

Those Who Went Before Me

Part 2 - The Path to My Mother

Part 2a - The Robinson Line

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Foreword

What surprised me when I began this study, was finding out that half of my family came not from the London of my parents' and grandparents' histories, but from further east – from rural Essex and Kent. Hence in this Part 2a, I explore the structure of families who lived outside London in rural Essex in the 18th and 19th centuries. Although the distances from London may be small by our standards today, transport in the 18th and 19th centuries was difficult and tortuous; few would have travelled far. However, the birth of the railways was set to change all that.

We do know, more or less, where my ancestors lived – though not many exact addresses are provided on official documentation (birth records, death certificates, census returns etc.). We can tell from these where they relocated with only an approximate timeline. Thanks to baptism records (up to 1837) and thereafter birth registrations we can know where and when children were born – and subsequently where and when they married and when they died, and to some extent we can map employment trajectories.

What we cannot tell from these accounts is the detailed minutiae of their lives. We can know nothing of their daily lives as this was not documented; there are no written diaries. Indeed, many of the people here were not literate before around 1870.

When did they sleep? Where did they sleep? What did they eat, and how often? How did the attendance compulsory for children aged 5-13. Subsequent acts in 1876, 1880, 1893, and 1899 further strengthened compulsory attendance, restricted child labour, and provided for the education of special needs children. This will have transformed the lives of many children toward the latter sections of this part. They lived lives without electricity and running water for much of the time covered here, making life not only difficult, but very different from my own.

Consequently, we are left with guesswork and conjecture by extrapolating from more generic historical accounts. Using existing websites and books, and ChatGPT I have managed to create some narratives of lives during the 18th -19th centuries which gives us an insight into how these people lived on a daily basis.

Part 2 The Path to My Mother



Maud around 1990

Part 2 tells the story that eventually leads up to the birth of my mother, Maud Robinson, in April 1920,

Around 1895 Maud's father, Leonard Victor Robinson, moved away from his family in Prittlewell (now part of Southend) to Edmonton, for work as a labourer at the age of 20. He worked as a labourer for the rest of his working life.

Maud's mother, Harriet Philpott, was born in Teynham, Kent in 1877. In 1880, Harriet's family moved from Teynham to Enfield presumably because her father, Edwin, was searching for work as a brickmaker. At the time huge housing estates were being constructed in north London which no doubt offered new opportunities. In 1891 they again moved, this time to Edmonton, very close to where Leonard was living. The rest is history.

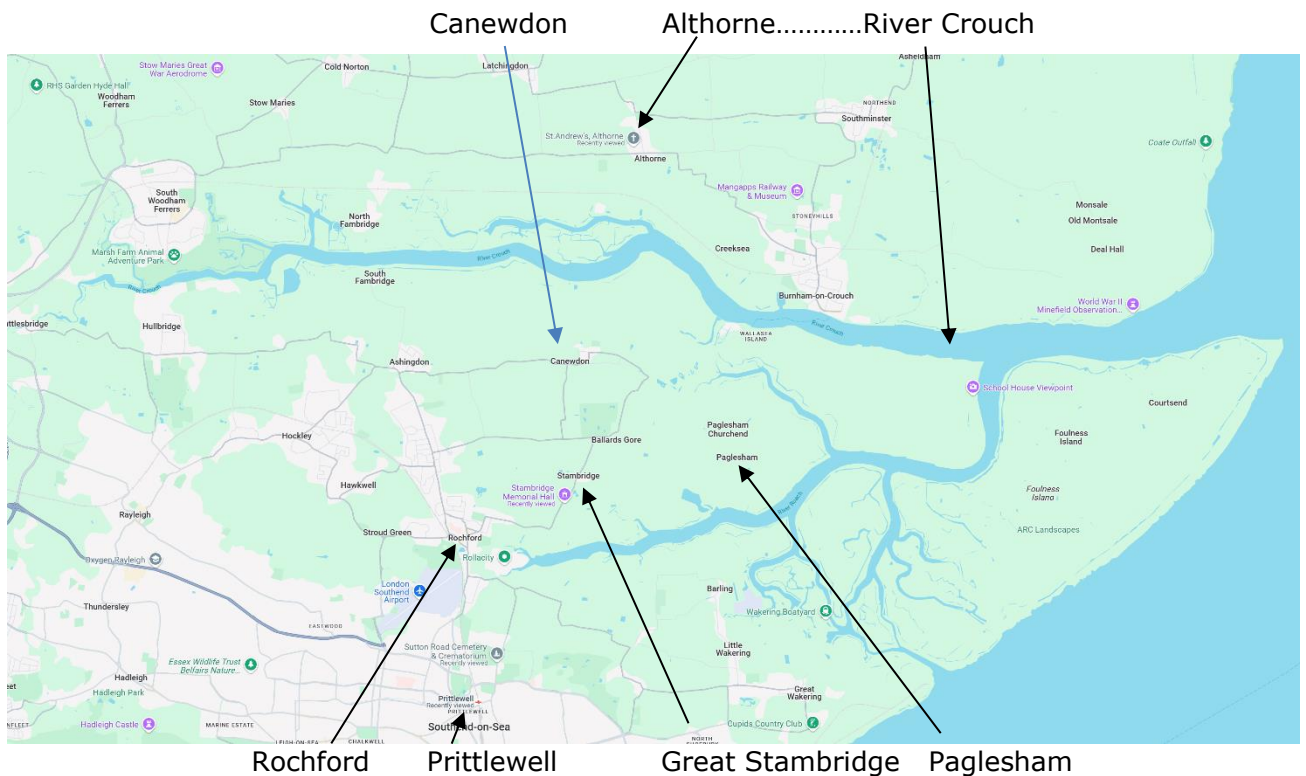
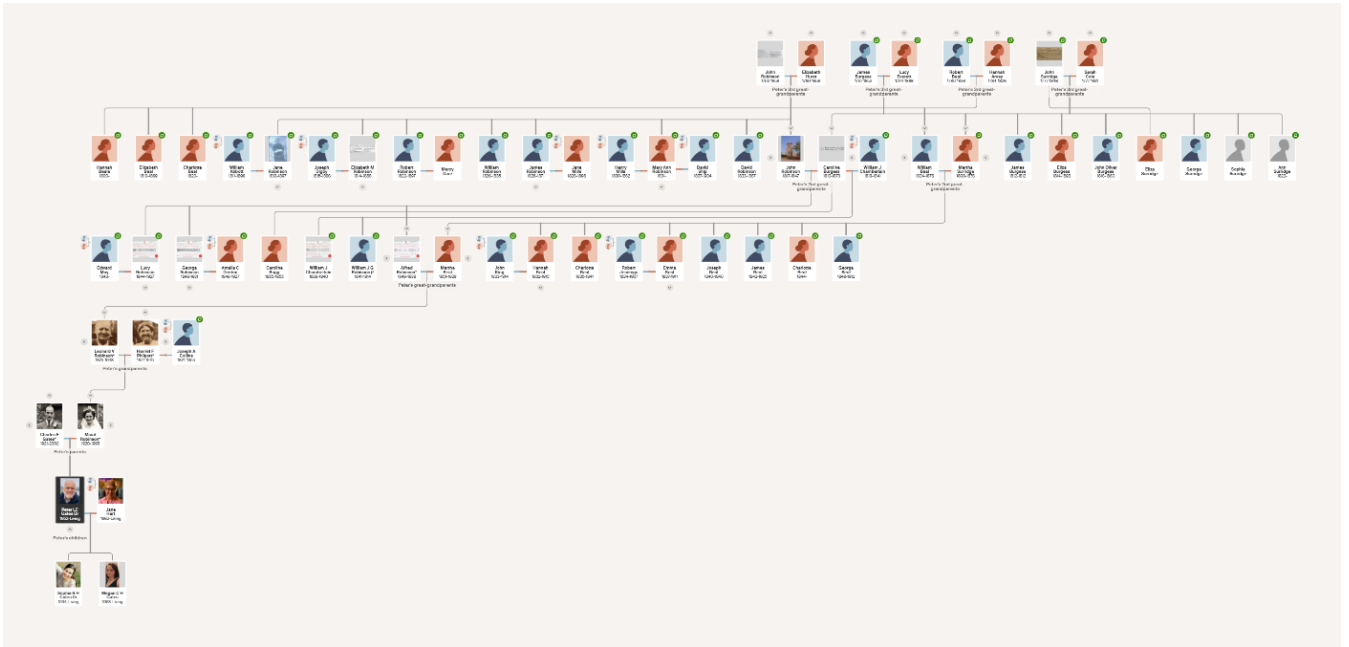
In Part 1 my ancestors predominantly lived in a small area of north London (notwithstanding some limited migration from other parts of the country). It is, though, in Part 2 that we begin our story outside of London and into rural Essex and Kent. Both of Maud's parents, Leonard Victor Robinson and Harriet Frances Philpott, came from rural communities – Leonard in Essex, Harriet in Kent.

A difference with Part 1 is that early records and addresses in rural communities are more difficult to come by, only existing in local archives if at all. (Early censuses in these rural communities rarely gave addresses). This makes some of the information from early generations somewhat sparse and of questionable validity. In compensation I have spent time in Part 2 looking at the family trajectories of my mother's ancestors to give a flavour of the social change and movements and a broader picture of the times and outcomes in these rural communities.

Part 2a The Robnson Line

This Part 2a tells the story that eventually leads up to the birth of my mother, Maud Robinson, in April 1920, following the paternal Robnson line from 1780 up to the marriage of my maternal grandparents in 1896.

The Robnson line mainly lived in Essex in small rural villages of Althorn, Rochford, Great Stambridge, Paglesham, Canewdon, Prittlewell. Through marriage back to the 1700s it encompasses the names Beal, Burgess, Surridge, Hurst, Everett, Amey and Cole, some of whom, migrated from rural Suffolk. Families still tended to be large, but interestingly there appears to be less occurrence of infant mortality than in London, and far fewer deaths from cancer.



Section 11 - 3xGreat Grandparents

John Robinson (1792-1858) & Elizabeth Hurst (1789-1858)

James Burgess (1797-1852) & Lucy Everett (1794-1866)

Robert Beal (1780-1838) & Hannah Amey (1784-1826)

John Surridge (1777-1846) & Sarah Cole (1777-1831)

The stories I tell here of the lives of my eight 3 x great grandparents begins around 1780 until around 1860. They lived through "*the madness of King George*", the eventual abolition of slavery, American independence, and much, much more.

Thankfully, they also experienced the introduction of national registration of births, marriages and deaths in 1837, replacing the parish registers that only recorded baptisms, marriages, and burials, started by Thomas Cromwell some 300 years previously. As Henry VIII's chief minister, and as part of the Tudor government's efforts to control and monitor the population, Thomas Cromwell issued an injunction in 1538 that required every parish priest in England and Wales to keep a written record of baptisms, marriages, and burials. These registers were to be updated weekly and stored in a safe, secure book and were originally intended to track the population and ensure that legitimate births and marriages were being recorded. This also had a financial motive - helping the state monitor who was entitled to inherit land and property. Over the longer term these records became the foundation of modern civil registration and are now vital for historical, genealogical, and demographic research. Despite some gaps (especially in the early years), many parish registers survive and date back to the 16th century.

Life in Rural Essex in the 19th century¹

In the 19th century, working people in rural Essex especially, experienced major social and economic upheavals that deeply affected working people, especially agricultural labourers, smallholders, and rural craftsmen. The century brought industrialization, urbanization, and agricultural transformation, but many of these developments made life harder for the rural poor. They will have faced economic issues with the decline of agricultural wages. Agricultural labourers remained the poorest class. Wages were extremely low, and often seasonal or casual. In addition, farm mechanization reduced the need for manual labour, especially during harvest.

In addition, there was both unemployment and underemployment. With the rise of machines and the fall in grain prices after the Napoleonic Wars, many rural workers were unable to find steady employment. The "agricultural depression" of the late 19th century (1870s onward) worsened job scarcity and pushed many off the land.

There are five key social issues that affected daily life: poverty, education, health, housing and religion.

a) Poverty and the Poor Law

The 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act ended outdoor relief and established workhouses. Rural Essex saw widespread resentment, as workhouses were harsh and humiliating. Many were built in market towns like Chelmsford and Braintree. This also brought about much migration to towns and cities as many rural people migrated to London or Essex towns like Colchester and Southend for factory or service work. This in turn led to rural depopulation and the decline of traditional village life.

The rural population also faced a number of social issues such as class conflict and rural unrest. Class divides deepened between landowners, tenant farmers, and landless labourers. The Swing Riots of the 1830s (including in Essex) were sparked by opposition to mechanization and low wages. Women worked in domestic service, on farms, and in rural industries, but had few rights.

b) Education and Child Labor

Rural children were often sent to work from a young age, especially during harvests ("half-time schooling"). The Education Acts (from 1870 onward) began to improve schooling, but uptake in rural areas was slow at first. Campaigns for women's education and suffrage began to gain traction in rural areas by the late 19th century.

c) Health and Housing Conditions

Many working people lived in overcrowded, poorly built cottages with little sanitation. Poor diet and disease were common, especially in isolated hamlets and agricultural settlements.

d) Religion and Social Control

The Church of England played a dominant role in moral life, but Nonconformist and Methodist chapels gained popularity among the poor. Religion was often a source of community identity and resistance to elite control.

While cities benefited from industrial progress, rural Essex remained economically depressed and socially conservative, prompting many to leave in search of better lives elsewhere. These conditions sowed the seeds for 20th-century labour movements, welfare reform, and rural modernization. Significantly, leaving rural communities to look for work elsewhere led both Leonard and Harriet to relocate to Edmonton, where they met. Were it not for this phenomenon, I would not be here; I would be someone else, somewhere else.

Property Ownership in Rural Essex in the 19th Century

In 19th century rural Essex, housing arrangements for working people were shaped by poverty, dependence on landowners, and social hierarchy. Property ownership among rural working-class people in 19th century Essex was extremely rare. Most lived in rented or tied cottages. The vast majority of rural labourers did not own their homes but lived in rented cottages, often owned by large landowners or tenant farmers or sometimes charitable trusts or church parishes.

Tied cottages were common; these came with a job such as agricultural labourers, and shepherds. If you lost the job, you lost the home.

Conditions were often very poor. Cottages were usually small, with one or two rooms, poor ventilation, and little sanitation. Overcrowding was common, especially among large families. Many homes lacked proper drainage, had damp walls, and shared outside privies (toilets).

Very few lived in a building constructed by workers themselves. In a few cases, skilled workers (such as carpenters or blacksmiths) might build or improve a home on rented land, but they still did not own the land. Genuine self-built, owned homes were rare among the poor.

Water and Sanitation in Rural Essex in the 19th Century

In 19th century rural Essex, working people got water through basic, manual methods, as there was no piped water supply for most of the century. Water access was local, labour-intensive, and often unreliable. Rural Essex generally lagged behind towns in sanitation and clean water access until well into the 20th century.

There were basically four main sources of water supply:

1. Wells

Most villages and some individual cottages had private or shared wells, dug by hand. These could be shallow or deep, and water had to be drawn using a bucket and pulley, or later a hand pump. Wells could dry up in summer or become contaminated, especially if located near latrines or livestock.

2. Rainwater Collection

People often used water butts or barrels to collect rainwater from thatched or tiled roofs. This was mainly used for washing and sometimes drinking if boiled.

3. Streams, Rivers, and Ponds

In areas without wells, people fetched water from the nearest stream, brook, or village pond. These were vulnerable to pollution from animals, waste disposal, or nearby industry.

4. Communal Pumps or Standpipes (Late 19th century)

In some larger villages or estate-owned areas, landowners or local authorities installed hand pumps or public standpipes—especially after public health reforms in the 1870s–80s. These were still rare and not always reliable.

Events during the lives of my 3xGreat Grandparents

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

1760	25 October	King George II dies and George III ascends the throne.
1766	30 July	William Pitt, 1st Earl of Chatham becomes Prime Minister.
		1768 Captain James Cook leads his first expedition to the Pacific
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.
	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, 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.
1804	10 May	William Pitt the Younger becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
1805	21 October	The naval Battle of Trafalgar takes place.
1807	25 March	The Slave Trade Act 1807 is passed.
1809	4 October	Spencer Perceval becomes Prime Minister.
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.

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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.
	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	William IV dies on 20 th June 1837 age 71. 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.
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.
1855	6 February	Henry John Temple, 3rd Viscount Palmerston becomes Prime Minister.
	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.

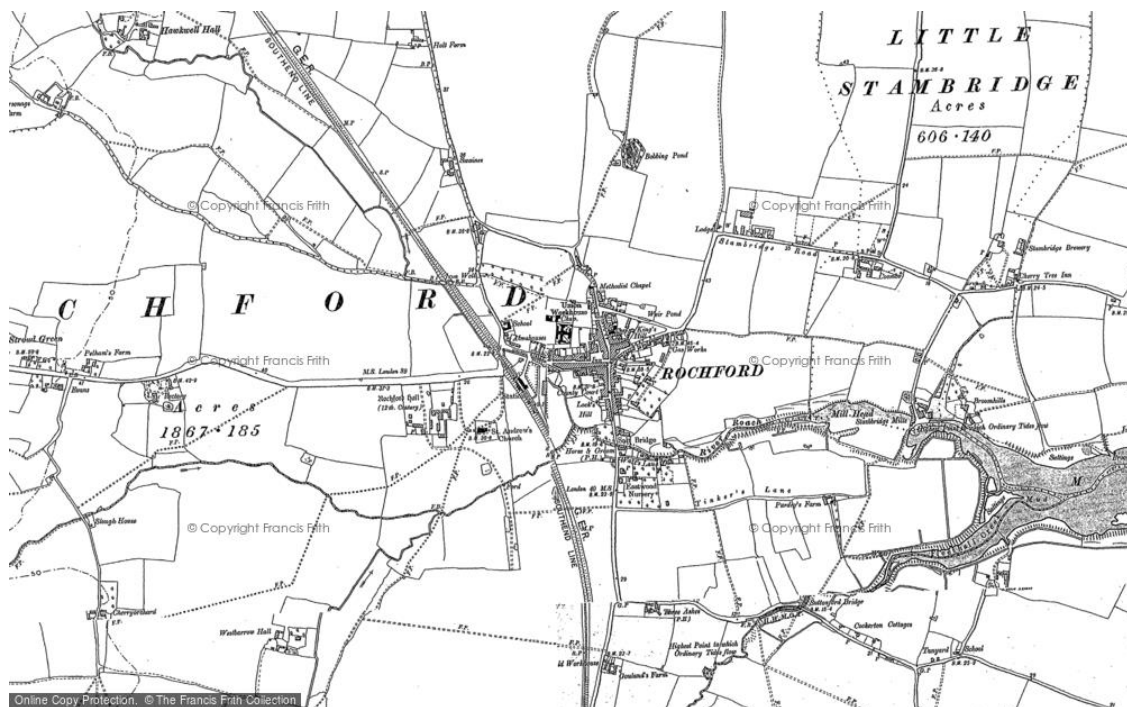
Chapter 22 - John Robinson (1792–1858) and Elizabeth Hurst (1789-1858)

John and Elizabeth were both born at the end of the 18th century in small rural villages, and little is known of their early lives. John was born in Rochford, and Elizabeth's family moved from Snape in Suffolk to Rochford, where she married John and they raised a family of 8 children – all but one of whom (William) survived infancy and went on to lead fairly long and stable lives. The exception being John, my 2xgreat grandfather who died age 30. While most of their children stayed close, two married and moved away; Elizabeth moved to Lambeth in the City of London where she married a policeman (in fact she married two policemen, after being widowed); Richard eventually moved to Brentwood where he became a master upholsterer. Toward the end of this chapter are full details of the lives of John and Elizabeth's children. This gives a broader picture of the times and the outcomes of their lives that basically spanned the entire 19th century. There we see three lived long enough to die of "senile decay".

John and Elizabeth lived through some tumultuous times – The battles of Waterloo and Trafalgar, the end of slavery, the death of George III, George IV, and William IV leading to the start of the Victorian age. Though one wonders how just much these affected their small rural communities. They went on to have over 40 grandchildren.

Life would have undoubtedly been hard for John and Elizabeth – houses will have been of wood, with no electricity or running water – this would have been provided from a communal pump in the village.

John died age 68, but we are not sure what became of Elizabeth.



Rochford 1895

Rochford

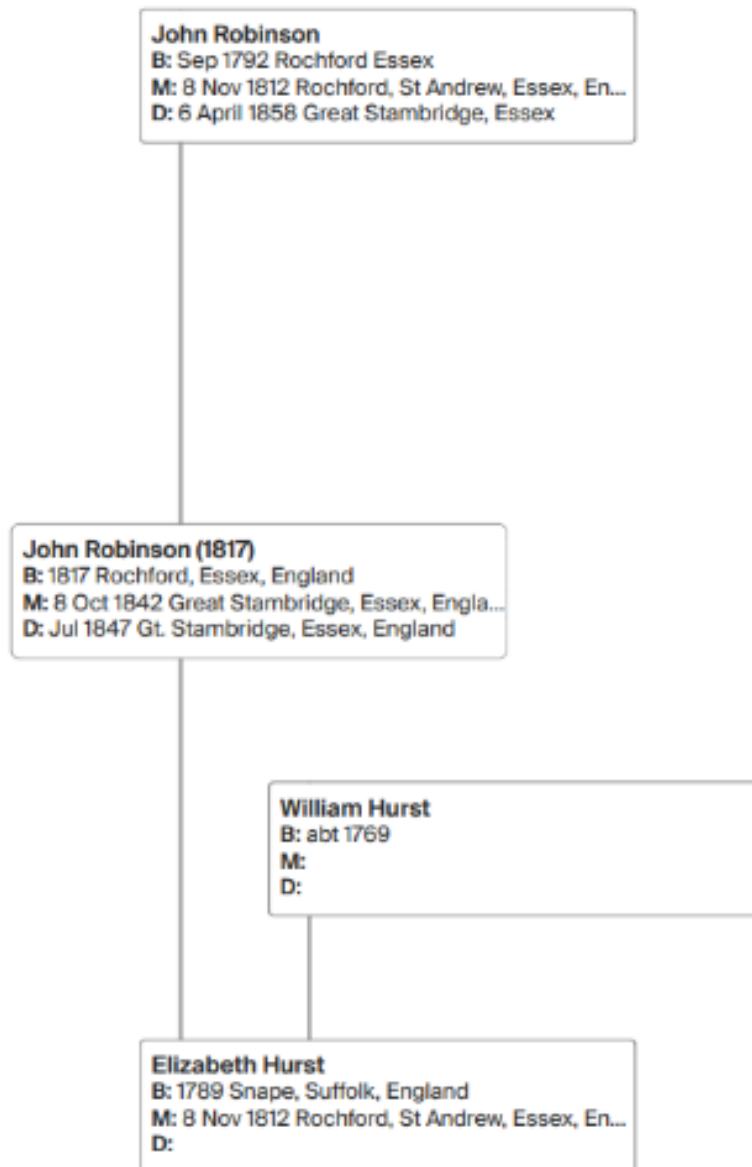
The first official UK census in 1801 recorded the population of Rochford as around 1,683

Canewdon

Canewdon was (and still is) a small rural village. The population of Canewdon, Essex in the 1801 census was approximately 494 people.

Family Tree of John and Elizabeth

The history of John and Elizabeth is very sparse.



John Robinson (1792-1858)

According to later census records, John Robinson was born in 1792 in Rochford, Essex. Further records of John's earlier life appear difficult to uncover.

Elizabeth Hurst (1789-1858)

Elizabeth Hurst was born in 1789 in Snape, a small village in the county of Suffolk, on the River Alde close to Aldeburgh. Her parents were William Hurst, and mother as yet unknown. We do not yet know what bought Elizabeth from Snape to Rochford – a distance of some 70 miles.

Marriage of John Robinson and Elizabeth Hurst

John Robinson (1792-1858) and Elizabeth Hurst (1789-1858) married on 8th November 1812 at St Andrew's Church, Rochford.

It appears they moved to Canewdon at some point.

Canewdon is a village and civil parish in the Rochford district of Essex, England. The village is located approximately 4 miles (6.4 km) northeast of the town of Rochford, while the parish extends for several miles on the southern side of the River Crouch. Canewdon is situated on one of the highest hills of the Essex coastline, from which St Nicholas's Church affords wide views of the Crouch estuary.



Canewdon 1873 (Source: National library OF Scotland)

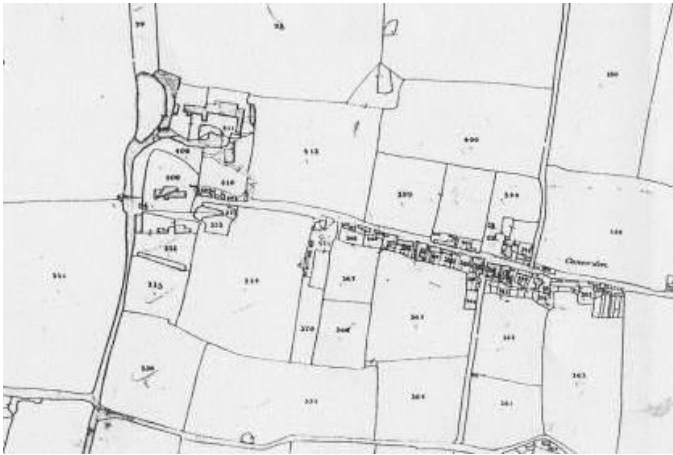
The size of Canewdon can be seen above from the 1873 OS map which shows the extent of the village, with St Nicholas' Church to the west and the Congregational Chapel to the east.

A school and schoolmaster's house were built at the west end of the High Street in 1799 on Poores' Land. This is now a private residence known as Vicarage Cottage. As the population grew the school became inadequate and a new school was built in the High Street in 1863, a red brick building with a slate roof. This building still stands as part of the now much expanded school complex. In 1833 a congregational chapel was built to the east of the village, but was demolished during the Second World War and later re-sited on the High Street as it stood in the line of fire of guns protecting the radar site. (Source: Rochford District Council)

In 1801 the population was 569, rising to 723 in 1841, and declining once more to 495 in 1901. By the late 19th century, the High Street was developed on both the north and south sides, but the south side remained the most densely built up with closely packed small plots built up to the

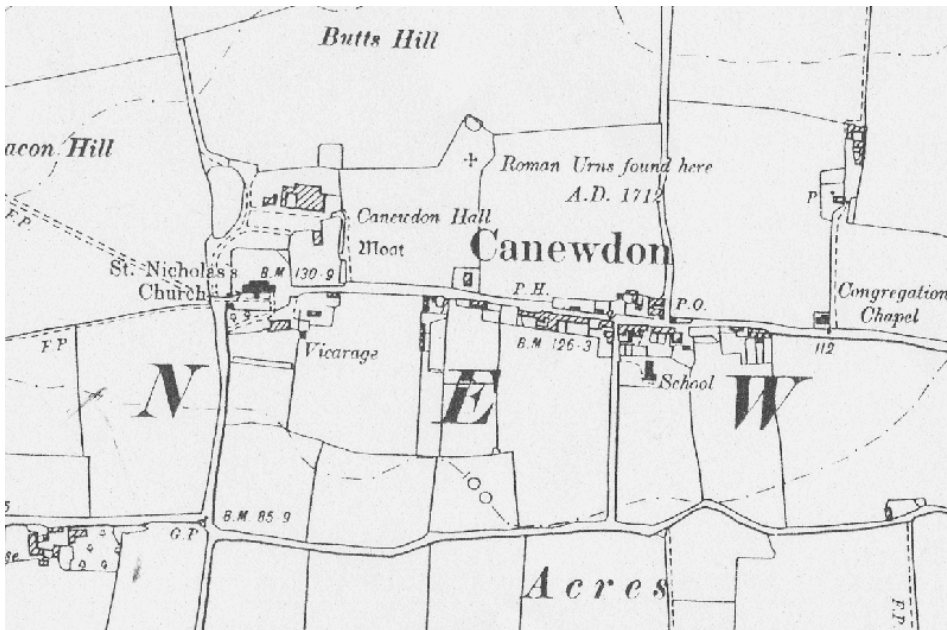
Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

street edge, whilst the north side remained more open. The Post Office Directory of 1871 lists commercial premises within the parish, including a shoemaker, a cooper, a carpenter, two bakers, a miller, a harness-maker and a blacksmith, and most of these are likely to have had premises in the village itself. Writing in 1867, the local historian Philip Benton recorded that the area had, over the preceding century, witnessed a degree of neglect with some houses unfit for human habitation, and 'few recreations ... except those enjoyments afforded by the public houses'.

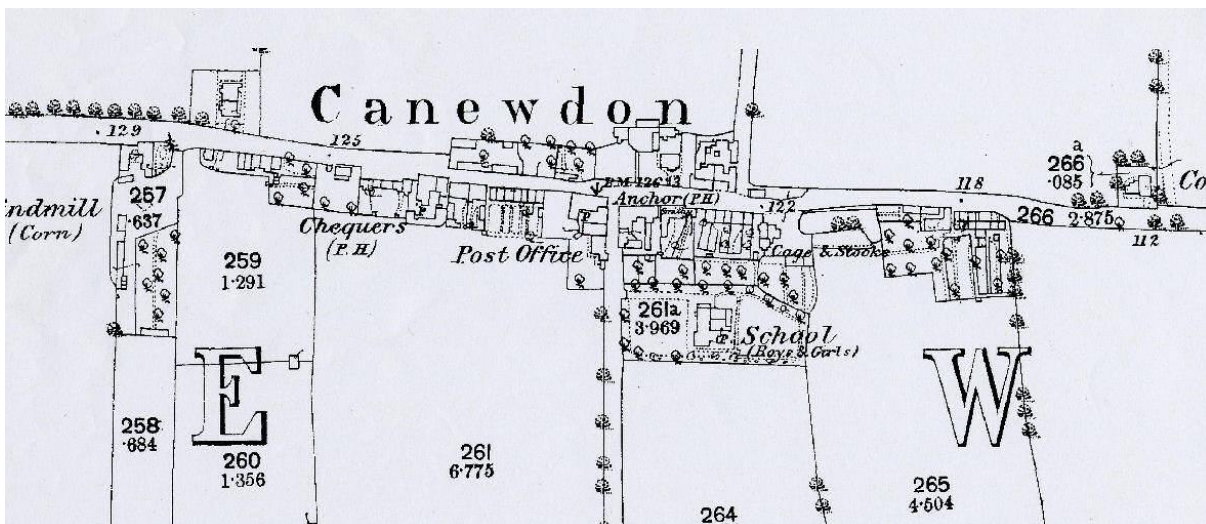


The tithe map of Canewdon of 1840 (left), shows early development mainly on the south side of the High Street and the rectilinear arrangement of fields in the surrounding landscape.

The High Street is still there – but is a very narrow lane.



The extracts from the OS map of 1870 (left and below) illustrate how the village had developed by 1870.



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Canewdon as it is in 2025

The population of Canewdon in the 2021 census was 1,656

John and Elizabeth may have had 8 children, some of whose baptisms are recorded below and interestingly they appear to have been non-denominational

"The original Register Book which has been kept for the Chapel of Meeting-house called Rochford Chapel being of the Independent denomination situate in Rochford Essex"

Notably non-conformist and non-parochial birth, marriage, and death registers, predating civil registration (1837), provide valuable genealogical data for tracing family history. These records were kept by non-Anglican churches or other congregations, offering details about individuals not part of the Church of England. Non-Conformist records go back to the mid-1600's when various groups refused to conform to the Church of England and wished to have religious freedom to worship in their own way. These groups include Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Baptists, Quakers, Methodists, Catholics and Unitarians.

(Source: Non-conformist and non-parochial birth, marriage, and death registers. Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths surrendered to the Non-parochial Registers Commissions of 1837; Rochford (Independent), 1767-1768, 1770-1837

Not all of their children became associated with agricultural labour – some moved into manual professions of carpentry.

Their first child was Jane born in 1813. We do not know her date of birth but it is possible Elizabeth was already pregnant when she married John.

- **Jane 1813-1897**
- **Elizabeth Mary 1814-1872**
- **John* 1817-1847**
- **Robert 1821-1897**
Robert was born on 2nd December 1821 and Baptised in early 1822.
- **William 1826-1835**
William was born in April 1826 in Canewdon, and Baptised on July 16th. Father John was a joiner.

Robert, son of John Robertson
and of Elizabeth his wife, formerly
Hurst of - Suffolk, born the
2nd day of December 1821, was
baptised the day 1822
by me
R. M. M. M. M.
Protestant dissenting Minister
Rochford ... 17

Source: Marriage Register; Service of Church: Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials; Incumbent; Rochford, St Andrew; Parish Records; 1791-1812

William died in 1935 age 9.

When Baptised	Child's Christian name in top.	When born.	Parents' Christian name.	Parents' surname.	Mother's maiden name.	Place of Abode.	Profession or Trade.	Signature of the Minister by whom the Baptism was performed.
May 1. 1826	Owen son	Pitttenwell March 14. 1826	John Abbot and Elizabeth	Kemp	Sabor	Pitttenwell	Miller	By me Geo. Harris.
July 13. 1826.	Joseph son.	Great-Hambidge Nov 2. 1826	John and Marannah	Wall	Wade.	Great- Hambidge	Labourer.	By me Geo Harris
July 13. 1826.	William son.	Canewdon April 1826	John and Elizabeth	Robinson	Hurst.	Canewdon.	Joiner.	Attest By me Geo. Harris

• **James 1828-1871**

James was born on 27th October 1828, and baptised on 13th November at Canewdon.

November 13. 1828	James son	Canewdon	John and Elizabeth	Robinson
Oct 27. 1828				
10. 1828	Sarah Ann	Great Hambidge	John	

- **Mary Ann 1831-1900**
- **David 1833-1887**

1837 The Victorian Era Begins

William IV dies on 20th June 1837 age 71. The reign of Queen Victoria begins.

Life for working people in Canewdon in 1837 was hard, rural, and rooted in tradition. Days were long and laborious, living conditions were basic, and community and church played central roles. Though the Industrial Revolution was reshaping cities, villages like Canewdon remained relatively untouched by industry—though not by poverty or change.

Most working people in Canewdon in 1837 would have been involved in farming. Ploughing, sowing, harvesting, and maintaining crops, tending to livestock - especially sheep, pigs, and cattle. Seasonal employment was common, with heavier workloads during harvest time (August–September). Many people were day labourers, paid daily or weekly, often in cash and sometimes in kind (e.g., food or firewood). Many rural women worked in domestic service in nearby towns or larger farmhouses. Others contributed to the household economy by spinning, sewing, gathering fuel, and assisting during harvests.

The diet was basic and seasonal: bread, cheese, porridge, and vegetables were staples. Meat was rare, often saved for Sundays or special occasions. Beer or cider was common, as clean drinking water wasn't always available. People often grew vegetables in small gardens or kept chickens or pigs.

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1850s

On census day Sunday 30th March 1851, John (59) and Elizabeth (62) lived in Paglesham, Rochford. John was a master carpenter employing 2 men.

Parish or Township of Paglesham		Ecclesiastical District of St. Andrew Rochford		City or Township of		Village of Paglesham	
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 each Person	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind or Deaf, or Lame
57	John Robinson	Head	Mar	59	Master Carpenter	Essex, Paglesham	
	Elizabeth	Wife	Mar	62	Shopkeeper	Essex, Paglesham	
58	John Gualam	Head	Mar	43	Receiving Clerk	Essex, Paglesham	
	Mary Gualam	Wife	Mar	45		Essex, Cambridge	
59	William Taylor	Head	Mar	54	Cypher Binder	Essex, Paglesham	
	Mary	Wife	Mar	54		Essex, Paglesham	
	Lilian Stone	Daughter	U	24	Servant of employ	Essex, Wickham	
	Philip Stone	Son	U	5		Essex, Wickham	
60	James J. Stone	Head	Mar	29	Ag. Lab	Essex, Paglesham	
	Mary	Wife	Mar	24		Essex, Paglesham	
	William	Son	U	7		Essex, Paglesham	
	Benjamin	Son	U	4		Essex, Paglesham	
	Edith	Daughter	U	2		Essex, Paglesham	
	Benjamin Ward	Son	U	22	Boat in Marine Store	Essex, Paglesham	
61	John Taylor	Head	Mar	57	Ag. Lab	Essex, Paglesham	
	Elizabeth	Wife	Mar	67		Essex, Chappel	
62	William Ginn	Head	Mar	26	Ag. Lab	Essex, Paglesham	
	Mary	Wife	Mar	23		Essex, Paglesham	
	John J.	Son	U	4	Scholar	Essex, Paglesham	
	Isabella	Daughter	U	4		Essex, Paglesham	
Total							
	15						
				Total of Persons	107		

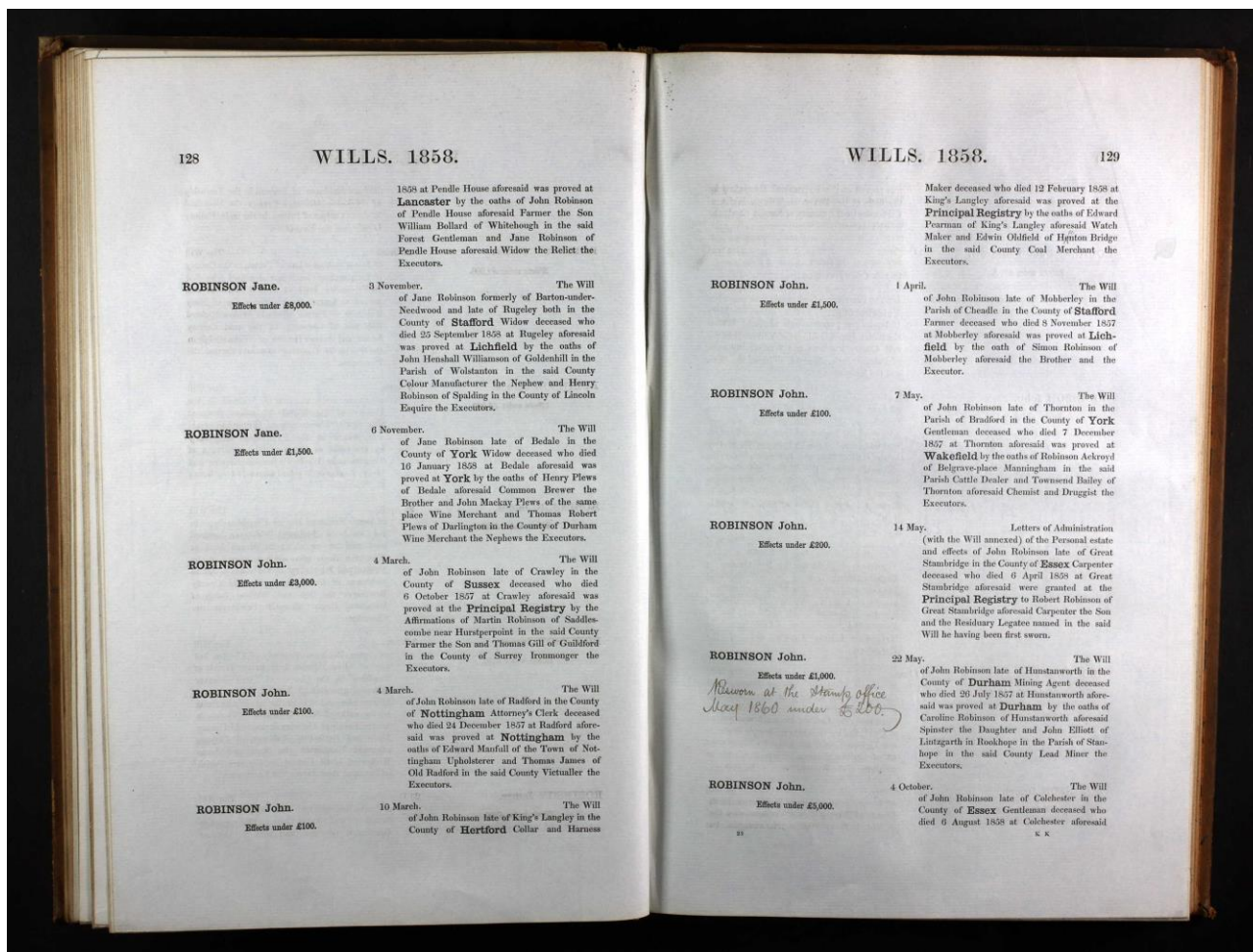
We are not sure when Elizabeth died but presumably this was before John, as he left his possessions to his son.

John died age 66 on 6th April 1858 of "diseased stomach", and was buried at St Mary and All Saints, Great Stambidge on 12th April 1858. (1858, Jun, Rochford Union, 04A, 105)

206	6 th April 1858 Great Stambidge	John Robinson	Male	66 Years	Carpenter	Diseased Stomach Certified	X Witness of Mary Powell Present at the death Great Stambidge	6 th April 1858	John Robert Sheppard Registrar
	8 th April	Alfred Thomas			Son of	Inflammation	Thomas Raymond Surgeon		

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He appears to have been sufficiently wealthy to have left a will that as approved in 1858 leaving less than £200 to his eldest son Richard, also a carpenter.



John and Elizabeth went on to have over 40 grandchildren leaving quite a legacy.

John and Elizabeth's Children

Jane Robinson (1813-1897)

Jane was born in 1813, and baptised at St Andrews, Rochford on 31st January 1813.

Jane married William Abbot on 13th April 1833 age 20. They appear to have both lived a long life having 9 children, three of whom (Elizabeth and two called William) died very young.

They first had a son, William on March 13th 1834, baptised on 19th May 1834 at Canewdon Chapel, this would have been non-denominational. Father, William, was a (farm) labourer.

When Baptised.	Child's Christian Name & Surname	When Born	Parents' Christian Names	Parents' Surname	Mother's Maiden Name	Place of Birth	Profession Trade	Signature of the Minister by whom Bap. (in full)
May 12. 1833.	Charles son.	Little Stambidge May 12. 1831.	Thomas and Isabella	Goody	Berrington	Little Stambidge	Miller	By me Geo. Morris.
June 13. 1833	Maria	Canewdon 1833. July 23. 1832.	James and Jane	Outten	Mead	Canewdon	Labourer	By me Geo. Morris.
February 9. 1834	Emma	Rochford 14th 20. 1832.	Thomas and Mary	McDermid	White	Rochford	Shoemaker	By me Geo. Morris.
March 16. 1834 at Canewdon Chapel.	James Laborer.	Great Stambidge Oct. 8. 1833.	John Charles and Rebecca	Pavett		Great Stambidge	Shoemaker	By me Geo. Morris.
March 16. 1834 at Canewdon Chapel	William	Canewdon March 5. 1831	John and Mary	James	Sutton	Canewdon	Labourer	By me Geo. Morris.
April 14. 1834	Samuel	Great Stambidge Jan 5. 1832	John and Hannah	Wall	Waide	Great Stambidge	Labourer	By me Geo. Morris.
May 11. 1834	Caroline	Rochford	John and Elizabeth	Ragwood	Wood	Rochford	Tailor	By me Geo. Morris.
May 19. 1834 at Canewdon Chapel	Harrist	Canewdon April 15. 1834	John and Mary	James	Sutton	Canewdon	Labourer	By me Geo. Morris.
May 19. 1834 at Canewdon Chapel.	William	Great Stambidge March 13. 1834	William and Jane	Abbot	Robinson	Great Stambidge	Labourer	By me Geo. Morris.
May 19. 1834 at Canewdon Chapel.								

William Jr died 9th February 1843 age 8 at Canewdon of "epistaxis". (1843, Mar, Rochford Union, 12, 1421)

Stambidge.						Little Stambidge.			
103	Ninth of February, 1843, at Canewdon	William Abbot	Male	10 years	Son of William Abbot, Labourer.	Epistaxis	The mark of Sophia Massey, Present at the death. Great Stambidge.	Ninth of February, 1843.	John Graham, Registrar.

Epistaxis is the medical term for a nosebleed. A nosebleed — meaning a loss of blood from the tissue that lines the inside of your nose — can occur in one or both nostrils. Usually, it only affects one nostril. Your nose has many tiny blood vessels in it.

Their second child, John, was born in 1836 before official registration.

Elizabeth was a born 2nd May 1838 in Great Stambidge, registered by Jane, also illiterate. (1838, Jun, Rochford Union, 12, 187)

101	Second of May, 1838, at Great Stambidge.	Elizabeth	Girl	William Abbot	Jane Abbot, formerly Robinson.	Agricultural Labourer.	The mark of Jane Abbot, Mother. Great Stambidge	Second of May, 1838.	John Graham, Registrar.
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According to subsequent census records, this Elizabeth appears to have died before official registration in 1839 – so presumably very young.

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

The fourth child, Robert, was born 13th October 1840 at Canewdon. John, his father was an agricultural labourer (1840, Dec, Rochford union, 12, 117).

444	Thirteenth of October, 1840, at Canewdon	Robert	Boy	William Abbott	Jane Abbott, formerly Robinson	Agricultural Labourer	The mark of William Abbott, Father. Canewdon.	Eighth of October, 1840.	John Graham, Registrar.
	Sixteenth						The mark of		

Fifth child was James, born 9th August 1842 at Canewdon. (1842, Sep, Rochford Union, 12, 191)

220	Ninth of August, 1842, at Canewdon	James	Boy	William Abbott	Jane Abbott, formerly Robinson	Agricultural Labourer	The mark of Jane Abbott, Mother. Canewdon.	Sixteenth of August, 1842.	John Graham, Registrar.
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Their first child William died 6 months later, and John and Elizabeth named their sixth child also William - born 18th March 1845 in Canewdon (1845, Mar, Rochford Union, 12 216).

89	Eighth of March, 1845, at Canewdon	William	Boy	William Abbott	Jane Abbott, formerly Robinson.	Labourer	The mark of Jane Abbott, Mother. Canewdon.	Twenty first of March, 1845.	John Graham, Registrar.
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Tragically, this boy, William also died young, on 9th October 1846 age 1½ years of "an overdose of liquor arsenicalis".

	Rochford.					Certified	Rochford.	1846.	
470	Ninth of October, 1846.	William Abbott	Child	1½ Year	Son of William Abbott, Labourer.	An overdose of Liquor Arsenicalis.	William Codd, Coroner	Twenty first December, 1846	John Graham, Registrar.

Liquor arsenicalis was an oral agent known as *Fowler's solution*. Over the next several hundred years, *Fowler's solution* was used to treat various malignant diseases such as leukaemia, Hodgkin's disease, and pernicious anaemia as well as non-malignant diseases such as eczema, asthma, pemphigus, and psoriasis.

In the 1840s, *Liquor Arsenicalis*—also known as *Fowler's Solution* - was a medicinal preparation containing potassium arsenide, a compound of arsenic. It was used widely in the 19th century as a general tonic and treatment for a variety of ailments, despite its toxic nature. While giving arsenic to infants sounds shocking today, in the 19th century it was sometimes used in desperate medical circumstances, even for children. Possible uses in a baby might have included:

- Treatment for chronic skin conditions like eczema or psoriasis
- Relief of fevers or periodic fevers (e.g., thought to be "ague" or malaria)
- Stimulant for appetite or general tonic in weak or failing infants

Liquor Arsenicalis is no longer in medical use due to its toxicity and the development of safer, more effective treatments. Using arsenic on babies today would be considered dangerous and unethical.

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

Ann was born 1847 at Canewdon (1847, Jun, Rochford Union, 12, 206).

428	Tenth June, 1847. Canewdon	Ann Girl	William Abbott	Jane Abbott formerly Robinson	Labourer	The marks of Jane Abbott Mother. Canewdon	Twentyfourth June, 1847	Woolwich Registrar
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Since their first child named Elizabeth had died before 1840, they named their eighth child Elizabeth who was born 1850 in Canewdon (1850, Mar, Rochford Union, 12, 222).

351	Eighth March, 1850. Canewdon	Elizabeth Girl	William Abbott	Jane Abbott formerly Robinson	Labourer	The marks of Jane Abbott Mother. Canewdon	Twentyfourth March, 1850	Woolwich Registrar
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Around this time Jane and William moved from Canewdon to Little Stambridge where William became a "husbandman" – a significant change in his occupation. In the 1850s, a "husbandman" typically referred to a small farmer who rents and works some land. An agricultural labourer would hire himself out for wages whereas a husbandman would be working his own (rented) land for himself, responsible for tilling the land, raising livestock, and ensuring their own sustenance.

Their final child, David, was born on 25th November 1854 in Little Stambridge. William registered the birth (1854, Dec, Rochford union, 04A, 136).

?	Twentyfifth November, 1854. Little Stambridge	David Boy	William Abbott	Jane Abbott formerly Robinson	Husbandman	The marks of William Abbott father Little Stambridge	Twentyfifth November, 1854	Robert Leach Registrar
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The next 40 years is undocumented. William would have been over 40 with many years of tough working life ahead of him. He did well though and lived for another 40 years.

William died. 19th December 1896 age 90 of "senile decay" at Rochford Union Workhouse (1896, Dec, Rochford, 04A, 289).

14	Nineteenth December 1896. Rochford Union Workhouse	William Abbott	Male 90 years	Farm Labourer Great Stambridge	Senile Decay Certified by L. James M.D.	A. Leonard. Nurse in charge present at the death. Rochford Union Workhouse	Nineteenth December 1896	L. S. James Registrar
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Jane died in 1897 age 81 in Rochford Union Workhouse also of "senile decay", death registered by AK Leonard, Sister-in-Charge who was present at the death (1897, Sept, Rochford, 04A, 357).

89	Seventh September 1897. Rochford Union Workhouse	Jane Abbott	Female 81 years	Widow of William Abbott Farm Labourer Great Stambridge	Senile Decay Certified by L. James M.D.	A. K. Leonard Sister in Charge present at the death. Rochford Union Workhouse	Eighth September 1897	L. S. James Registrar
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Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

Appearance on censuses

1841: Canewdon; William Abbott (30, Agricultural labourer), Jane (27), William (7), John (5), Mary (3), Robert (7 months)

1851: Canewdon; William Abbott (40, Agricultural labourer), Jane Abbott (38), John (15), Mary (12), Robert (11), James (8), Ann (3), Elizabeth (1)

1861: Great Stambridge; William (51, farm labourer), Jane (50), James (18, farm labourer), Ann (13, scholar), Elizabeth (11), David (6) (Possibly Robert and John have left home)

1871: Great Stambridge; William Abbott (64, labourer), Jane (58), David (16 labourer born Gt Stambridge)

Elizabeth Mary (1814-1872)

Elizabeth Mary was baptised on 11th April 1819 (*Source: Baptism Register; Service of Church: Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials; Incumbent; Rochford, St Andrew; Parish Records; 1813-1843*)

Elizabeth married Joseph Digby on 21st March 1841 at St Dunstan, Stepney. Joseph Digby living in Devonshire Street and Elizabeth Robinson living at 17 Coventry Street, Bethnal Green, with John and Sarah Hurst. Hurst was Elizabeth's mother's single name suggesting John was a direct relative. Sarah is likely to be the person listed on the death certificates of two of Elizabeth's children who died young. Joseph's Father was a James Digby whose occupation was a servant. Elizabeth must have met Joseph Digby, in Rochford, but she appears to have moved to Bethnal Green in east London possibly to live with one of Elizabeth's mother's relatives. Joseph spent his career as a Sawyer, no doubt in demand in London at the time.

1841. Marriage solemnized by <i>W. Hurst</i> in the Parish of <i>Stepney</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.
250	<i>March 21</i>	<i>Joseph Digby</i>	<i>full age</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Sawyer</i>	<i>Devonshire St.</i>	<i>James Digby</i>	<i>Servant</i>
		<i>Elizabeth Robinson</i>	<i>full age</i>	<i>Spinster</i>		<i>17 Coventry St.</i>	<i>John Robinson</i>	<i>Carpenter</i>
Married in the <i>Parish Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <i>Church of England</i> by me, <i>Wm Hurst</i>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<i>Joseph Digby</i>			in the Presence of us,		<i>John Hurst</i>	
		<i>Elizabeth Robinson</i>					<i>Sarah Hurst</i>	

In Stepney, London in 1840, a sawyer would have played an important role in the urban trades and industrial economy of the East End. While different from a rural sawyer, the work was still essential to the growing infrastructure, shipbuilding, and housing demands of a rapidly industrializing London.

Stepney was part of the expanding East End, where cheap housing was being rapidly constructed for workers. A sawyer would be needed to cut timber for homes, tenements, and workshops. Many homes used timber frames, floorboards, joists, doors, and window sashes, all of which needed to be cut to size. Sawyers were skilled manual labourers, often working long hours for modest pay as part of the urban working class, sometimes employed by timber yards, building firms, or dock companies.

At some point between 1841 and 1844, Elizabeth and Joseph moved the 5 miles from Stepney to Lambeth, south of the river. The St Saviour's Union registration district in London covered a portion of Southwark around Lambeth Bridge and Borough Road. Russell Place in Lambeth was located in the area around Charles Booth's Map of London Poverty, particularly around Russell Street. Russell Street was a well-known street in the area, and the street itself was visible on maps as far back as 1837. Charles Booth's research in 1895 included Russell Street, where he graded it as "Purple" on his poverty map which indicated areas where poverty and comfort were mixed, meaning there were some residents who were comfortable while others were living in poverty.

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

Elizabeth and Joseph seem to have had 8 children, two of whom died young:

- Sarah Elizabeth (1844) (1844, Dec, St Saviours Union, 04, 500)

175	1844	Sarah Elizabeth	Female	Joseph Digby	Elizabeth Digby	Surrey	18 Russell Place	1844	Francis Parr
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- Mary Ann (1846) (1846 Sep, Dec, St Saviours Union, 04, 522)
 - John Robert (1849) (1849, Jun, Dec, St Saviours Union, 04, 536)
 - James John (1854) (1854, Jun, Lambeth, 01D, 289)
- James John was baptised as John James Hurst Digby on 25th June 1854. The parents lived at 15 Royal Street. His third given name, Hurst, is from his mother's mother.

Page 97.
Family Church

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <u>Lambeth</u> in the County of <u>Surrey</u> in the Year 18 <u>54</u>						
When Baptised.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1854. June 25 No. 769.	John James Hurst	Joseph and Elizabeth	Digby	15 Royal Street	Sawyer	John Killgore

- Joseph William (1852. Mar, St Saviour Surrey, 01D, 20)
Joseph died on 12th October 1856 age 4 years at 26 Wootton Street, of "nephritis and Dropsy". Death registered by Sarah Hurst a relative of Elizabeth's mother (1856, Dec, Lambeth, 01D, 150).

8	Twelfth October 1856 26 Wootton Street	Joseph William Digby	Male	4 years	Son of Joseph Digby Sawyer	Nephritis Dropsy 6 Days Certified	X The Mark of Sarah Hurst Present at the Death 16 Prices Street Christchurch	Fifteenth October 1856	C. Means Registrar
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Nephritis is the inflammation of the kidneys. It has a range of causes and can be acute or chronic. Early symptoms may include changes in the colour of the urine and swelling of the hands and feet.

Dropsy refers to swelling under the skin, and is generally known today as 'oedema' or 'oedema'. In oedema, the area under the skin (the interstitium) fills with fluid.

By 1856 Elizabeth and Joseph had moved to Wootton Street, Lambeth. Wootton Street is a short street adjacent to and parallel to the railway line from the new Waterloo Station, which first opened to the public on July 11, 1848, originally named Waterloo Bridge Station. It was initially a temporary stop on an extended line to the city, with only six platforms. More permanent station buildings were built later, and it was officially renamed Waterloo Station in 1886.

Both Elizabeth and Joseph remained in Wootton Street for many years and both died there.

By now they had their three remaining children, Mary Ann, John and Joseph.

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

- Elizabeth Sarah (1856) (1856 D Quarter in LAMBETH Volume 01D Page 209)
Elizabeth died on 13th July 1857 age 9 months of "Diarrhoea". Death registered by Sarah Hurst Probably a relative of Elizabeth (1857, Sep, Lambeth, 01d, 153).

137	Fourteenth July 1857 26 Wootton Street	Elizabeth Sarah	Female	9 months	Daughter of Joseph Digby	Diarrhoea 5 days	X The Mark of Sarah Hurst In Attendance	Fifteenth July	C. Hears Registrar
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- Frederick Joseph (1860) (1860, Mar, Lambeth, 01d, 268)

137	Seventeenth January 1860 26 Wootton Street	Frederick Joseph Burgess	Boy		Joseph Digby	Elizabeth Digby formerly Robinson	Sawyer	Joseph Digby Father 26 Wootton Street Lambeth	Fourteenth February 1860	C. Hears Registrar
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- Charles Edward (1861) was born on 22nd October 1861 at 26 Wootton Street, Lambeth. (1861, Dec, Lambeth, 01D, 261).

336	Twenty Second October 1861 26 Wootton Street	Charles Edward	Boy		Joseph Digby	Elizabeth Digby formerly Robinson	Sawyer	Joseph Digby Father 26 Wootton Street Lambeth	Twenty Sixth November 1861	C. Hears Registrar
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Joseph died 4th September 1866 age 50 at 26 Wootton Street of "kidney and heart disease that he had for 2 years" (1866, Sep, Lambeth, 01D, 197). Death registered by his daughter Mary Ann.

360	Fourth September 1866 26 Wootton Street	Joseph Digby	Male	50 years	Engineers Lawyer	Kidney and Heart Disease 2 years Dressy 3 months		Mary Ann Digby Present at the Death 26 Wootton Street	Fifth September 1866	C. Hears Registrar
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According to the 1871 and 1881 censuses, Elizabeth now becomes a "laundress" presumably to earn money after becoming widowed. A widow laundress would likely have focused on providing laundry services, often working from home, to support her family. This would involve washing, ironing, and possibly even mending clothes and linens, often using methods that were labour-intensive and time-consuming. They might also have taken on tasks like soaking laundry overnight. Several of her children stayed with her taking on various labouring roles of: glass cutter, packing case maker, porter, machine worker.

Elizabeth lived for another 22 years as a widow, but died on 18th March 1888 age 69 years at 26 Wootton Street, Lambeth, of "chronic bronchitis" which she had had for 5 years. She was the widow of Joseph by then. Death registered by her daughter-in-law, Emma Digby, the wife of one of her sons, who was present at the death.

334	Eighth March 1888 26 Wootton Street	Elizabeth Digby	Female	69 years	Widow of Joseph Digby Wood Sawyer	Chronic Bronchitis 5 years Certified by J. W. Bartley M.D.		Emma Digby Daughter in Law Present at the Death 26 Wootton Street Carverall Road Lambeth	Nineteenth March 1888	Charles Hears Registrar
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Appearance on censuses

1841: 17 Coventry Street, Bethnal Green; John Hurst (65), Sarah Hurst (50), Joseph Digby (25, Sawyer), Elizabeth Digby (20).

The 1841 census was taken on Sunday 6th June 1841. Joseph and Elizabeth had been married on 21st March in Stepney. It appears they were living with John and Sarah Hurst – Elizabeth's mother's single name suggesting John was a direct relative. Sarah is likely to be the person listed on the two death certificates below.

1851 18 Russell Place, St Saviour (now SE16 7PL); Joseph Digby (35, Sawyer), Elizabeth Digby (34), Mary Digby (5), John Digby (2), Mary Digby (28 visitor, servant).

1861: 26 Wootton Street, Lambeth; Joseph Digby (46, Sawyer, Rochford), Elizabeth Digby (40, born Rochford), Mary Ann Digby (14, born Lambeth), John Digby (12, glass cutter, born Lambeth), James Digby (6, scholar, born Lambeth), Frederick Digby (1, born Lambeth)

1871: 26 Wootton Street, Lambeth; Elizabeth Digby (50, laundress, born Rochford), John Digby (22, packing case maker, born Lambeth), James Digby (17, Porter, born Lambeth), Frederick Digby (11, born Lambeth). The family appear to be sharing the house with a couple plus lodgers.

1881: 26 Wootton Street, Lambeth; Elizabeth Digby (64, Laundress, born Rochford), James Digby (27, machine worker, born Lambeth), Frederick Digby (21, machine worker, born Lambeth), Charles Digby (19, unemployed tea packer, born Lambeth), Mary Ann Nicholson (34, daughter, born St Saviour), William Nicholson (29, packing case maker, born St Saviour).

John 1817-1847

John Robinson was born 15th June 1817 and would become my 2xgreat grandfather. John met and married Caroline Chamberlain (formerly Burgess) on 8th October 1842 at St Mary and All Saints, Great Stambridge. Caroline had lost her first husband (William Chamberlain) a year previously.

John and Caroline had three children:

- Lucy Robinson, was born on 4th April 1844 at Great Stanbridge. John was a carpenter. (1844, Jun, Rochford Union, 12, 211). Lucy married Edward May and they had 8 children.
- George Robinson, was born on 8th October 1846 at Great Stanbridge. (1846, Dec, Rochford Union, 12, 1940). George married Amelia Caroline Denton in 1871. They had 7 children.
- Alfred Robinson (1849-1936) was born on 19th October 1849 in Great Stanbridge. He would become my great grandfather. Interestingly, the father's name is not clear. It looks like "~~John~~ R" and no occupation has been given. Given John Robinson had died in 1847; it is unlikely he was the father. Alfred married Martha Beal on 14th May 1870 in St Mary and All Saints, Great Stambridge, Alfred was a farm labourer. It would appear that Martha was 7 months pregnant. Together they had 10 children.

John Robinson appears to have died around 1847 of dropsy. Caroline went on to marry a third time to James Bugg, with whom she had a child – Caroline who sadly died young.

See Chapter 26 on *John Robinson and Caroline Chamberlain*.

Robert 1821-1897

Robert was born in Canewdon on 2nd December 1821 and baptised in early 1822. In 1841, age 19, he was living at home with his parents in Great Stambridge.

Robert married Mercy Smith on 23rd September 1848 at Holy Trinity church in Rayleigh – just 6 miles from Canewdon.

(Source: Marriage Register; Service of Church: Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials; Incumbent; Rayleigh, Holy Trinity; Parish Records; 1837-1907)

Robert appears to have begun his career a carpenter probably following in his father's career path, and maybe working with him. Robert and Mercy had three children identified so far:

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

The first was named Mercy born on 20th April 1849 (1849, Jun, Rochford Union 12, 225).

								of Registrar.	If added after Registration of Birth	
212	Twentieth April, 1849. Canewdon	Mercy	Girl	Robert Robinson	Mary Robinson, formerly Smith.	Carpenter	Robert Robinson, Father. Canewdon.	Twenty-second April, 1849.	John Graham Registrar.	

Tragically, Mercy died on the same day, half an hour old of "debility" (1849, Jun, Rochford Union, 12, 153). The heartbreak of having to go and register the birth of your baby on the same day as registering her death must have been very difficult for Robert and mercy to bear.

254	Twentieth April, 1849. Canewdon.	Mercy Robinson	Female	Half an hour	Daughter of Robert Robinson, Carpenter.	Debility. Certified.	Richard Hodges, In attendance. Rochford	Twenty-second April, 1849.	John Graham Registrar	
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Their second daughter was Elizabeth Ann born on 18th May 1851 (1851, Jun, Rochford Union, 12, 231)

46	Eighteenth May, 1851. Canewdon	Elizabeth Ann	girl	Robert Robinson	Mercy Robinson, formerly Smith.	Carpenter	Robert Robinson, Father. Canewdon.	Twenty-third May, 1851.	John Graham Registrar	
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It appears that soon after Elizabeth was born Robert and Mercy moved away from Canewdon to Brentwood, where third child, Robert Jnr, was born on 18th June 1853 (1853, Sep, Billericay, 04A, 95).

469	Eighteenth June, 1853. Brentwood	Robert	Boy	Robert Robinson	Mercy Robinson formerly Smith.	Carpenter	Robert Robinson, Father. Brentwood	Nineteenth July, 1853.	C. Butler Registrar	
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Robert Snr remained a carpenter and by 1861 had become a master carpenter employing another worker (Source: 1861 Census). He remained in the furniture trade, in Brentwood, becoming a cabinet maker and eventually an upholsterer. In 1881 their son, Robert was still living with them, as an upholsterer and French polisher.

Two years later Mercy died on 25th November 1883 age 61 of "malignant disease of the thigh, 6 months". They were living in High Street, Brentwood (1883, Dec, Billericay, 04A, 163).

181	Twenty-fifth November, 1883. High Street Brentwood	Mercy Robinson	Female	61 years	Wife of Robert Robinson Upholsterer	Malignant disease of the thigh 6 months certified by Dr. Prater	4. Bartholomew High Street Brentwood	Twenty-fifth November, 1883	Geo. Marshall Registrar	
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A malignant disease of the thigh can be either a soft tissue sarcoma or a bone cancer, particularly osteosarcoma, that originates in the thigh bone (femur). Soft tissue sarcomas are cancerous tumours that develop in the soft tissues of the thigh, such as muscle, fat, tendons, or cartilage

Robert Snr remained in Queens Road.

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

Robert Jnr married Kate Cecilia Osborn. They had two children, Edward in 13th June 1882 (1882, Sep, Billericay, 04A, 312) at Crescent Road, South Weald, Brentwood.

Billericay	13 th June 1882	Edward	Robert Robinson	Kate Robinson formerly Osborn	Upholsterer	Robert Robinson Father	South Weald 1882	Geo Emmells Registrar
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and Kate (1884, Mar, Billericay, 04A, 255)

Billericay	5 th Feb 1884	Kate	Robert Robinson	Kate Cecilia Robinson formerly Osborn	Upholsterer	K. C. Robinson Mother	Queens Road Brentwood 1884	Geo Emmells Registrar
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Robert Jnr died on 24th August 1887 age 34 of "phthisis" (TB), he was then an upholsterer.

South Weald	24 th August 1887	Robert Robinson	Male	34 Years	Upholsterer	Phthisis Certified by A. H. Wallis M.D.	E. Cook present at the Death	Queens Road Brentwood 1887	Geo. Collier Registrar
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By 1891 Robert Snr was still at Queen's Road with Kate Robinson (formerly Osborne) Robert Jnr's widow, and his two children, Edward (9) and Kate (7). Also living there was Mary Ann Ship (formerly Robinson, Mills), Robert Snr's sister who had been widowed twice by then.

Robert Snr died 8 years later in 1897 age 76 of "senile decay" (1897, Mar, Billericay, 04A, 243)

South Weald	18 th January 1897	Robert Robinson	Male	76 Years	Formerly an Upholsterer (Journeyman)	Senile decay Certified by Charles Mansel M.D.	Kate Robinson Daughter in law in attendance	Queens Road Brentwood	Geo. Collier Registrar
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Appearance on Censuses

- 1841: Great Stambridge; John Robinson (47, Carpenter), Robert Robinson (19), James (14), David (8)
- 1851: Canewdon; Robert Robinson (24), Mercy (25)
- 1861: Great Stambridge; Robert Robinson (39, master carpenter employing one man), Mercy (38), Robert (7, scholar)
- 1871: Brentwood; Robert Robinson (49 Furniture?) Mercy (48), Robert (17)
- 1881: High Street Billericay; Robert Robinson (59 (Cabinet maker), Mercy (59), Robert (28, upholsterer and French polisher)
- 1891: Queens Road, Brentwood; Robert Robinson (63, widower, upholsterer), Kate Robinson (39 widowed daughter-in-law), Edward (9, grandson), Kate (7, granddaughter), Mary Ann Ship (61, sister) (Mary Ann had married David Ship a police officer in London).

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

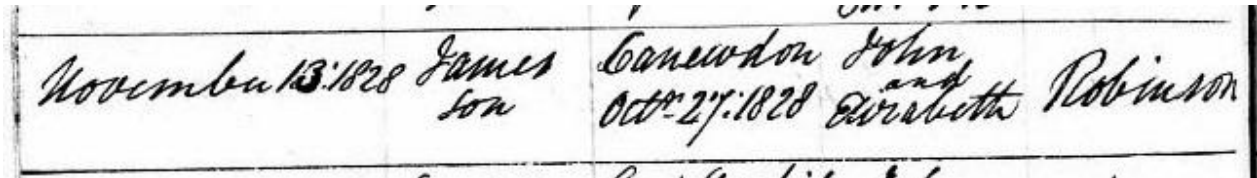
William 1826-1835

William was born in April 1826 in Canewdon, and Baptised on 16th July. It appears William died age 10 in 1835.

(Source: *Burial Register, Service of Church: Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, Incumbent, Great Stambridge, St Mary and All Saints, Parish Records, 1813-1903*)

James 1828-1871

James was born on 27th October 1828, baptised 13th November at Canewdon/Great Stambridge.



James married Jane Mills on 28th May 1850 in St Peter, the parish church of Paglesham (1850, Q2, Rochford, Xii, 172).

1852. Marriage solemnized after Banns in the Parish of Paglesham in the County of Essex								
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.
52	May 28	James Robinson	offull age	Bachelor	Carpenter	Paglesham	John Robinson	Carpenter
		Jane Mills	Do	Spinster		Do	James Mills	Shopkeeper
Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by me, W. G. Francis Curate.								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		James Robinson		Jane Mills		Robert Robinson		
						Mary Mills		

They had 6 children:

- Alice Jane Mills (1859 D Quarter in ROCHFORD UNION Volume 04A Page 166)
- Lizzie Jane (1861 S Quarter in ROCHFORD Volume 04A Page 179)
- Henry James (1863 J Quarter in ROCHFORD Volume 04A Page 193)
- Emily Jane (1865 M Quarter in ROCHFORD Volume 04A Page 208)
- Mary Jane (1867 M Quarter in ROCHFORD Volume 04A Page 209)
- Gertrude Jane (1868 S Quarter in ROCHFORD Volume 04A Page 219)

It appears that Jane's mother formerly Elizabeth Sindall, first married James Mills, Jane's father, on 21st May 1811. James died in 1836. Elizabeth then married George Minter in December 1840 (1840, Dec, Rochford, 12, 409) and she appears on James' census records as "Elizabeth Minter Mother-in-Law".

James and Jane lived in Paglesham for the rest of their lives, by early 1871 living in Church End, a short dead-end road leading up to the church, past th Punch Bowl public house, all of which still exist. Church End is a very small lane in Paglesham that does end at St Peter's Church. The Punch Bowl is at the start of the short row of houses before the church.

James appears to have died on 8th May 1871 age 42 of "bronchitis, emphysema" at Paglesham. There is some doubt over who reported the death - Martha Knight) (1871, Jun, Rochford, 04a, 143). The will was proved on 26th June

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

434	Eightth May 1871 Paglesham	James Robinson	Male	42 years	Carpenter	1 st Bronchitis 2 nd Impy pneumonia Certified	The Marce of Martha Bright Present at the death Paglesham	Thirteenth May 1871	Thomas Henry Registrar
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ROBINSON James.

Effects under £450.

26 June.

The Will of

James Robinson late of the Parish of Paglesham in the County of **Essex** Carpenter who died 8 May 1871 at Paglesham was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Jane Robinson of the said Parish Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

On 6th March 1882, Jane married Henry Gardiner a widower and a publican.

(Source: Marriage Register; Service of Church: Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials; Incumbent; Paglesham, St Peter; Parish Records; 1837-1902)

It appears that Henry owned the Punch Bowl pub in Church End, Paglesham, Rochford SS4 2DP, which still operates. Jane (and previously James) lived in Church End for 20 years. (thepunchbowlpaglesham.co.uk)

16th-century building clad in white Essex board with a single low-beamed bar. It has been a pub since the 1800's and is said to have been used by the notorious local smuggler William Blyth. His reputed exploits include drinking two glasses of wine in The Punch Bowl.

After 16 years with Henry, Jane died on 22nd March 1898 age 71 in Paglesham of "Bright's disease, chronic bronchitis". The death was registered by her husband, Henry Gardiner, Hotel keeper, who was identified as a widower. (1898, Mar, Rochford, 4a, 343)

131	Twenty second March 1898 Paglesham R.D.	Jane Gardiner	Female	71 years	Wife of Henry Gardiner Hotel keeper	Bright's disease Chronic Bronchitis Certified by J. James M.D.	H. Gardiner widower present at the death Paglesham	Twenty third March 1898	L.D. James Registrar
	Twenty third March	Lily			Daughter of	Bronchitis	Elija Pease	Twenty third March 1898	L.D. James Registrar

Bright's disease is a historical term for nephritis, an inflammation of the kidneys, often characterized by swelling (dropsy) and albuminuria (protein in the urine). It was named after Dr. Richard Bright, who first described this condition. Modern medicine uses the terms nephritis, glomerulonephritis, and nephritic syndrome to describe similar kidney conditions.

In 1901, Henry still ran the Punch Bowl Pub with his son-in-law Benjamin Wood who was married to his daughter Annie both 27.

Henry died on 11th March 1916 age 87 at The Bell Inn Brentwood of "senile decay" (1916, Mar, Billericay, 04a, 685).

453	Eleventh March 1916 The Bell Inn Brentwood U.D.	Henry Gardiner	Male	87 Years	Formerly a Publican	(1) Senile decay Certified by Charles Mansel M.D	S. T. Brown present at the death The Bell Inn Brentwood	Thirteenth March 1916	E. W. Gutter Registrar
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Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

Appearance on censuses:

1841/James: Great Stambridge; John Robinson (47, carpenter), Robert Robinson (19), James Robinson (14), David Robinson (8).

1841/Elizabeth: Paglesham; George Minter (50, shopkeeper), Elizabeth Minter (50), ?? Mills (20), Mary Mills (15), Jane Mills (14), Henry (11), James (7), Thomas Minter (12) Rebecca Minter (10).

1851: White Horse Inn; James Robinson (23 born Canewdon, Visitor ??), Jane Robinson (23, born Paglesham), Elizabeth (60, Minter? Mother, widow born Paglesham).

1861: Grocers Shop, Paglesham; James Robinson (32, Grocer, born great Stambridge), Jane Robinson (32, born Paglesham), Alice (1), Elizabeth (Minter?) (71, mother-in-Law), Sarah Threadgold (12, scholar, visitor).

1871 Church End, Paglesham; James Robinson (40, carpenter, born Great Stambridge), Jane Robinson (43, born Paglesham), Henry (7, scholar), Emily (6), Mary Jane (4), Gertrude (2), Elizabeth (Minter?) (80, mother-in-Law), Sarah Threadgold (23, niece).

1881: Church End; Jane Robinson (53, Grocer, born Paglesham), Henry James (17, ships carpenter), Gertrude Jane (12).

1891: The Punch Bowl Paglesham; Henry Gardiner (62, licensed victualler, born Suffolk), Jane Gardiner (61, born Paglesham), Walter Gardiner (20, agricultural labourer), Gertrude Gardiner (22, domestic servant, born Paglesham), plus three boarders.

Mary Ann 1831-1900

Mary Ann was born in Canewdon in 1831 and lived with her parents until 1851, when she married Henry Mills on 7th July 1851. Henry was the younger brother of Jane Mills who had married Mary's older brother, James, on 28th May 1850. While James and Jane remained in rural Essex, Mary Ann and Henry soon moved to London, following her older sister Elizabeth Mary and her husband Joseph Digby who had married on 21st March 1841 at St Dunstan, in Stepney.

From birth and census records it seems Henry was a City Policeman and they lived first at Old Fish Street (which ran between Upper Thames Street and Fish Street), then at 145 Upper Thames Street, which ran from Blackfriars bridge to London Bridge. The area has been significantly developed.



Mary Ann and Henry had four Children:

- **James Henry 1852** (1852, Jun, City of London, 01C, 66)
- **Jane Elizabeth 1854** (1854, Sep, City of London, 01C, 69)

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

Both James Henry and Jane Elizabeth were baptised at St Mary Magdelin on Old Fish Street on 20th May 1854.

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BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>St Mary Magdelin</i> in the County of <i>London</i> in the Year 1854						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
May 20	James	Henry	Mills	1	Policeman	<i>W. H. Digby</i>
May 20	Elizabeth	Henry	Mills	1	Policeman	<i>W. H. Digby</i>
Dec 2	Thomas	Thomas		19		

- **Walter 1856** (1856, Sep, City of London, 01C, Page70)

When Baptized	Child's Christian Name	Parents Name	Abode	Quality, Trade, or Profession	By whom the Ceremony was performed
32 nd 1856	Walter	Henry Mills	Mary Ann Mills formerly Robinson	City Policeman	First August 1856

Walter died on 20th April 1859 age 2 years of "croup" (1859, Jun, City of London, 01C, 62)

When Baptized	Child's Christian Name	Parents Name	Abode	Quality, Trade, or Profession	By whom the Ceremony was performed
20 th April 1859	Walter	Son of Henry Mills	City Policeman	Croup	Present at the Death

- **Elizabeth 1859** (1859, Sep, City of London, 01C, 70)

By 7th April 1861 they were living at 70½ Upper Thames Street. Henry died on 21st May 1862 age 32 of "consumption" (tuberculosis). He was a city policeman at 70½ Lower Thames Street. Death was registered by Elizabeth Digby - who was formerly Elizabeth Robinson, Mary's older sister who was listed as living at 26 Cornwall Road, Lambeth although her address was 26 Wootton Street, Lambeth.

When Baptized	Child's Christian Name	Parents Name	Abode	Quality, Trade, or Profession	By whom the Ceremony was performed
19 th May 1862	Henry	Henry Mills	City Policeman	consumption 6 months	Elizabeth Digby present at Death

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

On 3rd April 1864, Mary, now widowed, married David Ship a bachelor, at Christ Church, Blackfriars Road, Southwark. They both gave their address as Church Street. Their witnesses were her sister, Elizabeth Digby and her husband Joseph. David was also a Police Constable in the City, so very likely a colleague of Henry.

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.
272	April 3 rd	David Ship Mary Mills	both age	Bachelor Widow	Brick- Maker	Church St. Church St.	James Ship John Robinson	Labourer Dead

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Barnes or after Barnes by me, E. Smith

This Marriage was solemnized between us, David Ship in the Presence of us, Joseph Digby
The mark of Mary Mills The mark of Elizabeth Digby

On 2nd February 1865 Mary and David (who strangely was now a brickmaker though he was a policeman on all census returns) had one daughter - Mary Ann Ship (1865, Mar, East London, 01C, 14). They were living at 3 Farrar's Rents, Bishopsgate, a site now occupied by Liverpool Street Station.

497	Second February 1865	Mary Ann	Girl	David Ship	Mary Ship late Mills, Brickmaker formerly Robinson	London	The mark of Mary Ship Mother 3 Farrar's Rents Bishopsgate London	March 1865	Shoreditch	Registrar
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David died on 5th December 1904 at 24 New North Road, age 67 of "chronic Bronchitis, asthma, emphysema cardiac failure". He was a retired City policeman. Death registered by his daughter Mary Ann West (formerly Ship) of 70 West Road, West Ham (1904, Dec, Shoreditch, 01C, 35).

139	5 th December 1904	David Ship	male	67 years	Retired City Police Constable	Chronic Bronchitis & Asthma Emphysema Cardiac Failure Certified by West Fryer M.B.	M.B.	Shoreditch	M. A. West Daughter present at the death 70 West Road West Ham	5 th December 1904	F. J. Lockyer Registrar
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Here records become a little unclear. Mary Ann's death record has not been found but an 1891 census puts a Mary A Ship age 61 (correct), staying with her brother Robert Robinson.

Appearance on census

1861: 70½ Upper Thames Street; Henry Mills (31 Police constable in City, born Paglesham), Mary Mills (35?, born Canewdon), James Henry (8, scholar, born Old Fish Street), Jane Elizabeth (6, scholar, born Old Fish Street), Lizzie (1, born All Hallows, Upper Thames Street) They had a lodger., George Barnes who was a "cow keeper" – that part of London was still somewhat rural.

1871: 1 Summernote, Bishopsgate; Davis Ship (34, police Constable, born Shoreditch), Mary Ship (40), Elizabeth Mills (11 step daughter, scholar), Mary Ship (6, Scholar, born City of London)

1881: 3 Queen Street Place St Martin; David Ship (46, City Policeman), Mary Ann Ship (50, Housekeeper, born Stambridge), Mary Ann ship (16 scholar), Jane E Wright (26, Mary's daughter Elizabeth, now married, visitor).

David 1833-1887

A David Robinson married a Susannah Kemp (both from Essex) on 1st October 1859 at "the parish church of St Saviour, Surrey" (actually in Southwark) – where his sister Mary would go on to marry Davis Ship in 1864. He gives his address as "Church Street", where Mary and David Ship lived at the time of their marriage. David Robinson's wife Susannah Kemp actually comes from Rochford, but gave her address as "Wooton Street" which may have been the Wooton Street in Lambeth – which is where David's other sister Elizabeth Mary lived with her husband Joseph Digby lived for some time. There appears to be some tight family connections here.

1859. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Christ Church in the County of Surrey								
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.
390	1 st October	David Robinson	both of 29	Bachelor	Shipwright	Church Street	John Robinson	Carpenter
		Susannah Kemp	full age	Spinster	—	Wooton Street	William Kemp	Boat Builder

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by W. Hooper Curate or after consent by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, David Robinson in the Presence of Henry Kemp Susannah Kemp Elizabeth Kemp

David Robinson was a shipwright whereas Susannah's father was a boat builder. Again, possibilities of connections through work that introduced David to Susannah.

David and Susannah seem to have had 7 children all of whom seem to have been born in Paglesham. So, they presumably returned to Essex soon after their wedding.

- **Walter 1860** (1860, Sep, Rochford, 04A, 169)
Walter died on 3rd August 1867 age 6 years of "tracheitis". Death registered by "Jane Kemp. Kemp is Susannah's former name so this may be her sister. (1867, Sep, Rochford, 04A, 122)

No.	When Died.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Death.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
71	Third August 1867	Walter Robinson	6 years	Son of David Robinson	Tracheitis	Paglesham	Jane Kemp Present at the death	Eighth Thomas King Registrar

Tracheitis is an inflammation of the trachea, or windpipe, which can be caused by various factors, including bacterial infections. It is often a secondary bacterial infection following a viral upper respiratory infection, especially in children. Tracheitis can be a serious condition, particularly in children, as the swelling can obstruct the airway.

- **William John 1862** (1862, Sep Rochford, 04A 173)
- **George 1865** (1865, Mar, Rochford, 04A, 209)
- **Henry Walter 1868** (1868, Mar, Rochford, 04A, 217)
Henry died on 2nd March 1868 age just 5 weeks of "debility from birth" at Paglesham. (1869 Mar Rochford 04A 114)

No.	When Died.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Death.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
130	Second March 1868	Henry Walter Robinson	5 weeks	Son of David Robinson	Debility from Birth	Paglesham	David Robinson in attendance	Sixth Thomas King Registrar

"Debility from birth," or congenital debility, refers to a state of weakness or lack of vitality present at birth. It was a term used in the past, particularly in the UK, to describe infants who were born too weak to live, often attributed to a lack of "life

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force" according to an old article on assets.gov.ie. It was a vague cause of death that was later replaced by more specific medical explanations.

- **Walter Henry 1869** (1869, Mar, Rochford, 04A, 226)

In 1871, David and Susannah Robinson were living in East End, Paglesham with William, George and Walter.

Next door to the Robinsons were William Kemp (25, ship's carpenter), Sarah Kemp (29), Ernest Kemp (4 months). Now, given Kemp was Susannah's maiden name, this looks tempting to find a connection. A William Kemp was born in Paglesham on 14th March 1846, to William Kemp, mariner, and Jane Sanders. However, Susannah's mother seems to have been Mary Burles. It transpires that Mary Kemp, first wife of William Kemp and we presume Susannah's mother, died on 16th December 1844 of pneumonia, age 45 (1844, Dec, Rochford, 12, 151).

Stambridge	Seventeenth December 1844, Paglesham	Mary Kemp	Female	45 years	Wife of William Kemp Shipwright	Pneumonia a week	The mark of Mary Taylor, In attendance Paglesham	Seventeenth December, 1844	John Graham, Registrar.
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It seems that sometime between December 1844 and March 1846, William remarried to Jane Sanders and had a son, William Sanders Kemp was born on 14th March 1846 to William Kemp and Jane Sanders (1846, Mar, Rochford Union, 12, 214).

226	Fourteenth March 1846, Paglesham	William Sanders	Boy	William Kemp	Jane Kemp formerly Sanders.	Mariner	Jane Kemp, Mother Paglesham	Fourteenth March, 1846	John Graham Registrar.
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This we presume is the William Sanders who lived next door to David and Susannah.

Two doors away the other side is: Jane Kemp (48, Widow), Henry Kemp (20, ship's carpenter), Mary Ann Kemp (18, domestic servant), Arthur Kemp (Ship's carpenter), Alfred Kemp, (15, Oyster Dredger), Frederick Kemp (13, under shepherd), Maria Kemp (9, scholar).

William Kemp, Susannah's father, died on 20th October 1878 Age 78 of "atheroma". William was a boat builder. Death registered by Susannah. (1878, Dec, Rochford, 04A, 177)

Atheroma is degeneration of the walls of the arteries caused by accumulated fatty deposits and scar tissue, and leading to restriction of the circulation and a risk of thrombosis.

38	Twentieth October 1878 Paglesham	William Kemp	Male	78 Years	Boat Builder	Atheroma Certified by Mrs King, Mid	Susannah Robinson Daughter Present at the death Paglesham	Twentieth Second October 1878	Thomas King Registrar
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Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

It is not clear yet how Jane is related to Susannah but given they are the same age, we might presume they are sisters-in-law, especially given the similar careers of their sons.

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The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Civil Parish (or Hamlet) of		Municipal Borough of		Municipal Ward of		Parliamentary Borough of		Name of		Village or Hamlet, &c. of		Local Board, or Improvement Commissioners, District of		Ecclesiastical District of	
Paglesham															
No. of Schedules	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOURS	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION	AGE of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN							
						Years Months			1. Deaf-Dumb 2. Blind 3. Insane or Idiot 4. Lunatic						
			William Peller	Son		11	Cypher Brigadier	Essex, Paglesham							
			Henry	Do		4		Do							
92	East End	1	John Kemp	Son		48		Do							
			Henry	Do		50	Ship Carpenter	Do							
			William	Do		18	Domestic Serv.	Do							
			Arthur	Do		10	Ship Carpenter	Do							
			Alfred	Do		10	Cypher Brigadier	Do							
			Frederick	Do		10	Wool Shepherd	Do							
			George	Do		9	Labourer	Do							
93	Do	1	Edward Tammo	Head	Mar	41	Cypher Brigadier	Do							
			Susannah	Wife	Mar	40		Do							
			William E.	Do		11		Do							
			Emily	Do		8		Do							
			Sarah Jane	Do		8		Do							
94	Do	1	Susannah	Do		21		Do							
			David Robinson	Head	Mar	48	Carpenter	Do							
			Susannah	Do		29		Do							
			William J.	Do		8		Do							
			George	Do		8		Do							
			Walter	Do		2		Do							
95	Do	1	William Kemp	Head	Mar	25	Ship Carpenter	Do							
			Sarah	Wife	Mar	26		Do							
			Frederick	Do		16		Do							
Total of Houses..		14	Total of Males and Females..		14 10										

* Draw the pen through such of the words as are inappropriate.

1871 Census

- Lilly Maria 1874 (1874, Jun, Rochford, 04A, 258)
- Alfred Edgar 1881 (1881, Jun, Rochford, 04A, 347)

133	Tenth March 1881 Paglesham.	Alfred Edgar.	Boy.	David Robinson.	Susannah Robinson formerly Kemp.	Carpenter.	X The mark of Susannah Robinson Mother Paglesham.	Tenth First April 1881.	Thomas King Registrar
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Alfred was born on 10th March 1881. The 1881 census was taken on Sunday 3rd April 1881, just under one month later so he would not have been included.

David Robinson died on 4th November 1887 age 55 back at Paglesham of "Gout, congestion of lungs". Death was registered by "S. Robinson" his widow, present at death. (1887, Dec, Rochford, 04A, 239). On his death, David was a "carpenter" which may have been connected to his earlier work as a shipwright.

286	Fourth November 1887. Paglesham R.S.D.	David Robinson	Male	55 years	Carpenter	Gout Congestion of Lungs Certified by Thos. King M.D.	S. Robinson Widow of deceased Present at the Death Paglesham	Fourth November 1887	Thomas King Registrar
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Four years later, according to the 1891 census. Susannah was a "monthly nurse" and was living at South Street, Rochford with a family called the Herberts, helping them look after their one-month-old baby Lizzie.

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

Lizzie Spencer Herbert was born on 25th March 1891 in Rochford to Charles Benjamin Herbert, (25, a congregational minister), and Minnie Beatrice Herbert (26, formerly Smith), given the 1851 census was taken on Sunday 30th March 1851, lizzie was just 5 days old. (1891, Jun, Rochford, 04A, 531).

399	Twenty Fifth March 1891 Rochford R.S.D	Lizzie Spencer	Charles Benjamin Herbert	Minnie Beatrice Herbert formerly Smith	Congregationalist Minister	CB Herbert Father Rochford	Eight Leventh April 1891	Thomas King Registrar
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Monthly Nurses

In the 1880s, a monthly nurse was a woman employed to provide care for a mother and her newborn baby in the postpartum period, typically for a period of about a month, hence the name. They were not considered midwives and were not expected to have medical knowledge like a midwife, but they were trained to provide care for the mother and infant. The responsibilities of a Monthly Nurse consisted of:

- **Postnatal care** - Monthly nurses would provide care for the mother and baby in the days and weeks following childbirth, often staying with the family for a month.
- **Infant care** - This included feeding the baby, bathing, and helping the mother learn to care for her newborn.
- **Household duties** - They would also be responsible for basic household chores, such as making meals and cleaning, to help the mother recuperate.
- **Assisting the mother** - They would support the mother during her recovery from childbirth and provide emotional support.
- **Communication with the doctor** - In some cases, a monthly nurse would act as a liaison between the mother and the doctor, informing them of any concerns or complications.

There were key differences from midwives:

- **Medical training** - Midwives were trained in medical aspects of childbirth, including delivery, and were often the only healthcare provider available in some communities.
- **Postpartum care** - Monthly nurses focused specifically on postpartum care, while midwives might also attend the birth and provide care before and during delivery.
- **Social status** - In some cases, monthly nurses were seen as having a lower social status than midwives, as they were not as medically skilled and their role was seen as more domestic.

By the late 1800s, with the rise of professional nursing and the increased medicalization of childbirth, the role of the monthly nurse became more specialized and focused on maternal and infant care. While the term "monthly nurse" is no longer widely used, the principles of postpartum care that they provided are still important in modern nursing practice.

In 1911, Susannah was widowed and living with her son George (45) and his wife Clara (43) and their three children and a live in "servant" Kathline Manning. George was a publican of the Prince of Wales Pub in Gravesend.

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

Chapman (19, domestic servant)

1901: Not found on census

1911: Prince of Wales, Milton, Gravesend; George Robinson (45, publican), Clara Robinson (43, assisting in business), David Robinson (19, assisting in business), Walter Robinson (12, school), Susanah Robinson (69, widow), Dorothy Robinson (3), Kathline Manning (25, servant).

Chapter 23 – James Burgess (1797–??) and Lucy Everett (1794–??)

Caroline Burgess’s Family Tree

My 2xGreat Grandmother, Caroline Burgess’s family tree on Ancestry goes back at least 7 generations, but is largely unverified, relying on original documentation which is not provided. This has therefore not been explored here.

Given the dates of birth of her parents, James and Lucy, toward the end of the 18th Century, there is little documentation, so the information we have is sparse.



James Burgess was born in 1797, in Rochford, Essex to Edward Burgess (1754-1802) and Elizabeth Worship (1750-1816). He was baptised on 11th June 1797 at St Andrews, Rochford.

Lucy Everett was born in 1794 in Kersey, Suffolk, to James Everett (1758-1837) and Mary King (1766-1821). At some point she apparently moved to Rochford.

James and Lucy married on 30th November 1811 at St Andrews, Rochford. Records have been uncovered for 4 children:

- James (1812-1852)
- Caroline (1813-1873)
- Eliza (1814-1893)
- John Oliver (1816-1860)

But little else has been uncovered.

Chapter 24 – Robert Beal (1780–1838) and Hannah Amey (1784-1826)

William Beal’s Family Tree

My 2xGreat Grandfather, William Beal’s family tree on Ancestry goes back at least 9 generations, but is largely unverified, relying on original documentation which is not provided. This has therefore not been explored here.



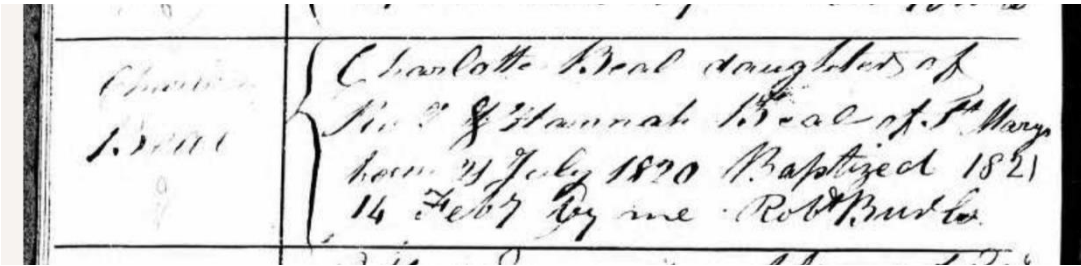
Given the dates of birth of his parents, Robert and Hannah, toward the end of the 18th Century, there is little documentation so the information we have is sparse.

Robert was born around 1780 in Essex, possibly Maldon. Hannah Amey was born in Maldon sometime around 1775-1784. Robert married Hannah abt 1802 in Maldon.

Records of 4 children have been uncovered:

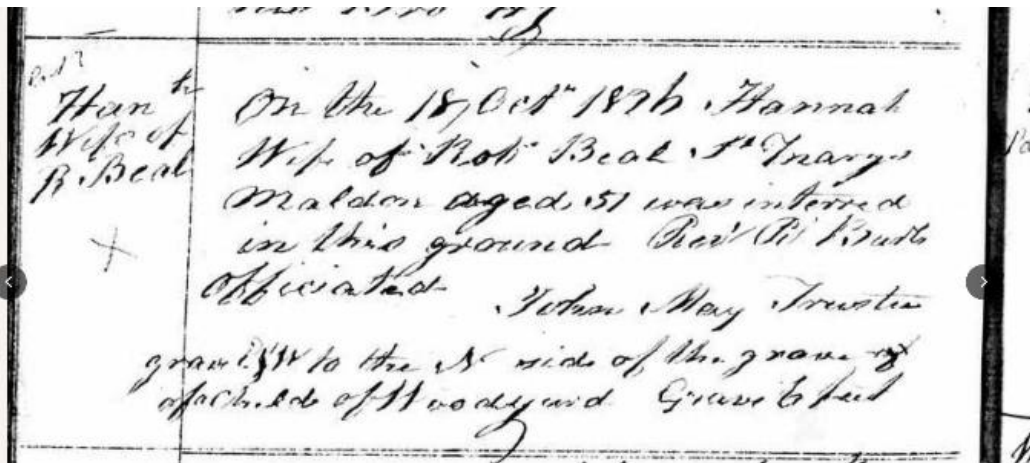
Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

- Hannah (1800)
- William (1804-1876)
William Beal married Martha Surridge in 1831 and went on to become my 2xGreat Grandfather. Their lives are covered in Chapter 27.
- Elizabeth (1810-1869)
- Charlotte (1820) born on 21st July 1820, baptised on 14th February at S Peter's Maldon.



The gaps between successive births suggest there may be further children not yet uncovered. However, apart from William, information of the other Beal children has not been forthcoming.

Hannah died in October 1826 stated age 51 and was buried on 18th October 1826 and was buried at St Peter's Maldon. (Age does not match the 1784 birth date, but suggests 1775.)



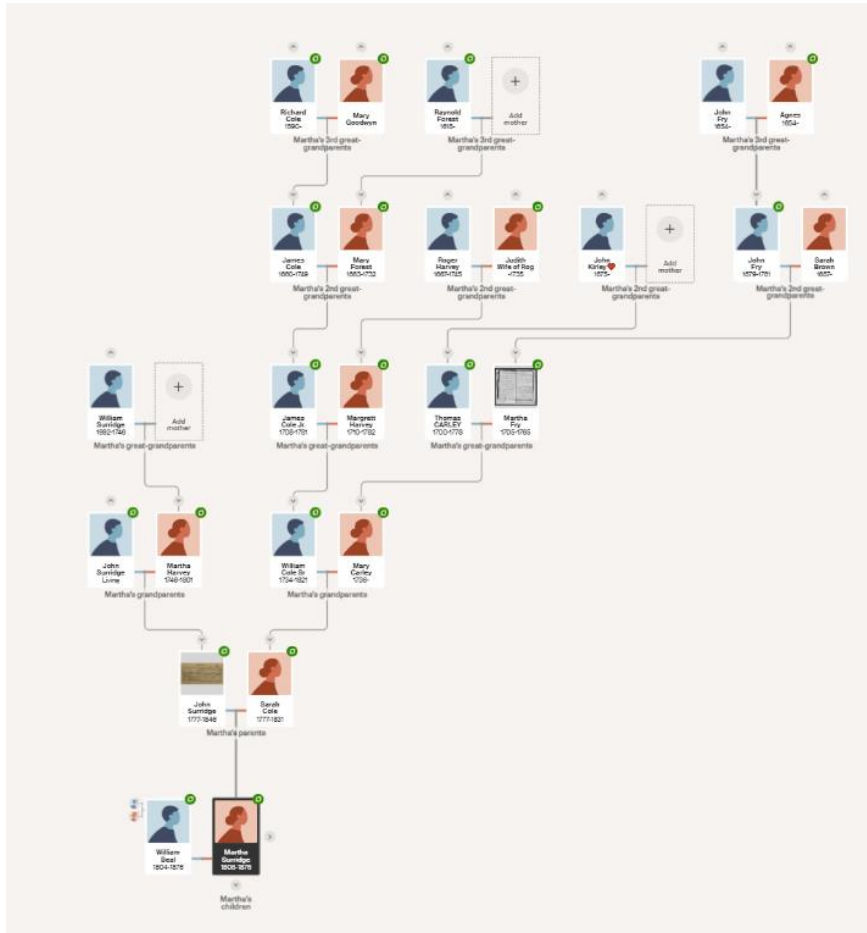
Robert died on 23rd February 1838, age 66 of "asthma on the lungs", He was a labourer. It appears he died at "All Saint's Maldon", (1838, Mar, Maldon, 12, 118). All Saints is a parish in Maldon, so it maybe he died at home, with a nurse present.

12 th	J	S	10	J	Munden	21 st	Registrar	
18 February 23 rd	Robert	Beal	Male 66	Labourer	Asthma on the Lungs	Mary Purkin Nurse present at Beal's All Saints Maldon	February 24 th	John Spurden Sunders Registrar

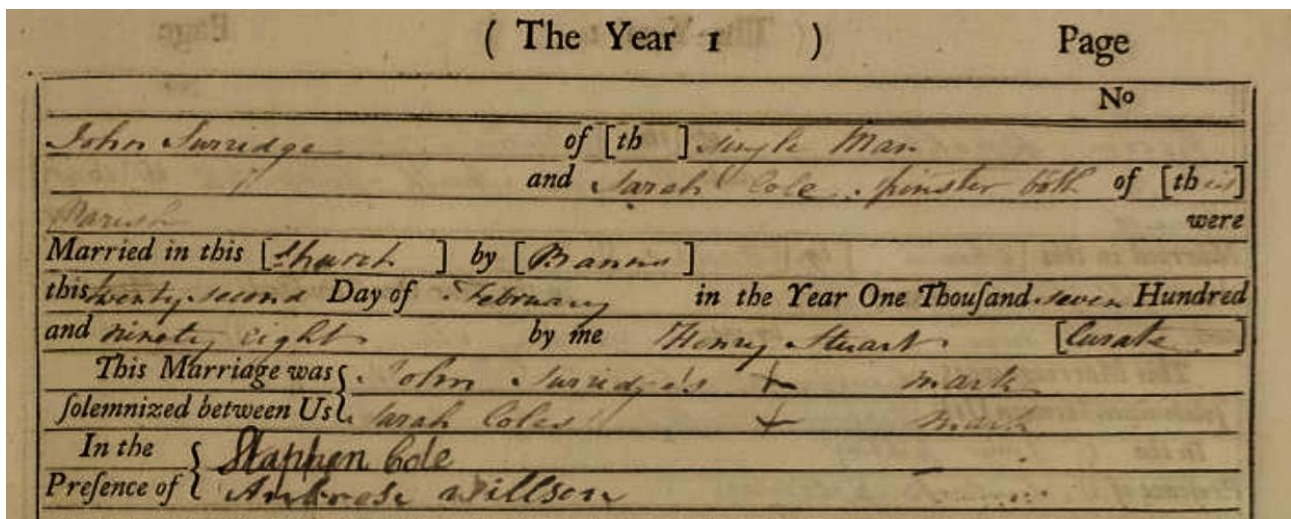
Chapter 25 – John Surridge (1777–1846) and Sarah Cole (1777-1831)

Martha Surridge’s Family Tree

Martha Surridge’s family tree on Ancestry goes back five generations, but is largely unverified, relying on original documentation which is not provided. This has therefore not been explored.



Martha’s parents it seems were John Surridge and Sarah Cole. John, it seems was born around 1771 possibly in Essex. Sarah may have been born in 1777 in Dorset. They seem to have married on 22nd February 1798 in St Mary the Virgin, Steeple Bumstead, Essex.



Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

Records suggest they might have had up to 13 children between 1799 and 1823, including Martha, in 1808. All were born before official registration.

A Mary Surridge died in 1831.

A John Surridge died on 27th June 1843 in Leigh, age 65. Of "hydrothorax". (1843, Jun, Rochford Union, 12, 132). It would appear this John was a baker.

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.
461	Twenty seventh of June 1843 Leigh	John Surridge	Male	65	Baker	Hydrothorax	Mrs. Coakley present at the death Leigh	Thirtieth June 1843	For Miss Robinson Warwick Registrar

Hydrothorax is the accumulation of serous fluid in the pleural space (around the lungs), most commonly caused by liver cirrhosis (hepatic hydrothorax) or heart failure,

John was buried on 3rd July 1843 at St Clements, Leigh(-on-Sea) (Source: Burial Register; Service of Church: Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials)

Little other reliable information has been uncovered of John and Sarah or their children.

Section 12 - 2xGreat Grandparents

John Robinson (1817–1847) & Caroline Burgess (1813-1875)

William Beal (1804–1876) & Martha Surridge (1808-1876)

My four 2 x great grandparents on the Robinson line were John Robinson and Caroline Burgess, and William Beal and Martha Surridge and their lives roughly span the years 1800-1875. Between them, their eleven children's lives roughly cover the years 1830-1935. While John Robinson died young at 30, Caroline, William and Martha all lived to be over 60.

In terms of social mobility, there seems some evidence of slight upward movement, though all of their children seem to have remained in manual jobs – though we know nothing of the female side as this was not recorded, if indeed they did work. Only one – George – went on to have a profession as a "maltster" described as "*Journeyman*" (experienced).

If my 2xgreat grandparent's children survived infancy – and two didn't – they went on to live long lives most well over 60, some over 80. Main causes of death (where we know it) were respiratory (bronchitis, pneumonia), cancer (tongue, prostate, rectum) and stroke.

Geographically, with their children there was some movement away from the small Essex villages of their ancestors – the Beals remaining largest in Essex but also moved out to Croydon and Colchester. Two of the Robinson/Beal children moved to London – although Alfred my great grandfather stayed in Rochford. Ironically his son, Leonard Victor moved to Edmonton as a young man where he met my soon-to-be-grandmother Harriet.

Events during the lives of my 2xGreat Grandparents

[\(\[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_British_history\]\(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_British_history\)\)](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.
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.
1837	20 June	William IV dies on 20 th June 1837 age 71. 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.

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

	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.
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	?	Dr 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.
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.
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.

Chapter 26 - John Robinson (1817–1847) and Caroline Burgess (1813-1875)

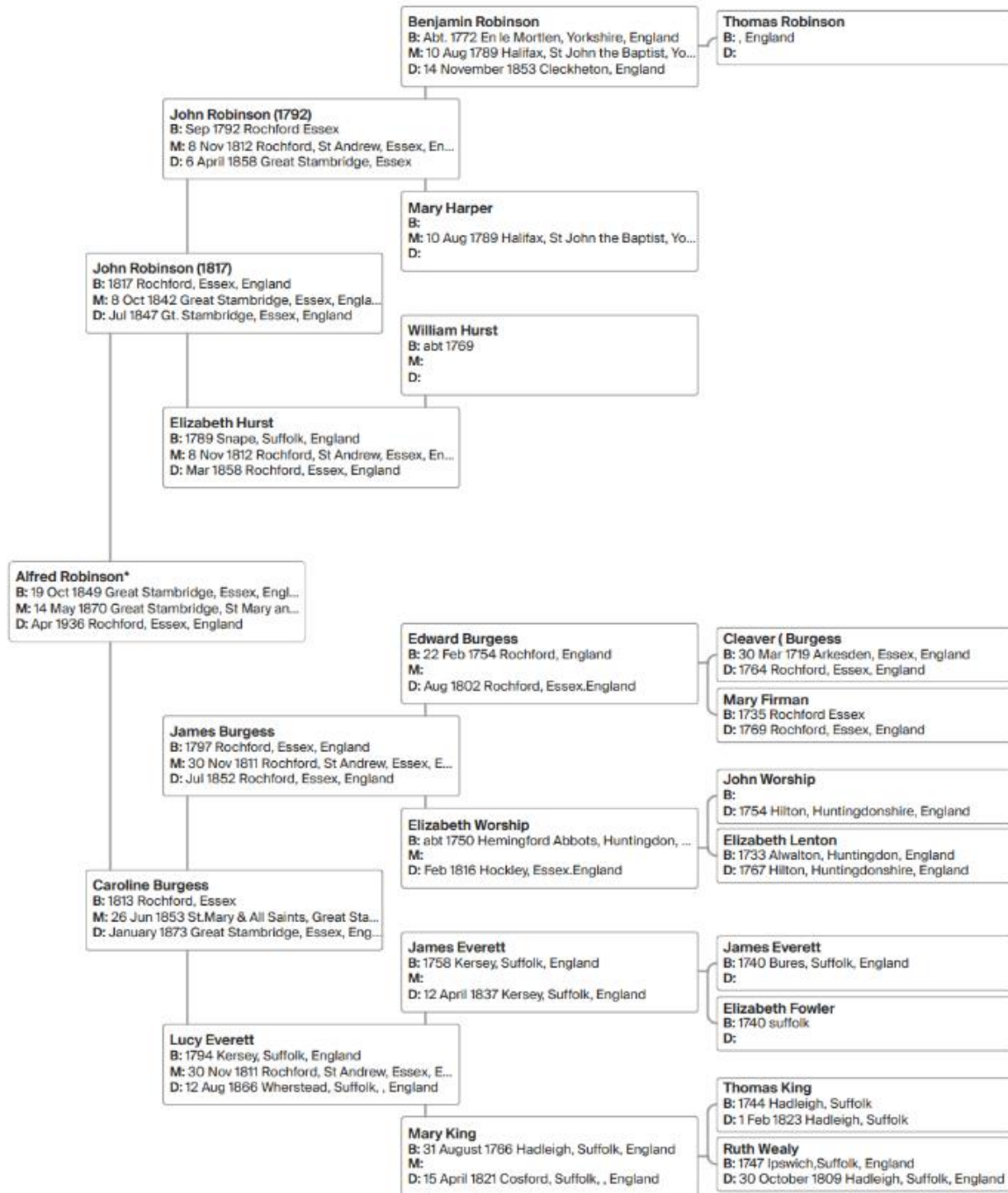
As we move back in time and away from London, information becomes more difficult to uncover especially given the lack of addresses on early census return and the absence of official birth and death registration pre-1837. In addition, much of the existing work on Ancestry is unverified, requiring visits to the Essex Records Office to check official documentation, but also many connections can be shown to be incorrect. As a result, we know little of John and Caroline's early years growing up. John and Caroline lived through some tumultuous times. However, they were both born in small villages in Essex so we are not clear just how much these events affected their day to day lives. They were both born when King George III was on the throne, and witnessed the death of two monarchs. Together they were born toward the end of the Napoleonic wars, and will have lived through the ending of slavery in Britain.

How and why, Caroline moved from Rochford to Poplar in her early 20s has not been uncovered – the best guess is for work. Yet in 1837 she met and married her first husband, William Chamberlain. Their first child died, and a second soon followed. Then in 1841 William died leaving Caroline alone with a new baby. It would not be strange if she were to feel the pull to move back home for family support. It was there in 1842 she met and married John Robinson and together they had three children. In 1847, John tragically died young, age 30. In 1853, Caroline, then age 40, married James Bugg, who at 21 was a much younger man, at the parish church of Great Stambridge.

Caroline was thus widowed twice, eventually giving birth to 6 children from three husbands, losing 2 children in the process. There is some documentary inconsistency over the death of John and the subsequent birth of his son, Alfred. John Robinson's death is somewhat of a mystery as firm records of his death have not been discovered; it seems he died sometime around 1849, since Alfred Robinson was born that year. However, the only death recorded puts his death at 1947, so too early to be Alfred's father. One possibility of course is that he wasn't Alfred's father. We shall probably never know. Nor arguably do we have a right to know.

However, John and Caroline eventually had 25 grandchildren. Whilst much has been covered of John and Caroline's lives, there is much that remains undiscovered.

Family Tree of John and Caroline



Some of the above associations have still to be verified

John Robinson (1817–1847)

Early Life

John Robinson (1792-1858) and Elizabeth Hurst (1789-1858 of Suffolk) married on 8th November 1812 at Rochford, St Andrew (Rochford), Essex.

They may have had 7 children, some of whose baptisms are recorded below. All were born before official registration commenced in 1835.

"The original Register Book which has been kept for the Chapel of Meeting-house called Rochford Chapel being of the Independent denomination situate in Rochford Essex"

- Jane 1813-1897
- Elizabeth Mary 1814-1872
- John 1817-1847
- Robert 1821-1897
- William 1826-1835
- James 1828-1871
- Mary Ann 1831-1900
- David 1831-1887

So far only Robert, William and James have been found on-line and they are all non-conformist baptised in Canewdon, Essex.

In the 19th century, "nonconformists" referred to Protestant Christians in England and Wales who did not belong to the Church of England. These groups, including Baptists, Methodists, Quakers, and others, established their own places of worship, often referred to as chapels or meeting houses. Nonconformists were a significant presence, especially by the mid-19th century, with their chapels often outnumbering the buildings of the Church of England.

John Robinson (1817-1847) met and married Caroline Chamberlain (formerly Burgess) on 8th October 1842 at St Mary and All Saints, Great Stambridge. Carolne had lost her first husband (William Chamberlain) a year previously. They would become my 3xGreat Grandparents.

John Robinson's birth

Their third child, John Robinson was born 15th June 1817 at Rochford, St Andrew, Essex, England (Source: Baptism Register; Service of Church: Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials; Incumbent; Rochford, St Andrew; Parish Records;1813-1843)

Thereafter we know little of him until his marriage to Caroline Chamberlain (formerly Burgess).

Caroline Burgess (1813-1875)

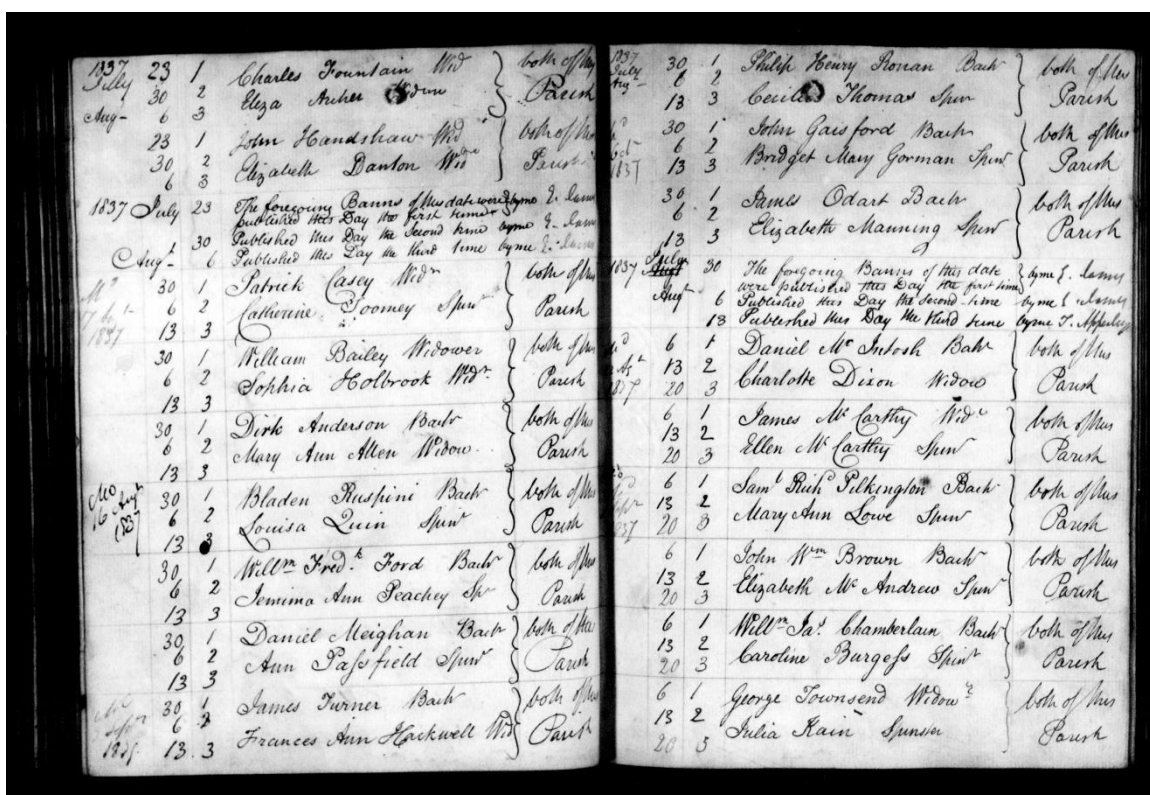
Caroline Burgess (1813-1929) was born in Rochford, Essex in 1813 to James Burgess (1797-1852) and Lucy Everett (1794-1866). As with John Robinson, we know little of Caroline's early life. Assuming she is the same Caroline Burgess who married William Chamberlain, at some point, they met and resided in Poplar, East London. This raises some question of how Caroline appears to have moved to Poplar, presumably in her early 20s, where she met and married William. No evidence has yet appeared to substantiate this, though the Burgess/Chamberlain name change seems persuasive. Caroline could have possibly moved for employment reasons:

- **Domestic service:** One of the most common jobs for young women at the time. London had a massive demand for servants in middle- and upper-class households.
- **Industrial work:** Stepney and Poplar were becoming hubs of industry—especially shipbuilding, dock work (like at the West India Docks), and rope-making. Some women worked in related trades such as seam stressing or factory labour.
- **Retail or laundry:** Urban areas had growing markets and required shopgirls, laundresses, and other support roles.

The journey is not insignificant – some 40 miles, but travel would have been possible by coach or even by sea from Southend and up the Thames.

Caroline and William Chamberlain

Caroline Burgess married William James Chamberlain who was a sawyer, on 22nd October 1837 at St Dunstan and All Saints, Stepney. Banns were read on 6, 13, 20 August 1837





St Dunstan's and All Saints still exists, on Stepney High St, London E1 0NR

Their first child, William James Chamberlain, was born on 8th December 1839, at 17 Susannah Street, Poplar. (1839, Dec, Poplar Union, 02, 305). William was baptised on 12th January 1840 at All Saints Poplar, literally just over the road from where they lived.

133	Christina December 1839 at Susannah Street	Hillier James Dof	Hillier James Chamberlain	Lea Lane Chamberlain Burgess	Lea Lane Chamberlain Burgess	William James Chamberlain 17 Susannah Street	December 1839	W. Rogers Registrar
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BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of *All Saints Poplar*
in the County of *Middlesex* in the Year 1840

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
Dec 28 th No 286	John James	William Hillier	James Dof	Lea Lane Poplar	Labourer	W. Rogers
22 nd No 260	Thomas Elizabeth	James Hillier	Elizabeth Hillier	Lea Lane Poplar	Labourer	W. Rogers
25 th No 241	Thomas Richard	Thomas Hillier	Elizabeth Hillier	Lea Lane Poplar	Labourer	W. Rogers
25 th No 242	Rosetta Flavinia	John Hillier	Elizabeth Hillier	Lea Lane Poplar	Labourer	W. Rogers
25 th No 241	Sophia Elizabeth	John Hillier	Elizabeth Hillier	Lea Lane Poplar	Labourer	W. Rogers
25 th No 244	John Mary Ann	John Hillier	Elizabeth Hillier	Lea Lane Poplar	Labourer	W. Rogers
29 th No 245	Julius Vincent	Richard Hillier	Elizabeth Hillier	Lea Lane Poplar	Labourer	W. Rogers
29 th No 246	Katharine Ann Elizabeth	James Hillier	Elizabeth Hillier	Lea Lane Poplar	Labourer	W. Rogers

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BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of *All Saints Poplar*
in the County of *Middlesex* in the Year 1840

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
Dec 29 th No 247	Sarah Alice	Charles Callyon	Elizabeth Callyon	Lea Lane Poplar	Labourer	W. Rogers
Jan 2 nd No 290	Mary Ann	John Carter	Elizabeth Carter	Lea Lane Poplar	Labourer	W. Rogers
2 nd No 249	Ann Louisa	John Hiscock	Elizabeth Hiscock	Lea Lane Poplar	Labourer	W. Rogers
Jan 5 th No 300	Ann Ann	John Gardner	Elizabeth Gardner	Lea Lane Poplar	Labourer	W. Rogers
Jan 12 th No 301	John Joseph	Joseph Burns	Elizabeth Burns	Lea Lane Poplar	Labourer	W. Rogers
Jan 12 th No 302	Sarah Ann	John Hillier	Elizabeth Hillier	Lea Lane Poplar	Labourer	W. Rogers
Jan 12 th No 303	William James	William Chamberlain	Elizabeth Chamberlain	Lea Lane Poplar	Labourer	W. Rogers
Jan 19 th No 304	Francis Francis	Francis Sawyer	Elizabeth Sawyer	Lea Lane Poplar	Labourer	W. Rogers

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line



Susannah Street is very close to East India Docks in Poplar.

Susannah Street still exists though of course has been developed.

During 1840, William and Caroline appear to have moved from Poplar to Catherine Street, Bromley-by-Bow.

Sadly, their child, William Jnr, died on 11th December 1840 age 12 months of "inflammation on the chest", at Catherine Street, Bromley-by-Bow, (1840, Dec, Poplar Union, 02, 250).

337	11 th Dec Catherine Street Bromley	William James Chamberlain	Male	12	The son of William James Chamberlain Merchant & Lawyer	Inflammation on the chest	Caroline Chamberlain Present at the Death Catherine Street Bromley	11 th Dec 1840	J. Durston Registrar
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Neither William nor Caroline have been found on the 1841 Census, taken on 6th June 1841.

Again, tragically, Caroline's husband, William Chamberlain died 7 months later age 28 on 26th July 1841 at Catherine Street (1841, Sep, Poplar Union, 02, 212) of "decline". It appears Caroline was 6 months pregnant. They had been married less than four years.

456	26 th July Catherine Street Bromley	William James Chamberlain	Male	28	Lawyer	Decline	Caroline Chamberlain Present at the Death Catherine Street Bromley	26 th July 1841	J. Durston Registrar
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When a death certificate lists "decline" as the cause of death, it generally means that the deceased experienced a gradual deterioration in their overall health, with no single identifiable disease or injury directly causing their death.

Three months after William died, Caroline gave birth to their second child, who she also called William James (George) on 18th October 1841 at Catherine Street. Her deceased husband William was not identified deceased, but was still identified as the father and a sawyer (1841, Dec, Poplar Union, 02, 298).

483	18 th Oct Catherine Street Bromley	William James George	Male		William James Chamberlain Sawyer		Caroline Chamberlain Present at the Birth Catherine Street Bromley	18 th Oct 1841	J. Durston Registrar
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Caroline was now presumably alone in London, at age 28 with a young child. It would not be surprising if she were to go back home to live with her parents in Rochford. Within a year, she appears to have met John Robinson, age 24.

Marriage of John Robinson and Caroline Chamberlain

A year after William Chamberlain died, Caroline Chamberlain must have moved from Poplar in London to Essex. We do not know why There she met and married John Robinson on 8th October 1842 at St Mary and All Saints, Great Stambridge. Caroline was 29, John 25.

1842 Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Great Stambridge in the County of Essex								
Columns:-	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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
24	October 8th	John Robinson	full age	Bachelor	Carpenter	Great Stambridge	John Robinson	Carpenter
		Caroline Chamberlain	full age	Widow	-----	Rochford	James Burgess	Glazier
Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church after Banns by me								
This marriage was solemnized between us,		John Robinson Caroline Chamberlain	in the presence of us,		Robert Robinson Mary Robinson X her mark	E.H. Perry Rector		

(Source: Marriage Register; Service of Church: Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials; Incumbent; Great Stambridge, St Mary and All Saints; Parish Records; 1838-1976)

At this time presumably, her son William by her first marriage to William Chamberlain took the surname Robinson, never having known his own biological father.

Caroline and John's Robinson's first child, Lucy Robinson, was born on 4th April 1844 at Great Stambridge. John was a carpenter (1844, Jun, Rochford Union, 12, 211).

4/15	Fourth of April, 1844, at Great Stambridge	Lucy Girl	John Robinson	Caroline Robinson, formerly Burgess	Carpenter	Caroline Robinson, Mother, Great Stambridge	Fourth of April, 1844	John Graham, Registrar
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John and Caroline's second child, George Robinson, was born on 8th October 1846 at Great Stambridge. (1846 Dec, Rochford Union, 12, 1940)

322	Eighth of October, 1846, at Great Stambridge	George Boy	John Robinson	Caroline Robinson, formerly Burgess	Carpenter	Caroline Robinson, Mother, Great Stambridge	Anniversary of October, 1846	John Graham, Registrar
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Their third child, Alfred Robinson (1849-1936) was born on 19th October 1849 in Great Stambridge. Interestingly, the father's name is not clear. It looks like "John R" and no occupation has been given. Since the location and mother's names are consistent with Caroline, we can be pretty sure this is the correct Alfred.

304	Nineteenth October, 1849, at Great Stambridge	Alfred Boy	John R	Caroline Robinson, formerly Burgess		Caroline Robinson, Mother, Great Stambridge	Twenty eighth November, 1849	John Graham, Registrar
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Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

However, John Robinson appears to have died around this time, age 29, but his time of death is somewhat a mystery. Caroline is on Alfred's baptism record as "widow" on 9th December 1849. There is only one death of a John Robinson of the appropriate age and location registered between 1846 and 1851, but the time of his death means he could not be the father of Alfred. He is also identified as a "labourer" rather than a carpenter. So, the death in 1947 must be treated with caution. If this is the correct John Robinson, then Alfred could not have been his son. Given John's name is deleted on the birth certificate, it raises some suspicion.

	Rochford.					Certified.	Rochford.		
45	Fourth July, 1847. Great Stambridge	John Robinson	Male	29 Years	Labourer	Dropsy. 14 Months. Certified.	Richard Hodges, in attendance. Rochford.	Fourth July, 1847.	John Graham, Registrar.

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BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of Great Stambridge in the County of Essex in the Year 1849.

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Names.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
May 8 th No. 449.	Charlotte	William	Allen	Great Stambridge	Farmer	James Hooper Curate
	daughter of	Thomas				
		of	of			
May 13 th No. 450.	Arthur	Charles	Smith	Great Stambridge	Labourer	James Hooper Curate
	son of	Robert				
		of				
May 24 th No. 451.	Joseph	John	Smith	Great Stambridge	Labourer	James Hooper Curate
	son of	Thomas				
		of				
		Born 15 th Dec. 1845.				
May 27 th No. 452.	Thomas	John	Smith	Great Stambridge	Labourer	James Hooper Curate
	son of	Thomas				
		of				
		Born 7 th Oct. 1848.				
Aug 12 th No. 453.	John	Charles	Baker	Great Stambridge	Blacksmith	James Hooper Curate
	son of	Elizabeth				
		of				
Aug 15 th No. 454.	George	Mary	Worham	Great Stambridge	Wife	James Hooper Curate
	son of	Ann				
Oct 9 th No. 455.	Annie	Elizabeth	Worham	Great Stambridge	Farmer	James Hooper Curate
	daughter of	Thomas				
		of				
		Born Aug 25 th 1849.				
Dec 9 th No. 456.	Alfred	Caroline	Robinson	Great Stambridge	Widow	James Hooper Curate
	son of					

Alfred Robinson was baptised on 9th December 1849 at St Mary and All Saints, Great Stambridge

(Source: *Baptism Register; Service of Church: Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials; Incumbent; Great Stambridge, St Mary and All Saints; Parish Records; 1813-1883*).

Caroline is now 36, widowed with four young children, aged 8, 5, 3, and newborn. This must have been a desperate situation for Caroline and for the family Alfred was born into. Great Stambridge was a small rural village in Essex, near Rochford. It was an agricultural community, meaning most working-class people relied on farm labour, small-scale trades, and seasonal work.

However, a widowed mother of four in Great Stambridge would have faced serious struggles but had some local resources to help her survive, though we have no direct evidence here. John's parents, John and Elizabeth, lived nearby in Great Stambridge, and had a large family who might have supported Caroline.

Support from Family & Village Community

- If she had **relatives in the area**, they might have helped with childcare or shared food.
- **Village networks** were tight-knit—neighbours sometimes helped with small acts of kindness (e.g., sharing food or lending tools).
- **Church aid** – The parish church (St. Mary's, Great Stambridge) may have provided small amounts of food, clothing, or fuel in extreme cases.

Parish Poor Relief

- The **Rochford Union Workhouse** (nearby) was the official safety net, but entering it was a last resort.
- Some widows received **outdoor relief**, meaning they got a small amount of money, food, or coal without having to go into the workhouse.

Remarriage & Lodgers

- Many widowed women remarried quickly, as being a single mother was nearly impossible. If she found a local labourer, widower, or older man, she might secure some financial stability. If she had a cottage, she could take in lodgers to earn extra money.

By census day 30th March 1851, John Robinson has died, and his wife Caroline Robinson (39) ("Carpenter's Widow") lived in Great Stambridge, presumably near The Royal Oak, with William (10), Lucy (7), George (4) and Alfred (1). Whilst William was born in Poplar Union (he was the son of William Chamberlain), the rest were born in Great Stambridge.

Parish or Township of <i>Great Stambridge, The Isle of Rochester</i>		Ecclesiastical District of <i>The Isle of Rochester</i>		City or Borough of <i>Stambridge</i>		Township		Village of	
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 Males	Female Females	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, or Dumb	
	<i>Caroline Agnes</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>39</i>		<i>Caroline's Widow, Painter</i>	<i>Stambridge, Kent</i>		
	<i>Elizabeth Gale</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>63</i>		<i>Widow, Bull-dog's Head, Dr</i>	<i>Little St. Andrew, Kent</i>		
	<i>William Wood</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>10</i>		<i>Boys of Barge</i>	<i>Stambridge, Kent</i>		
	<i>Charlotte Wood</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>7</i>			<i>Stambridge, Kent</i>		
	<i>George Wood</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>4</i>			<i>Stambridge, Kent</i>		
	<i>Alfred Wood</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>1</i>			<i>Stambridge, Kent</i>		
	<i>Caroline Robinson</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>39</i>		<i>Carpenter's Widow</i>	<i>Stambridge, Kent</i>		
	<i>William Robinson</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>10</i>			<i>Poplar, Middlesex</i>		
	<i>Lucy Robinson</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>7</i>			<i>Stambridge, Kent</i>		
	<i>George Robinson</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>4</i>			<i>Stambridge, Kent</i>		
	<i>Alfred Robinson</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>1</i>			<i>Stambridge, Kent</i>		
	<i>John Woodson</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>58</i>		<i>Boys of Barge</i>	<i>Stambridge, Kent</i>		
	<i>Rachel Woodson</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>46</i>			<i>Stambridge, Kent</i>		
	<i>James Woodson</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>22</i>		<i>Boys of Barge</i>	<i>Stambridge, Kent</i>		
	<i>William Woodson</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>10</i>		<i>Boys of Barge</i>	<i>Stambridge, Kent</i>		
	<i>Elizabeth Woodson</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>7</i>			<i>Stambridge, Kent</i>		
	<i>James Woodson</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>4</i>			<i>Stambridge, Kent</i>		
	<i>Charles Woodson</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>1</i>			<i>Stambridge, Kent</i>		
	<i>James Bugg</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>63</i>		<i>Boys of Barge</i>	<i>Canewdon, Kent</i>		
	<i>Charlotte Bugg</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>50</i>			<i>Canewdon, Kent</i>		
	<i>John Bugg</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>16</i>			<i>Canewdon, Kent</i>		
	<i>William Bugg</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>10</i>			<i>Canewdon, Kent</i>		
	<i>Charles Nunn</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>15</i>			<i>Canewdon, Kent</i>		

However, it appears that around now, Caroline met James Bugg (19), who in 1851 was an agricultural labourer living in Great Stambridge with his parents, James Bugg (63, an agricultural labourer, born Canewdon) and Charlotte Bugg (50) and two brothers: John (16, agricultural; labourer), William (10), and a young lodger, Charles Nunn (15, agricultural labourer)

Parish or Township of <i>Great Stambridge, The Isle of Rochester</i>		Ecclesiastical District of <i>The Isle of Rochester</i>		City or Borough of <i>Stambridge</i>		Township		Village of	
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 Males	Female Females	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, or Dumb	
	<i>William Whittington</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>63</i>		<i>Boys of Barge</i>	<i>Canewdon, Kent</i>		
	<i>Elizabeth Whittington</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>70</i>			<i>Canewdon, Kent</i>		
	<i>James Whittington</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>22</i>		<i>Boys of Barge</i>	<i>Canewdon, Kent</i>		
	<i>Elizabeth Whittington</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>14</i>		<i>Boys of Barge</i>	<i>Canewdon, Kent</i>		
	<i>James Whittington</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>10</i>		<i>Boys of Barge</i>	<i>Canewdon, Kent</i>		
	<i>James Wood</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>53</i>		<i>Boys of Barge</i>	<i>Canewdon, Kent</i>		
	<i>Jane Wood</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>46</i>			<i>Canewdon, Kent</i>		
	<i>Jane Wood</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>41</i>			<i>Canewdon, Kent</i>		
	<i>Henry Wood</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>17</i>		<i>Boys of Barge</i>	<i>Canewdon, Kent</i>		
	<i>James David</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>34</i>		<i>Boys of Barge</i>	<i>Canewdon, Kent</i>		
	<i>Yasanna David</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>33</i>			<i>Canewdon, Kent</i>		
	<i>Yasanna David</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>11</i>			<i>Canewdon, Kent</i>		
	<i>Eliza Anne David</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>5</i>			<i>Canewdon, Kent</i>		
	<i>Thomas Anne David</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>3</i>			<i>Canewdon, Kent</i>		
	<i>William Anne David</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>10</i>			<i>Canewdon, Kent</i>		
	<i>James Bugg</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>61</i>		<i>Boys of Barge</i>	<i>Canewdon, Kent</i>		
	<i>Charlotte Bugg</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>50</i>			<i>Canewdon, Kent</i>		
	<i>James Bugg</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>16</i>			<i>Canewdon, Kent</i>		
	<i>John Bugg</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>10</i>			<i>Canewdon, Kent</i>		

Marriage of Caroline Chamberlain and James Bugg

Caroline, now age 40, subsequently married James Bugg, at 21 a much younger man, on June 26th 1853 at the parish church of Great Stambidge. (1853, Jun, Rochford, 4A 197). Most information here matches apart from the strange middle names claimed for James (Rudlen Matt).

1853. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Great Stambidge in the County of Essex								
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.
66	June 26 th 1853.	James Rudlen Matt Bugg	22.	Bachelor.	Labourer	Great Stambidge	James Bugg.	Labourer
		Caroline Robinson	39.	Widow		Great Stambidge	James Bugg	Glazier.

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by James Bowyer or after Funeral by W.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, James Rudlen Matt Bugg + his mark in the Presence of us, Charlotte Bugg Caroline Robinson John Bugg James Bowyer Curate.

Caroline and James subsequently had a daughter Caroline Bugg on 23rd February 1855 at Great Stambidge. James was an "agricultural labourer".

No.	When Born.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Parents.	Rank or Profession.	Residence.	Age.	Registrar.
66	February 23 rd 1855	Caroline	Girl	James Bugg Caroline Bugg formerly Bugg	Agricultural Labourer	Great Stambidge	1855	Robert Leach Registrar

Registrar of Births and Deaths in the District of Rochford in the County of Essex

The young Caroline died on 27th March just one month old of "convulsions. No medical attendant"

No.	When Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Parents.	Rank or Profession.	Residence.	Age.	Registrar.
391	27 th March 1855	Caroline Bugg	Female	Daughter of James Bugg Agricultural Labourer	Convulsions 3 days No medical attendant	Great Stambidge	1855	Robert Leach Registrar

Caroline is buried at St Mary and All Saints, Great Stambidge.

(Source: Burial Register; Service of Church: Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials; Incumbent; Great Stambidge, St Mary and All Saints; Parish Records; 1813-1903)

1861

By 7th April 1861, Caroline (now 49) and James Bugg (now 28) were still living in Great Stambridge with Lucy Robinson (17), George Robinson (14) and Alfred Robinson (11) identified as "step" children of James Bugg.

73

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Parish (or Township) of <i>Gr. Stambridge</i>		City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Hamlet or Tything, &c., of	Ecclésiastical District of <i>Rochester</i>				
No. of Inhabitants	Road, Street, Lane, and No. or Name of House	HOUSES		Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf and Dumb
		No.	Value of Rents, &c.				Males	Females			
37		1		Samuel Kettle	Head	Mar	70		James Robinson	Essex, Camberden	
				Caroline Bugg	Wife	Mar	56			Newington, the N. H.	
38		1		John Smith	Head	Mar	37		James Robinson	Essex, Gr. Stambridge	
				Eugene	Wife	Mar	33			Essex, Gr. Stambridge	
				William Howley	Son	Mar	16		James Robinson	Essex, Gr. Stambridge	
				Sarah Spinkthorpe	Son	Mar	17		Richard	Essex, Gr. Stambridge	
39		1		Mary Milton	Head	Mar	24		Paragon's Wife	Essex, Camberden	
				William Bugg	Son	Mar	3			Essex, Gr. Stambridge	
				Mary Bugg	Son	Mar	1			Essex, Gr. Stambridge	
40		1		John Smith	Head	Mar	35		James Robinson	Essex, Gr. Stambridge	
				William Bugg	Wife	Mar	20			Essex, Gr. Stambridge	
				Eugene	Son	Mar	7			Essex, Gr. Stambridge	
				Thomas Bugg	Son	Mar	5			Essex, Gr. Stambridge	
41	Team Street	1		William Beal	Head	Mar	47		General Dealer	Waltham, Essex	
				John Bugg	Wife	Mar	71			Essex, Gr. Stambridge	
				Elizabeth Bugg	Son	Mar	2			Essex, Gr. Stambridge	
42		1		James Bugg	Head	Mar	29		James Robinson	Essex, Gr. Stambridge	
				Caroline Bugg	Wife	Mar	17		John Smith	Essex, Gr. Stambridge	
				Henry Robinson	Son	Mar	17			Essex, Gr. Stambridge	
				John Bugg	Son	Mar	14		James Robinson	Essex, Gr. Stambridge	
				Alfred Bugg	Son	Mar	11			Essex, Gr. Stambridge	
43		1		Thomas Bugg	Head	Mar	67		John Smith	Essex, Gr. Stambridge	
				Eugene	Wife	Mar	60		John Smith	Essex, Gr. Stambridge	
				William Bugg	Son	Mar	10		Richard	Essex, Gr. Stambridge	
Total of Houses...		7		Total of Males and Females...		11	14				

Eng.—Sheet D.

At some point, their son, Alfred Robinson (21) must have met Martha Beal (19) because they married on 14th May 1870 in St Mary and All Saints, Great Stambridge, Essex. Alfred was a farm labourer. It would appear that Martha was 7 months pregnant.

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

1871

On 2nd April 1871, James (38) and Caroline (59) were living in Great Stambridge with their 5-year-old granddaughter, Caroline May – the first daughter of Lucy and Edward May. James was a labourer. Alfred Robinson had left home and married Martha Beal just under a year previously.

Page 14] The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

No. of Inhabitants	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES (No. of Houses in the Street)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION	AGE of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	1. Whether Blind or Deaf or 2. Whether Dumb or 3. Whether Paralytic or 4. Lunatic
66	Collage	1	Sarah Blackley	Convent	Woman	76	Housekeeper	Essex St. Wakefield	
			Edward	Servant	Man	16	General Servant	do. Bradford	
			David Leavens	Head	Man	58	Thorn Servant	do. Bradford	
67		1	James Bugg	Head	Man	38	Labourer	Essex St. Stamford	
			Caroline	Wife	Woman	59		do. Stamford	
			May	Child	Girl	5	Scholar	do. Stamford	
68		1	Henry Greeds	Servant	Man	40	Labourer	do. Wakefield	
			William Land	Head	Man	52	Gardener	do. Wakefield	
			Lucy	Wife	Woman	52		do. Wakefield	
			Henry Wells	Servant	Man	40	do	do. Wakefield	
69		1	Charles Wood	Head	Man	42	Bricklayer	do. Wakefield	
			Samuel Mittingham	Head	Man	42	Blacksmith	do. Wakefield	
			Catherine	Wife	Woman	38		do. Wakefield	
			John W.	Son	Man	8	Scholar	do. Wakefield	
			Samuel	Son	Man	7	do	do. Wakefield	
			Ada	Daughter	Girl	5	do	do. Wakefield	
			Edith M.	Daughter	Girl	9	do	do. Wakefield	
			Elizabeth	Daughter	Girl	22	do	do. Wakefield	
70	Rectory	1	William	Son	Man	48	Blacksmith	do. Wakefield	
			Elizabeth	Wife	Woman	48		do. Wakefield	
			Emma	Child	Girl	5	Cook	do. Wakefield	
			William	Child	Boy	4	do	do. Wakefield	
71	St. Peter's	1	William	Head	Man	37	Labourer	do. Wakefield	
			Martha	Wife	Woman	38		do. Wakefield	
Total of Houses..		6	Total of Males and Females..		12	13			

* Draw the pen through such of the words as are inappropriate.

Caroline died on 10th January 1875 at Great Stambridge age 61, of "Cancer of the womb" Registered by Maria Stainer. James was a labourer. Caroline and James had been married 22 years.

74	10 th January 1875	Caroline Bugg	Female	61 years	Wife of James Bugg	Cancer of Womb	The mark of Maria Stainer Present at the death	Fifteenth January 1875	Thomas King Registrar
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James Bugg may have died on 17th October 1911 in 195 Norwood Road, Lambeth (1911, Dec, Lambeth, 1D, 473) of "Chronic bronchitis, weak heart, syncope. Inquest held". It is not entirely clear it is the same person as it says "formerly a gardener." And it is in Lambeth not Great Stambridge. However, Lambeth is where Lucy Robinson, Caroline and John's first child, lived with her husband.

334	195 Norwood Road	James Bugg	Male	79 years	Formerly a Gardener	Chronic Bronchitis Weak Heart Syncope	Certificate received from Geo. Percival Wyatt, Coroner for Counties of Surrey & London. Inquest held 19 th October 1911	Twentieth October 1911	Alfred Thompson Registrar
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James cannot be found on the 1911 Census.

John and Caroline's Children

Lucy Robinson (1844-1927)

Lucy Robinson, was born on 4th April 1844 at Great Stambridge. Lucy subsequently married Edward Syner May on 10th February 1866, age 22 at St Andrew Rochford. (1866, Mar, Rochford, 4A, 196) (Marriage Register; Service of Church: Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials; Incumbent; Rochford, St Andrew; Parish Records; 1837-1905). They went on to have 8 children.

- Caroline Eliza May (1866-1947) was born on 10th June 1866 in Rochford to Lucy and Edward a Journeyman bricklayer (1866, Sept Rochford 04A 183).

165	South June 1866 Rochford	Caroline Eliza	girl	Edward May	Lucy May formerly Robinson	Bricklayer (Journeyman)	Lucy May Mother Rochford	North July 1866	James Badderly Registrar
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- Walter Edward May (1868) (1868 J Quarter in ROCHFORD Volume 04A Page 212)
- Albert Edward May (1871) (1871 J Quarter in ROCHFORD Volume 04A Page 214)
- Harry Edward May (1873) (1873 D Quarter in ROCHFORD Volume 04A Page 240)
- George E May (1873) (1873 D Quarter in ROCHFORD Volume 04A Page 240)
- Edith Rose May (1876) (1876 M Quarter in ROCHFORD Volume 04A Page 282)
- Jabez Edward May (1879) (1879 J Quarter in ROCHFORD Volume 04A Page 322)
- Florence Minnie May (1883) (1883 M Quarter in ROCHFORD Volume 04A Page 398)

Lucy and Edward seem to have stayed in Rochford to have their children, then around 1900 moved to Lambeth and Brixton. By 1921 they had both moved back to Paglesham, where they both died.

Edward died in 1925 in Lambeth, age 82. (1925, Jun, Lambeth, 01D, 216) (On death certificate middle name is Synak, on the death records it is Sinnock).

Lucy died age 83 on 5th November 1927 at 63 Balham New Road of "pain, exhausting. Carcinoma of the rectum" (1927, Dec, Wandsworth, 01D, 631)

	Road	Queenham		Engineer	Bartholomew's Field, M. 1865	Upper Stoting	1927	Registrar.	
185	4th November 1927 63 Balham New Road	Lucy May	female	83 years	Widow of Edward Synak May a journeyman stonemason	Has Pain exhausting (is Carcinoma of Rectum. No P.M. certified by D. V. P. Lane M.R.S.	6. 9. Freshwater Daughter Present at death Lilly & Cottages Hunsdon. Ware. Herts	Seventh November 1927	Hilda E. Smith Registrar.

Carcinoma of the rectum, also known as rectal cancer, is a type of cancer that develops in the rectum, the last part of the large intestine. It's a type of colorectal cancer and often arises from polyps, benign growths that can become cancerous.

Caroline Eliza May went on to marry William Carter (1864-1903) and they went on to have 6 children. William died in 1903, and Caroline remarried George Charles Freshwater in 1907. They had one son, Frederick Thomas in 1910. Caroline died in 1947.

Appearance on Census

1871: Old Ship Lane Rochford; Edward May (28), Lucy May (27), Walter Edward May (2), Albert Edward May (1 month) (Caroline age 5 is staying with grandparents Caroline and James Bugg in Great Stambridge)

1881: Barracks, Rochford; Edward May (37), Lucy May (37), Caroline May (14), Walter Edward May (12), Albert Edward May (10), George Edward May (7), Harry Edwards May (7), Jabez Edward May (2), William Middleton (6 months, Boarder), Edith R May (5).

1891: High Street, Rochford; Lucy May (47, Head), Walter Edward May (22), Jabez Edward May (12), Florence minnie May (8).

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

1901: 51 Langton Road, Lambeth: Edward May (60, general labourer), Lucy May (57), Henry Edward May (27, electrical store keeper), Florence Minnie May (18), Ivy Carter (8, visitor).

1911: 21 Vassell Road, Brixton; Edward May (67, labourer, unemployed), Lucy May (66)

1921: 6 View Row Pagglesham, Rochford; Sarah Leavett (77, widow, head), Edward Huntley (17, grandson groom), Robert Huntley (15, grandson, house boy), Edward May (78, cousin), Lucy May (77, cousin).

George Robinson (1847-1931)

George Robinson, was born on 8th October 1846 at Great Stambidge. (1846, Dec, Rochford union, 12, 1940). George married Amelia Caroline Denton in 1871 in Croydon, (June, 1871, Croydon, 2a, 335). They went on to have 9 children:

- Minna Lucy 1872 (1872, Jun, Croydon, 02A, 198)

109	Seventeenth April 1872 4. Clarina Road Penge	Minna Lucy	Girl	George Robinson	Amelia Robinson formerly Denton	Gardener	A. Robinson Mother 4. Clarina Road Penge	June 1872	Edwin Bailey Registrar
	Seventh								

- Ada 1874 (1873, Dec, Croydon, 02A, 202)

447	Eleventh October 1874 58 Hawthorn Grove Penge	Ada	Girl	George Robinson	Amelia Robinson formerly Denton	Coachman	A. Robinson Mother 58 Hawthorn Grove Penge	December 1874	Edwin Bailey Registrar
	Twenty sixth			Horatio	Hannah		H. C. C.		

- George 1876 (1876, Sep, Croydon, 02A, 235)
- Alice H 1879 (1879, Jun, Croydon, 02A, 233)

114	Seventeenth April 1879 11. Clarina Road Penge	Alice Henrietta	Girl	George Robinson	Amelia Robinson formerly Denton	Gardener	A. Robinson Mother 11. Clarina Road Penge	June 1879	Edwin Bailey Registrar
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- Caroline 1882 (1882, Jun, Croydon, 02A, 280)
- Florence Louisa 1884 (1884, Sep, Croydon, 02A, 230)

202	n.s.d. Fourth July 1884 3. Arpley Road Croydon n.s.d.	Florence Louisa	Girl	George Robinson	Amelia Robinson formerly Denton	Woolmaker	A. Robinson Mother 3. Arpley Road	September 1884	Edwin Bailey Registrar
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- Lucy 1887 (1888, Mar, Malling, 02A, 628) (record appears

145	n.s.d. Seventh December 1887 9 East Sheet Goodland n.s.d.	Lucy	Girl	George Robinson	Amelia Caroline Robinson formerly Denton	Mills Laborer	A. C. Robinson Mother 9 East Sheet Goodland	January 1888	Edwin Bailey Registrar
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- Harry Charles 1890 (1890, Mar, Malling, 02A, 634)
- John William 1891 (1891, Jun, Malling, 02A, 641)

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

George and Amelia seem to have moved around somewhat with George working as a jobbing gardener then an engine driver. Interestingly, in 1881, they were living in same house as James R Bugg (48, Carman) and Phoebe (32, wife).

However, there seem to be a number of questions over George and Amelia's movements as recorded in the census both in terms of locations and employment.

- 1881: Beckenham, Gardener
- 1891: Snodland, paper mill
- 1901: Aberystwyth, electrical engineer
- 1911: Sydenham, gardener
- 1921: Lewisham, pensioner

Amelia died on 18th January 1927 age 77 of "rheumatoid arthritis, hypostatic congestion and syncope". Death was registered by her son Harry Charles who was present at the death. (1927, Mar, Lewisham, 01D, 1387)

77	January 1927	Female	77	Wife of George Robinson Electrical Engineer	(1) Rheumatoid Arthritis (2) Hypostatic Congestion Syncope No. P. II Certified by G. F. Casey M.B.	H. C. Robinson Son present at the death 45 Fulham Road Brockley	Misses	Frank James Robinson 1927 Registrar
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Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic autoimmune disease where the body's immune system mistakenly attacks its own tissues, primarily the joints, leading to pain, swelling, stiffness, and potential joint damage. RA can also cause inflammation and problems in other parts of the body, such as the heart, lungs, eyes, and blood vessels. While there's no cure for RA, treatments can help manage symptoms and further joint damage

Hypostatic congestion refers to the pooling of blood in the dependent parts of an organ or the body due to gravity and impaired circulation. It is often seen in individuals who are recumbent for extended periods, chronically ill, or dying. This phenomenon can lead to reddening of the affected areas, particularly in the lungs and kidneys, and can contribute to conditions like hypostatic pneumonia.

Syncope commonly known as fainting or passing out, is a loss of consciousness and muscle strength characterized by a fast onset, short duration, and spontaneous recovery. It is caused by a decrease in blood flow to the brain, typically from low blood pressure.

George died on 6th June 1931, age 84, of broncho pneumonia and endocarditis. He was a retired jobbing gardener. Death registered by his son Harry Charles who would have been 41, living in Brockley (1931, June, Lewisham, 1D, 913).

No.	Died	Name and Surname	Sex	Age	Rank or Profession	Cause of Death	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant	When Registered	Signature of Registrar
406	Sixth June 1931	George Robinson	Male	84	Jobbing Gardener (Retired)	(1) Broncho Pneumonia (2) Endocarditis Certified by G. F. Casey M.B.	H. C. Robinson Son present at the death 45 Fulham Road Brockley	June 1931	Frank James Robinson Registrar

Bronchopneumonia is a type of pneumonia that affects the smaller airways and air sacs in the lungs, specifically the bronchi and alveoli. It is characterized by patchy consolidation (fluid buildup) in multiple areas of the lung, often in a lobular pattern. While usually caused by bacteria, viruses and fungi can also be responsible.

Endocarditis is an inflammation of the inner layer of the heart, the endocardium. It usually involves the heart valves. Other structures that may be involved include the interventricular septum, the chordae tendineae, the mural endocardium, or the surfaces of intracardiac devices

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

Appearance on Census

1851 & 1861 Living with parents

1871: Not found on census

1881: 38 Crampton Road, Beckenham; George Robinson (Head, 34, Jobbing Gardener), Amelia Robinson (Wife 32, born Coney, Bucks), Ada (6), George (4), Alice H, (2) (Children born in Penge)

1891: 9 East Street, Snodland, Malling; George Robinson (42, Engine Driver, paper mill), Amelia (40), Ada (16, mother's helper), George (14, cutter boy), Alice H (11, scholar), Caroline (8, scholar), Lucy (3), Harry Charles (1), John (1 month) (*Florence who would have been 7 is missing*)

1901: Cmwydian House, Llanfihangel y Creuddyn, Aberystwyth, Wales; George Robinson (52, Electrical Engineer, employer), Amelia (50), Lucy (13, school girl), Harry 11 (Schoolboy), John (10, schoolboy), W E Leckfield (5, grandson, born Snodland)

1911: 23 Acacia Rd, Lower Sydenham; George Robinson (65 jobbing gardener), Amelia Caroline (61), Harry Charles (21, chauffeur), John William (20 private gardener), George Ernest Robinson (1,2 Grandson, schoolboy, born Penge)

1921 27 Taunton Road, Lee, Lewisham SE12; George Robinson (74, old age pensioner), Amelia Caroline (72 old age pensioner).

Alfred Robinson (1849-1936)

Alfred married Martha Beal on 14th May 1870 in St Mary and All Saints, Great Stambridge, Essex. Alfred was a farm labourer. It would appear that Martha was 7 months pregnant. Together they had 10 children. Martha Robinson died aged 77, on 18th January 1929 at their home in 5 Lambert Street, Rochford, Southend on Sea. Martha died of acute bronchitis. Alfred Robinson died aged 86, on 7th May 1936 at 43 Salisbury Avenue, Southend, the home of his daughter, Maud Minnie Blewitt (1936, Jun, Rochford, 4A, 741), of "*cachexia, suprapubic cystotomy for cystitis and enlarged prostate. He is buried at Sutton Road cemetery, Prittlewell.*

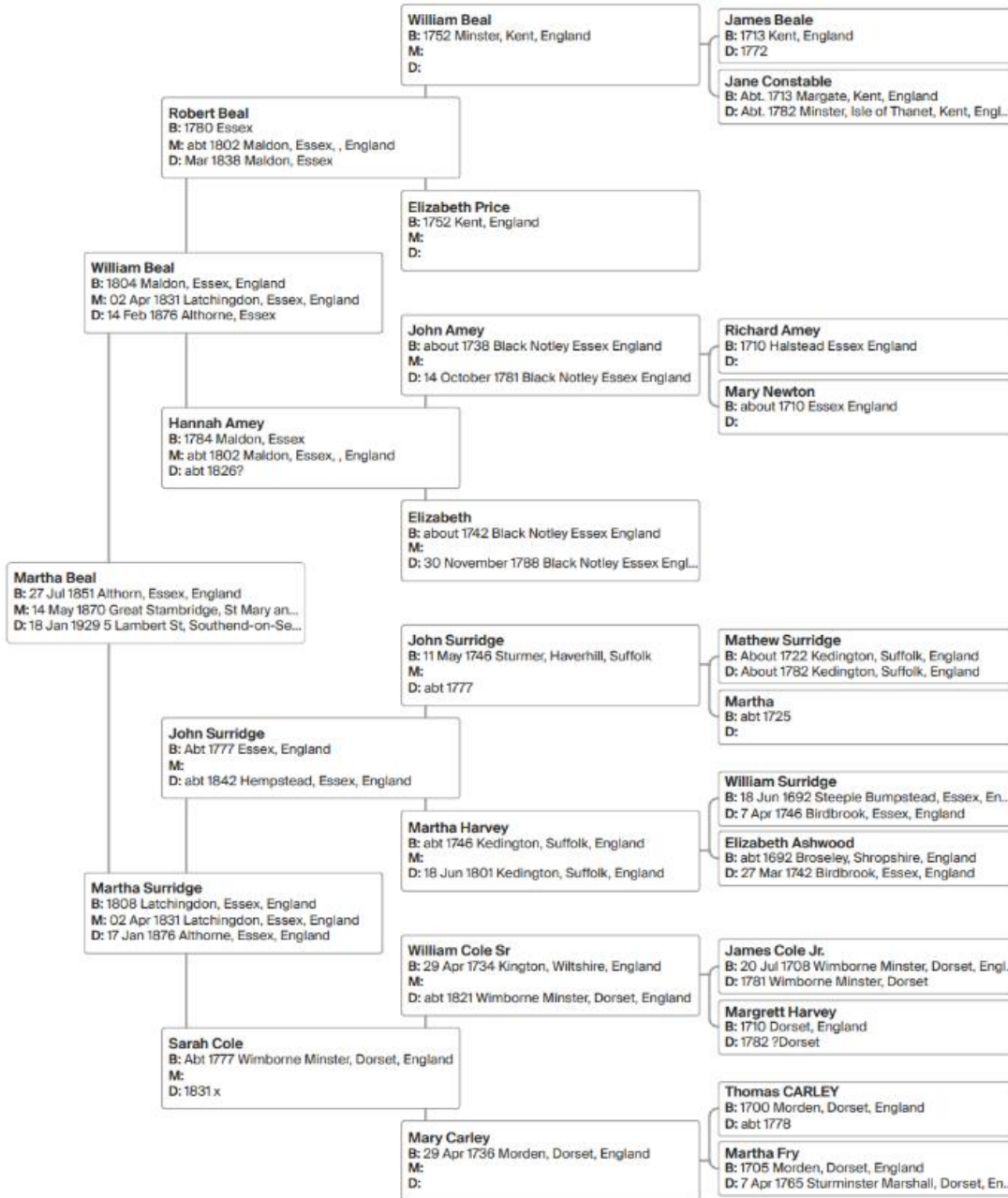
Alfred and Marth would become my great grandparents. For full details see the Chapter 28 on *Alfred Robinson* and Martha Beal**.

Chapter 27 – William Beal (1804–1876) and Martha Surridge (1808-1876)

William and Martha were born just after the turn of the 19th century, and evidence of their early lives and ancestors is difficult to come by with any certainty. Much would require visiting sites to access original documentation as it is not on-line. Furthermore, in the 18th and early 19th century documentary evidence was sparse particularly in the countryside. Consequently, this is the earliest chapter in this line.

However, William and Martha became responsible for a large and productive family who spread out throughout Essex, and in many cases lived long lives. They had 8 children – two died very young – others went on to lead quite long and active lives some until old age. They went on to have 41 grandchildren most of who were born in various parts of Essex, since all but Charlotte remained in the county. Charlotte relocated with her husband to Croydon. But many of the males worked as agricultural labourers.

Family Tree of William and Martha



William Beal (1804–1876)

William Beal was born in 1804 to Robert Beal (1780-1838) and Hannah Amey (1784-1826). William was baptised on 16th December 1804 in St Peters Maldon – a church of the independent denomination.

Date Baptized	Child's Name	Age when Baptized	Sex or taken by Parents	Names of the Parents	Place of Residence	Name of the Minister that Baptized
1776	Wm. Charles	✓	Both Sons	John & Mary Beall	London	W. H. H. H. H.
18 Dec 1780	Thomas	✓	Son	Samuel & Sarah Bond	Maldon	Rev. Stephen Foster
4 May 1781	Barnard	✓	Son	John & Mary Parker	London	W. H. H. H. H.
20 Jan 1784	Daniel	✓	Son	Daniel & Susannah Belsham	Tottenham	W. H. H. H. H.
25 March 1787	Sarah	✓	Daughter	Thomas & Catherine Brown	Maldon	W. H. H. H. H.
11 Dec 1788	Daniel	✓	Son	Daniel & Susannah Belsham	Tottenham	W. H. H. H. H.
30 Nov 1788	Catherine	✓	Daughter	Thomas & Catherine Brown	Maldon	W. H. H. H. H.
24 Feb 1791	Daniel	✓	Son	Abraham & Elizabeth Belsham	Tottenham	W. H. H. H. H.
27 Sept 1791	Elizabeth	✓	Daughter	Abraham & Elizabeth Belsham	Tottenham	W. H. H. H. H.
6 Dec 1791	Thomas	✓	Son	Thomas & Catherine Brown	Maldon	W. H. H. H. H.
30 Aug 1792	William	✓	Son	Daniel & Susannah Belsham	Tottenham	W. H. H. H. H.
26 Dec 1792	Rebecca	✓	Daughter	John & Susannah Barrington	London	W. H. H. H. H.
27 May 1793	William	✓	Son	Thomas & Catherine Brown	Maldon	W. H. H. H. H.
30 Oct 1793	James	✓	Son	Daniel & Susannah Belsham	Tottenham	W. H. H. H. H.
16 Nov 1793	Thomas	✓	Son	Daniel & Susannah Belsham	Tottenham	W. H. H. H. H.
16 Nov 1793	Daniel	✓	Son	Daniel & Susannah Belsham	Tottenham	W. H. H. H. H.
The above sixteen entries were copied from a book kept by the late minister of St. Peter's, Maldon, by Joseph P. H. H. H.						
1801	Rebecca	✓	Daughter	Abraham & Mary Belsham	Tottenham	W. H. H. H. H.
25 May 1802	Rachel	✓	Son	Samuel & Sarah Bond	Maldon	Rev. Stephen Foster
18 April 1802	Ephraim	✓	Son	of some persons	London	Rev. Stephen Foster
18 April 1802	James	✓	Son	John & Susannah Bond	London	Rev. Stephen Foster
18 April 1802	Abraham	✓	Son	Some persons	London	Rev. Stephen Foster
18 June 1803	Mary Ann	✓	Daughter	John & Mary Brown	Maldon	Rev. Stephen Foster
15 Feb 1804	Hannah	✓	Daughter	Samuel & Sarah Bond	Maldon	Rev. Stephen Foster
19 Feb 1804	Elizabeth	✓	Daughter	Samuel & Sarah Bond	Maldon	Rev. Stephen Foster
30 Feb 1804	Sarah	✓	Daughter	Samuel & Sarah Bond	Maldon	Rev. Stephen Foster
16 Dec 1805	William	✓	Son	Thomas & Elizabeth Brown	Maldon	Rev. Stephen Foster
18 June 1805	Ellen	✓	Daughter	Robert & Hannah Beal	Maldon	Rev. Stephen Foster
18 June 1805	Ellen	✓	Daughter	John & Mary Brown	Maldon	Rev. Stephen Foster

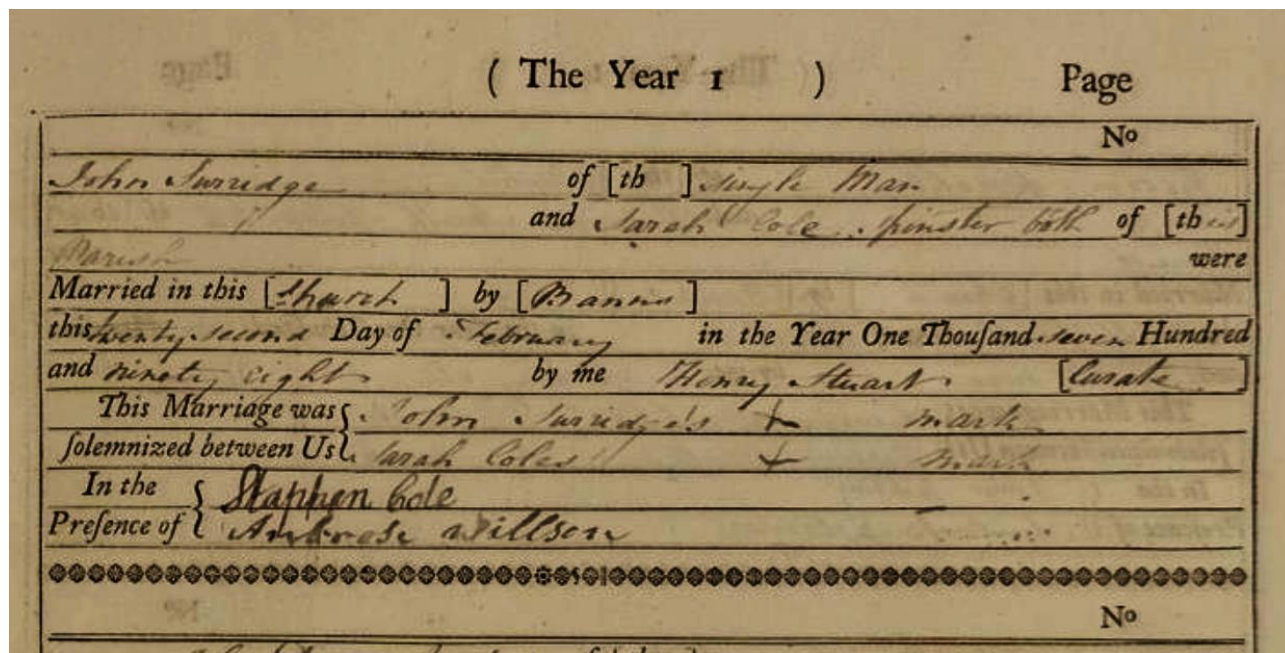
Hannah died in 1926 before official registration.

Robert died on 23rd February 1838 age 66 of "asthma on the lungs", He was a labourer. It appears he died at "All Saints Maldon", (1838, Mar, Maldon, 12, 118). All saints is a parish in Maldon, so it maybe he died at home with a nurse present.

Date	Name	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of Death	Place of Death	Registrar
23 rd February 1838	Robert Beal	Male	66	Labourer	Asthma on the Lungs	Mary Purkin Nurse present at Death All Saints Maldon	John Sparden Sanders Registrar

Martha Surridge (1808-1876)

John Surridge (1777-1842) and Sarah Cole (1777-1831) had married on 22nd February 1798 at St Mary the Virgin, Steeple Bumpstead, Essex. Their daughter, Martha Surridge* was born in 1808 in Latchingdon, Essex.



Martha Surridge met and married William Beal on 2nd April 1831 age 23 in Latchingdon, Essex. Martha's mother, Sarah, apparently died in 1831.

Martha's father, John, died in 1842 and was buried on 2nd April at St Clement, Leigh, Essex.

(Source: Burial Register; Service of Church: Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials; Incumbent; Leigh, St Clement; Parish Records; 1813-1876)

Marriage of William Beal and Martha Surridge

William Beal (1804-1876) married Martha Surridge (1808-1876) on 2nd April 1831 in Christ Church, Latchingdon-Cum-Snoreham, Essex.

Latchingdon is a village situated in the Dengie Peninsula in Essex, England, south of the city of Chelmsford. The parish was at one time called Latchingdon-cum-Snoreham, and Snoreham Hall still exists to the south of Latchingdon. St Michael's Church was built in late 13th century, but its use was limited once Christ Church was built in the centre of the village due to its increasing population.

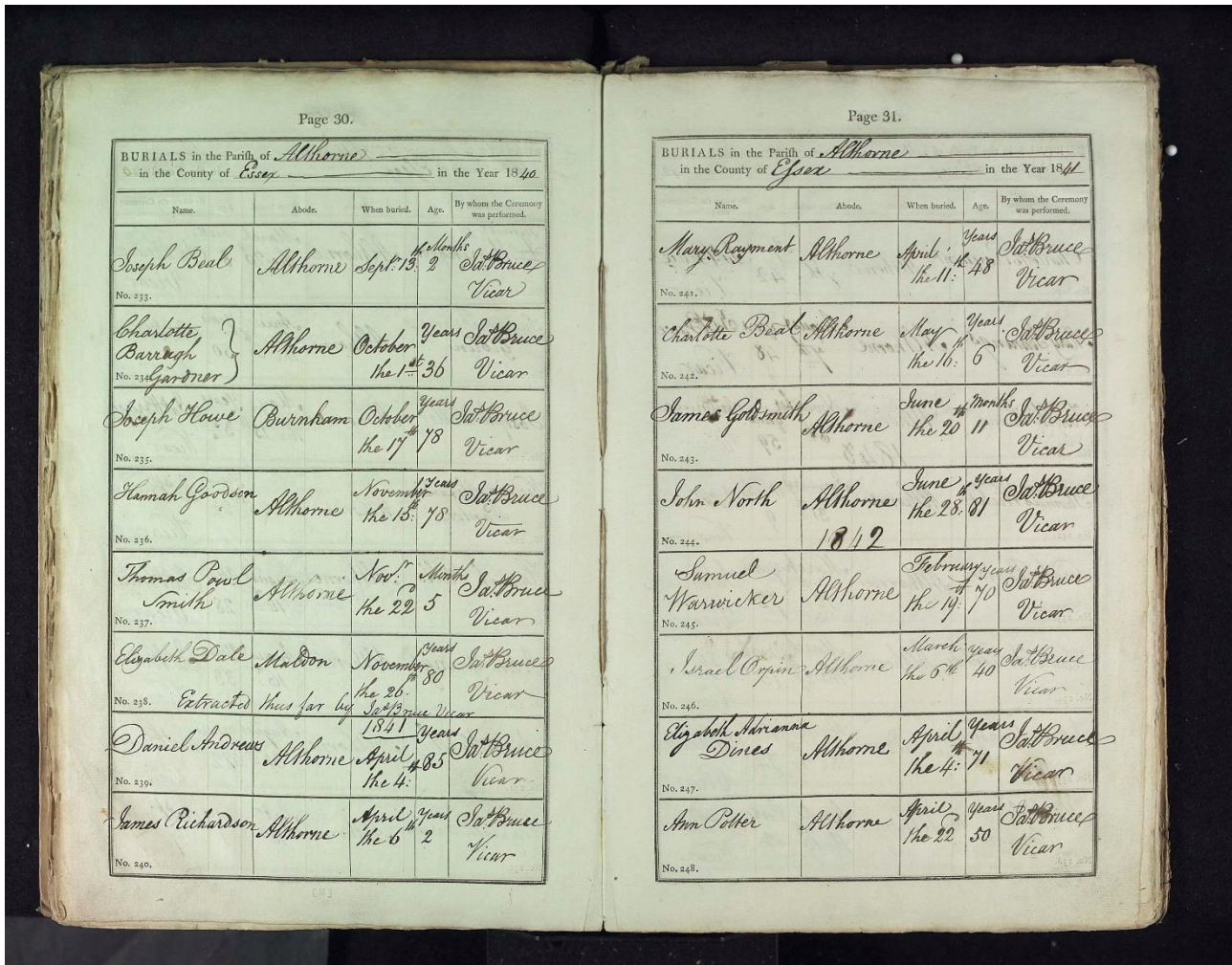
In 1833 William and Martha had their first child, Hannah, baptised on 19th August 1832 at St Barnabus, Maryland, Essex.

On 3rd February 1835, William and Martha gave birth to a second daughter, Charlotte Beal.

In 1840 they gave birth to a son, Joseph. Joseph died age 2 months on 8th September 1840 of "inflammation". (1840, Sept, Maldon, 12, 110)

280	England	Parish of	Male	2	Infant son of William & Martha Beal	Inflammation	Martha Beal	Parish of	1840	1
		Christ Church					Present at the	Christ Church		
		Latchingdon					Death	Latchingdon		
		Essex						Essex		

Charlotte died in 1841 age 6, and was buried in Althorne. Charlotte died before the 1841 census was taken on 6th June.



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William and Martha's third child was Emma (c1835) born before national registration was introduced. Emma was baptised at St Andrews, Althorne.

(Source: Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, Incumbent Althorne, St Andrew Parish Records, 1813-1876)



The parish church of St Andrews, Althorne.

On 6th June 1841 William (40) and Martha (35) lived in Althorne with Hannah (9) and Emma (6).

PLACE	HOUSES Un- inhabited Inhabited	NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born	
			Males	Females		In this County	Elsewhere
The Hall Cottage	1	Samuel Tabone	31	✓	Labourer	✓	Yes
		Mary Tabone	29	✓		✓	Yes
Street	1	Charles Tabone	4	✓		✓	Yes
		William Bouridge	37	✓	Labourer	✓	Yes
		Mary Bouridge	35	✓		✓	Yes
		Mary Ann Bouridge	11	✓		✓	Yes
Whome Street	1	William Bouridge	10	✓		✓	Yes
		John Bouridge	12	✓		✓	Yes
		James Anthony	30	✓	Blacksmith	✓	Yes
		Mary Ann Anthony	30	✓		✓	Yes
		Harriet Anthony	10	✓		✓	Yes
		Thomas Bowley	4	✓		✓	Yes
The Hall Cottage	1	Samuel Thope	17	✓	Do	✓	Yes
		William Bicklan	40	✓	Do	✓	Yes
		William James	16	✓	Labourer	✓	Yes
		Rebecca Steaves	10	✓		✓	Yes
Street	1	William James	21	✓	Labourer	✓	Yes
		James James	15	✓		✓	Yes
		Martha James	10	✓		✓	Yes
		Martha Neal	35	✓		✓	Yes
		Harriet Neal	9	✓		✓	Yes
		Emma Neal	4	✓		✓	Yes
TOTAL in ?	5		14	9	145	3	
Page 9			7	2	8		

PLACE	HOUSES Un- inhabited Inhabited	NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born	
			Males	Females		In this County	Elsewhere
The Hall Cottage	1	John James	20	✓	Labourer	✓	Yes
		Elizabeth James	20	✓		✓	Yes
		Julia James	10	✓		✓	Yes
		Daniel James	0	✓		✓	Yes
Whome Street	1	Margaretta James	25	✓		✓	Yes
		Benjamin Jennings	25	✓	Labourer	✓	Yes
		William Green	25	✓	Do	✓	Yes
		Samuel Green	16	✓	Labourer	✓	Yes
		Elizabeth Green	16	✓		✓	Yes
Do	1	James Bicklan	25	✓	Labourer	✓	Yes
		James Brackell	19	✓	Apprentice	✓	Yes
		Margaretta Bicklan	12	✓	Servant	✓	Yes
		James Young	25	✓	Labourer	✓	Yes
		Elizabeth Young	25	✓		✓	Yes
		Mary Young	2	✓		✓	Yes
Do	1	Richard Bicklan	4	✓		✓	Yes
		James Bowman	30	✓	Labourer	✓	Yes
		Mary Bowman	25	✓		✓	Yes
		Thomas Bowman	9	✓		✓	Yes
		Margaretta Bowman	7	✓		✓	Yes
		Isabella Bowman	6	✓		✓	Yes
		James Bowman	4	✓		✓	Yes
Elizabeth Bowman	1	✓		✓	Yes		
TOTAL in ?	4		12	11	144	4	
Page 10			7	1	9		

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

Joseph was born in 15th August 1840 at Althorne, (1840, Sep, Maldon, 12, 148) and baptised on 2nd August 1840 at Althorne St Andrews (Source: Service of Church: Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, Incumbent, Althorne, St Andrew Parish Records 1813-1876).

443	Fifteenth of August 1840. Parish of Althorne	Joseph	Boy	William Beal	formerly Surge	Agriculture Labourer	Martha Beal Mother Althorne	Seventeenth of August 1840	Isaac Bush Register
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Joseph died age 2 months of "inflammation" on 8th September 1840 (1840, Sep, Maldon, 12, 110) and was buried on 13th September 1840 at St Andrews.

280	Mayland	Joseph Beal	Male	Infant son of William & Martha Beal	Inflammation	Martha Beal	Martha Beal	Eighth of September 1840	Isaac Bush Register
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On 28th August 1841 they had James at Althorne. William was an agricultural labourer. (1841, Sept, Maldon, 12, 150)

109	Twenty eighth of August 1841 Parish of Althorne	James	Boy	William Beal	formerly Surge	Agriculture Labourer	Martha Beal Mother Althorne	Second of September 1841	Isaac Bush Register
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A second daughter named Charlotte was born on 14th May 1844 in Althorne. (She is the Charlotte on the 1851 census) (1844, Jun, Maldon, 12, 164)

56	Thirteenth of May 1844 Parish of Althorne	Charlotte	Girl	William Beal	formerly Surge	ag. lab.	Martha Beal Mother Althorne	Fourteenth of May 1844	Isaac Bush Register
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When she was 25, Charlotte married George Fairman (24) on 23rd July 1879 at The Parish Church in Croydon.

(see more below)

1879. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Croydon in the County of Surrey								
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.
104	July 23 rd 1879	George Herbert Fairman	24	Bachelor	Bricklayer	Croydon	James Fairman	Bricklayer
		Charlotte Beal	25	Spinster		Croydon	William Beal	Labourer
Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by or after Banns by me,								
This Marriage was solemnized between us, George Herbert Fairman in the presence of us, Charlotte Beal, William Blacking, Susan Elizabeth Blacking, Ebenezer Pittation								

On 3rd August 1848, George Beal was born at Althorne. William was still a labourer. (1848, Sept, Maldon, 12, 161)

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

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The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Civil Parish (or Township) of		City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Township	Village or Hamlet, &c.	Local Board or Improvement Commissioners District of	Ecological District of	Page 5
Althorne									
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES in the PARISH	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION	AGE of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	Whether Deaf-Blind, Blind, Imbecile or Idiot
19	12 Malpas Road	1	William Beal	Head	Mar	58	Bricklayer	Althorne	
			Isabel Beal	Wife	Mar	45	Carpenter	Althorne	
			John Beal	Wife	Mar	46		Althorne	
			Elizabeth Beal	Wife	Mar	28		Althorne	
			James Beal	Son	Mar	9		Althorne	
20	13 Green Shop	1	William Beal	Head	Mar	57	School	Althorne	
			James Beal	Wife	Mar	52	Green & Cooper	Althorne	
			William Beal	Son	Mar	5		Althorne	
			George Beal	Son	Mar	2		Althorne	
			Andrew Beal	Son	Mar	1		Althorne	
21	11	1	John Beal	Head	Mar	72	School	Althorne	
			William Beal	Wife	Mar	72	Laborer	Althorne	
			John Beal	Wife	Mar	72	Lab.	Althorne	
			Richard Beal	Wife	Mar	72	Lab.	Althorne	
22	15	1	James Beal	Head	Mar	58	Lab.	Althorne	
			James Beal	Wife	Mar	58	Lab.	Althorne	
23	11	1	William Beal	Head	Mar	67	Lab.	Althorne	
			Martha Beal	Wife	Mar	63	Lab.	Althorne	
			George Beal	Wife	Mar	60	Bricklayer Lab.	Althorne	
Total of Houses..		5	Total of Males and Females..		14	6			

* Draw the pen through such of the words as are inappropriate.

Eng - Sheet B.

On 17th January 1876 Martha Beal died of *Bronchitis*, age 68 in Althorne. (1876, Mar, Maldon, 04A, 175). The death was registered by her daughter Hannah King (formerly Beal).

Search	Index	Register	Year	Age	Sex	Occupation	Cause of Death	Registered by	Where
Seventeenth	Martha	Female	1876	68	Female	Wife of William Beal	Bronchitis	Hannah King	Althorne
January	Beal		1876	68	Female	Wife of William Beal	Bronchitis	Hannah King	Althorne
1876									
Althorne									

Four weeks later, William Beal, died age 72 on 14th February 1876 in Althorne of "suicide with rope -temporary mental derangement, certificate received from N Codd coroner for Essex, Inquest held 15 March 1876." It is tempting to believe this was as a result of him not coping with losing his wife after 45 years of marriage.

Search	Index	Register	Year	Age	Sex	Occupation	Cause of Death	Registered by	Where
Fourteenth	William	Male	1876	72	Male	Laborer	Suicide with a rope	N. Codd	Althorne
March	Beal		1876	72	Male	Laborer	Suicide with a rope	N. Codd	Althorne
1876									
Althorne									

William was buried on 19th March 1876 at St Andrews, Althorne.

(Source: Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, Althorne, St Andrew Parish Records 1813-1951)

William and Martha's Children

Hannah (1832-1915)

Hannah was born in 1832 in Maryland, Essex baptised at St Barnabus, Maryland.

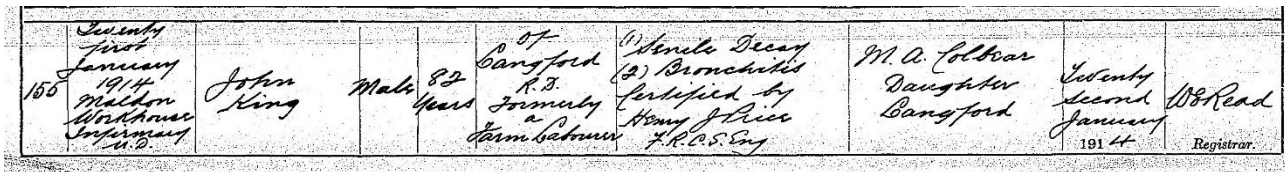
Hannah married John King (1833-1914) in 1857, age 25.

They had 7 children, all girls:

- Martha (1858-1936) (1858, Mar, Maldon, 04A 183)
- Mary Ann (1860-1944) (1860, Jun, Maldon, 04A, 188)
- Emma Jane (1863-) (1863, Jun, Maldon 04A, 213)
- Harriett (1865-) (1865, Jun, Maldon, 04A, 208)
- Elizabeth 1867-1947) (1867, Dec, Maldon, 04A, 211)
- Eliza Ann (1870-1938) (1870, Mar, Maldon, 04, 259)
- Hannah (1872-1957) (Birth record not found)

John worked as an agricultural labourer and maybe consequently the family moved around considerably within Essex between 1857 and 1911.

John died on 21st January 1914 age 82 at Maldon Workhouse Infirmary of "Senile decay Bronchitis", (1914, Mar, Maldon, 04A, 793). John was living in Langford, previous a farm labourer. Death registered by his daughter Mary Ann Colbear.



It appears that Hanah then moved into Mary Ann's house at Hatfield Road, Langford. It was here on 22nd June 1915 that Hannah died age 82 of "senile decay 2 years". (1915, Jun, Maldon, 04A, 770)

Senile decay often refers to a condition characterized by a progressive decline in cognitive function.

Appearance on Censuses

1861: Not found

1871: Sporehams Farm, Danbury; John King (38, Working Bailiff), Hannah (38, poultry woman), Martha (13 born Althorn), Mary Ann (11, born Latchingdon), Emma Jane (8, Latchingdon), Harriet (6, Althorn), Elizabeth (3, Althorn), Eliza Jane (1, Woodham Walter).

1881: Hatfield Road, Langford; John King (49, Agricultural labourer), Hannah (48), Emma (17), Elizabeth (13, scholar), Eliza (11, scholar), Hannah (9, Scholar)

1891: Castle Lane, Hadleigh, Rochford; John King (67, labourer), Hannah King (65)

1901: Kent Hill Cottage, South Benfleet; John King (69, agricultural labourer), Hannah King (69), George Chapel (29, Son-in-Law), Hannah Chappel (29, Daughter in Law), Annie Challe (2, grand-daughter)

1911: Thatched cottage, Langford, Essex; Joahn King (79, ex-farm labourer, old age pensioner), Hannha King (78)

Charlotte (1835-1841)

On 3rd February 1835, William and Martha gave birth to a daughter, Charlotte Beal. – before national registration. Charlotte was baptised at St Andrews on 8th March 1835. Charlotte died on 16 May 1841 age 6, and was buried in St Andrews, Althorne. Charlotte died before the 1841 census was taken on 6th June. No formal record of her death has been uncovered apart form

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Parish register: (*Burial Register, Service of Church: Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, Incumbent, Althorne, St Andrew, Parish Records, 1813-1951*)

Emma (1835-1911)

Emma was born in Althorne in 1835, just before national registration was introduced. She was baptised at St Andrews, Althorne (Source: Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, Incumbent Althorne, St Andrew Parish Records, 1813-1876).

Emma married Robert Jennings (1834–1907) in 1857. They had a large family, of 10 children- 9 boys and 1 girl:

- Robert William Beale (1857–) (No record found)
- James (1859–1932) (1859, Jun, Maldon, 04A, 193)
- Charles Walter (1862–1927) (1862, Jun, Maldon, 04A, 210)
- William John (1864–) (1864 Jun Maldon 04A 213)
- Elizabeth Hannah (1867–) (1867, Mar, Maldon, 04A, 222)
- George Edward (1868) (1868, Dec, Maldon, 04A, 232)
- Harry (1872–) (1872, Mar, Billericay, 04A, 199)
- Samuel (1874–) (1874, Dec, Billericay, 04A, 207)
- Ernest Alfred (1877–) 1877, Sep, Billericay, 04A, 229)
- Alfred Albert (1879–) (1879, Jun, Billericay, 04A, 269)

(Mothers maiden names recorded as both Beale and Beal).

For all of their married life – for the next 50 years Robert would be a farm labourer on various Farms around the Benfleet and Canvey Island area. For some years their sons worked with Robert, but in time they married and moved away.

Robert died on 1st March 1907 at Blossom Cottages, Hadleigh, age 73 of "Cystitis uraemia". He was a general labourer, and the death was registered by his son Harry. Of Leigh Road, Hadleigh (1907 Mar Rochford 04A 419)

	T.R.B.								
408	First March 1907 Blossom Cottages Hadleigh R. D.	Robert Jennings	Male	73 years	General Labourer	Cystitis uraemia Certified by F. B. Grayson M. R. C. S.	H. Jennings Son present at the Death Leigh road Hadleigh	Fourth March 1907	Henry P. Jopfield Registrar
	Sixth								

Cystitis and uremia are related, but describe different conditions affecting the urinary system. Cystitis is a bladder infection, often caused by bacteria. Uremia, on the other hand, is a condition where the kidneys fail to properly filter waste products from the blood, leading to a buildup of toxins

Given she was now on her own, Emma then presumably moved in with her son Harry who was a farmer in Hadleigh, and was there on Sunday 2nd April 1911 when the census was taken. Sadly 5 weeks later she died on 10th May 1911 age 73 of Fleet Villa, South Benfleet of "hemiplegia paralysis", most likely a stroke. (1911, Jun, Rochford, 04A, 291)

	Rockford R. D.								
268	Death May 1911 Fleet Villa South Benfleet R. D.	Emma Jennings	Female	73 years	Widow of Robert Jennings a Farmer Labourer	Hemiplegia Paralysis Certified by H. P. Adams M. R. C. S.	H. Jennings Son present at the Death Fleet Villa South Benfleet	Tenth May 1911	Henry P. Jopfield Registrar

Hemiplegia is a condition causing complete paralysis on one side of the body that can result from brain injuries, particularly stroke, and other neurological conditions.

Appearance on Censuses

1861 East End Road, Bradwell, Essex; Robert Jennings (26, agricultural labourer) Emma Jennings (23), Robert Jennings (4) James Jennings (2)

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1871: Waterside cottage, South Benfleet; Robert Jennings (37, Agricultural labourer), Emma Jennings (33), James (11, scholar), Charles Walter (9), William John (7, scholar), Elizabeth Hannah (4), George Edward (2), plus three lodgers all agricultural labourers)

1881: Southwick Farm, Canvey Island; Robert Jennings (47, agricultural labourer), Emma Jennings (43), Robert William Beal (24, Son agricultural labourer), James Jennings (22, agricultural labourer), Charles Walter Jennings (19 , Agricultural labourer), Elizabeth Hannah Jennings (14), George Edward Jennings (12, Farmers boy), Harry Jennings (9, scholar), Samuel Jennings (6), Ernest Jennings (3), Alfred Albert Jennings (2)

The farm was owned by Nicholas Wentworth in 1543. The Kersteman family of Somerset owned it from at least 1793-1836. When Mayor William Brewse Kersteman sold it to Jonathan Wood of Hadleigh. Jonathan Wood's family owned it until 1925 when it was sold to AM Clark. It was then sold off for building plots or rented out. It is probably now Southwick Gardens.

1891: Southwick Farm; Robert Jennings (57, Agricultural labourer). Emma Jennings (53), Ernest Alfred Jennings (13, agricultural; labourer)), Alfred Albert Jennings (12, Agricultural Labourer) plus two lodgers.

1901: Furtherwick Farm, Canvey Island; Robert Jennings (67, stockman on farm), Emma Jennings (63).

1911: Grace Cottage, Dawsheath Rd, Hadleigh, Essex; Harry Jennings (39, farmer), Rose Jennings (39, born Hadleigh), Emma Jenings (73, mother, widow).

Joseph (1840-1840)

Joseph was born on 15th August 1840 in Althorne. William was an agricultural labourer (1840, Sep, Maldon, 12, 148)

443	Suffield of August 1840 Parish of Althorne	Joseph Boy	William Beal	Martha Beal formerly Agueulhouse Lurige	Martha Beal Mother Althorne	Seventeenth of August 1840	Isaac Bush
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Joseph died age 2 months of "inflammation" on 8th September. (1840, Sep, Maldon, 12, 110)

280	Magdalah Parish of	Joseph Beal	Male	2 Months Infant son of William & Martha Maritha Beal	Inflammation	Martha Beal Present at the Death	Eighth of September 1840	Isaac Bush Registrar
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'Inflammation' as a cause of death in the burial registers appears most frequently in the 1840s-1860s. In 1840 "inflammation" would have been a common cause of death recorded on death certificates, especially in the form of "inflammation of lungs". This term likely referred to conditions like bronchitis, pneumonia, or pleurisy, all characterized by lung tissue inflammation.

James (1842-?)

James was born on 29th August 1841. Like his father he became an agricultural labourer. He lived at home until 1862.

On 8th November 1862 he married Phoebe Warner at St Andrews Church, Althorne. From birth certificates it appears Phoebe was illiterate. Unfortunately, these do not give full addresses. Together they had 9 children:

- Charlotte Beal 1863 (1863 J Quarter in MALDON Volume 04A Page 204)
- George William Beal 1865 (1865 J Quarter in MALDON Volume 04A Page 209)

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

- George died in 1867 (1867, Jun, Maldon, 04A, 125)
- James 1866 (1866 D Quarter in MALDON Volume 04A Page 224)
- George 1868 (1868 J Quarter in MALDON Volume 04A Page 230)
- Mark William Beal 1869 (1869 D Quarter in MALDON Volume 04A Page 239)

Mark died on 2nd March 1870 age 5 months (1870 M Quarter in MALDON 04A Page 188)

253	Second March 1870	Male	5 Months	Beal Farm Labourer	Certified	Presented the death	March 1870	William Litchington	William Beal
	Twenty Fourth	Female		Daughter of William Beal	Pneumonia	Presented the death	March 1870	William Litchington	Charles Beal

- Mark William 1872 (1872 S Quarter in MALDON Volume 04A Page 265)
- Alice Mary Beal 13th March 1874 (1874 J Quarter in MALDON Volume 04A Page 275)

242	Fifteenth March 1874	Alice Mary Beal	Female	James Beal	Phoebe Beal formerly Warner	Mark of Phoebe Beal Mother	First April 1874	Charles Crown	William Beal
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- Alfred Joseph Beal 1876 (1876 S Quarter in MALDON Volume 04A Page 294 Occasional Copy:A)
- David Beal 5th August, Latchingdon, 1878 (1878, Sept, Maldon, 04A, 321)

346	5 th August 1878	David	Male	James Beal	Phoebe Beal formerly Warner	Mark of Phoebe Beal Mother	Eleventh September 1878	William Beal	William Beal
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- Ernest Albert Beal 1881 (1881 M Quarter in Volume 04A Page 359)
- Martha Beale 23rd May 1883 Latchingdon (1883, Jun, Maldon, 04A, 391)

425	Twentythird May 1883	Martha Beale	Female	James Beale	Phoebe Beale formerly Warner	Mark of Phoebe Beale Mother	Twentythird May 1883	William Beal	William Beal
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Phoebe died on 28th February 1891 in Latchingdon of "phthisis pulmonalis" (Tuberculosis) (1891, Mar, Maldon, 04A, 302).

46	Twentythird February 1891	Phoebe Beale	Female	Wife of James Beale Farm Labourer	Phthisis Pulmonalis 2 years Certified by W.D. Sturges M.D.	Mark of James Beale widower of deceased	Twentythird February 1891	William Beal	William Beal
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After Phoebe died, James continued working as an agricultural labourer in Latchingdon. By 1901 he appears to have moved in with his daughter Charlotte who has now married Robert Parker, and had three boys. Ten years later, in 1911, James is an inmate at the Maldon Union Workhouse. It is not clear whether he is sick or able bodied. But it identified him as "Formerly an agricultural labourer"). Maldon Union Workhouse was at 32a Spital Road, Maldon. It has 291 persons including 45 children 55 sick, and 144 aged and infirm.

He does not seem to appear on the 1921 Census, but a certificate of his death has not been uncovered. Hence, we are not quite sure when James died.

Appearance of censuses

Up until the 1861 census, James lived at home and was identified as an agricultural labourer.

1871: Althorn Road Snoreham; James Beale (29, Agricultural labourer, born Althorne), Phoebe (26, born Totham, Essex), Charlotte (7, scholar), (George (3).

1881: Hill Farm, Latchingdon; James Beal (39, agricultural labourer), Phoebe (36, born Great Totham), George (12, agricultural labourer), Mark (8, scholar), Alice Mary (7), Alfred Joseph (4), David (2), Ernest (2 months)

1991 Knights Hill Latchingdon; James Beal (49, agricultural labourer), Alice (17 housekeeper), David (12 agricultural labourer), Martha (7, scholar)

1901: The Street, Latchingdon with Snoreham; Robert Parker (40, Horseman) Charlotte (38), George Parker (16, agricultural labourer), Frank (11, scholar), Ernest (4), James Beal (57 father-in-Law, agricultural labourer).

1911: Maldon Union Workhouse, 32a Spital Road, Malden. James Beal, Inmate 67, born Althorn.

Charlotte (1844-1922)

Charlotte was born on 14th May 1844 in Althorne and baptised on 16th June at St Andrews. Until the 1861 census she lived at home. In 1861 age 17 she was living in Burnham as a general servant.

Charlotte (25) married George Fairman (24) on 23rd July 1870 at The Parish Church in Croydon, though how and when she went to Croydon we don't know. George was born in Croydon. However, Croydon was expanding and no doubt needed bricklayers.

1870. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of <i>Croydon</i> in the County of <i>Surrey</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.	
104	<i>July 23rd 1870</i>	<i>George Herbert Fairman</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Bricklayer</i>	<i>Croydon</i>	<i>James Fairman</i>	<i>Bricklayer</i>	
		<i>Charlotte Beal</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>Spinster</i>		<i>Croydon</i>	<i>William Beal</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	

Married in the *Parish Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by *W. W. Matthews* or after *Banns* by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *George Herbert Fairman* in the Presence of us, *William Blacking* *Susannah Eliza Blacking* *Almona Pittaker*

The arrival of the railways and other communications advances in the 19th century led to a 23-fold increase in Croydon's population between 1801 and 1901.

In 1871 they were living at 8 Ewell Cottages, Croydon. Charlotte was 26, and George, 24, was a bricklayer.

They had four children:

- Herbert George Fairman (1873, Mar, Croydon, 02A, 190)
- Edith Eleanor (1875, Mar, Croydon, 02A, 209)
Edith married John May, who went on to serve in the war. She died in 1969 (1969, Sep, Croydon, 5a, 1685)
- Charles William (1877, Jun, Croydon, 02A, 203)
- Kate Elizabeth 3rd April 1881 (1881, Jun, Croydon, 02A, 234)
Kate married Charles Robert John Fisher on 20th August 1910. They had two children, George (b: 22nd May 1881) and John. It appears Charles may have been killed in WWI, as she received a war pension for him, and then went to live with her parents by 1921 as a widow.
Kate died on 31st July 1972 at 51 Benson Road.

Charlotte and George lived together in Croydon for over 50 years where they raised their family, some 40 years of which were at 31 Benson Road.

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

Charlotte died on 1st September 1922 age 78 at 31 Benson Road of "(1) apoplexy, (2) Cardiac disease" (stroke) the death registered by George who was present. (1922, Sep, Croydon, 02A, 306).

296	First September 1922 31 Benson Road U.D.	Charlotte Fairman	Female	78 years	Wife of George Herbert Fairman, a Retired Builder	(1) Apoplexy (2) Cardiac disease Certified by George Wall M.B.C.S.	H.G. Fairman Widower of deceased Present at the death. 31 Benson Road Croydon	1 st September 1922	J.P. Beach Deputy Registrar
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George lived another 15 years to the age of 93, when he died on 23rd July 1937 at 31 Benson Road, Croydon of "(a) syncope, (b) myocardial degeneration, (c) senility." George was by then a "master builder". Death registered by his son Herbert George Herbert who was 63 years old, living in 33 Selston Avenue South Croydon. (1937, Sep, Croydon, 02A, 540)

482	Twenty third July, 1937 31, Benson Road, U.D.	George Herbert Fairman	Male	91 years	Master Builder - retired	1. (a) Syncope. (b) Myocardial Degeneration. (c) Senility. Certified by E. Lambert Martin, M.R.C.S.	H.G. Fairman, Son, 33, Selston Avenue, South Croydon.	193 7	Registrar W. Davis
483	Twenty third	Alfred	Male	65				193 7	Registrar

Probate on his will was on 30th September 1937. George left £2886 2s 2d to his three children Herbert, Charles and Kate, though not to Edith.

Appearance on Censuses

1871: 8 Ewell Cottages; George H Fairman (24, Bricklayer, born Croydon), Charlotte (26, born Althorne)

1881: 13 Eland Road, Croydon; George Fairman (35, Bricklayer), Charlotte (37), Herbert (8, scholar), Edith (6, Scholar), Charley (sic) 4, scholar), Emma (1 day – so as the 1881 census was taken on Sunday 3rd April 1881 we can presume "Emma" was born on 2nd April. However, it appears they changed her name to Kate Elizabeth)

1891: 31 Benson Road, Croydon; George Fairman (45, builder), Charlotte (46), Herbert (18, plumber), Charles (14, scholar), Katie (10).

1901: 31 Benson Road; George Fairman (54, Bricklayer), Charlotte Fairman (56) Charles (24, plumber)

1911: 31 Benson Road, Croydon; George Fairman (65, retired builder), Charlotte Fairman (66), Charles Fairman (30, single, plumber)

1921: 31 Benson Road, Croydon; George Fairman (75, Employer, builder and house decorator from home), Charlotte Fairman (77), Kate Fisher (40, widowed daughter), George Fisher (7, grandson, father dead), John Fisher (4, Father dead)

George (1848-1912)

George was born on 3rd August 1848 in Althorne, and baptised on 26th November at St Andrews. George lived at home until before the 1871 census, age 22, when he lived in the house of Emma Gordon, a widow of a "maltster". The house was in Dengie, Essex. (Dengie is a scattered village and civil parish in the Maldon district of Essex, England, with a population of 119 at the 2011 census. It is about 4 km NE of the nearest town, Southminster, on the slightly higher ground to the north of Dengie Marshes.)

Sometime soon he married Eliza and lived in Townsfield Road where they had just one daughter, Alice in 1876. Records of their marriage or Alice's birth have not been found.

George had a career as a "maltster" and subsequently "journeyman maltster". First in

Chelmsford then on Colchester some 30 miles away

A maltster is a skilled professional involved in the production of malt, a key ingredient in the brewing and distilling industries. They are responsible for selecting, preparing, and managing the malting process, which involves germinating and drying barley to create malt.

In 1900, several breweries were operating in Colchester, England, including Daniells Breweries. Daniells, known for their Porter, XXX Stout, Sparkling Dinner Ale, and Creamy Stout, were a significant presence in the city's brewing landscape. The Colchester Brewing Company also had a presence, operating breweries in Eye, Ipswich, and Colchester. Additionally, the East Hill Brewery, owned by Daniell Brothers and later by the Colchester Brewing Company, played a part in the local brewing history.

Eliza died on 16th August 1910 age 72 at 18 Priory Grove of "?? Varicose vein, Pneumonia, exhaustion" (1910, Sep, Colchester, 04A, 297), death registered by her daughter Alice.

499	18 Priory Grove 18 Priory Street	Eliza Beal	Female	72 years	Wife of George Beal Maltster (Journeyman)	Impaired Varicose Vein 3 months Pleura Pneumonia 9 months Exhaustion 1 month	Alice Beal Daughter	18 Priory Grove Priory Street Colchester	August 1910	Deputy Registrar
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Two years later, George died on 30th March 1912 at 18 Priory Grove age 63 of "cancer of the tongue. 9 months". Death registered by his daughter Alice. (1912, Jun, Colchester, 04A, 677)

Appearance on Censuses

387	18 Priory Grove	George Beal	Male	64 years	Labourer at Malting	1. Cancer of Tongue 9 months Certified by J. M. Ryan M.D.	Alice Beal Daughter Present at the death	18 Priory Grove Colchester	1912	Second Thos. J. Bailey Registrar
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1881: 35 Townfield Road, Chelmsford; George Beal (33, journeyman maltster), Eliza Beal (40, born Tillingham), Alice (5).

1891: 34 Townsfield Road, Chelmsford; George Beal (42, maltster), Eliza Beal (49), Alice Deal (15, apprentice to dressmaker).

1901: 18 Priory Grove, Priory Street, Colchester; Gerorge Beal (52, maltster), Eliza Beal (60).

1911: 18 Priory grove, Priory Street, Colchester; George Beal (62, widower, maltsters labourer), Alice Beal (35, daughter, single, dressmaker).

Martha (1851-1929)

Martha Beal was born on 27th June 1851 in Althorne, the 7th and final child of William and Martha. On 7th April 1861 Martha lived with her parents at 14 Black Lion Street (presumably named after the Black Lion Public House – which closed in 2010 and was converted into a single residence in 2013). The family consisted of William Beal (57, agricultural labourer), Martha Beal (55), James (19, agricultural labourer), George (12, agricultural labourer), Martha (9, scholar) and Martha King (3) a visitor who was probably Hannah's daughter.

On 14th May 1870, Martha married Alfred Robinson (1870, Jun, Rochford, 4A, 257).

More on Martha's and Alfred's lives can be found in Chapter 28 on *Alfred Robinson and Martha Beal*.

Section 13 - Great Grandparents

Alfred Robinson (1849–1936) & Martha Beal (1851-1929)

My great grandparents on the Robinson line were Alfred Robinson and Martha Beal. There were significant social changes taking place during the lives of Alfred and Martha. They lived through the horrors of WWI in their 60s, but also witnessed massive development in social conditions particularly education.

Rochford

Many birth certificates here are recorded as "Rochford". The registration districts were used primarily for civil registration of births, marriages, and deaths, and they often followed the boundaries of Poor Law Unions.

In the early 1900s, the Rochford registration district was located in Essex, and covered a substantial portion of the southeast of the county. It included a mix of rural and coastal areas, and over time the boundaries and included parishes changed somewhat, especially with urban growth and administrative restructuring. Around the early 1900s, the Rochford registration district included areas such as:

- **Rochford** (the town itself)
- **Rayleigh**
- **Southend-on-Sea** (though Southend became its own registration district in 1913)
- **Hadleigh**
- **Leigh-on-Sea**
- **Shoeburyness**
- **Hockley**
- **Great Wakering**
- **Canewdon**
- **Paglesham**
- **Ashingdon**

The Southend area rapidly urbanized in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, leading to boundary changes. For example, Southend-on-Sea became a municipal borough in 1892 and was eventually made a county borough in 1914, after becoming a separate registration district in 1913.

Chapter 28 - Alfred Robinson (1849–1936) and Martha Beal (1851-1929)

Not surprisingly I knew nothing of my grandfather's parents – Alfred Robinson and Martha Beal. They were both born in small villages in Essex; Alfred in Great Stambridge, Martha in Althorne. When they were born, Queen Victoria was on the throne, though she died when they were in their 50s.

Both came from large families. Martha the last of 8 children of William and Martha Beal. Alfred was the fifth of six children of his mother Caroline Burgess from three husbands (William Chamberlain, John Robinson, James Bugg). Alfred was bought up by his mother and stepfather. Alfred and Martha went on to have their own large family of 10 children after marrying when Martha was 7 months pregnant.

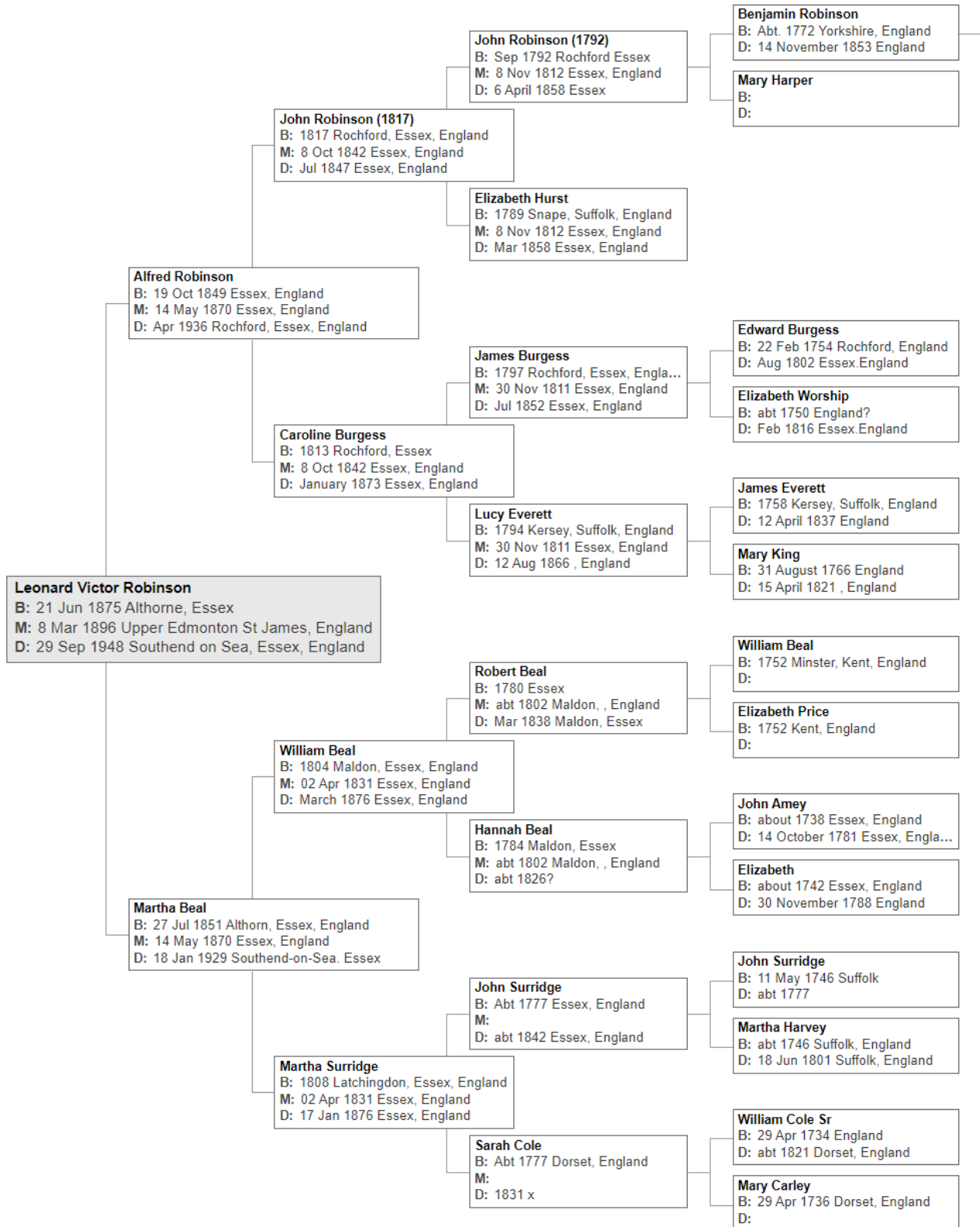
They lived their whole lives in small rural villages in Essex, moving between Great Stambridge, Althorne and Prittlewell most probably for employment. Alfred spent many years working as a brickmaker in what was Prittlewell, but is now part of the sprawling Southend-on-Sea.

They both lived to a good age. Martha Robinson died aged 77, on 18th January 1929 of acute bronchitis. Alfred Robinson died aged 86, on 7th May 1936 of prostate cancer. They are buried together in Sutton Road Cemetery, Prittlewell – in the same cemetery as their son Leonard Victor, and in the same grave as their daughter Florence.

Alfred and Martha had 10 children – all of whom went on to marry and raise a family. The final section documents, as far as possible, the movement of the families of Alfred and Martha's children. It seems they were a large and mobile family. While most remained in Essex, some moved to London, Colchester and even Yorkshire. It is possible Alfred and Martha had up to 40 grandchildren – all of whom they are likely to have known.

There are still some tantalising questions to be answered. Who actually was Alfred's father? How did Caroline meet Harry Spires? Why did Elizabeth and her husband Henry, seemingly separate after having 10 children to begin different relationships? Why did Leonard leave Prittlewell as a young man?

Family Tree of Alfred Robinson and Martha Beal



Important UK events during the life Alfred and Martha

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

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.
	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.

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	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.
	5 November	Britain declares war on the Ottoman Empire.
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.

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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 receive 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.
1931	?	The Dominion of Canada later has more recognition as Canada.
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	George V dies and Edward VIII ascends the throne.
	5 - 31 October	The Jarrow March protest occurs.
	10 December	Edward VIII abdicates the throne over his proposal to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson. Automatic accession of George VI.

Alfred Robinson (1849–1936)

Early Life

Alfred's father, John Robinson (1817-) was born in 1817 in Rochford, Essex, to John Robinson (1771-1858) and Elizabeth Hurst (1789-1858)

Alfred's mother, Caroline Burgess (1813-) was born in Rochford, Essex in 1813 to James Burgess (1797-1852) and Lucy Everett (1794-1866).

Caroline Chamberlain (formerly Burgess) and William Chamberlain

Caroline Burgess had previously been married to William James Chamberlain who was a sawyer. Their first child, also called William James Chamberlain, was born on 8th December 1839, at 17 Susannah Street, Poplar. (1839 Dec Poplar Union 02 305). William died on 11th December 1840 age 12 months of "inflammation on the chest", at Catherine Street, Bromley-by-Bow, (1840 Dec Poplar Union 02 250). Catherine's husband, William Chamberlain died 7 months later age 28 on 26th July 1841 at Catherine Street (1841 Sep Poplar Union 02 212) of "decline". It appears Caroline was 7 months pregnant. Caroline gave birth to their second child, who she also called William James (George) on 18th October 1841 at Catherine Street. Her deceased husband William was not identified as such but still identified as the father and a sawyer (1841 Dec Poplar Union 02 298). What took Caroline, a young girl from Rochford, Essex, to Poplar has not been uncovered but might reasonably be work related. However, after William's death she appears to have moved from Poplar back to Rochford or Great Stambridge. We do not know why, but presumably to get support from her parents.

Caroline Chamberlain (formerly Burgess) and John Robinson

At this time, and particularly by 6th June 1841 John Robinson was 23 and lived in cottages in Great Stambridge, Essex.

A year after William Chamberlain died, Caroline Chamberlain married John Robinson* on 8th October 1842 at St Mary and All Saints, Great Stambridge.

(Source: Marriage Register; Service of Church: Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials; Incumbent; Great Stambridge, St Mary and All Saints; Parish Records; 1838-1976)

Her son William by her first marriage to William, appears to have been given the surname Robinson.

Caroline and John's Robinson's first child, Lucy Robinson, was born on 4th April 1844 at Great Stambridge. John was a carpenter. (1844, Jun, Rochford Union, 12, 211).

4155	Fourth of April, 1844, at Great Stambridge	Lucy	Girl	John Robinson	Caroline Robinson, formerly Burgess	Carpenter	Caroline Robinson, Mother, Great Stambridge	Fourth of April, 1844	John Graham Registrar
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John and Caroline's second child, George Robinson, was born on 8th October 1846 at Great Stambridge. (1846, Dec, Rochford Union, 12, 1940)

322	Eighth of October, 1846, at Great Stambridge	George	Boy	John Robinson	Caroline Robinson, formerly Burgess	Carpenter	Caroline Robinson, Mother, Great Stambridge	Eighth of October, 1846	John Graham Registrar
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Their third child, Alfred Robinson (1849-1936) was born on 19th October 1849 in Great Stambridge. Interestingly, the father's name is not clear. It looks like "John R" and no occupation has been given. Since the location and mother's names are consistent with Caroline, we can be pretty sure this is the correct Alfred. What we are less certain of, is who was his father. Alfred went on to become my great grandfather.

304	Nineteenth October, 1849. Great Stambridge	Alfred Boy	John R	12	Caroline Robinson formerly Beckett.	Caroline Robi- son - mother. Great Stambridge	Twenty- eighth November, 1849.	John Graham Registrar
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However, Alfred's supposed father, John Robinson appears to have died around this time age 32 but his time of death is somewhat a mystery. Caroline is on Alfred's baptism record as "widow". There is only one death certificate of a John Robinson of the appropriate age and location registered between 1846 and 1851, but the time of his death in 1847, means he could not be the father of Alfred. He is also identified as a "labourer".

	Rochford.					Certified.	Rochford.	
45	Tenth July, 1847. Great- Stambridge	John Robinson	Male	29 years	Labourer	Dropsy, 4 months. Certified	Richard Hodges, in attendance, Rochford.	Tenth July, 1847. John Graham, Registrar.

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BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of *Great Stambridge*
in the County of *Essex* in the Year 1849.

No.	Child's Name	Parents Name	Sex	Age	Quality, Trade, or Profession	By whom the Ceremony was performed
1149	Charlotte daughter of Hale	William Thomas Allen	Female	Great Stambridge	Farmer	James Procter Curate
1150	May 13 th of Robinson	Charles Smith	Female	Great Stambridge	Labourer	James Procter Curate
1151	May 27 th of Lewins	John Smith	Female	Great Stambridge	Labourer	James Procter Curate
1152	May 27 th of Lewins	John Smith	Female	Great Stambridge	Labourer	James Procter Curate
1153	June 12 th of Elizabeth	John Baker	Female	Great Stambridge	Labourer	James Procter Curate
1154	July 18 th of Mary	Mary Baker	Female	Great Stambridge	Labourer	James Procter Curate
1155	Oct 1 st of Charlotte	John Baker	Female	Great Stambridge	Labourer	James Procter Curate
1156	Oct 9 th of Alfred	Caroline Robinson	Male	Great Stambridge	Widow	James Procter Curate

Alfred Robinson was baptised on 9th December 1849 at St Mary and All Saints, Great Stambridge

(Baptism Register; Service of Church: Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials; Incumbent; Great Stambridge, St Mary and All Saints; Parish Records; 1813-1883).

Caroline is now 36, widowed with four young children, aged 8, 5, 3, and newborn. This must have been a desperate situation for Caroline and for the family Alfred was born into. Great Stambridge was a small rural village in Essex, near Rochford. It was an agricultural community, meaning most working-class people relied on farm labour, small-scale trades, and seasonal work.

However, a widowed mother of four in Great Stambridge would have faced serious struggles but had some local resources to help her survive though we have no direct evidence here. John's parents, John and Elizabeth, lived nearby in Great Stambridge, and had a large family who might have supported Caroline.

Support from Family & Village Community

- If she had **relatives in the area**, they might have helped with childcare or shared food.
- **Village networks** were tight-knit—neighbours sometimes helped with small acts of kindness (e.g., sharing food or lending tools).
- **Church aid** – The parish church (St. Mary's, Great Stambridge) may have provided small amounts of food, clothing, or fuel in extreme cases.

Parish Poor Relief

- The **Rochford Union Workhouse** (nearby) was the official safety net, but entering it was a last resort.
- Some widows received **outdoor relief**, meaning they got a small amount of money, food, or coal without having to go into the workhouse.
- If she had no income, the parish might have placed her children into apprenticeships or foster care.

Remarriage & Lodgers

Many widowed women remarried quickly, as being a single mother was nearly impossible. If she found a local labourer, widower, or older man, she might secure some financial stability. If she had a cottage, she could take in lodgers to earn extra money.

By 30th March 1851, Caroline Robinson (39) ("Carpenter's Widow") lived in Great Stambridge, presumably near The Royal Oak, with William (10), Lucy (7), George (4) and Alfred (1). Whilst William was born in Poplar Union (the son of William Chamberlain), the rest were born in Great Stambridge.

Parish or Township of		Ecclesiastical District of		Over Burrough of		Parish of		Village of	
No. of House	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		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Head of Family
					Male	Female			
		Thomas Agne	Lodger	Male	37		Grass's Widow, Peat	Leighborough, Yorks	
		Elizabeth Gale	Lodger	Female	43		James Bulliff's Widow, Do	Littlehampton, Essex	
16		William Wood	Head	Male	56		Mate of Barge	Do Do	
		Christina Wood	Wife	Female	40			Cambridge Do	
		Henry Wood	Son	Male	13		Ag Labr	Great Stambridge Do	
		Clara Wood	Daughter	Female	9			Do Do	
17		Caroline Robinson	Head	Female	39		Carpenter, Malden	Rochford Do	
		William Robinson	Son	Male	10			Poplar, Middlesex	
		Lucy Robinson	Daughter	Female	7			Great Stambridge, Essex	
		George Robinson	Son	Male	4			Do Do	
		Alfred Robinson	Son	Male	1			Do Do	
18	The Royal Oak	John Woodson	Head	Male	58		Croft's Merchant, Peat	Do Do	
		Richard Woodson	Wife	Female	46			Do Do	
		Samuel Woodson	Son	Male	32		Dredger's Boatman	Do Do	
19		William Woodson	Head	Male	30		Furrier	Do Do	
		Elizabeth Woodson	Wife	Female	27			Do Do	
		William John Woodson	Son	Male	4			Do Do	
		George Lloyd	Partner	Male	66		Wagon Driver	Littlehampton Do	
20		Charles Smith	Head	Male	56		Carriage Maker	Littlehampton Do	
		Robert Smith	Wife	Female	48			Great Stambridge Do	
Total of Houses				Total of Persons...					

Caroline Robinson (formerly Burgess, Chamberlain) marries James Bugg

Some four years after John's death, Caroline subsequently married a much younger man, James Bugg, in 1853. Caroline was 41, James was 21. (1853, Jun, Rochford, 4A, 197).

Caroline and James subsequently had a daughter Caroline Bugg on 23rd February 1855 at Great Stambridge. James was an "agricultural labourer".

66	23 rd February 1855	Caroline	Girl	James Bugg	Caroline Bugg formerly Burgess	Agricultural Labourer	James Bugg's Mother	Great Stambridge	1855	Robert Seal	Registrar
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Registry of Births and Deaths in the District of Rochford in the County of Essex

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

The young Caroline died on 27th March just one month old of "convulsions. No medical attendant".

391	Rochford	St. Andrew's Church 1855 Great St. Andrew's Stambridge	Cardine Bugg	Female	Daughter of James Bugg Agricultural Labourer	Convulsions 3 days No medical attendant	C. Bugg Present at the death Great St. Andrew's	27 th March 1855	Robert Leach Registrar
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1860

By 7th April 1861, Caroline (now 49) and James Bugg (now 28) were still living in Great St. Andrew's with Lucy (17), George (14) and Alfred (11) all identified as "step" children of James.

By now Caroline was a dressmaker, and her husband, James and two sons, George (14) and Alfred (11) were "farm labourers".

73

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

[Page 7]

Parish (or Township) of		City or Municipal Borough of		Municipal Ward of		Parliamentary Borough of		Town of		Hamlet or Tything, &c., of		Ecclesiastical District of	
St. Andrew's		Rochford		St. Andrew's		Rochford		Rochford		Rochford		Rochford	
No. of Schedule	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	HOUSES in which the Person is	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind or Deaf and Dumb				
37		1	James Mullis	Head	Mar	70	James Babson	St. Andrew's					
			Joseph	Wife	Mar	56		St. Andrew's					
38		1	John Smith	Head	Mar	37	James Babson	St. Andrew's					
			John	Wife	Mar	33		St. Andrew's					
			William James	Son	Mar	16	James Babson	St. Andrew's					
			Joseph	Son	Mar	12	Librarian	St. Andrew's					
39		1	John Bullen	Head	Mar	24	Parson's wife	St. Andrew's					
			William	Son	Mar	3		St. Andrew's					
			Mary	Son	Mar	1		St. Andrew's					
40		1	John Foster	Head	Mar	35	James Babson	St. Andrew's					
			William	Wife	Mar	30		St. Andrew's					
			John	Son	Mar	7		St. Andrew's					
			John	Son	Mar	5		St. Andrew's					
41	St. Andrew's	1	William	Head	Mar	27	General Dealer	St. Andrew's					
			John	Wife	Mar	21		St. Andrew's					
42		1	James Bugg	Head	Mar	29	James Babson	St. Andrew's					
			Elizabeth	Wife	Mar	24	John Babson	St. Andrew's					
			James Robinson	1st Son	Mar	17		St. Andrew's					
			John	2nd Son	Mar	14		St. Andrew's					
43		1	Alfred	Head	Mar	11		St. Andrew's					
			Thomas	Wife	Mar	10		St. Andrew's					
			John	Son	Mar	10		St. Andrew's					
			William	Son	Mar	10		St. Andrew's					
Total of Houses...		7	Total of Males and Females...			11	14						

Eng.—Sheet D.

Lucy Robinson subsequently married Edward Syner May on 10th February 1866, age 22 at St Andrew Rochford. (Marriage Register; Service of Church: Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials; Incumbent; Rochford, St Andrew; Parish Records; 1837-1905). They went on to have 8 children (1866, Mar, Rochford, 4A, 196).

On 14th May 1870, Alfred Robinson (21) married Martha Beal (18) (1870, Jun, Rochford, 4a, 257).

Martha Beal (1851-1929)

William Beal (1804-1876) married Martha Surridge (1808-1876) on 2nd April 1831 in Latchingdon-Cum-Snoreham Christ Church, Essex. On 3rd February 1835, William and Martha gave birth to a daughter, Charlotte Beal.

In 1840 they gave birth to a son, Joseph. Joseph died age 2 months on 8th September 1840 of "inflammation" (1840, Sept, Maldon, 12, 110)

280	Mayland	Joseph Beal	Male	2 Months	Inflam. son of William & Martha Beal	Inflammation	Martha Beal Present at the Death	1840	8 th of September	12, 110	Good Parish
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Charlotte died in 1841 age 6, and was buried in Althorne. Charlotte died before the 1841 census was taken on 6th June.

William and Martha had two more children Hannah (c1832) and Emma (c1835) both born before national registration was introduced.

On 6th June 1841 William (40) and Martha (35) lived in Althorne with Hannah (9) and Emma (6).

On 28th August 1841 they had James at Althorne. William was an agricultural labourer. (1841, Sept, Maldon, 12, 150)

A second daughter named Charlotte was born on 14th May 1844 in Althorne. (She is the Charlotte on the 1851 census) (1844, Jun, Maldon, 12, 164)

On 3rd August 1848, George Beal was born at Althorne. William was a labourer. (1848 Sept MALDON 12 161)

On 30th March 1851, William Beale (46) and Martha (43) lived in Althorne with James (9), Charlotte (6) and George (2 – who appears on the next page). William is an *agricultural labourer*. Hanah (19) and Emma (16) do not appear.

Birth of Martha

Martha Beal was born on 27th June 1851 in Althorne, the 7th and final child.

23	Twenty seventh July 1851	Martha	Girl	William Beal	Martha Beal formerly Surridge	Labourer	Martha Beal Mother Althorne	27 th of July 1851	Good Parish
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Marriage of Alfred Robinson and Martha Beal

Alfred Robinson (21) and Martha Beal (19) married on 14th May 1870 in St Mary and All Saints, Great Stambridge, Essex. Alfred was a farm labourer. It would appear that Martha was 7 months pregnant.

1870. Marriage solemnized at <i>The Parish Church</i> in the <i>Parish</i> of <i>Gt. Stambridge</i> in the County of <i>Essex</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.
92.	May 14.	<i>Alfred Robinson</i> <i>Martha Beal</i>	22 19	<i>Bachelor</i> <i>Spinster</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>Great Stambridge</i> <i>Great Stambridge</i>	<i>James Robinson</i> <i>William Beal</i>	<i>Carpenter</i> <i>Labourer</i>
Married in the <i>Parish Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by <i>James</i> after <i>Banns</i> by me, <i>E. H. Pinner, Rector</i>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us, <i>Alfred Robinson</i> <i>Martha Beal</i>			In the Presence of us, <i>William Chamberlain</i> <i>Lucy May</i>					

There appears to have been some family movement between 1874 and 1875 as the Robinson family moved from Gt Stambridge to Althorne, then again around 1881 to Prittlewell.

Great Stambridge is a village and parish, 15 miles south east of Chelmsford, now in the parish of Stambridge, in the Rochford district, Essex, England. Pop around 300.

Althorne is a village and civil parish in Essex. It is located 21 km east-southeast from city of Chelmsford. The village is in the district of Maldon district and in the parliamentary constituency of Maldon & East Chelmsford. Pop around 300.

Prittlewell is an inner city area and former civil parish in Southend-on-Sea, in the county of Essex. Prittlewell is the original settlement of the city, Southend being the south end of Prittlewell. The village of Prittlewell was originally cantered at the joining of three main roads, East Street, West Street, and North Street, which was extended south in the 19th century and renamed Victoria Avenue. Pop around 5,000.

See information on **Prittlewell** at:

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Prittlewell,_Essex_Genealogy

and on **Althorne** at: <https://historyhouse.co.uk/placeA/essex05.htm>

1870s

Alfred (21) and Martha (19) gave birth to their first child, Elizabeth Jane, on 18th July 1870 in Great Stambridge, two months after their wedding.

No.	When Born.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Birth.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
210	<i>Eighteenth</i> <i>July</i> <i>1870</i> <i>Great</i> <i>Stambridge</i>	<i>Elizabeth Jane</i>			<i>Farm</i> <i>Labourer</i>	<i>Great</i> <i>Stambridge</i>	<i>Alfred Robinson</i> <i>Martha Beal</i>	<i>James Robinson</i> <i>William Beal</i>
							<i>Martha Robinson</i> <i>Thomas King</i>	<i>Third August</i> <i>1870</i> <i>Prittlewell</i>

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

On census day 2nd April 1871, Alfred was a labourer aged 20 and Martha was 19. Their daughter, Elizabeth, was 8 months.

The image shows a census form for Great Stambidge, dated 2nd April 1871. The form lists the residents of a house at 2a The Robinson Line. The household includes Alfred and Martha Robinson, their children James, George, and Henry, and their daughter Elizabeth (8 months old). There are also two lodgers: James Keyes (19, groom) and Alfred Evans (22, labourer). The form includes columns for name, relation, age, sex, occupation, and where born. A total of 7 people are listed in the household, with 4 males and 3 females.

No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, etc. and No. of HOUSE	HOUSES No. of HOUSES	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON. DITION	AGE of	Sex	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	Whether 1. Deaf and Dumb 2. Blind 3. Imbecile or Idiot 4. Lunatic
45	2a Robinson & North Street	1	Charlotte Hoak	Head	Wid	69	F	Parish Pauper	Essex Camerdown	
			John Bullcock	Head	Married	36	M	Grocer and Baker	Dorset Salisbury	
			J. Parsons	Wife	Married	34	F	Companion	Wiltshire Chippenham	
			J. Hill	Wife	Married	8	F	Scholar	Kent Deptford	
46		1	Alfred Robinson	Head	Married	20	M	Labourer	Essex Gt. Stambidge	
			Martha Do	Wife	Married	19	F		Do Stambidge	
			Elizabeth Do	Daughter	Single	8 months	F		Do Gt. Stambidge	
			James Keyes	Lodger	Single	19	M	Groom	Do Rockford	
			Alfred Evans	Do	Single	22	M	Labourer	Do Stambidge	
47	General Hill	1	James M. Brown	Head	Married	69	M	Baker	Do Gt. Stambidge	
			Louisa Do	Wife	Married	68	F		Do Wiltshire Devizes	
			George Do	Grandson	Single	10	M	Scholar	Do Gt. Stambidge	
			Herbert Do	Do	Single	6	M	Do	London Easton	
48		1	Joseph M. Wellingham	Head	Wid	27	M	Assistant	Essex Gt. Stambidge	
			Henry Do	Son	Single	7	M	Scholar	Do Do	
			Ada Do	Daughter	Single	5	F	Do	Do Do	
			Clara Do	Daughter	Single	3	F	Do	Do Do	
49		1	Henry Peters	Head	Married	35	M	Labourer	Do Newark	
			Mary Do	Wife	Married	28	F		Do Sutton	
			Elizabeth Do	Daughter	Single	4	F	Scholar	Do Newark	
			Henry Do	Son	Single	2 months	M		Do Gt. Stambidge	
50		1	Susan	Head	Wid	76	F	Parish Pauper	Do Stambidge	
Total of Houses..		7	Total of Males and Females..		42	12				

They shared the house with two lodgers: James Keyes age 19, a groom, and Alfred Evans age 22 a labourer.

Their second child, Georgiana was born on 22nd November 1872 also in Great Stambidge.

19	Twenty second November 1872 Great Stambidge	Georgiana	Female	Alfred Robinson	Martha Robinson formerly Seal	Tasun Labourer	M. Robinson Mother Great Stambidge	Twenty seventh December 1872	Thomas King Registrar
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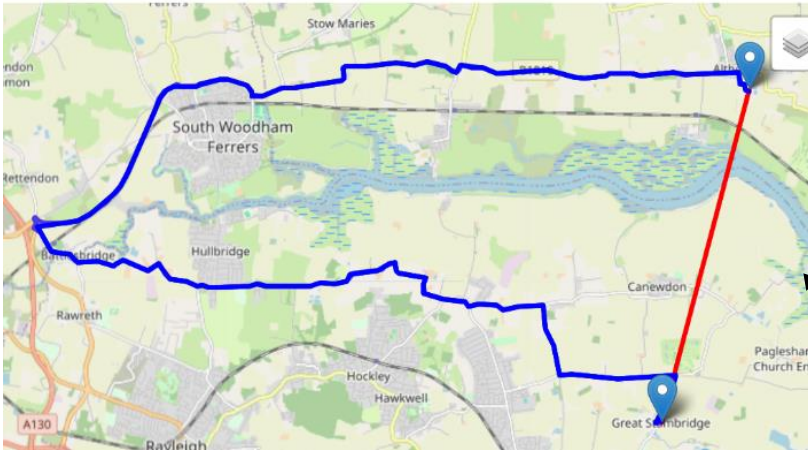
Caroline Bugg (Formerly Robinson, Chamberlain, Burgess), Alfred's mother, died on 10th January 1873 at Great Stambidge age 61, of "Cancer of the womb". Registered by Maria Stainer. James was a labourer.

74	Tenth January 1873 Great Stambidge	Caroline Bugg	Female	61 years	Wife of James Bugg Labourer	Cancer of Womb - Certified	The mark of Maria Stainer Present at the death Great Stambidge	Sixteenth January 1873	Thomas King Registrar
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James Bugg, Alfred's step father, seems to have died in 1911 in Lambeth (1911 Dec Lambeth 1d 463).

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

Between 1872 and 1875 Alfred and Martha appear to have moved from Great Stambridge to Althorne, Essex.



Although the distance between the two villages as the crow flies is just 4 miles, the River Crouch lies between the two making the road trip some 20 miles.

However, there was a ferry operating across the River Crouch in the 1870s. The Creeksea Ferry connected Wallasea Island to Creeksea, near Burnham-on-Crouch, and was in operation during that time.

Historical records indicate that this ferry had been in existence since at least the early 17th century and continued to serve passengers into the early 20th century. Additionally, Burnham-on-Crouch itself was historically a ferry port, benefiting from its coastal location. The town's position on the north bank of the River Crouch made it a natural point for ferry crossings, facilitating transport and trade across the river. These ferry services were vital for local communities, providing essential links across the river before the widespread construction of bridges and modern transportation infrastructure.

In terms of employment, Alfred appears to shift from being an “agricultural labourer” to “labourer”.

This might explain why such a family would make this move.

In the late 19th century, Essex experienced significant agricultural changes that impacted employment opportunities for working-class families. The period between 1873 and 1896, known as the Great Agricultural Depression, saw a decline in agricultural employment due to factors such as mechanization and increased food imports from North America. Great Stambridge, characterized by large farms and extensive marshlands, provided grazing for cattle and sheep.

However, the broader economic downturn likely led to reduced labour needs in such areas. Consequently, family's dependent on agricultural work may have sought better opportunities elsewhere.

Althorne, another rural village in Essex, might have offered alternative employment or more favourable living conditions during this time. The migration from Great Stambridge to Althorne in 1880 could have been driven by the search for more stable employment, better housing, or proximity to family and social networks.

To gain more specific insights into the reasons behind such a move, consulting historical records from that period would be beneficial. The Essex Record Office maintains archives that could provide detailed information on local economic conditions, employment opportunities, and individual family circumstances during the 1880s. Exploring these records may shed light on the particular motivations for a working-class family's relocation from Great Stambridge to Althorne during that era. (ChatGPT)

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

Their third child, Leonard Victor Robinson, was born on 21st June 1875 in Althorne, Essex. Leonard would go on to become my grandfather.

82	Yvettie first born 1875 Althorne	Leonard Victor	Boy	Alfred Robinson	Martha Robinson formerly Beal	Mr. Robinson Mollie Althorne	Sturdy month July 1875	J. C. Digg Registrar
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Leonard was the third of 10 children. So, at his birth his parents in their twenties had a newborn, a 3-year-old and a 5-year-old.

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BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of Althorne in the County of Essex in the year One thousand eight hundred and 75

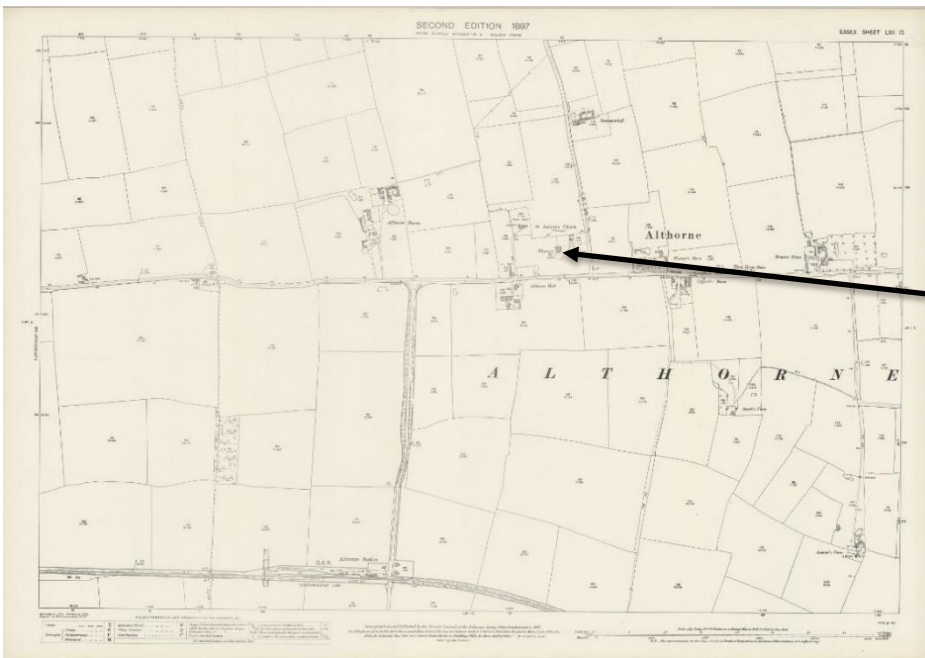
When Baptized	Child's Christian Name	Parents	Abode	Quality, Trade or Profession	By whom solemnized
17 th June 1874	Emma	James & Hannah	Althorne	Labourer	Rev. J. C. Digg
20 th June 1874	Frederick George	George & Annie	Althorne	Labourer	Rev. J. C. Digg
21 st June 1874	Leonard Alfred	Alfred & Martha	Althorne	Labourer	Rev. J. C. Digg
28 th June 1874	Arthur	James & Anne	Althorne	Labourer	Rev. J. C. Digg

Leonard was baptised on 1st August 1875 at St Andrews Church in Althorne.

(Source: England, Essex Parish Registers, 1538-1997)



Leonard Victor Robinson, 1st August 1875, Christening; citing St Andrews, Althorne, Essex, England, Essex Record Office, England; FHL microfilm 560,908.



Althorne in 1897 showing St Andrews Church

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

Martha's Father, Leonard's grandfather, William Beal, died age 72 on 14th February 1876 in Althorne of "suicide with rope -temporary mental derangement, certificate received from N Codd coroner for Essex, Inquest held 15 march 1876."

4/18	Forestville March 1876 Althorne	William Beal	Male	72 years	Farmer Labourer	Suicide with a rope Temporary mental derangement	Certificate received from N. Codd, Coroner for Essex. Inquest held at Forestville March 1876	Forestville March 1876	Arthur Latta Registrar
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Little has been discovered of Leonard's early life in the 1870s from birth to 5 years old. When he was 2 years old his sister, Edith Amy, Alfred and Martha's fourth child, was born on 26th December 1877 – 12 days after Harriet Frances Philpott (who Leonard would go on to marry) was born in Teynham, Kent. (1878, Mar, Maldon, 04A, 311)

1/99	Edith Amy December 1877 Althorne	Female	Alfred Robinson	Martha Robinson formerly Beal	Labourer	M. Robinson Mother Althorne	Thirty First January 1878	Arthur Latta Registrar
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Sometime between December 1877 and April 1881, the family moved from Althorne back south to Prittlewell. This is a journey of 20 miles around the River Crouch or across the river via the Creeksea Ferry. Up until now, Alfred had been a labourer, possibly still an agricultural labourer. But by April 1881 and onward to 1910 he was identified as a "brick moulder/maker" living in "Hamlet Brickfields Cottages".

In the 1880s, Prittlewell, now part of Southend-on-Sea in Essex, was a village experiencing growth and development. While specific records detailing the exact locations of brickfields in Prittlewell during that decade are scarce, it is known that the area underwent significant building activity, which would have necessitated local brick production. Brickfields, areas where clay is extracted and bricks are manufactured, were commonly established near construction sites to minimize transportation costs. Given Prittlewell's expansion during the late 19th century, it's plausible that brickfields existed on the outskirts of the village, particularly in areas with suitable clay deposits. (ChatGPT)

Between 1879 and 1920 there are numerous bills of sale of land for housing kept by Essex Records office many in and around Prittlewell.

In the 19th century, Prittlewell, now part of Southend-on-Sea, Essex, experienced significant development, leading to the establishment of brickfields to support local construction. While precise locations of these brickfields are not extensively documented, historical records and maps provide some insights:

Prittlewell Camp Area: An archaeological survey conducted in 1998 references a "gently rising brick-earth covered gravel terrace" near Prittlewell Camp, situated approximately one mile northeast of St. Mary's Church. This description suggests the presence of suitable clay deposits for brick-making in that vicinity. (historicengland.org.uk)

Southend Timeline: Historical accounts indicate that the Prittlebrook area, which flows through Prittlewell, had gravel and silt bases. While not explicitly mentioning brickfields, the presence of such geological features could have been conducive to brick-making activities. (Southend Timeline)

Prittlewell Conservation Area Appraisal: Buildings constructed during the 19th and early 20th centuries in Prittlewell predominantly used red or yellow bricks, often with decorative elements. This widespread use of brick in local architecture implies the existence of nearby brickfields to meet the construction demands of that period. (https://democracy.southend.gov.uk/documents/s47230/).

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

1880s

Sometime in 1880 a daughter Margaret must have been born (she appears on the 1881 and 1891 censuses), but no birth record has been found.

On 3rd April 1881, Alfred (32) now a brickmaker and Martha (30) lived at 10 Hamlet Brickfields Cottage, Prittlewell, with Elizabeth (10, born Stambridge), Georgina (7), Leonard Victor (5) (Althorne), Edith Amy (3), Margaret (7 months) (Rochford). It gives Alfred's place of birth erroneously as "London".

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The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

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		
Prittlewell			Prittlewell	Prittlewell	Southend	Southend	St Mary the Virgin		
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited (a) (b)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of Males Females	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Imbecile or Idiot (4) Lunatic
67	Hamlet Brickfields Cottage 10	1	Alfred Robinson	Head	Mar.	32	Brickmaker	London	
			Martha Do	wife	Mar.	30		Essex Althorn	
			Elizabeth J Do	Daughter		10	Scholar	Do of Stambridge	
			Georgina Do	Daughter		7	Do	Do Do	
			Leonard Do	Son		5	Do	Do Althorn	
			Edith A Do	Daughter		3		Do Do	
			Margaret Do	Daughter		7mo		Do Rochford	
68	No 11	1	William Godhall	Head	Mar.	42	Brickmaker	Kent Grith	
			Elizabeth Do	wife	Mar.	42		Do Do	
			John Do	Son	Unm.	18	Do	Do Do	
			Elizabeth Do	Daughter	Unm.	16	Domestic Servant	Do Do	
			Alfred Do	Son		14	Scholar	Do Do	
			Sarah Do	Daughter		12	Do	Do Do	
			Willy Do	Daughter		9	Do	Do Do	
			Joseph Do	Son		7	Do	Essex, Hadbury	
			Robert Do	Son		5	Do	Do Do	
			Emma Do	Daughter		4	Do	Do Southend	
69	No 12	1	Richard Still	Head	Mar.	26	Brickfield Laborer	Kent, Blackstone	
			Sarah Ann Do	wife	Mar.	21		Do Chatham	
			Ellen Do	Daughter		1		Do Lewton	
70	Hamlet Lodge	1	Henry Scudder	Head	Mar.	65	Farmer, 110 acres, ^{Southend} Prittlewell ^{Prittlewell}	Essex, Thundersly	
			Elizabeth J Do	wife	Mar.	33		Do Prittlewell	
			James L Lindvall	Widower		62	Visitor	Do Rayleigh	
			Walter H Scudder	Son		2		Do Prittlewell	
			Catherine M Do	Daughter		1		Do Do	
4	Total of Houses...	4			Total of Males and Females...	10	15		

NOTE.—Draw the pen through such of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Prittlewell

Whereas now Prittlewell has been absorbed into Southend-on-Sea, in the 1880s Prittlewell was then a very small rural village, and houses did not have running water. There was talk of providing running water but it was decided by the Council only to provide it for those who wanted it. A drinking fountain was provided outside Trinity Church. It was described as:

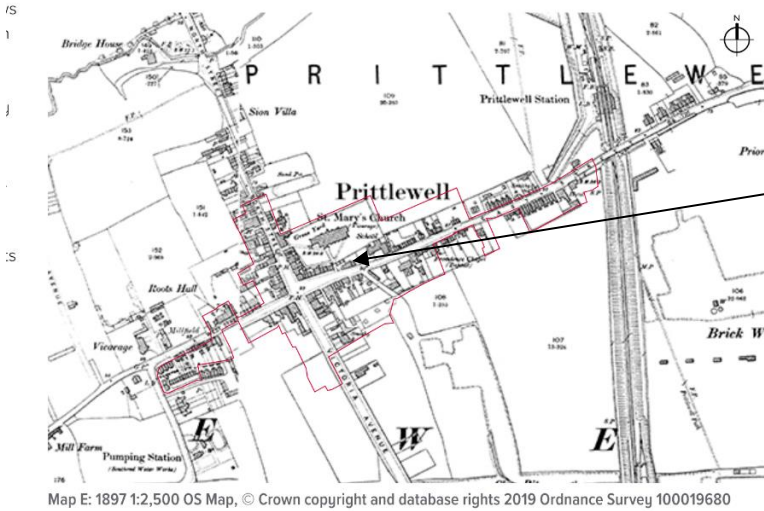
"an ancient and agreeable village, consisting of two streets and right angles to one another" (Southend Timeline).

Links between Prittlewell and Southend were improved in 1889 when a road, named Victoria Avenue, was built between the village crossroads by the church to Southend and in 1892 when Prittlewell railway station was built on the Great Eastern Railway, linking Southend and London. 1892 also saw the foundation of the Municipal Borough of Southend-on-Sea, which took over responsibility for Prittlewell from an earlier local board. (Wikipedia)

Prittlewell railway station is on the Shenfield to Southend Line in the East of England, serving the residential district of Prittlewell in Southend-on-Sea, Essex. It is 40 miles down the line from London Liverpool Street and is situated between Southend Airport and Southend Victoria stations. (Wikipedia)

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

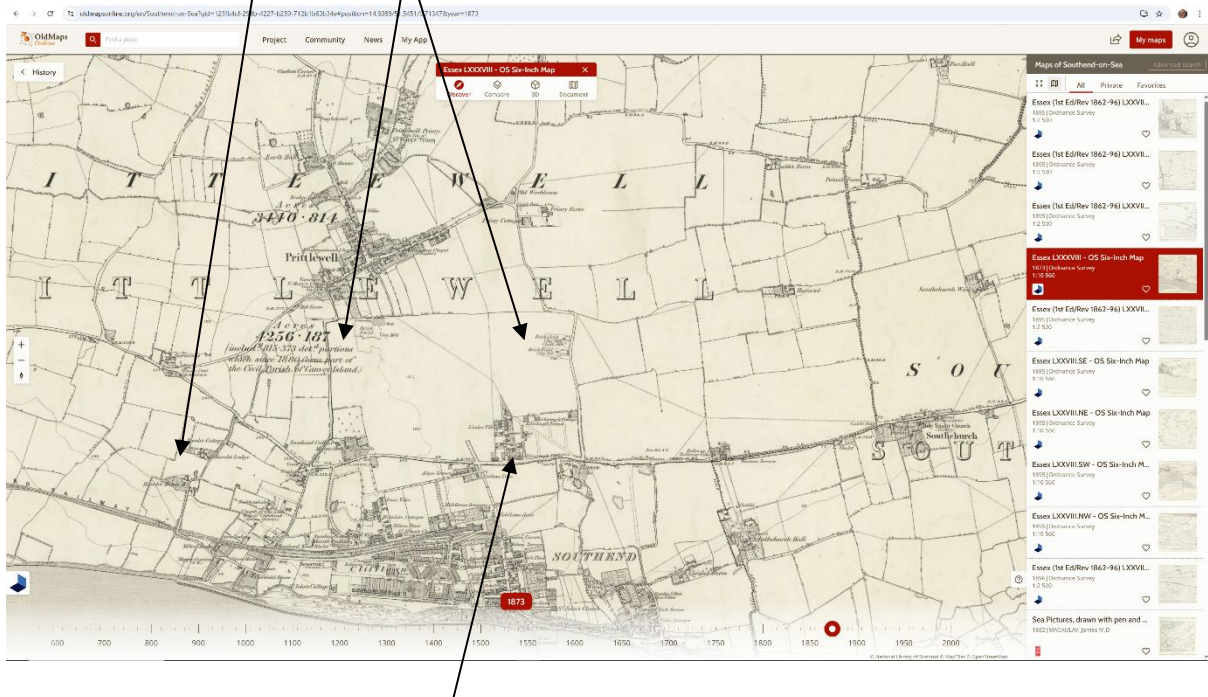
Little is known of the family at this time. Birth certificates for Margaret have yet to be discovered though she appears in both the 1881 and 1891 census. During August 1880, The Elementary Education Act 1880 made Primary Education compulsory to age 10, so it is possible Leonard Victor may have been one of the first to benefit by attending an elementary school in Prittlewell.



The school can be seen here in the 1897 OS map, just to the south east of the church on East Street.

Prittlewell is now designated as a Conservation Area.

On this 1875 map of Prittlewell, we can see the extent of the village, and its separation from Southend. To the southwest is Hamlet House, Hamlet Lodge and Hamlet Cottage. Also, there are various brickfields just to the south of Prittlewell.



To the southeast of Prittlewell is Linden Village where some new streets appear to have been laid out. These were to become Lambert Street, North Street, Prittlewell Street and Sutton Street. By 1890 it appears the family lived in Lambert Street, at No 3 and subsequently No 5.

Hamlet Brickfields Cottages would appear to be along what became Hamlet Court Road. We can see its development between 1873 and 2020 below.

1873



In 1873 the cottages seem not to exist apart from Hamlet Cottage, Hamlet Lodge and Hamlet House.

1895

Cottages opposite Hamlet Cottage appear between 1873 and 1895, which may have been built to house brick-workers. The 1881 census lists Hamlet Brickfield Cottages just before Hamlet Lodge and Hamlet Cottage. The census lists all but one of the heads of household in the 12 Hamlet Brickfields Cottages as a "Brickmaker". At No 2 is William Juniper, an engine driver, and his family. He presumably worked in the new railway line. Altogether there are 23 people working in brickfields, and 43 children. At Hamlet Lodge was Henry Scudder "a farmer of 110 acres employs 7 man & 1 boy". At Hamlet Cottage was John Dowsett a shepherd and his wife Mary.



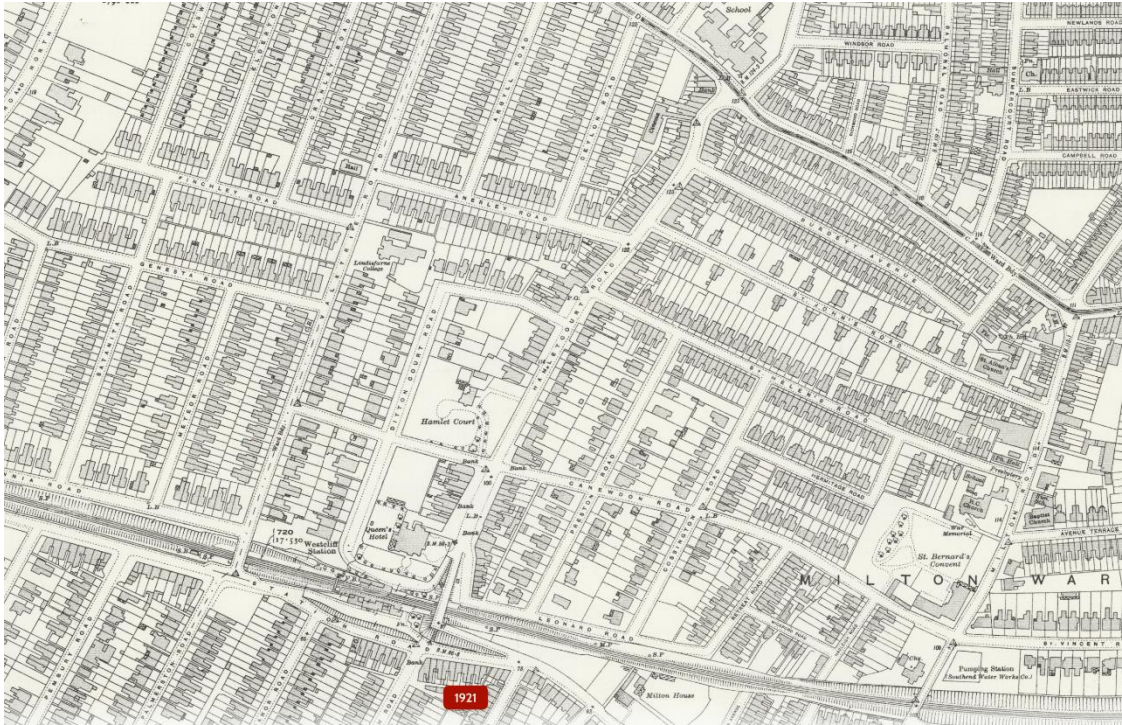
Essex Records Office has the following document

Ref: D/DGs E54

Documents relating to Hamlet Cottage built on manorial waste land at corner of Leigh Road [now London Road] and Hamlet [Court] Road in Prittlewell by Robert Scratton and occupied by John Dowsett, shepherd to Mr Scratton, from 1894 until his death in 1881, and by his wife Mary Dowsett from 1849 until she gave up possession in January 1912.

1921

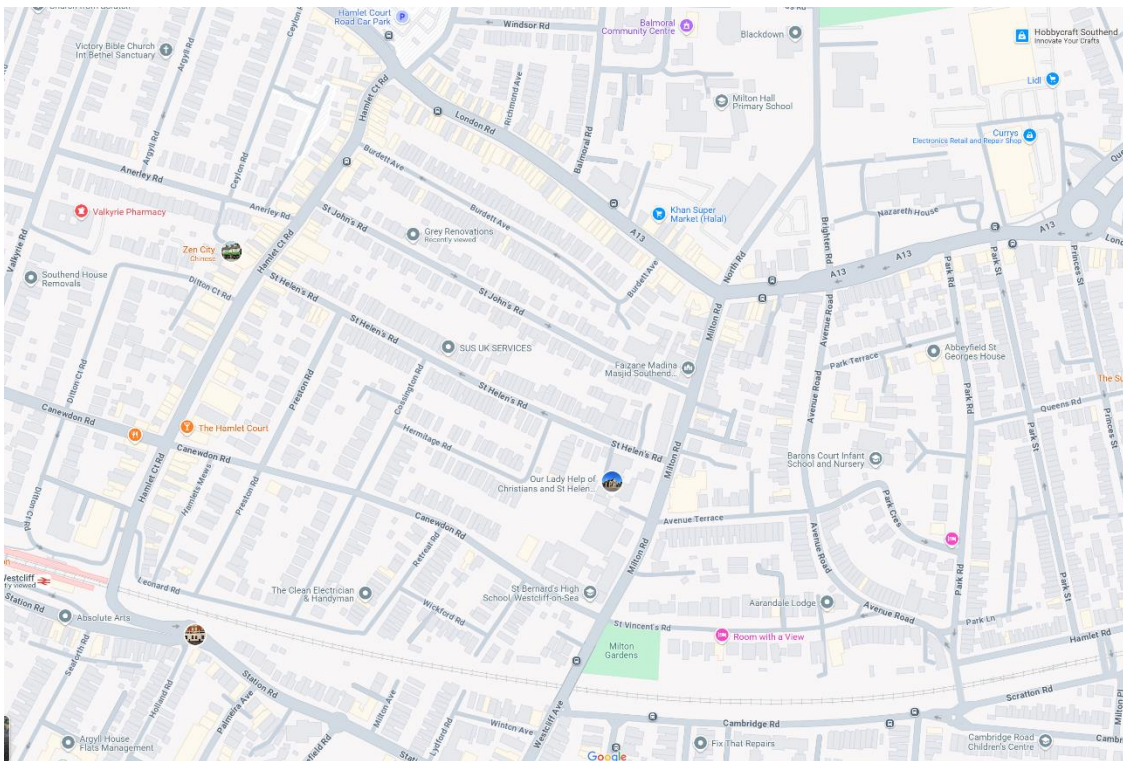
By 1921 the area has significantly developed – requiring a large number of bricks from the local brickworks.



1938



2020



Essex Records Office has a record of the following:

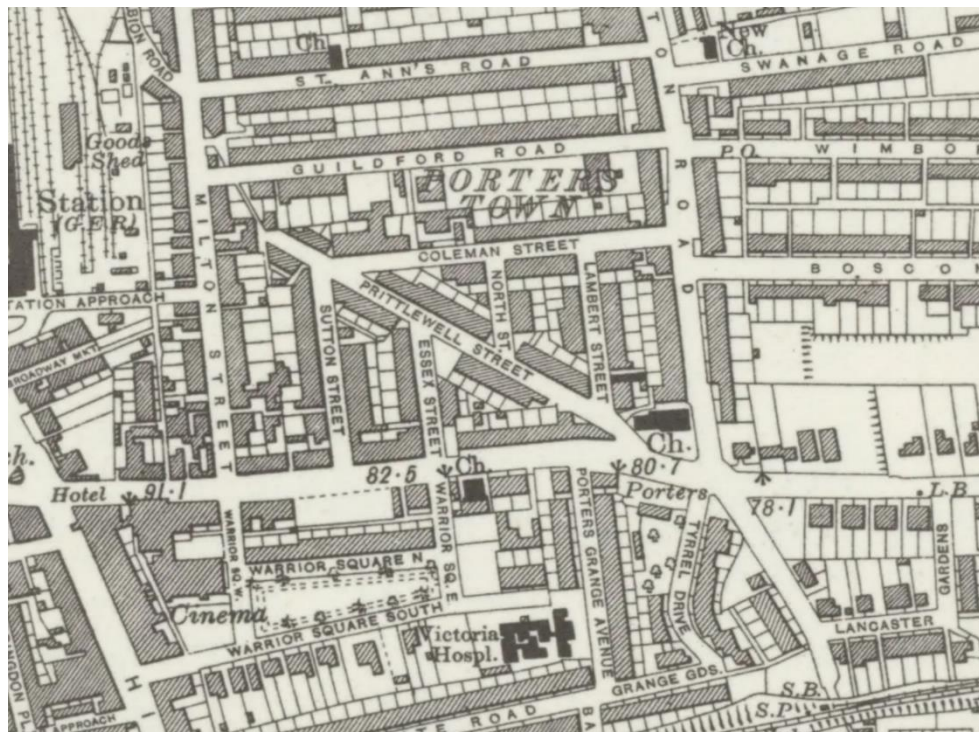
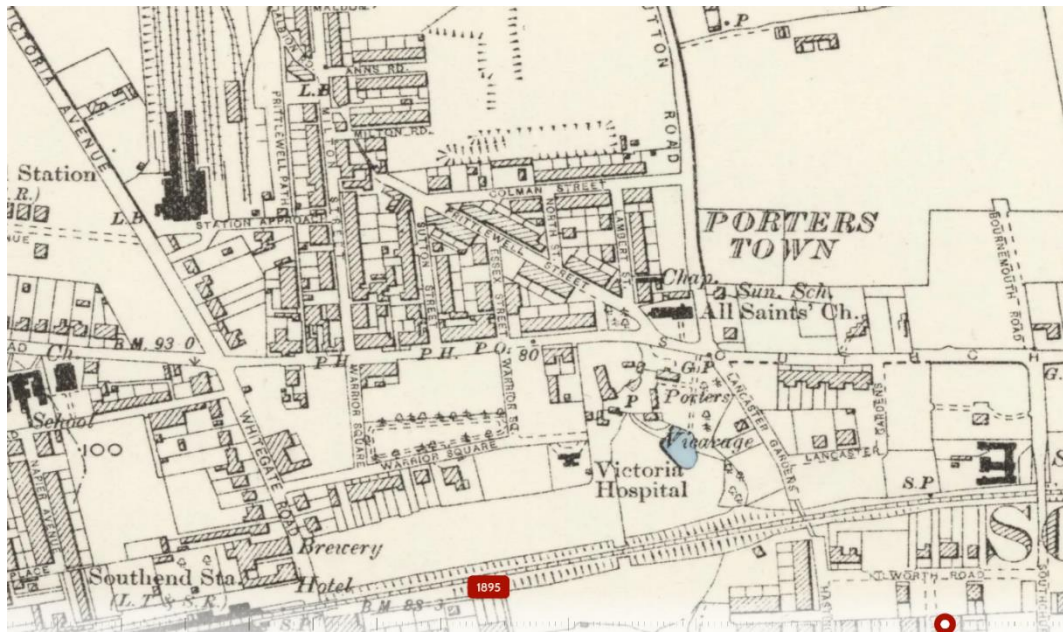
Manuscript copy of sale catalogue, 2 August 1869, of 59 building plots in Lambert Street, Prittlewell Street, North Street and Coleman Street, all in Prittlewell, part of Southend Estate (pp. 78-79);

Manuscript copy of sale catalogue, 13 September 1869, of 60 building plots in Prittlewell Street and Coleman Street in Prittlewell, part of Southend Estate (pp. 79-83);

(Microfilms of 'a survey of the hundred of Rochford ...' by W.F. Noble, 1867-1872)

Hence although the census describes the Robinsons as living in "Prittlewell", the area in which they lived is now closer to, and part of, Southend-on-Sea.

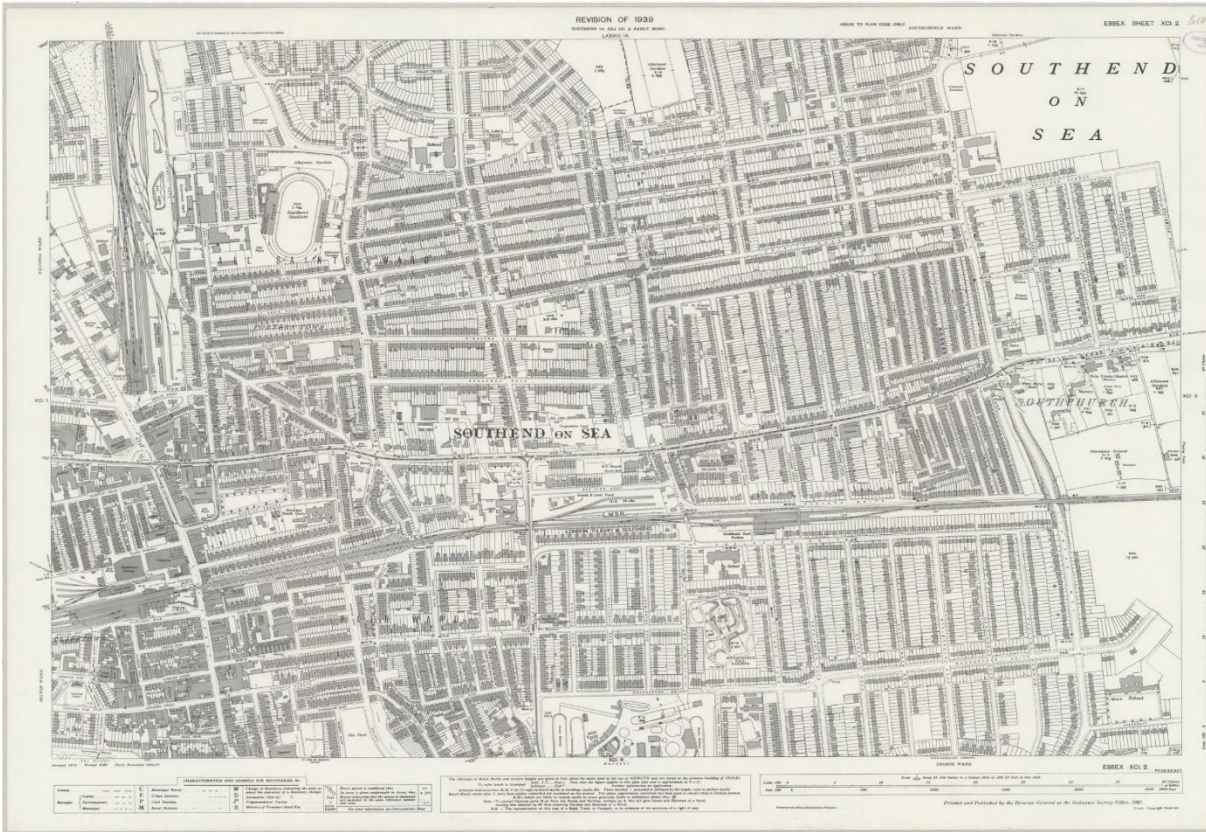
I think on the basis of this information, we can be pretty certain the Robinsons lived along what is now Hamlet Court Road around 1880, until sometime before 1890 when they moved to the new houses on Lambert Street.



The area subsequently developed in 1895 and later in 1920

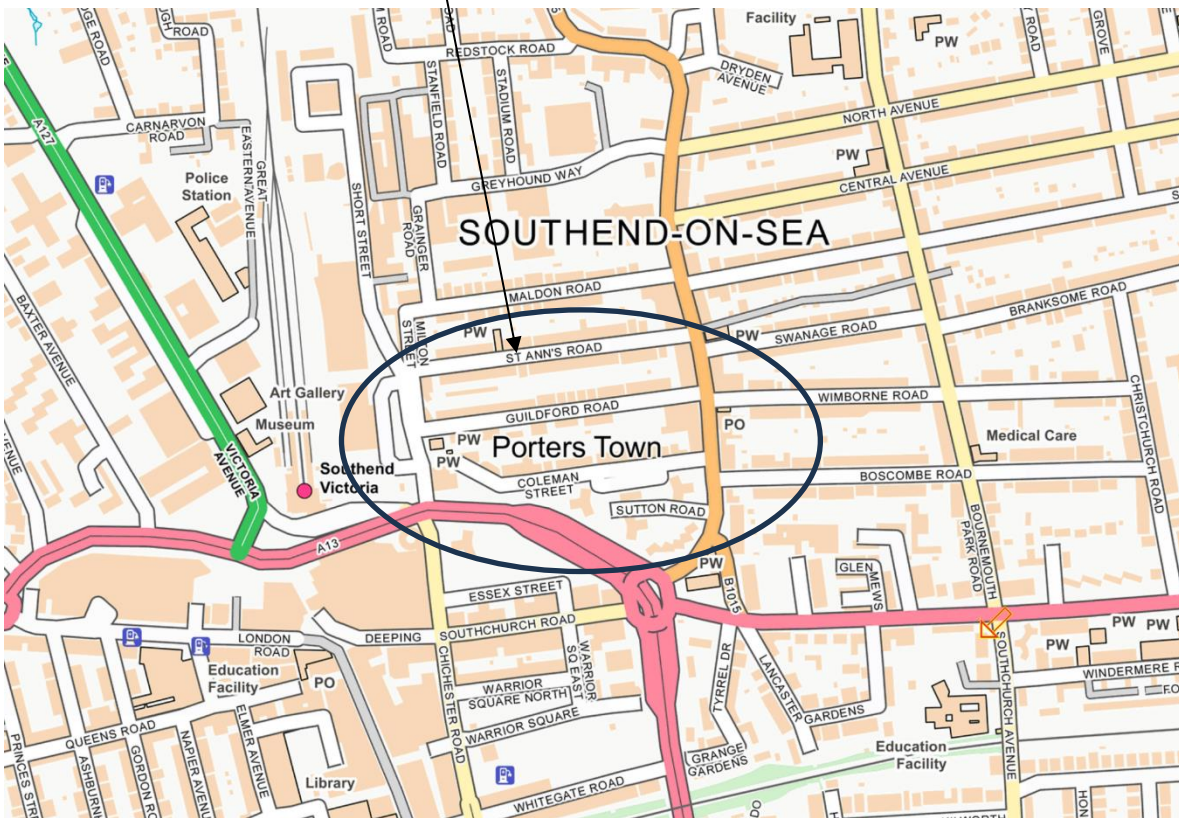
Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

By 1939 the area had been considerably developed



(Source: See <https://www.oldmapsonline.org/en/Southend-on-Sea>)

Now, most of the streets no longer exist.



Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line



Alfred and Martha had two more daughters. Florence Martha was born on 27th May, 1883 and Maud Minnie on 14th November 1885, both in Prittlewell.

275	27 th May 1883	Florence Martha	girl	Alfred Robinson	Martha Robinson formerly Beal	Brick Market	Martha Robinson Mother Crown House Prittlewell	Fourth July 1883	George Bigsby Registrar
133	14 th November 1885	Maud Minnie	girl	Alfred Robinson	Martha Robinson formerly Beal	Brick Market	Martha Robinson Mother Lambeth St Prittlewell	Seventy Fourth December 1885	Geo Bigsby Registrar

Leonard will have been around 8 years old and presumably of school age and attending the school next to the church.

1890s

In 1888 Frederick Robinson must have been born and in 1892 Alfred Robinson must have been born. No birth certificates have been uncovered for either.

On 5th April 1891, Alfred was 42, now a general labourer, and Martha (40), lived at 3 Lambert Street in Prittlewell, with Georgina (18 a domiciliary servant, born Gt Stambridge), Leonard Victor (15, general labourer, born Althorne), Margaret (11, born Althorne), Florence (8, born Prittlewell), Maud (6, Prittlewell), Frederick (2), and Alfred (less than 1 year)

Both Alfred and Leonard Victor, who was now 15, were general labourers. It appears that Mary Brown (60), a nurse, also lived with them. Elizabeth now 20, appears to have left home. Edith does not appear and may have died between 1881 and 1891 though a death certificate is not immediately obvious. Birth certificates for Frederick and Alfred are still to be uncovered.

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

It seems only a few houses are in Lambert Street, 1, 2, 3, 4, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15.

1891 England Census for Leonard Robinson
Essex > Prittlewell > District 07

Page 46

Administration County of Essex		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the											Page 46			
Civil Parish of Prittlewell		Municipal Ward of Southend		Urban Sanitary District of Southend		Town or Village or Hamlet of Prittlewell		Rural Sanitary District of Southend		Parliamentary Borough or Division of Southend		Ecclesiastical Parish or District of All Saints, Prittlewell				
Coln	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
No. of ROAD, STREET, &c. and Suburb	No. or NAME of HOUSE	ROOFS	Year built	Year altered	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	SEX	AGE last Birthday	Single	Married	Widow	Divorced	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Married in this Parish	Widowed in this Parish	WHERE BORN
271	15 Lambert St	1			Thomas Whelton	Head	Ma	42	X				Printer	X		Essex, Broadham
					Caroline	Wife	Ma	38		X						" Broadham
					Arthur	Son	Ma	12			X		Bookbinder	X		" Prittlewell
					William	Son	Ma	8			X					" "
					Albert J.	Son	Ma	5			X		Labourer	X		" Cambridge
					Rose S.	Daughter	Ma	5			X					" "
					Lilly	Son	Ma	3			X		Schooler			" Southend
					Edith S.	Son	Ma	2			X		Apprentice	X		" "
					Henry S.	Son	Ma	1			X		Schooler			" "
					John S.	Son	Ma	0			X		Schooler			" Prittlewell
272	1 Lambert St	1			James Newman	Head	Ma	40					Agricultural Labourer	X		" Withyholly
					Martha	Wife	Ma	35								" Eastwood
					John	Son	Ma	12			X		Blacksmith Boy	X		" Prittlewell
					Alfred	Son	Ma	8			X					" "
					George Popkin	Boarder	Ma	5			X		Wagoner	X		" Yorkville, Essex
					Edward Robinson	Boarder	Ma	5			X		Agricultural Labourer	X		" Southend
273	2 No	1			John Russell	Head	Ma	38					Bookbinder	X		" London, Clapton
					Alison	Wife	Ma	35								" Essex, Southend
274	3 No	1			Alfred Robinson	Head	Ma	38					General Labourer	X		" Cambridge
					Martha	Wife	Ma	35								" Albany
					Gloria	Daughter	Ma	5			X		Schooler			" Cambridge
					Leonard	Son	Ma	2			X		General Labourer	X		" Albany
					Marjorie	Daughter	Ma	1			X		Schooler			" "
					Thomas	Son	Ma	0			X					" Prittlewell
					Ernest	Son	Ma	0			X					" Southend
					Alfred	Son	Ma	0			X					" "
275	4 No	1			Henry A. Brown	Head	Ma	40					Ministry Clerk	X		" Little, Priddy
					John Perryman	Head	Ma	38					General Labourer	X		" Broadham
					Richard	Wife	Ma	35								" Withyholly
					John B.	Son	Ma	12			X					" Southend
5	Total of Houses and of Persons with less than Five Rooms ...		5	Total of Males and Females ... 1813												

Notes—Draw the pen through each of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

On 24th August 1892, when Leonard was 18, Alfred and Martha, had another daughter - Caroline Elizabeth. They were living at 5 Lambert Street Prittlewell. Caroline was to live to be 93.

324	5 Lambert St Prittlewell	1892	Caroline Elizabeth	Alfred Robinson	Martha Robinson	5 Lambert St Prittlewell	1892	John B. Registrar

Leonard Leaves home

Between the census of 1891 when he was 15 and his wedding in 1896 when he was 21, it is likely that Leonard Victor was working as a general labourer. He appears to have moved to Edmonton on his own, without his family who remained in Prittlewell. The distance between Prittlewell and London is some 40 miles – and he now lived only minutes from the railway station in Southend, linking it to London through Prittlewell.

Leonard Victor Robinson married Harriet Frances Philpott on 8th March 1896 in St James Church, Upper Edmonton when he was 21 and Harriet was 19. Strangely, Harriet was below the age of consent at the time but this isn't as stated on the marriage certificate, possibly because it would appear that Harriet was up to 8 months pregnant at the time of the marriage. Interestingly, *both* Leonard's *and* Harriet's mothers were also pregnant when they married.

1901

On 31st March, Alfred now 52 and a brickmaker and Martha (50) lived at 5 Lambert Street, Southchurch Road, Prittlewell. They lived with Maud (17), Frederick (13), Alfred (10), Carrie (8). They had a border, Charles Foster, a grocer's assistant. Leonard was by now living with Harriett in 47 Claremont Street, Edmonton.

Administrative County		Civil Parish		Ecclesiastical Parish		County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban Sanitary District		Ward of Municipal Borough or Urban Sanitary District		Rural District		Parliamentary Borough or Division of the County or Urban Sanitary District		Towns or Villages or Hamlets		Page 68.	
Prittlewell		Prittlewell		St. Andrew's		Prittlewell		Southchurch		Southchurch		Southchurch		Prittlewell		115	
No.	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. of HOUSE	Uninhabited	ROVERS	Male	Female	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Sex	Age last Birthday	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb	(2) Blind	(3) Lame or Paralyzed	(4) Insane or Feeble-minded
382	5 Lambert St		1			William Campbell	Head	M	29	Bricklayer's Labourer	Worker		5 Lamb Road				
						Maud	Wife	F	29				St. Andrew's				
						Mary Hope	Servant	F	23	Brickmaker	Worker		St. Andrew's				
						Anna Powell	Boarder	F	23				Southchurch				
						Arthur Christie	Bo	M	23	General Assistant	Worker		Southchurch				
383	5-0		1			Alfred Robinson	Head	M	52	Brickmaker	Worker		Southchurch				
						Martha	Wife	F	50				St. Andrew's				
						Maud	Daughter	F	17				St. Andrew's				
						Frederick	Son	M	13				St. Andrew's				
						Alfred	Son	M	10				St. Andrew's				
						Carrie	Daughter	F	8				St. Andrew's				
						Charles Foster	Boarder	M	24	General Assistant	Worker		St. Andrew's				
384	7 St		1			David R Adams	Head	M	20	Bricklayer	Worker		St. Andrew's				
						Louise A	Wife	F	20				St. Andrew's				
						David F	Son	M	7				St. Andrew's				
						Alfred H	Son	M	5				St. Andrew's				
						Ada F	Daughter	F	3				St. Andrew's				
						Ellen F	Daughter	F	6m				St. Andrew's				
						George Bennett	Boarder	M	29	Theatre Porter	Worker		St. Andrew's				
385	9 St		1			Walter Carter	Head	M	32	Bricklayer	Worker		St. Andrew's				
						Anna	Wife	F	30				St. Andrew's				
						Alfred Clark	Servant	M	33	General Assistant	Worker		St. Andrew's				
						William Anderson	Boarder	M	21	Bricklayer	Worker		St. Andrew's				
386	17y Table St to 1st Floor		1			John Gladwell	Head	M	47	General Assistant	Worker		St. Andrew's				
						Florence C	Wife	F	45				St. Andrew's				
						George F	Son	M	19				St. Andrew's				
387	80 2nd Floor		1			William Howard	Head	M	22	Bricklayer	Worker		St. Andrew's				
						Mary	Wife	F	23				St. Andrew's				
						Sarah L	Daughter	F	2m				St. Andrew's				
6	Total of Schedule of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms	6	1	1		Total of Males and of Females			16	13							

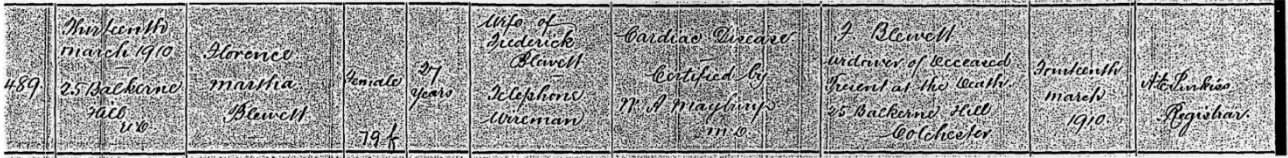


Florence Martha married Frederick Blewett in 1906 aged 23, and they had two children, Frederick (1906) and Doris (1910). Florence Martha died in 1910 aged just 27 at 25 Backerne Hill, Colchester (Colchester, 1910, March 04A, 428) of heart disease.

Florence is buried at Sutton Road Cemetery, Southend along with Martha and Alfred.

It appears Frederick subsequently married Maud Minnie, Florence's younger sister.

Those Who Went Before Me - 2a The Robnson Line



1911

On 2nd April, 1911, Alfred was now 62 and a general labourer, Martha was 60. They were still living in 5 Lambert Street, Southchurch Road, Southend (previously Prittlewell). Now only Fredrick (23, a shop assistant), and Caroline (19, a daily worker) was at living home. Their house had 5 rooms.

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, as 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	SEX	MARRIAGE		PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	BIRTHPLACE	NATIONALITY	RESIDENCE
				State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of —	Children born alive to her since the date of her marriage				
1 Alfred Robinson	Head	62	M	Married 40	10	Labourer general	Southend-on-sea	English	110
2 Martha Robinson	Wife	60	F	Married 40	10	Shop assistant	Southend-on-sea	English	110
3 Frederick Robinson	Son	23	M	Single	—	Daily work	Southend-on-sea	English	—
4 Caroline Robinson	Daughter	19	F	Single	—	Daily work	Southend-on-sea	English	—

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in possession, or in charge, of the dwelling)

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

Signature *Martha Robinson*
 Postal Address *5 Lambert St Southchurch Road Southend-on-sea*

1921

On 19th June 1921, Alfred (71) and Martha (69) still lived at 5 Lambert Street, where they lived alone. Alfred was now a labourer at Southend Gas Works.

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	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	BIRTHPLACE	NATIONALITY	RESIDENCE
1 Alfred Robinson	Head	71	M	Married 41	Southend	Labourer	Southend-on-sea	English	110
2 Martha Robinson	Wife	69	F	Married 41	Southend	Home Duties	Southend-on-sea	English	110

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in possession, or in charge, of the dwelling)

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

Signature *Alfred Robinson*
 (Head of Household) Name of the person responsible for making this return

1929

Martha Robinson died aged 77, on 18th January 1929 at their home in 5 Lambert Street, Rochford, Southend on Sea of *acute bronchitis*. Their daughter, Elizabeth Jane Bowman, Leonard’s sister, was present at the death.

23-11 Registration District ROCHFORD.									
1929 DEATHS in the Sub-District of SOUTHEND ON SEA in the County of SOUTHEND ON SEA C.B.									
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.
90	Eighteenth January 1929 5 Lambert Street Southend on Sea U.D.	Martha Robinson	Female	77 years	Wife of Alfred Robinson, formerly a Journeyman Brickmaker	1.(a) Acute Bronchitis 11. Myxoedema No P.M. Certified by M.L.Maley M.B.	E.J. Bowman Daughter Present at the death 12 Venner Road Sydenham S.E.26	Nineteenth January 1929	A.J. Ball Registrar

1936

During 1936 the family lived through the abdication crisis.

- King George V dies and King Edward VIII ascends the throne.
- King Edward VIII abdicates
- Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth

Alfred Robinson died aged 86, on 7th May 1936 at 43 Salisbury Avenue, Southend, the home of his daughter, Maud Minnie Blewitt (1936 Jun, Rochford, 04A, 741), of "*cachexia, suprapubic cystotomy for cystitis and enlarged prostate*". It would appear that Alfred was in the later stages of prostate cancer.

23-11 Registration District ROCHFORD.									
1936 DEATHS in the Sub-District of SOUTHEND-ON-SEA in the County Borough of SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.									
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.
54	Seventh May 1936 43 Salisbury Avenue Southend on Sea U.D.	Alfred Robinson	Male	86 years	formerly a Journeyman Brickmaker	1.(a) Cachexia due to (b) Suprapubic cystotomy for Cystitis & enlarged prostate Certified by M.L.Maley M.B.	M.M.Blewett Daughter In attendance 43 Salisbury Avenue Southend on Sea	Seventh May 1936	A.J. Ball Registrar

Cachexia is a "wasting" disorder that causes extreme weight loss and muscle wasting, and can include loss of body fat. This syndrome affects people who are in the late stages of serious diseases like cancer.

Suprapubic cystostomy or suprapubic catheterization. In a setting where an individual is unable to empty his or her bladder appropriately and urethral catheterization is either undesirable or impossible, suprapubic cystostomy offers an effective alternative. (<https://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1893882-overview>)

Alfred and Martha's Children

The information on Alfred and Martha's children is summarised as follows

Name	Birth	Death	Birth Cert	Death Cert	Census appearance (f=with family)				
					71	81	91	01	11
Elizabeth Jane	1870	1943	y		7	81f	91	01	11
Georgiana	1873	1965	y			81f	91f		
Leonard	1875	1948	y	y		81f	91		
Edith	1877	1954	y			81f			
Margaret	1880	1975	n			81f	91f		
Florence	1883	1910	y	y			91f		
Maud	1885	1959	y				91f	01f	
Frederick	1888	1976	n				91f	01f	11f
Alfred	1892	1957	n				91f	01f	
Caroline	1892	1985	y					01f	11f

Elizabeth (1870-1943)

Elizabeth was born on 18th July 1870 in Great Stambridge, and baptised on 27th July at St Mary's and All Saints.

Elizabeth married Henry Joseph Francis Bowman in 1889 age 19. They had 8 children:

- Maud 1891
- Henry 1892
- Edith 1894
- Walter Edward 1896
- Alfred 1897
- Frank 1900
- Olive 1906
- George 1908
- Lilly (no birth certificate)
- Albert Henry 1910 (no birth certificate)

However, they seem to have had an unusual future together.

Appearance on Censuses

1891:

1901: 22 Mosley Road, Penge; Henry Bowman (29, compositor printer), Elizabeth (30), Maud (10), Henry (9), Edith (7), Walter (5), Alfred (4), Frank (1), Laurence Beadle (28, Boarder)

1911

However, not all seems to go well. By 1911, Elizabeth and Henry are no longer together. Henry (40) appears to be living at 22 Southwood Road, South Norwood with Maud, Henry, Walter, Frank, Alfred, with Jane Glen (housekeeper) and three of her children

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

Elizabeth (40) is living at 12 Venner Road, Sydenham; Elizabeth is identified as "Married", but is not living with her husband but by "Private means" with Eugene Huguenin (77, Private means), and three of her children Edith Bowman (17), Olive (5), George (3), along with Aubrey Boocock (38, Boarder)

1921

Elizabeth is now living at 120 Sydenham Road, Sydenham; Now Elizabeth is identified as "wife" and "Aubrey Bowman" is "Head". Aubrey Bowman (48), Elizabeth Bowman (50), Olive Bowman (15), George Bowman (13), Lily Bowman (11), Eugene Huguenin (88, cousin).

Henry Bowman (50, Compositor) is living at 126 High Street Sydenham, with Jennie Glen (37), and 6 children, between the ages of 17 and 1. They were all entered as "Bowman" then crossed out and identified as "Glen". It is possible four of them might be children she had with Henry.

1939

Elizabeth Bowman is living at 5 Padua Road, Penge with Aubrey Bowman, Olive Bowman (went on to be Hobden).

Henry is living at 135 Dartmouth Road, Lewisham with "Jennie Bowman"

Elizabeth appears to have died aged 75 on 26th October 1943 at 36 Samos Road, Penge of "cardiac degeneration and chronic bronchitis". It appears she lived with her daughter. (1943, Dec, Bromley, 02A, 1089)

26 th October 1943 36 Samos Road Penge W.D.	Elizabeth Jane Bowman	Female	75 Years	wife of Henry Joseph Francis Bowman Compositor Retired.	Cardiac degeneration & Chronic Bronchitis. Certified by B. G. Hawkkins M.B. Ch.B.	O. B. Bowman Daughter 36 Samos Road Penge S.E. 6	26 th October 1943	H. A. Bowles Acting Registrar
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Henry appears to have died in 1947 (1947, Mar, Chelsea, 5C, 537).

Georgiana (1872-1965)

Georgiana was born on 22nd November 1872 also in Great Stambridge, and baptised in January 1873 at St Mary and All Saints, Great Stambridge. At some point, her name changes to Georgina (always referred to as "Auntie Georgie").

She married William Moses Lee on 12th May 1894 at St Andrew, Shoeburyness (1894, Jun, Rochford, 4a, 553). William was a journeyman painter who was born in Southchurch, just a short distance from Prittlewell. Georgiana and William seem to have had 5 children. However, there are difficulties in discovering the birth certificates for Archibald and Marjorie, although these children appear on census returns.

- Lilian Agnes (1899-1985) was born 1st September 1899 at Bellevue Terrace, South Shoebury.

181	First September 1899 Bellevue Terrace Cambridge Road Shoeburyness	Lily Agnes	Girl	William Lee	Georgina Lee formerly Robertson	Howe Decorator	W. Lee Father Bellevue Terrace Cambridge Road Shoeburyness Essex	Sixth October 1899	M. H. Reaper Registrar
-----	--	---------------	------	----------------	---------------------------------------	-------------------	--	--------------------	------------------------------

Lillian married Clement Smith in 1901. She died in 1985 (1985, Dec, Southend-on-Sea, 9, 3124)

- Edith Ethel (1895-1895) (1895, Sep, Rochford, 04A, 569)

175	Third June 1895 4 Bellevue Terrace South Shoebury U.S.D.	Edith Ethel	girl	William Moses Lee	Georgina Lee formerly Robinson	Painter (journeyman)	Georgina Lee Mother Bellevue Terrace South Shoebury	Thirteenth July 1895	H. A. Reaper Registrar
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Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

Edith died on 6th October 1895, age 4 months of "Marasmus exhaustion" at Cambridge Road, South Shoebury.

468	U.S.D. Fifth October 1895 Cambridge Road South Shoebury U.S.D. Sixth	Edith Ethel Lee	Female	4 months	Daughter of William Moses Lee, House-painter	Marasmus Exhaustion certified by Ernest W. Walter M.R.C.S.	Georgina Lee Mother present at Death South Shoebury	Fifth October 1895	W. A. Papers Registrar
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Marasmus exhaustion refers to the state of extreme weakness and lethargy, a prominent symptom of marasmus, a severe form of malnutrition caused by inadequate calorie intake. It is characterized by a severe loss of muscle and fat tissue, leading to visible emaciation and a general lack of energy and enthusiasm.

- Archibald 1904 (No record found)
- Ivy Violet Hilda 9th January 1909 at 14 Grove Road. (1909, Mar, Rochford, 4A, 738). Georgina's surname incorrectly written as "Robertson"

425	U.S.D. Smith January 1909 14 Grove Road Shoebury	Ivy Violet Hilda	Girl	William Lee	Georgina Lee Formerly Robertson	Painter (Journyman)	E. G. Molony Present at birth Grove Road Shoebury	Twenty third February 1909	W.A. Papers Registrar
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- Margorie 1912
It seems Marjorie subsequently married Ernest ("Ernie") Dilloway, and moved into 14 Grove Road, Shoebury.

William Lee does not appear on census returns after the 1901 Census, yet children were born subsequently. Although Georgiana is described as "Married" in 1911, William does not appear on the census, and his death certificate can't be found. He also does not appear on the 1939 Register.

At some time between 1939 and 1965, Georgi(a)na moved to 156 Gilman Drive, Shoebury.

Georgiana died on 10th July 1965 age 93 in 156 Gilman Drive, Shoebury (1965, Sept, Southend, 4a, 760) of "chronic pyelonephritis". Death was registered by her son-in-law J. Cade, though we do not know who he married – possibly Ivy?

39†	Tenth July 1965, 156 Gilman Drive, Shoebury	Georgina LEE	Female	93 years	of no occupation, Spinster	1.(a) Chronic Pyelonephritis Certified by A. Asuley, M.B.	J. Cade Son-in-law 156 Gilman Drive, Shoebury	Twelfth July	J.C. Cotter Registrar
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Chronic pyelonephritis is a serious kidney condition resulting from recurring or persistent kidney infections that cause inflammation, scarring, and damage to the kidneys. This damage can lead to kidney dysfunction and, in severe cases, end-stage renal disease.

Appearance on censuses

1901: 5 Belle Vue Terrace, Cambridge Road, South Shoebury; William Lee (26, house painter), Georgiana (27), Lillian (12), Arthur Bell (39, Lodger)

1911: 14 Grove Road, Shoebury; Georgina Lee (38, head, charwoman), Lillian Lee (12, school), Archibald Lee (7), Ivy Lee (2), Charles Collins (31, lodger)

1921: 14 Grove Road, Shoebury; Georgina Lee (49 Married), Ivy Lee (13, school full time), Marjorie Lee (9, school full time), Charles Collins (42, boarder), Archibald Collins (17, boarder), James King (23 visitor), Eillen King (18 visitor).

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

Although Georgiana is described as "Married", William does not appear, and his death certificate can't be found. He also does not appear on the 1939 Register.

1939 Register. 14 Grove Road, Shoeburyness; Earnest Dilloway (29, Nursery ?), Marjorie Dilloway (27, charwoman), ENTRY CLOSED, Georgiana Lee (67).

Leonard Victor (1869 – 1948)

Leonard moved to Edmonton in the early 1890s, where he met and married Harriet Frances Philpott who was 18 and pregnant. They went on to have 13 children only 5 survived childhood. Leonard died by suicide in 1948 in Shoeburyness. Harriet died in 1975 in Gillingham, Kent. See Chapter 38 on Leonard and Harriet.

Edith Amy (1877-)

Edith Amy, was born on 26th December 1877. Edith Amy married John Nash in 1903 (1903, Dec, Rochford, 4a, 1006). They had 8 children:

- Edward Alexander 1906 (1906 J Quarter in ROCHFORD Volume 04A Page 762)
Edward was born on 4th April 1906 at 33 Hungiar Street Shoeburyness (SS3 9AN)

250	Fourth April 1906 33 Hungiar Street Shoeburyness U.D.	Edward Alexander	Boy	John Henry Nash	Edith Amy Nash Formerly Robinson	Fireman on Railway Engine	E. A. Nash Mother 33 Hungiar Street Shoeburyness Essex	Eighth May 1906	M. H. Raper Registrar
	Eighth April				Maid		John Huggins	S. Hault	

Shortly after Edward's birth Edith and John moved form Shoebury to West Ham in London.

- Edith Frances 1908 (1908 S Quarter in WEST HAM Volume 04A Page 153)

139	Fifteenth August 1908. 94 Harcourt Road U.D.	Edith Frances	girl	John Henry Nash	Edith Amy Nash formerly Robinson	Railway Engine Driver	E. A. Nash Mother 94 Harcourt Road West Ham	Twenty fourth September 1908	S. A. McDowall Deputy Registrar
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Edith was born on 15th August 1908 at 94 Harcourt Road, West Ham. (E15 3DX). Shortly after Edith was born Edith and John moved to 17 Morley Road West Ham (E15 3HF) were they stayed for many years brining up their family.

- Marian Florence 1911 (1911 J Quarter in WEST HAM Volume 04A Page 89)
- John William 1913 (1913 J Quarter in WEST HAM Volume 04A Page 218)
- Frederick Charles 1916 (1916 M Quarter in WEST HAM Volume 04A Page 149)
- Ivy Priscilla 1919 (1919 D Quarter in WEST HAM Volume 04A Page 162)
- Lillian Elsie 1922 (1922 M Quarter in WEST HAM Volume 04A Page 855)
- Leonard Alfred 1924 (1924 S Quarter in WEST HAM Volume 04A Page 35)

John Henry Nash died on 15th September 1939 at Whipps Cross Hospital age 55 of "chronic heart disease". He still lived in Morley Road, as a locomotive engine driver. Death registered by his son Edward of 403 Upper Shoreham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea. (1939, Sep, Essex South Western, 04a, 280)

227	Fifteenth September 1939 Whipps Cross Hospital U.D.	John Henry Nash	Male	55 years	17 Morley Road West Ham Railway Engine driver	1/15 Chronic Heart Disease Certified by R. J. Lockhart M.D.	E. A. Nash Son 403 Upper Shoreham Road Shoreham-by-Sea	Sixteenth September 1939	J. G. Raper Registrar
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Edith died 14 years later in East Ham in 1953, age 76 at 9 Skeffington Road of "1a) coronary infarction, b) myocardial degeneration, II Carcinoma of tongue". Death registered by son Frederick Charles of 9 Michael Gardens, Hornchurch (1953, Sep, East Ham, 5A, 23).

Age	Sex	Name	Age	Occupation	M.D.	Address	Date	Registrar
44	Female	Edith Amy Nash	76	Widow of John Henry Nash Railway Locomotive Driver (deceased)	1a Coronary Infarction b. Myocardial Degeneration c. II Carcinoma of Tongue Certified by D. P. Wiseman M.B.	7 C. Nash Son 9 Michael Gardens Hornchurch Essex	1954 September	R. Russell Registrar

Appearance on Censuses

1911: 17 Morley Road, West Ham; John Henry Nash (30, locomotive driver), Edith Amy (32), Edward (4), Edith (2), Marian (under 1 month), Maria Mennear (50, monthly nurse).

The 1911 census, like those before it, recorded job descriptions, including "Monthly Nurse." This term referred to individuals who provided care to mothers and newborns in the weeks following childbirth. They were essentially post-partum care specialists, often hired by families to assist with feeding, hygiene, and overall well-being of both mother and baby.

Monthly nurses looked after mothers after childbirth, in theory for a month, but they could equally be engaged for a few days or several months depending on what was required of them. Unlike midwives, they were not expected to have medical knowledge. Their services were mostly used by the better off, in which case they usually lived in, sleeping by the cot and bringing in the baby to the mother for breast feeding. But lower-class women.

1921: 17 Morley Road, West Ham; John Henry Nash (39, locomotive driver for Midland Railways), Edith Amy (40, housewife), Edward (15), Edith Francis (12, school full time), Marian Florence (10 School full time), Frederick Charles (5, school full time), Ivy Priscilla (1).

1939 Register: 17 Morley Road, West Ham; Edith Amy (63), Marian Nash (27, later married as Marian Martin), Frederick Nash (24, Wholesale Cake Van salesman, Metropolitan Police War reserve), Leonard Nash (15, shipping clerk),

Margaret (1880?-)

Sometime in 1880 a daughter Margaret must have been born (she appears on the 1881 and 1891 censuses), but no birth record has been found.

Margaret married David Bird in 1903 in Rochford (1903, Jun, Rochford, 4a, 977). They appear to have had 5 children:

- Thomas Leonard Monroe 1904 (1904 M Quarter in ROCHFORD Volume 04A Page 742)
- David Alfred James 1905 (1905 D Quarter in ROCHFORD Volume 04A Page 7120)
- Florence Georgina 1907 (1907 D Quarter in ROCHFORD Volume 04A Page 703)
- Ada Margaret 1910 (1910 M Quarter in ROCHFORD Volume 04A Page 707)
- Doris Martha 1911 (1911 D Quarter in ROCHFORD Volume 04A Page 1318)

in 1911 they lived at 61 North Avenue, Southend. David was a "general builder's labourer".

Shortly after Doris was born, David Bird died on 19th May 1912, age 37 in University College Hospital, St Pancras, 1912 of "Actinomyces of the caecum, chronic suppurative infection, amyloid disease". He was a bricklayer's labourer, living at 61 North Avenue Southend. Birth was registered by his wife Margaret.

182	Male	David George Bird	37	Bricklayer's Labourer 61 North Avenue Southend S.D.	(1) Actinomyces of caecum, 10 months (2) chronic suppurative amyloid disease, 3 months Certified by F. B. Fowler M.B.	M. Bird Wife of Deceased 61 North Avenue Southend	1912 May	R. B. Bowse Registrar
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Actinomycosis of the caecum is a rare, chronic bacterial infection of a part of the large intestine, caused predominantly by the bacterium *A. israelii*, and to a lesser extent by other *Actinomyces* species.

Chronic suppurative infection, is a type of infection that is characterized by the continued production of pus. Amyloidosis, on the other hand, is a group of diseases where an abnormal protein called amyloid builds up in the body, causing damage to organs and tissues. While there is no direct link between chronic suppurative infections and amyloidosis, certain chronic inflammatory conditions associated with infections can increase the risk of developing AA amyloidosis, a type of amyloidosis that is associated with chronic inflammatory.

Margaret's death certificate has not been uncovered

Appearance on censuses

1911: 61, North Avenue, Southend; David George Bird (34), Margaret (30), Thomas Leonard, Munro Bird (7), David Alfred Bird (6), Florence Georgina (4), Ada Margaret (1 y 2m)

1921: 18 North Avenue, Southend; William Lewis (43 Head), Louisa Lewis (38), Margaret Bird (40, boarder, Char woman), Ada Bird (12, father dead, school full time), Doris Bird (9 Father dead, school full time).

Florence (1883-1910)

Florence Martha was born on 27th May, 1883 in Prittlewell.

In 1906 Florence married Frederick Blewett (1880-1930). They had two children:

- Frederick Alfred William 1906 (1906 D Quarter in COLCHESTER Volume 04A Page 816)
- Doris Maud 1909 (1909 J Quarter in COLCHESTER Volume 04A Page 822)

In 1910, Florence Martha died, aged just 27 at 25 Backerne Hill, Colchester (Colchester, 1910, March 04A, 428) of heart disease. Florence is buried at Sutton Road Cemetery, Southend along with her parents, Martha and Alfred.

Her husband Frederick Blewitt then married her sister Maud Minie Blewett.

Maud Minnie (1885-)

Maud Minnie was born on 14th November 1885, in Prittlewell.

In April 1911 she married Frederick Blewett, her widowed brother-in-law. (1911, Jun, Colchester, 4a, 1448) They went on to have 5 children:

- Florence Violet 1911 (1912 M Quarter in COLCHESTER Volume 04A Page 1561). Frederick was a Telephone wire man, living at 33 Cromwell Road, Colchester.

Columns --	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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.	Supplemental Space if added after Registration of Birth.
136	Twenty-fifth November 1911 33 Cromwell Road	Florence Violet	Girl	Frederick Blewett	Maud Minnie Blewett formerly Arthurson	Telephone Wire man	M. M. Blewett Mother 33 Cromwell Road Colchester	Fifth 1912	Thos. J. Halliday Registrar.	

- Robert Gordon 1914 M Quarter in COLCHESTER Volume 04A Page 1521)
- Alfred Robinson 1917 Colchester
- Geoffrey Derrick (1924 D Quarter in COLCHESTER Volume 04A Page 1231)
- Harold William (1927 J Quarter in ROCHFORD Volume 04A Page 1203)

Frederick died on 5th October 1930, age 50, at Victoria Hospital Southend, of "acute dilation of stomach due to operation on 1/10/30 for Gastric Ulcer and chronic interstitial nephritis". He was a storekeeper at a GPO Engineering Department, living at 42 Salisbury Avenue, Southend. Death registered by his wife, Minie who was present (1930, Dec, Rochford, 4a, 664).

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

378	Fifth October 1930 Victoria Hospital Southend on Sea U.D.	Frederick Blewett	Male	50 years	of 43 Salisbury Avenue, Southend on Sea U.D. Storekeeper at G.F.O. Engineering Department	1.(a) Acute dilatation of Stomach due to (b) Operation 1-10-30 due to (c) Gastric Ulcer 11. Chronic Interstitial Nephritis. P.M. Certified by H.G. Letcher M.B.	M.M. Blewett Widow of deceased In attendance 43 Salisbury Avenue Southend on Sea	Sixth October 1930	A.J. Ball Registrar
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Chronic interstitial nephritis is a kidney disorder characterized by inflammation and scarring of the space between kidney tubules, leading to long-term kidney damage and potentially kidney failure. It is often a consequence of underlying conditions or the result of long-term use of certain medications. Chronic interstitial nephritis can lead to a slow decline in kidney function, potentially requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant.

Probate was in November, and he left £425 15s 3d to his wife.

BLEWETT Frederick of 43 Salisbury-avenue Southend-on-Sea **Essex** died 5 October 1930 at Victoria Hospital Southend-on-Sea Administration **London** 1 November to Maud Minnie **B** Blewett widow. Effects £425 15s. 3d.

Maud Minnie died in 1959 (1959, Mar, Southend, 4a 1050) age 74.

Frederick (1888-

On 24th August 1888 Frederick Alfred Munro Robinson must have been born (according to 1939 register). No birth certificate has been uncovered, but he appears in the 1891 census and in the 1911 census as a 23-year-old greengrocer shop assistant.

Frederick married Dorothy Gertrude Cope (1892-1996) on 22nd September 1913 (1913, Sep, Rochford, 4a, 1421). Dorothy was born in West Ham (1892, Dec West Ham, 4a, 245).

In 1920 Frederick was awarded the British and Victory Medals for service in WWI suggesting he may have military records somewhere.

They had 2 children uncovered so far:

- Frederick Henry Montague (1915 S Quarter in ROCHFORD Volume 04A Page 1271)
- Geoffrey Valentine Robinson[†] (1924, Mar, Edmonton, 03A, 1050) (See below)

Mountainsch Schwarz 1924 379 37 Queens Avenue Winchmore Hill	Geoffrey Valentine	Boy Frederick Alfred Munro Robinson	Dorothy Gertrude Robinson formerly Cope	Trustees Assistant	4 AM Robinson Sister 37, Queens Avenue Winchmore Hill	Widow Maud Minnie Blewett	1930 Registrar	
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Where they had moved to London. Frederick was a fruiter's assistant living at 37 Queens Avenue, Winchmore Hill. N21.

In 1921, after 8 years of marriage Frederick and Dorothy are living with her parents in N21 which is the postcode district in North London incorporating the areas of Winchmore Hill, Bush Hill, Grange Park.

In the 1939 National Register, Frederick and Dorothy lived at 19 Lytton Avenue, Southgate. (N13 4EH)

Sometime between 1939 and 1976 they moved to Coalville in Leicestershire. According to subsequent records the following may be their death records.

Frederick died in 1976, age 88.

Dorothy died in 1996 age 103 (DOR Q2/1996 in LEICESTER (6001G) Reg G54C Entry Number 109).

Appearance on censuses

Dorothy

1901: 40 Jansen Road, Forest Gate; Morton Edward Cope (34,

1911: 3 Heygate Avenue, Southend; Morton Edward Cope (44, Commission Agent), Mary Annie Cope (46,), Annie Elizabeth Cope (20, dressmaker), Dorothy Gertrude Cope (18), Henry William Cope (15, shop assistant), Florence Louise Cope (13), Elizabeth Johnson (65, widowed mother)

Houses on Heygate Avenue seem to be fairly large, many with three floors and let out as two flats. The Copes shared the house with another family.

Frederick and Dorothy

1921: Radcliffe Villa, Green Lane N21; Morton Edward Cope (58, unregistered dentist), Annie Mary Cope (59), Frederick Alfred Munro Robinson (31, Fruiterer manager), Dorothy Gertrude Robinson (28), Frederick Henry Montague Robinson (5, School full time).

Geoffrey Valentine Robinson

Geoffrey (25), married Dorothy Patricia Harrington (18) in April 1949 in Wood Green, (1949, Jun, Wood Green, 5f, 1316) and they moved to 8 Elsie Road, Edmonton by 1950 (Source: Electoral registers). This is just two miles away from Ranworth road, where the Gates family were living.

On 15th February 1951, they emigrated to Australia, from Southampton on the Ship "New Australia" run by Shaw Saville. Geoffrey was 26, Dorothy 19. Whilst there they had a daughter, Elizabeth in August 1952. It appears they might have been part of the "ten-pound poms" programme:

The phrase 'Ten Pound Poms' is used to describe the Britons who emigrated to Australia following World War 2 on the Australian government's assisted passage scheme. The purpose of this scheme was to enlarge Australia's population whilst supplying workers for the country's growing economy and industry. Britons were offered a way out of the rationing and deprivation of post-war life, shown visions of glorious sunshine and boundless possibility by a government desperate for an influx of labour. They were offered the dramatically reduced fee for their passage only on the condition that they stay in Australia for a minimum of two years, or pay the full £120 fare back. This fee was prohibitively expensive for most. The scale of the migration was such that some former troop ships were converted and dedicated to carrying Britons to their new home, such as the SS New Australia formerly The Monarch of Bermuda. This was part of the wider White Australia policy. An estimated quarter of British migrants returned to the UK within the qualifying period; however, half of these – the so-called Boomerang Poms – returned to Australia.

SS New Australia was a UK-built turbo-electric passenger steamship that had a varied career from 1931 to 1966. She was built as the ocean liner Monarch of Bermuda, was a troop ship in the Second World War and was damaged by fire in 1947. She was then refitted to carry emigrants to Australia and renamed New Australia. In 1958 she was refitted again, renamed Arkadia and served as both a transatlantic liner and a cruise ship.

We do not know what happened with Geoffrey and Dorothy, but they did only stay the two years. They returned to England on 16th May 1953, on the P&O ship *Mooltan*. They were due to go back to 8 Elsie Road.

RMS Mooltan was an ocean liner and Royal Mail Ship of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company (P&O). She was ordered in 1918 and completed in 1923. She served in the Second World War first as the armed merchant cruiser HMS Mooltan (F75) and then as a troop ship. Most of the outward traffic was Ministry of Transport emigration work, carrying "Ten Pound Poms" to Australia under an assisted passage scheme established and run by the Australian government. The return trips were filled with P&O's own passengers. On 18 November 1953 SS Mooltan left Brisbane,

Australia, on her last voyage, reaching Tilbury on 7 January 1954. Her mainly Asian crew joined the brand-new RMS Arcadia three weeks later. On 23 January 1954 P&O sold Mooltan for £150,000 to the British Iron & Steel Corporation and she was taken to Metal Industries Ltd at Faslane in Scotland, where she was broken up.

Alfred (1891-?)

On 13th June 1891 Alfred William Montague Robinson was born. He appears in the 1891 census along with Mary Brown (60 "monthly night nurse") (1891, Jun, Rochford, 4A, 522).

In 1916 he married Anne Elizabeth Cope (1916, Dec, Rochford, 4a, 1285), Dorothy's sister. Son after they married, they moved to Hackney where they seem to have had two children:

- Stanley Alfred Morton (1919, Sep, Hackney, 01b, 541)
- Betty Ann 1927 (1927, Mar, Hackney, 01B, 495)

Records of Albert's death have so far not been found.

Annie died in 1969 (1969, Jun, Enfield, 5b, 436) age 78.

Appearance in censuses

1921: 56 Eade Road Hackney; Alfred William Montague Robinson (30 printing associate), Annie Elizabeth Robinson (30), Stanley Alfred Morton Robinson (1)

Caroline (1893-1985)

Caroline Elizabeth ("Carry") was born on 1st August 1893. She appears in the 1901 census at an 8-year-old and the 1911 Census as a daily worker age 19.

On 29th June 1917 she married Harry Spires (1894-1984) (1917, Jun, Rochford, 4a, 1074). Caroline (24) is listed as living at 15 Hartington Road, Southend-on-Sea. Harry bis listed as "Soldier" living in "South Shoebury".

(SHOEBURY (SOUTH), a parish in the hundred of ROCHFORD, county of ESSEX, 4 miles (E.) from South End, containing 153 inhabitants

1917 Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church of <i>St. John Baptist, Southend-on-Sea</i> in the Parish of <i>St. John Baptist, Southend-on-Sea</i> in the County of <i>Essex</i>								
No.	When Married	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage	Father's Name and Profession	Rank or Profession of Father
350	June 29 th 1917	Harry Spires	23	Bachelor	Soldier	South Shoebury	William Harry Spires	Miner
		Caroline Elizabeth Robinson	24	Spinster		15 Hartington Rd Southend-on-Sea	Alfred Robinson	Labourer

Married in the *Parish Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the *Church of England* by *Deacon* *J. A. V. Latham*

The Marriage was solemnized between us: *Harry Spires* in the presence of us: *Margaret Reed* *Franka Robinson*

Harry Spires and his family were from Wakefield in Yorkshire where his father (according to the marriage certificate) was a miner. It is not difficult to ascertain how these two might have met and married in Rochford in 1917.

Our narrative jumps forward to the 1840s at the Royal Artillery ranges in Woolwich. It was beginning to be more and more difficult to use the ranges due to the proximity of the shipping route, which was getting busier and busier as time went on. Because of this, a search began to find a more suitable location and Shoeburyness was put forward. In 1856, the Secretary of State would give the authorisation to establish Shoeburyness as a place for experimental practice and the Shoebury ranges were officially in existence. The land would be purchased from local landowner Dale Knapping. In 1914, the war would break out across Europe. On the front Lt Col Richardson was with his two dogs, Wolf and Prince who he had trained to pass messages from the trenches to the command posts. The War Office decided to

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

establish a British War Dog School and Richardson was asked to do this in 1917. The eventual location would be Shoeburyness as the guns from the Front could be heard.

In 1917, the South Shoebury army barracks (part of Shoeburyness Garrison) housed the War Dog School. The school, established by Lt-Col E.H. Richardson, trained dogs for various military roles, including messenger, sentry, and patrolling duties. The school utilized the existing gunnery ranges at Shoeburyness to prepare the dogs for the noises and conditions of war.

The dogs would be sourced from rescue centres and eventually, appeals were sent out for people to donate their pets. In the first month, 30 dogs were successfully sent out who had undergone a similar training method to that of their human counterpart soldiers – repetition. Hundreds of dogs would be sent to the front and the school grew to an extent that it would be relocated to Lyndhurst. (Source: <https://fortheloveofhistory.home.blog/>)

Probably Caroline and Harry moved up to Yorkshire after WWI. Without Harry's service records it is difficult to decide. But the evidence that this is the correct pair is fairly secure according to the 1921 census. No entry in the 1939 Register has been found for them however.

So far only two children have been found:

- Gilbert Munro was born 2nd January 1921 at Ivy Cottage, Sharlston (1921, Mar, Wakefield, 09C, 144).

4-08	Second January 1921 Ivy Cottage Sharlston R.D.	Gilbert Munro	Boy	Harry Spires	Caroline Elizabeth Spires formerly Robinson	Colliery Bryeworthman	Harry Spires Father Ivy Cottage Sharlston	Fourth February 1921	Walter Druce Registrar.
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Gilbert Married Freda Hepworth in 1943.

In 1973, Gilbert lived at 5 Cock Lane Crofton, Tel: Wakefield 862582. (Source: British Telephone Book 1973)



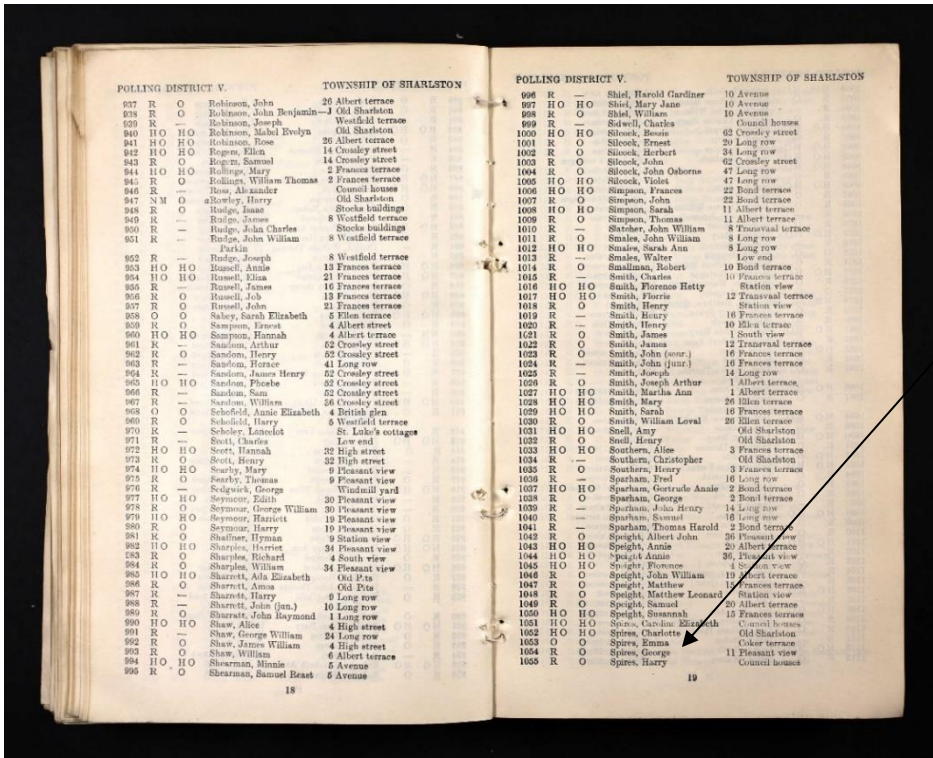
Freda died in 2004.

Gilbert died in 2011 age 90 in Wakefield. (DOR Q1/2011, WAKEFIELD (097-1D) Entry Number 504504748). He is buried along with Freda in Pontefract Crematorium. They were married for 60 years.

- Denis Alfred (1927-1971) (1927, Jun, Wakefield, 09C, 44)

1921 Census: Ivy Cottage, Old Sharlston, Wakefield; William spires (48, Newsagent), Charlotte Spires (45, Wife, housewife), Hubert Spires (15, surface worker Colliery labourer) Roslyn Spires (14, surface worker, colliery worker), Harry Spires (27, miners' hewer), Caroline Spires (28, born Southend, hours work), Gilbert Munro Spires (5 months, grandson).

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Members of the Spires family, including Caroline and Harry appear on the Charlston Electoral register for 1924

Harry appears to have died in 1984 (DOR Q2/1984 in WAKEFIELD (0991C) Volume 5 Page 1456) age 90

Caroline died about a year after on 22nd June 1985 age 93 at St Catherines Rest Home, 152 Burngrave Road, Sheffield S3 9DH (DOR Q2/1985 in SHEFFIELD (0481I) Volume 3 Page 1942) of "a) Cerebral vascular accident, b) cerebral arteriosclerosis, c) acute bronchitis".

Cerebral arteriosclerosis, also known as intracranial arteriosclerotic disease (ICAD) or cerebral atherosclerosis, is a condition where the arteries in the brain become thick and stiff due to the buildup of plaque. This plaque buildup can narrow or block the arteries, reducing blood flow to the brain and potentially leading to a stroke.

St Catherines Nursing Home is set in large peaceful gardens which surrounds our lovely home. Located in a quiet residential area in Sheffield, with two separate buildings, St Catherine's is particularly suitable for those needing nursing or residential dementia care. The management of the home organises regular activities for the residents and everyone enjoys the outings. It's a peaceful and pleasant place to live.

The death was registered by her son Gilbert Munro Spires who was living at 9 West Lane, Wakefield.

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DEATH		Entry No. 296
Registration district <i>Sheffield</i>	Administrative area <i>Metropolitan District of Sheffield</i>	
Sub-district <i>Sheffield</i>		
1. Date and place of death <i>Twenty Second June 1985</i>		
<i>St Catherine's Rest Home 152 Burngreave Road Sheffield</i>		
2. Name and surname <i>Caroline Elizabeth SPIRES</i>	3. Sex <i>Female</i>	4. Maiden surname of woman who has married <i>ROBINSON</i>
5. Date and place of birth <i>24th August 1892</i> <i>Southend on Sea Essex</i>		
6. Occupation and usual address <i>Shop Assistant (Retired) widow of Harry SPIRES.</i> <i>Grocer</i> <i>St Catherine's Rest Home 152 Burngreave Road Sheffield</i>		
7.(a) Name and surname of informant <i>Gilbert Munro SPIRES</i>	(b) Qualification <i>SON</i>	
(c) Usual address <i>9 West Lane Sharlston Common Wakefield</i>		
8. Cause of death <i>A. Coronary vascular accident</i> <i>B. Coronary atherosclerosis</i> <i>* acute Bronchitis</i> <i>certified by</i> <i>J. Stark M.A.C.S.</i>		
9. I certify that the particulars given by me above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief		Signature of informant <i>[Signature]</i>
10. Date of registration <i>Twenty Fourth June 1985</i>	11. Signature of registrar <i>[Signature]</i>	

Cremation Register Details

authority	Wakefield Metropolitan Borough Council
crematorium	Pontefract Crematorium
cremation date	27 June 1985
register number	34690
last name	Spires
first names	Caroline Elizabeth
gender	Female
date of death	22 June 1985
age	88 Years
marital status	WIDOW
occupation	PENSIONER
residence	9 West Lane Sharlston Wakefield
registration district	SHEFFIELD
entry date	27 Jun 1985
entry number	34690
disposal location	STREWN N.T.14

Section 14 - Grandfather

Chapter 29 - Leonard Victor Robinson (1875 – 1948)



Important events during the life of Leonard Victor

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.

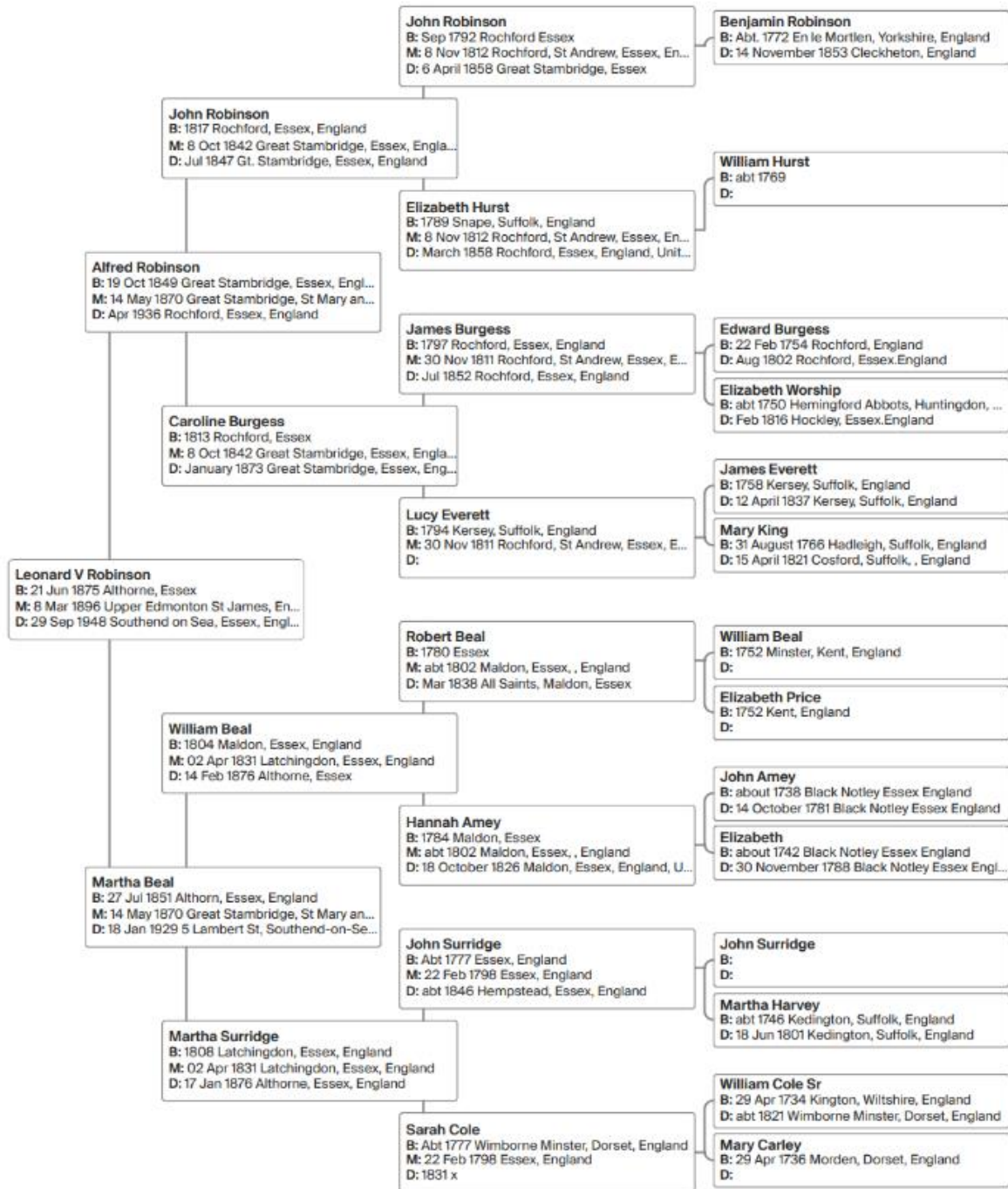
Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

1914	5 November	Britain declares war on the Ottoman Empire.
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.

Those Who Went Before Me – 2a The Robinson Line

1948	1 January	British Rail is established.
	5 July	The National Health Service is founded.
	29 July-14 Aug	London hosts the 1948 Summer Olympics.
	14 November	Birth of Charles, Prince of Wales.

4 Generation Family Tree of Leonard Victor



Leonard Victor Robinson (1875 - 1948)

Early Life

Alfred Robinson (1849-1936) was born on 19th October 1849 in Great Stanbridge, Essex to John Robinson (1817-1849) and Caroline Robinson (Nee Burgess, Chamberlain, Robinson and thereafter Bugg) (1812-1873).

Martha Beal (1831-1929) was born on 27th June 1851 in Althorne. Essex to William Beal (1804-1876) and Martha Surridge (1808-1876).

304	304	19th Oct 1849	Alfred	Boy	19	Caroline Robinson formerly Burgess.	Caroline Robi- -mother. Great Stanbridge	Seventy- eight November 1849	John Gubham Registrar
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23	23	27th July 1851	Martha	Girl	William Beal	Martha Beal formerly Surridge	Labourer	Martha Beal Althorne	Eighth August 1851	Wm R. Rust Registrar
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Alfred Robinson (21) and Martha Beal (19) married on 14th May 1870 in St Mary and All Saints, Great Stambridge, Essex. Alfred was a farm labourer.

1870. Marriage solemnized at <u>St. Mary's Church</u> in the <u>Parish</u> of <u>St. Stambridge</u> in the County of <u>Essex</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.
92	May 14.	Alfred Robinson	22	Bachelor	Labourer	Great Stambridge	James Robinson	Carpenter
		Martha Beal	19	Spinster		Great Stambridge	William Beal	Labourer

Married in the St. Mary's Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Wm R. Rust or after James by me, E. H. Penny Minister

This Marriage was solemnized between us Alfred Robinson & Martha Beal in the Presence of us William Chamberlain & Lucy May

There appears to have been some family movement between 1874 and 1875 as the Robinson family moved from Gt Stanbridge to Althorne, then again around 1881 to Prittlewell.

Great Stambridge is a village and parish, 15 miles south east of Chelmsford, now in the parish of Stambridge, in the Rochford district, Essex, England. Pop around 300.

Althorne is a village and civil parish in Essex. It is located 21 km east-southeast from city of Chelmsford. The village is in the district of Maldon district and in the parliamentary constituency of Maldon & East Chelmsford. Pop around 300.

Prittlewell is an inner city area and former civil parish in Southend-on-Sea, in the county of Essex. Prittlewell is the original settlement of the city, Southend being the south end of Prittlewell. The village of Prittlewell was originally centered at the joining of three main roads, East Street, West Street, and North Street, which was extended south in the 19th century and renamed Victoria Avenue. Pop around 5,000.

See information on **Prittlewell** at:

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Prittlewell,_Essex_Genealogy

and on Althorne at: <https://historyhouse.co.uk/placeA/essex05.htm>

1870s

Alfred (21) and Martha (19) gave birth to their first child, Elizabeth Jane, on 18th July 1870 in Stanbridge meaning Martha was several months pregnant when they married. Their second child, Georgiana was born on 22nd November 1872 also in Great Stanbridge.

210	Eighteenth July 1870 Great Stanbridge	Elizabeth Jane girl	Alfred Robinson	Martha Robinson formerly Beale	Farmer Labourer	Martha Robinson Mother Great Stanbridge	Third August 1870	Thomas King Registrar
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19	Twenty second November 1872 Great Stanbridge	Georgiana girl	Alfred Robinson	Martha Robinson formerly Beale	Farmer Labourer	M. Robinson Mother Great Stanbridge	Twenty seventh December 1872	Thomas King Registrar
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Between 1872 and 1875 the family appears to have moved to Althorne, Essex.
Their third child, Leonard Victor Robinson, was born on 21st June 1875 in Althorne, Essex.

82	Twenty first June 1875 Althorne	Leonard Victor Boy	Alfred Robinson	Martha Robinson formerly Beale	Labourer	M. Robinson Mother Althorne	Twenty first July 1875	J. C. King Registrar
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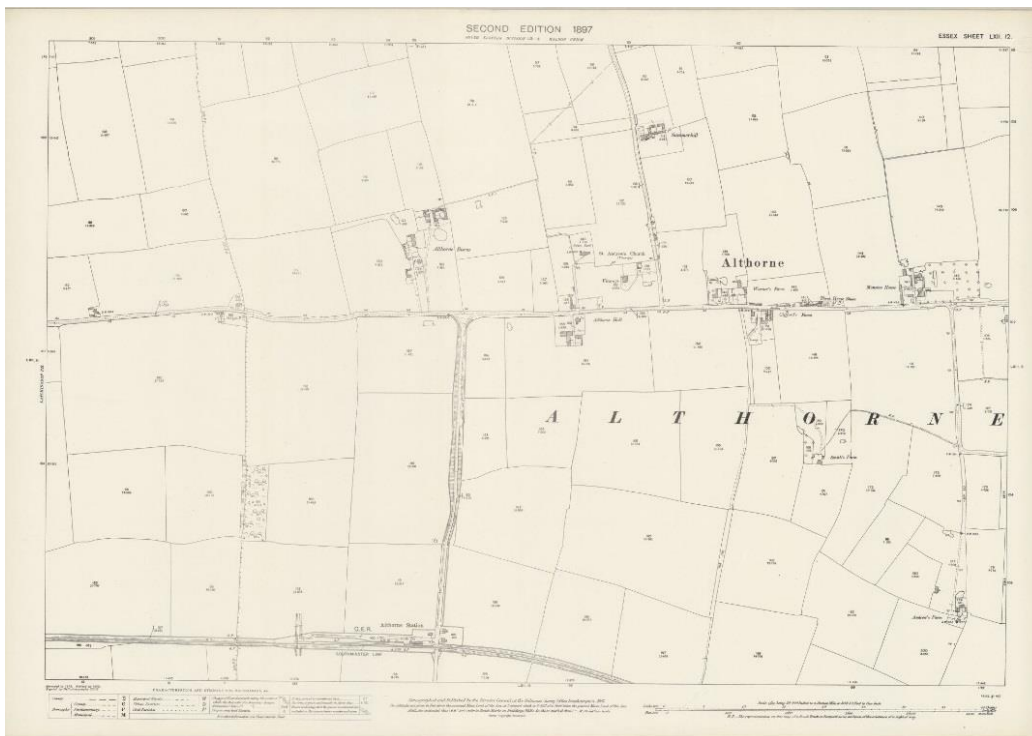
Leonard was the third of 10 children of Alfred Robinson (26) (1849 – 1936) and Martha Beale (24) (1831 – 1929). So, at his birth his parents in their twenties had a newborn, a 3-year-old and a 5-year-old. As full addresses in Althorne, Great Stanbridge and Prittlewell were not recorded on birth certificates, these have not yet been discovered.



Althorne in 1897 showing St Andrews Church

Leonard was baptised on 1st August 1875 at St Andrews Church in Althorne.

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BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of *Althorne* in the County of *Essex* in the year One thousand eight hundred and *75*

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Names.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1874 17 th No. 726	<i>Emma</i>	<i>James</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Althorne</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>St Andrew's</i>
1875 20 th No. 727	<i>Frederic George</i>	<i>James</i>	<i>Harris</i>	<i>Althorne</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>St Andrew's</i>
1875 21 st No. 728	<i>Leonard Alfred</i>	<i>Robinson</i>	<i>Martha</i>	<i>Althorne</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>St Andrew's</i>
1875 22 nd No. 729	<i>Arthur Lewis</i>	<i>James</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Althorne</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>St Andrew's</i>

"England, Essex Parish Registers, 1538-1997," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QJDW-9S7N> : 18 July 2017), Leonard Victor Robinson, 01 Aug 1875, Christening; citing St Andrews, Althorne, Essex, England, Essex Record Office, England; FHL microfilm 560,908.

Little has been discovered of Leonard's early life in the 1870s from birth to 5 years old. When Leonard was 2 years old his sister, Edith Amy, Alfred and Martha's fourth child, was born on 26th December 1877 - 12 days after Harriet Frances Philpott was born in Teynham, Kent.

1499	Thirtieth December 1877	Edith Amy	girl	Alfred Robinson	Martha Robinson formerly Heale	Labourer	M. Robinson Mother Althorne	Thirtieth January 1878	Artlewe Lettley Registrar
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1880s

On 3rd April 1881 Census, Leonard's parents were in their early 30s and lived at 10 Hamlet Brickfields Cottage in Prittlewell. The family now consisted of:

- Father, Alfred (32) (Gt Stanbridge) Brickmaker
- Mother, Martha (30) (Althorne)
- Elizabeth (10) (Gt Stanbridge) Scholar
- Georgiana (7) (Gt Stanbridge) Scholar
- Leonard Victor (5) (Althorne) Scholar
- Edith Amy (3) (Althorne)
- Margaret (7/12) (Rochford)

Page 12] The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

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		
Prittlewell			Prittlewell	Prittlewell	Southend	Southend	St Mary's The Wiggen		
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, Ave. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES In- habited or built- up (B)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of Males Females	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	If (1) Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Imbecile or Idiot (4) Lunatic
67	Hamlet Brickfields Cottage 10	1	Alfred Robinson Martha Do Elizabeth J Do Georgina Do Leonard Do Edith A Do Margaret Do	Head Wife Daughter Daughter Son Daughter Daughter	Mar Mar Do Do Do Do Do	32 30 10 7 5 3 7mo	Brickmaker Scholar Do Do Do Do Do	London Essex Althorne Do Gt Stanbridge Do Do Do Althorne Do Do Do Rochford Kent Erith	
68	No 11	1	William Goshall Elizabeth Do John Do Elizabeth Do Alfred Do Sarah Do Milly Do Joseph Do Robert Do Emma Do	Head Wife Son Daughter Son Daughter Daughter Son Son Daughter	Mar Mar Unm Unm Unm Do Do Do Do Do	42 42 18 16 14 12 9 7 5 4	Brickmaker Do Domestic Servant Scholar Do Do Do Do Do Do	Kent Erith Do Do Do Do Do Do Do Do Do Do Essex Shoebury Do Do Do Southend	
69	No 12	1	Richard Still Sarah Ann Do Ellen Do	Head Wife Daughter	Mar Mar Do	26 21 1	Brickfield Labourer	Kent, Blackstone Do Chatham Do Lewton	
70	Hamlet Lodge	1	Henry Scudder Elizabeth J Do Jane L Lendall Walter H Scudder Catherine M Do	Head Wife Wife Son Daughter	Mar Mar Do Do Do	65 33 62 2 1	Former, 110 Gates Widow Do	Essex, Thundersly Do Prittlewell Do Ryeleigh Do Prittlewell Do Do	
4	Total of Houses...	4	Total of Males and Females...			10 15			

NOTE.—Draw the pen through such of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2
Reference- RG11/1770
COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Little is known of the family at this time. Certificates for Margaret have yet to be discovered though she appears in both the 1881 and 1891 census.

Prittlewell was a very small village in the 1880s, and houses did not have running water. There was talk of providing running water but it was decided by the Council only to provide it for those

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who wanted it. A drinking fountain was provided outside Trinity Church. It was described as:

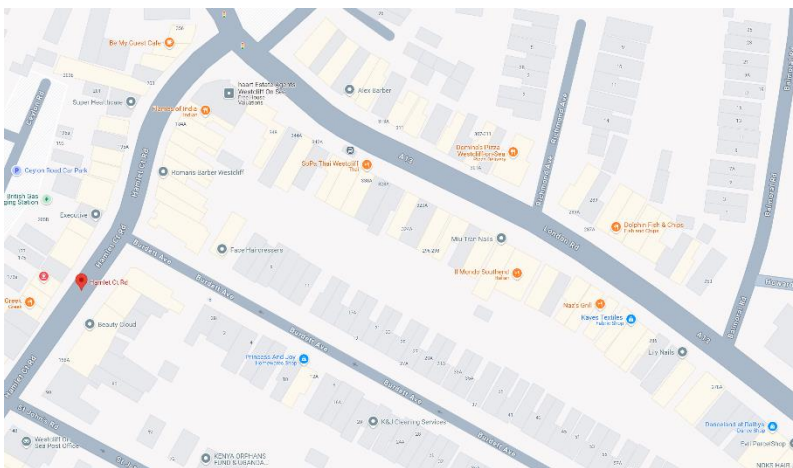
"an ancient and agreeable village, consisting of two streets and right angles to one another" (Southend Timeline).

Links between Prittlewell and Southend were improved in 1889 when a road, named Victoria Avenue, was built between the village crossroads by the church to Southend and in 1892 when Prittlewell railway station was built on the Great Eastern Railway, linking Southend and London. 1892 also saw the foundation of the Municipal Borough of Southend-on-Sea, which took over responsibility for Prittlewell from an earlier local board. (Wikipedia)

On this 1875 map of Prittlewell, we can see the extent of the village, and its separation from Southend. To the southwest is Hamlet House, Hamlet Lodge and Hamlet Cottage. Also, there are various brickfields just to the south of Prittlewell.



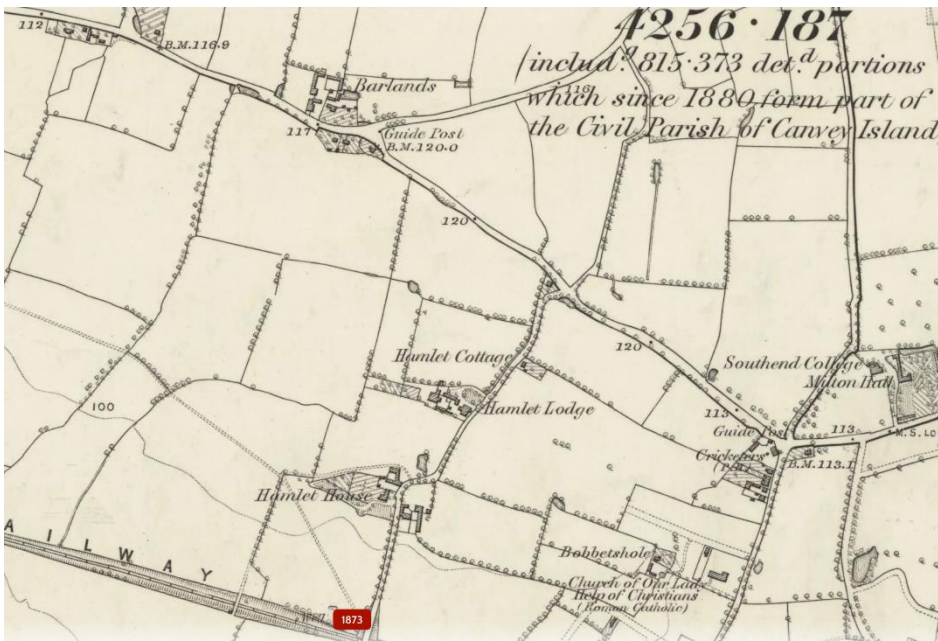
To the southeast of Prittlewell is Linden Village where some new streets appear to have been laid out. These were to become Lambert Street, North Street, Prittlewell Street and Sutton Street. By 1890 it appears the family lived in Lambert Street, at 3 and subsequently 5.



Exactly where Hamlet Brickfields Cottages were can be answered by referring to the 1881 census and various local maps. On the census Hamlet Brickfield Cottages appear immediately before Hamlet Cottage and Hamlet Lodge, both of which are on the 1875 map above. Hamlet Brickfields Cottages would appear to be off what became (and still is) Hamlet Court Road, probably at the start of the lane which became (and still is) Burdett Avenue just south of London Road.

We can see its development between 1873 and 2020 below.

1873



In 1873 the cottages seem not to exist apart from Hamlet Cottage, Hamlet Lodge and Hamlet House.

1895

Cottages opposite Hamlet Cottage appear between 1873 and 1895, which may have been built to house brick-workers. The 1881 census lists Hamlet Brickfield Cottages just before Hamlet Lodge and Hamlet Cottage. The census lists all but one of the heads of household in the 12 Hamlet Brickfields Cottages as a "Brickmaker". At No 2 is William Juniper, an engine driver, and his family. He presumably worked in the new railway line. Altogether there are 23 people working in brickfields, and 43 children. At Hamlet Lodge was Henry Scudder "a farmer of 110 acres employs 7 man & 1 boy". At Hamlet Cottage was John Dowsett a shepherd and his wife Mary.



Essex Records Office has the following document

Ref: D/DGs E54

Documents relating to Hamlet Cottage built on manorial waste land at corner of Leigh Road [now London Road] and Hamlet [Court] Road in Prittlewell by Robert Scratton and occupied by John Dowsett, shepherd to Mr Scratton, from 1894 until his death in 1881, and by his wife Mary Dowsett from 1849 until she gave up possession in January 1912.

During August 1880, The Elementary Education Act 1880 made Primary Education compulsory to age 10, so it is possible Leonard Victor, now 5 years old, may have been one of the first to benefit by attending an elementary school in Prittlewell.

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Map E: 1897 1:2,500 OS Map, © Crown copyright and database rights 2019 Ordnance Survey 100019680

The school can be seen here in the 1897 OS map, just to the south east of St Mary's Church on East Street. The church and the school still exist – as St Mary's Prittlewell C of E Primary School



To walk from Hamlet Brickfield Cottages to the Church and School is around 0.8 mile – some 20 minutes' walk. And it is very likely that Leonard would have made the same journey I did, along Hamlet Court Road, right at West Street to the junction with Victoria Avenue.



I made a visit to Prittlewell in March 2025, and walked along Hamlet Court Road. It is now a fairly run-down south coast town main shopping arcade with beauty bars, tanning shops, charity shops. Hamlet Court Road is now a rather sad site. It is clear at one time the buildings down the main thoroughfare were quite grand when originally built some time ago. No doubt a lack of investment has caused the district to deteriorate especially as it was subsumed into Southend-on-Sea. Whilst here was an arcade of shops called Hamlet House, no one I stopped had any idea of Hamlet Court, Hamlet House or Hamlet Lodge.

A significant portion of Hamlet Court Road is now designated as a Conservation Area, recognized

for its historical buildings and architectural character. It is described on the Visit Southend Website as:

a street with a wealth of history in an area being transformed with a new and exciting energy. A wonderful road lined with palm trees and 120 Business with a view of the Estuary.



View looking south along Hamlet Court Road from where Hamlet Brickfields Cottages would have been on the left.

Florence Martha was born on 27th May, 1883 and Maud Minnie on 14th November 1885, both in Prittlewell, Florence in Crow House; Maud in Lambert Street.

M.D.				Father		Mother			
275	27 th May 1883 Prittlewell M.D.	Florence Martha girl	Alfred Robinson	Martha Robinson formerly Beal	Brick Maker	Martha Robinson Mother Crow House Prittlewell	Fourth July 1883	George Biggby Registrar	
133	14 th November 1885 Prittlewell M.D.	Maud Minnie girl	Alfred Robinson	Martha Robinson formerly Beal	Brick Maker	Martha Robinson Mother Lambert St Prittlewell	Fourteenth November 1885	George Biggby Registrar	

Florence Martha married Frederick Blewett in 1906 aged 23, and they had two children, Frederick (1906) and Doris (1910). Florence Martha died in 1910 aged just 27 (Colchester, 1910, March 04A, 428) of heart disease. She is buried in the same grave as her parents in Sutton Road Cemetery, Prittlewell.

489	March 1910 25 Backens Hill Colchester	Florence Martha Blewett	Female	27 years	Wife of Frederick Blewett Telephone Workman	Cardiac Disease Certified by W. A. Mayhew M.D.	F. Blewett address of deceased friend at the death 25 Backens Hill Colchester	Fourteenth March 1910	W. A. Mayhew Registrar
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Those who went before Volume 2

1891

In 1891 when Leonard was 15, Alfred and Martha lived at 3 Lambert Street, Prittlewell, Southend, Essex, the family being: Alfred (42, born Gt Stanbridge), Martha (40, born Althorne), Georgiana (17, born Gt Stanbridge), Leonard Victor (15, born Althorne), Margaret (11, born Althorn), Florence (8, born Prittlewell), Maud (6, born Southend), Frederic (2), Alfred (<1)

Both Alfred and Leonard Victor, who was now 15, were general labourers. It appears that Mary Brown (60), a nurse, also lived with them. Elizabeth now 20, appears to have left home. Edith does not appear and may have died between 1881 and 1891 though a death certificate is not immediately obvious. Birth certificates for Frederick and Alfred are still to be uncovered

The image shows a handwritten census form for the Prittlewell area in 1891. The form is titled 'The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the' and includes fields for Civil Parish, Municipal Ward, Urban Sanitary District, Town or Village or Hamlet, and Rural Sanitary District. The form is divided into columns for household details, including house number, names, relationships, professions, and birth dates. The form is filled out for several households, with a total of 18 males and 13 females recorded at the bottom.

On 1st August 1893, when Leonard was 18, Alfred and Martha, had another daughter - Caroline Elizabeth. They were living at 5 Lambert Street Prittlewell.

324	Caroline Elizabeth	Alfred Robinson	Martha Robinson	5 Lambert Street Prittlewell	1892	Frederic Registrar

Between the census of 1891 when he was 15 and his wedding in 1896 when he was 21, it is likely that Leonard Victor was working as a general labourer. He appears to have moved to Edmonton on his own without his family, who remained in Prittlewell. The distance between Prittlewell and London is some 40 miles – and a new railway station had been built in Prittlewell in 1892, linking it to London.

We do not know where Leonard moved to, but according to the wedding certificate at the time of his wedding in 1896, Leonard lived at 3 St John Cottages, Union Road Edmonton, 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 19-year-old Harriet Frances Philpott lived, who by then had been living in Edmonton for over 10 years. Leonard must have been around 20, Harriet 19. Two young people with a life to look forward to. Sometime after he moved in, they must have met, and became very close. So close in fact that Harriet became pregnant at age 18. They married soon after and moved into the home of Harriet's parents.