending the death of George Hudson, age 42, a chairmaker, of Queen's road, Dalston, who it is alleged was assaulted by John Williams and Henry Ward, in Kingsland road, on the morning of the 4th inst.

Mr. C. V. Young appeared for Ward and the proprietor of the Swan Publichouse, and Mr. Romain watched the case for Williams.

The evidence given on the last occasion was read over.

John Smith Palmer, recalled, said he was quite sure the deceased had his coat off when he was on the ground after the alleged fight.

Edward Thurbon, a painter, residing at Dunston street, said he was in the Swan publichouse at closing time on Friday, the 3rd, but did not see the fight. The deceased fell close to his feet but he did not hear any altercation. When witness came out of the Swan Ward had a few words with witness about a bag, and attempted to strike witness, and the blow Ward aimed at him hit the deceased, and the deceased falling turned round again he saw the deceased falling to the ground, but did not see him struck. Witness was 'fairly' sober. He did not see Ward after the deceased fell down.

By Mr. Young: Witness had been in the Swan from about 9.30. He could not say what expression was made use of by Ward to witness.

Charles Schofield, 308, Kingsland road, a wheelwright, said he was in the Swan on the 3rd, and after closing time there was some discussion outside about a bag. Ward said he was not going to be accused of being a thief, and took off his coat. He made a blow at the man Thurbon, and almost directly after that the deceased man fell down. Witness did not see anybody strike the deceased, neither did he hear any fighting going on. Witness had had a 'glass or two,' but was not drunk. He did not remember seeing Williams at all.

The Coroner said it did not appear that they could get any evidence of the deceased being struck at all.

A jurymen said it appeared to him that all the witnesses were implicated in the affair.

Thomas Parker said he was outside the Swan at the time of the occurrence and saw a man strike at the deceased. He did not know who the man was and had not seen him since. He could not say whether the blow reached the deceased.

The Manager at the Swan publichouse said after the closing of the publichouse he heard men shouting. He looked through the window and saw the deceased lying on the ground. As the man did not get up he blew a police whistle. The deceased and the other men appeared sober when they left the house at closing time.

The widow of the deceased man asked and obtained permission to put a question to this witness. She asked him whether he did not tell her when she went to the Swan on Saturday last that he saw a man deliberately strike the deceased.

The witness said he never made any such statement to her.

The Coroner said it appeared to him that unless they could have the depositions before them they could not get any satisfactory account of what really took place. The best thing the jury could do would be to ascertain the cause of death, and leave it to another court to decide the other question. The woman Blundell appeared to be the only witness who saw a blow struck.

The jury asked to be allowed to discuss their verdict in private. They were accordingly locked up, and after deliberating for about three hours returned a verdict of 'Manslaughter' against the two men Ward and Williams.

The Coroner said he did not think that would be supported in the police court unless the evidence was different to that given before him.

NORTH LONDON POLICE COURT.

WEDNESDAY: Before Mr. Bros.

THE FATAL AFFRAY AT KINGSLAND.

The two young men Ward and Williams, of Bay street, Dalston, were charged, on remand, with the manslaughter of George Hudson, 42 years of age, a chairmaker, of Queen's road, Dalston.

The evidence already given before the Coroner was repeated, and a new witness, Thomas Parker, a brushmaker, of Kingsland road, was called. He said that just before closing time on the early morning of the 4th inst. he heard a disturbance over a bag, and he said to deceased he should clear out. Ward interfered, and witness took him outside, but directly he (witness) loosened Ward the latter struck him on the left jaw, and then pushed his way into a small crowd outside the publichouse. At this moment witness saw the deceased lying on the ground, but he saw no blow struck. After this witness saw Williams push his way into the crowd.

Sarah Blundell, a widow, said she saw all the parties in and out of the house. She saw Williams outside with his coat off, and saw him strike the deceased twice, once when standing up, and next when in a sitting position on the ground.

By Mr. Romain: She was perfectly sober, and was positive that Williams struck the blow.

Some of the witnesses, including the doctor from the hospital, not being in attendance, the prisoners were further remanded for a week, bail in each case being accepted.

It appears Henry Ward and John Williams may have been the culprits in a dispute over a bag which went to court and an inquest.

The outcome is rather unclear from these news reports, however, over whether the two men were found guilty of manslaughter. There are rather too many claims in the articles that nothing took place inside the pub, for it to appear as if the landlord and his customers were desperately trying to limit the damage to its reputation.

It is also interesting that Ann Maria, referred to as "the widow", was referred to several times but not named. Ann Maria asked a question of the pub manager who clearly lied in his response.

Given the Coroner did not agree that manslaughter could be proved on the evidence of witnesses, and that the events were so confused, it perhaps is not surprising that the two men were subsequently acquitted at the Old Bailey on 27th November 1890.

George Hudson was a chairmaker by trade, and it is possible he may have known Charles Gates as an apprentice, but this may be stretching credibility.

OLD COURT.—Thursday, November 27th, 1890.

Before Mr. Justice Denman.

35. JOHN WILLIAMS and HENRY WARD were indicted for, and charged on the Coroner's Inquisition with, the manslaughter of George Hudson.

MESSRS. FORREST FULTON and HORACE AVORY Prosecuted; **MR. BURNIE** appeared for Williams, and **MR. GEOGHEGAN** for Ward.

Upon MR. MATHEWS's opening, MR. JUSTICE DENMAN expressed a doubt whether there was sufficient evidence, and after hearing three witnesses, the JURY were of that opinion, and found the Prisoners NOT GUILTY.

Hospital	1400		Spencer's Square	Accidental	August 1890	10/90	
Frooth October 1890 Metropolitan Hospital Sunderland Road	George Hudson	Male	42 years	in Chair Maker of 13 Queens Road Dalston Shoreditch	Concussion of the Brain Caused by a Violent	Certificate received from R. Macdonald Coroner for North Eastern District of London August 1890 October 1890	Forfeited October 1890
							W. Shipman Registrar

Just 6 months later, on the 5th April 1891 census day, the widowed Ann Maria still lived at 13 Queens Road, St Leonards Shoreditch, Haggerstone with her children as the head of the household. Her children were: George (21) (Left home), Elizabeth Maria (19) French Polisher, Rosetta (18) quilting machinist, Nelly (16) French Polisher, Julia (14) Box Making apprentice, Henry (13) Scholar, Bertie (4).

The Titchen Connection

One year later on 31st July 1892, Elizabeth Maria Hudson (19) married Alfred Titchen (20) a warehouseman at the parish church in Bethnal Green. Alfred's father was Martin Titchen a builder. As fathers of the bride and groom, George Hudson and Martin Titchen would therefore have known each other. They both gave their address as 39 Matilda Street. Matilda Street was between Minerva Street and Felix Street, south of Centre Street and north of Old Bethnal Green Road. It no longer exists; on the site now are blocks of flats called Ajax and Achilles House.

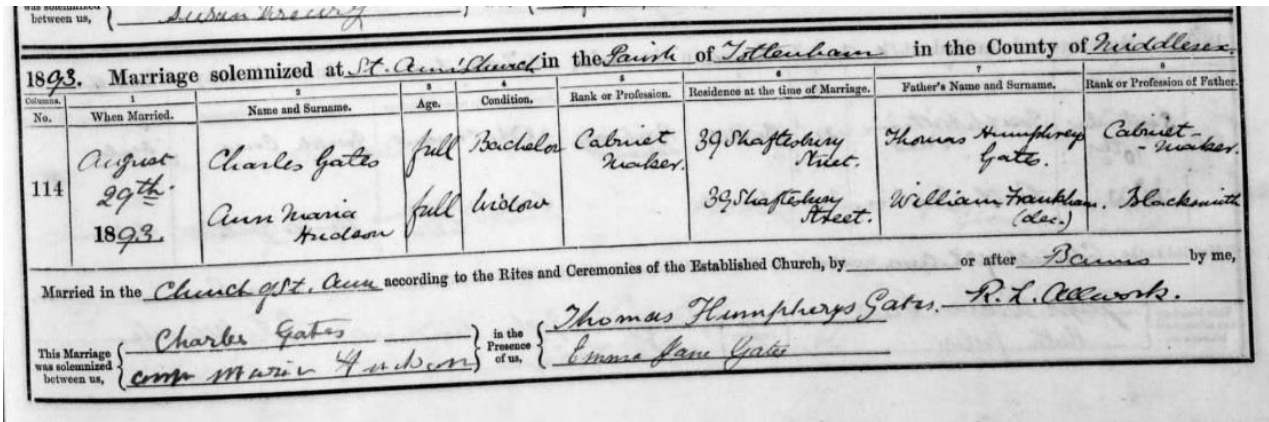
1892 Marriage solemnized at <u>The Parish Church</u> in the <u>Parish of Bethnal Green</u> in the County of <u>London</u>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
190	July 31 1892	Alfred Titchen	21	Bachelor	Warehouse Man	39 Matilda Street	Martin Titchen	Builder
		Elizabeth Maria Hudson	20	Spinster		39 Matilda Street	George Hudson	Chain Maker
Married in the <u>Parish Church</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by _____ or after <u>13auns</u> by me,								
This Marriage was solemnized between us, { <u>A. Titchen</u> <u>E. M. Hudson</u> }			in the Presence of us, { <u>W. Hudson</u> <u>Rosetta Hudson</u> }		by <u>Jas. J. Woodroffe</u> Curate			

Alfred Titchen had a younger brother, Henry Edwin Titchen aged 16.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

The first mystery

On 29th August 1893 Charles Gates aged 24, married Ann Maria Hudson apparently aged 44, the widowed Ann Maria at St Ann’s Church, Tottenham, where Charles was living and working as a cabinet maker, 24 years of age, the bride was aged 42, so considerably older, and she lived with a six-year-old son by her previous marriage, along with five older children. Charles’ father, Thomas Humphreys Gates, and sister, Emma Jane Gates, were witnesses to the marriage, so all seems above board. They both give their address as 39 Shaftesbury Street, Tottenham so it is possible, they were already living together, though we have no evidence of that.



How a 24-year-old cabinet maker, met and married a 44-year-old widowed mother of 7 is uncertain and such intergenerational marriages maybe rather unusual. Charles was only two years older than Ann Maria’s daughter Elizabeth and less than one year older that her eldest son George.

The Gates family had moved to Edmonton 10 years previously, though we have no documentary trace of Charles’ whereabouts at the time. Why and when Ann Maria relocated to Tottenham between 1891 and 1893 is not documented nor do we know how she met Charles. Yet this is likely to have introduced Charles to Alfred Titchen and possibly to his brother Henry Titchen who was only three years younger than Charles.

The Titchen family lived in 69 Old Ford Road, Bethnal Green according to electoral and census records and Henry’s marriage certificate later. This was not far from where Ellen Evans lived.

1893 Formation of the Independent Labour Party

1894 Death of Thomas Humphrey Gates

Around six months after the wedding when he was 24, Charles’ father, Thomas Humphreys Gates, died aged 50 on 21st March 1894 in Edmonton Union Workhouse (the site is now occupied by North Middlesex Hospital). The cause of death was cancer of the face, after an illness lasting twelve months (he must have been unwell at the time of Charles’s wedding).

The death certificate states that Thomas Humphreys Gates was employed as a journeyman cabinet maker in Tottenham parish. It is possible that he had been working there with Charles.



Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Henry Titchen subsequently married Eliza Day on 6th December 1897, but she seems to have died. No record of her death has been uncovered.

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1897. Marriage solemnized at *the Jewish Church* in the *Parish of Bathurst Green* in the County of *London*

Column No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
205	<i>Dec 6 1897</i>	<i>Henry Edwin Titchen</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Cellarman</i>	<i>63 Old Ford Rd</i>	<i>Martin Titchen</i>	<i>Builder</i>
		<i>Eliza Jane Frances Day</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>Spinster</i>		<i>53 Cyprus St</i>	<i>Henry James Day</i>	<i>Coachman</i>

Married in the *Jewish Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the *Established Church* by *John Titchen* on after *Witness* by me, *H. Robertson Phillips*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *Henry Edwin Titchen* and *Eliza Jane Frances Day* in the Presence of us, *John Titchen* and *Melinda Sophia Titchen*

Weddings in the Gates family 1893-1901

Four years after the death of Thomas Humphreys Gates, on 31st July 1898, Charles' brother, Frederick George Gates, married Alice Mary Ann Church at All Saints' church, Edmonton. The groom was aged 22, the bride was aged 18. Both witnesses were from the bride's family, and we can only surmise that the Gates' family would have been present at the ceremony.

Charles' younger brother, John Lewis Gates married May Florence Rossiter on 17th September 1899 at All Saints' church, Edmonton. They were both 18 years old (John Lewis was just five days short of his nineteenth birthday). The witnesses to the marriage were the bride's father, Richard Rossiter, and the groom's sister, Emma Jane Gates. The bride was around seven months pregnant.

On their marriage certificate John Lewis's residence was stated as Sebastopol Road. An electoral roll relating to 1899 lists John Lewis' mother, Emma Gates, at 1 Inkerman Place, Sebastopol Road, and it seems likely that John Lewis lived there at the time of his marriage. Sebastopol Road has been entirely redeveloped and Inkerman Place no longer exists.

Following their marriage John Lewis and May Florence went to live at 15 Eldon Road, Edmonton (the houses on that part of the road no longer exist, and have been replaced with a terrace), where two months later their first child, John Richard Gates, was born on 21 November 1899. Their Eldon Road address lay a little to the north-east of Edmonton Green, in a locality approximately demarcated by Town Road (to the south) and Grosvenor Road and Woodlands Road (to the north) that John Lewis would live in for over fifty years, until the end of his life. Eldon Road Primary School, which still exists, was where I first went to school in 1957.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1894 shows this area as sparsely developed, with new streets in the process of being constructed on agricultural land. For the newly-weds in 1899 the area would probably have seemed semi-rural in aspect, but with housing developments going on all around. During the period 1899 – 1916 the Gates' household lived in at least at seven houses in this part of Edmonton. The family's movements can be followed in a series of electoral rolls (information for some years is absent), and from addresses given on their children's birth certificates.

Charles' sister Emma Jane Gates married Percy Owen Donne, a painter, on 3 December 1899 at All Saints' church, Edmonton. The bride was 25 years old; her husband was aged 24. The bride's brother Charles was one of the witnesses. Emma Jane's residence was given as Sebastopol Road, and presumably she lived there at Inkerman Place with her mother.

Emma Jane was the last of Charles' siblings to marry. His brothers, Henry William, Archibald Humphreys, and Edward James, did not marry. The census of 31st March 1901 recorded John Lewis and his family still living at 15 Eldon Road.

The Titchen Connection again

Sometime after 1900 it appears that Henry Titchen cohabited with Ellen Evens and had 5 children with Ellen, before in 1915 he died in Ypres in WWI. Here, indirectly, Charles is connected to Ellen through the marriages of Alfred Titchen to Elizabeth Hudson, and her marriage to Henry Titchen.

Those Who Went Before Me - 1a The Gates Line

However, Charles and Ann Maria are living in Edmonton; Ellen and Henry are living in Bethnal Green.

1901 Census

The 1901 census form shows a household at 4 Beaconsfield Road, Edmonton. The household members are:

- Charles Gates, Head, 31, Carpenter, born in Middlesex, England.
- Ann Maria Gates, Wife, 27, Dressmaker, born in Middlesex, England.
- Bertie Hudson, Son, 14, Scholar, born in Middlesex, England.
- Emma Gates, Daughter, 5, Infant, born in Middlesex, England.

The form also includes a section for 'Total of Males and of Females' and a reference number RG 13/1262.

Charles Gates and Ann Maria Gates (formerly Frankham and Hudson) would now have now been married 8 years and lived at 4 Beaconsfield Road with stepson Bertie Hudson who was now 14.

On 11th August 1902 Charles' mother Emma Gates (formerly Page) died at 27 Beaconsfield Road of cancer of the uterus aged 59 (her age was erroneously stated as 57 on the death certificate). Charles was almost 33 years old when his mother died. His brother, Thomas Humphrey was present at the death. Thomas lived at 1 Inkerman Place, Sebastopol Road, Edmonton.

Superintendent Registrar's District		EDMONTON.							
Registrar's Sub-District		EDMONTON.							
1902. DEATHS in the Sub-District of		EDMONTON.			in the County of <i>Middlesex</i>				
Columns: 1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	
No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant	When registered.	Signature of Registrar.
1474	7th August 1902 27 Beaconsfield Road Edmonton, U.S.	Emma Gates	Female	59 years	Widow of Thomas Humphrey Gates Cabinet-maker (Journeyman)	Cancer of Uterus Certified by John Shaw M.D. Ch.D.	Thomas Humphrey Gates Son In attendance 1 Inkerman Place Sebastopol Road Edmonton	12th August 1902	John Harman Judd Registrar

On 3rd January 1909, Ann Marie's youngest child, Bertie Hudson (23) married Pamela Kate Bland (23), and moved to Angel Road, Edmonton. Five months later on 5th June their first child, Pamel Kate Hudson, named after her mother, was born at 8 Willsons Terrace, Angel Road, Edmonton.

387	5th June 1909 8 Willsons Terrace Angel Road Edmonton, U.S.	Pamela Kate	Girl	Bertie Hudson	Pamela Kate Hudson formerly Bland	Timber Merchants Porters	Pamela K Hudson Mother 8 Willsons Terrace Angel Road Edmonton	5th July 1909	John Harman Judd Registrar
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Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

Almost a year later, on 7th May 1910, they emigrated to Quebec, Canada, on the White Star – *Dominion* – subsequently living at 30, 2nd Avenue, Lachine in the city of Montreal, where he served in the Army. Baby Pamela seems not to have been included on the passenger list. In all they had a further 4 children in Canada between 1910 and 1920 – Beatrice, Maud, Herbert and Charles. Bertie died on 5th August 1956 aged 70, Kate died on 28th May 1959 aged 73. All their children had died by the year 2000.

1911 Census for Charles Gates/Ann Maria Gates

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 headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.
The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict 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, in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP TO HEAD OF FAMILY	AGE last birthday and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE					PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged 16 years and upwards				BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country.	INFIRMITY.
			State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—	Wife— "Single," "Married," "Widow," or— "Widow," represents the status of the person aged 15 years and upwards.	Children born alive in present Marriage. If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.	Children born alive in previous Marriages has been taken into account.	Children who have died.	Children who have been adopted.	Personal Occupation.	Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employed or Working on Own Account.			
1 Charles Gates	Head	42 M	Married	17	None	None	Carpenter	None	None	None	Shrewsbury	British		
2 Ann Maria Gates	Wife	60 F	Married				None	None	None	None	Worcestershire	British		
3														
4														
5														
6														
7														
8														
9														
10														
11														
12														
13														
14														
15														

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

1 I certify that—
 (1) All the names on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex column.
 (2) I have entered the dates and times in Column 3 and 4 respectively, and have entered the dates and times in the most correct manner.
 (3) All the names on this Schedule are entered in the most correct manner, and have entered such as appeared in the returns.

Initials of Enumerator: *W.A.G.*

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge of this dwelling.)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this dwelling (Kitchens, W.C.s, or Bathrooms). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count sanitary, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom, nor warehouse, office, shop.

Rooms: Kitchen 1, W.C. 1, Bathroom 2

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

Signature: *Charles Gates*
 Postal Address: *286 Wilson Terrace, Angel Road, Edmonton, W7*

Charles and Ann Maria are now living at 286 Wilson Terrace, Angel Road, Edmonton, and all Ann Marie's children have left home. They have been married now for 18 years and had no children together. Ann Maria was 60 years old; Charles was 42.

When the First World War broke out on 4th August 1914 Charles would have been 45 years old and it is unlikely that he would have contemplated enlisting in the services and being over 41 was too old for conscription. He was still a carpenter.

Metropolitan Police Special Constabulary

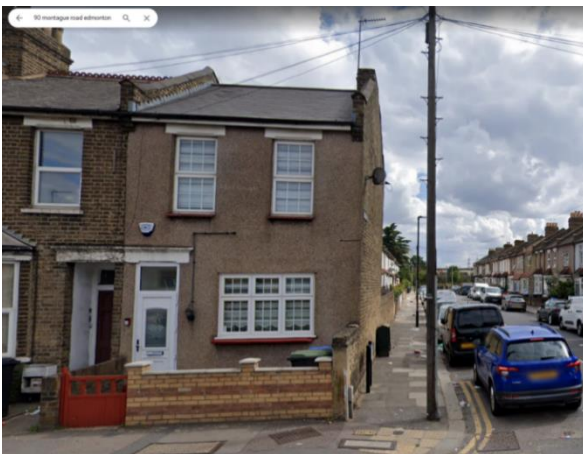
One thing we know little about is Charles time as a Special Constable in the Metropolitan Police. I have a *Metropolitan Police Special Constabulary Long Service 1914 Medal* along with his whistle (No 019039) and truncheon. I was given this by my father. Also, John Pateman, another of Charles' grandsons was shown the truncheon as a young boy by Ellen.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line



The Special Constabulary was established in August 1914, when the Home Secretary asked Colonel Sir Edward Ward of the Metropolitan Police to organise and control a force of Special Constables. Ward was given 9 empty rooms on the 3rd floor of New Scotland Yard (Scotland House) as his headquarters. He appointed 4 District Commandants, with duties similar to a then Chief Constable, and 21 Commanders. The Specials met the need for additional unpaid manpower, manning observation posts, protecting vulnerable points, helping guard German prisoners and enforcing lighting restrictions. They also helped maintain law and order, releasing some 4,350 members of the regular Metropolitan Police Service to join the armed forces. Other forces began to recruit Specials too.

1915 Death of Ann Maria



On 25th January 1915 Ann Maria Gates, Charles's wife, died of pneumonia aged 64. Ann Maria and Charles were living at 90 Montague Road at the time of her death. The death was registered by Charles who was present at the death. They were married for 22 years.

90 Montague Road (2022)

Twenty fifth January 1915 90 Montague Road U.S.	Ann Maria Gates	Female 64 years	Wife of Charles Gates a Carpenter (journeyman)	(1) Pneumonia (2) Apoplexy Certified by John Shaw M.B.	Charles Gates Widower of deceased Present at the death 90 Montague Road Edmonton	Twenty fifth January 1915	W. H. Miller Registrar.
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The Second Mystery

After Ann Maria's death Charles subsequently moved to 79 Westminster Road, though we do not know why and exactly when. However, in 1917, just across the road, only 60 metres away, 66 Westminster Road, Edmonton lived the widow, Ellen Titchen (formerly Evans) Her husband Henry Titchen had died in 1915 in Ypres leaving Ellen alone with four children: Henry (11), John (9), George (6) and Edwin (2). Henry and Ellen had been living in Bethnal Green and it is not documented when Ellen moved to Westminster Road close to Charles, the step father of her sister-in-law.

Westminster Road was just two streets away from Eldon Road, the street in which Charles Gates' brother John Lewis was to live in later.

So, Ellen, the sister-in-law of Elizabeth Titchen (formerly Hudson) now becomes also step-mother of Elizabeth Titchen as Charles is the step-father of Elizabeth. The assumption that Charles and Ellen met in Edmonton around 1917 might be incorrect, given that Charles would have known Henry Titchen since 1892 when Henry's brother married Charles' step daughter.

Those Who Went Before Me – 1a The Gates Line

On 9th January 1917, Charles's brother, Archibald Humphreys Gates was living at 19 Westminster Road. He was a labourer in a munitions factory. He died of pneumonia and influenza in hospital. His brother Thomas Humphreys was with him when he died. At the time Thomas lived at 337 Brettenham Road.

381	Died. Ninth January 1917 19 Westminster Road U.S.	Archibald Humphreys Gates	Male	44 years	Labourer Munitions factory	① Influenza ② Pneumonia Certified by Norman B. Benjafield M.D.	Thomas H. Gates Brother In attendance 337 Brettenham Road Edmonton	Ninth January 1917	W.H. Miller Registrar.
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Brettenham Road runs off Fore Street, and lay between Montague Crescent (to the north) and Ellanby Crescent (to the south), running parallel to Sebastopol Road. It is 1 mile from Westminster Road.

Archibald had served 20 years in the Somerset Light Infantry, and was discharged as a Private on 3rd January 1912. He was "5ft 6", sallow complexion, with dark brown eyes and hair". He became a labourer, and lived at 3 Farm Cottages., Montague Road, Edmonton. He was "of very good conduct. Honest, Truthful, Hardworking and reliable". He had been awarded the India medal with the Punjab clasp.

The marriage of Charles Gates and Ellen Titchen

Two years after Ann Maria and Henry Titchen died, Charles Gates (46) married Ellen Catherine Titchen (33) at The Register Office, Edmonton on 18th April 1917.

The previous connection through the Titchens means Ellen was Elizabeth Hudson's sister-in-Law, and Charles was her step-father. This also suggests there was some informal family connection hinting that Ellen and Charles did previously know (of) each other. What is unusual here is the intergenerational aspect caused by Charles first marrying a much older woman, and then one much younger.

The married life of Charles and Ellen is continued in Part 1b – The Evans Line, Section 9 – Grandparents, Chapter 20 – Marriage of Ellen Titchen and Charles Gates.