

DESCENDANTS OF SAMPSON TOOVEY AND KATHERINE SHRIMPTON OF AMERSHAM

January 2017, revised August 2017

PREFACE

This research was undertaken at the request of the Curator of Amersham Museum, Emily Toettcher, who wanted information about the Toovey family members who had lived in the building that now houses the museum.

It was very soon apparent that much investigation had already been carried out. The trigger-factor was probably the death of Ronald Frank Toovey on 14 August 1980 in Wycombe Hospital. He was the last survivor of the four children of Frederick Samson Toovey and Sarah Ann Clare. He was unmarried, childless and intestate and, although his solicitors twice attended to try to get a Will drawn, it was too late.

The solicitors commissioned a genealogist to act as heir hunter and eventually heirs were identified and the estate distributed. This seems to have generated interest in their ancestry among the descendants of Ronald Frank's grandfather Henry Toovey (1822-1910). At that time there was considerable interest also in exploring the capabilities of computers for storing and analysing genealogical data. The Toovey family featured in an article in *Computers in Genealogy* in March 1993¹. In 1995 Richard Boyles wrote *Toovey's in Amersham, My Family History* and kindly presented a copy to Amersham Museum. While carrying out this research he became aware of Dr DW Jopling who two years later would publish *The Descendants of Toovey of Watlington, born ca 1540*. A copy of this, accompanied by a roll pedigree, is in the Library of the Society of Genealogists in London.² As will be apparent from the title, this followed the various Toovey lines back as far as was possible.

With all this information already available, what more could be done? Since the 1990s considerably more information has been made accessible to family historians, much of it digitally searchable. That makes it much easier and quicker to cross-check data and to follow the story of the various descendants into the first half of the twentieth century. Where previously the focus, naturally, had been mostly on the descendants of Sampson's son Henry, and particularly his daughter Louisa, in a new study all branches would be given equal weight and individual lives could be followed further. As well as a tree, which eventually included 320 individuals, being made publicly available by being placed on Ancestry,³ the story of Sampson and Katherine's descendants is told as a narrative. This goes beyond what is possible with a data-base, allowing links and comparisons to be made and sometimes research strategies described, so that the reader can see how various conclusions or hypotheses were reached.

As Sampson was born in Watlington but made his home in Amersham from 1805 or earlier, it was possible to look at how the lives of one family changed over a period of more than 100 years and, moreover, a family very much involved in the important local industry of chairmaking.

Although extensive use has been made (where possible) of the 1939 Register, not all the information gleaned from combining it with other sources has been included, for reasons of

¹ 'Creating descendant trees using Windows Write and PagePlus' Vol 4, no 9, pp 377-382.

² Bound in *Family History Tracts*, Vol 138, in the Upper Library. It was originally printed by the John Marcon Press of Nafferton near Driffield, Yorkshire.

³ Most public libraries have a subscription to Ancestry, www.ancestry.co.uk, so the tree can easily be accessed.

privacy. Similarly, the list of legatees of the estate of Ronald Frank Toovey has been used for cross-checking, but not included in the text as those people were all alive in 1980 and still may be.

The sources available for researching a Baptist family differ somewhat from those available through the Established Church. Baptists did not believe in baptising infants, so baptism records, which sometimes record the date of birth as well as the date of baptism and parentage of the child, are not available. Many Non-Conformists were aware that it was useful for their children to be equipped with proof of age and so opted to make their own arrangements, setting up Registries such as the one at Dr Williams's Library, where a number of Toovey and Cooper births were recorded, and a separate Wesleyan one in London. Fortunately the Amersham Baptists kept their registers efficiently and, after the introduction of civil registration in 1837, which removed the need for such records, they were passed to the Registrar General, and became part of Class RG 4 in the National Archives.

Perhaps as a result of the antipathy between Non-Conformists and the Established Church, Toovey marriages often took place at some distance from Amersham, in London, Hillingdon or Uxbridge, for example. Sampson himself and his son John, in 1806 and 1826 respectively, got married at St Mary's Amersham. At that time there was no choice. After 1837 only one Toovey wedding was held there, that of Catherine, daughter of Henry Toovey, who married Walter William Arnold, in 1874. Details have emerged of only one marriage which took place in the Lower Baptist Meeting House, that of Ann Toovey and Joseph Deeley. The evidence for that comes from a note in the Cocks family Bible and an announcement in the *Baptist Magazine*, not from any official register.

Other members of the family seem to have been prepared to accept the extra hassle of getting married at some distance from home, quite often in some other Anglican church, rather than turn to their local church. Perhaps the explanation is that Low Church practices may have been more acceptable to them than High Church ones, but with no evidence of where the Rectors of Amersham came on that spectrum, that can only remain a theory.

There was also a Baptist burial ground which lay between the Upper and Lower Meeting Houses. Births were recorded in one end of the register, burials in the other, until they met somewhere in the middle and the book was full. The last date I can find is the burial of William Line aged 25 on 9 Feb 1834. The need for nonconformist registries may have disappeared from 1 July 1837, but burials would presumably have continued. Details of burials of Amersham Baptists after this date do not seem to have been deposited anywhere. A few tombstones remain, but many others may have been broken or removed.

Normally it would be possible to find burial records and perhaps gravestones, from which extra information can usually be gleaned, but where the Tooveys of Amersham went to be buried is still a mystery. Only one Toovey burial appears to have taken place at St Mary's Amersham, that of an infant whose parents are not named. The Platt burial ground administered by Amersham Town Council seemed a possibility, but despite great efforts by Zoë Richardson, to whom warm thanks are due, to discover Sampson Toovey's resting place in 1860, no such burial apparently took place there.

The burial of Non-Conformists in Anglican churchyards can sometimes present peculiar difficulties for the researcher, a distinction being drawn between those who were buried [i.e. had the burial service read as they were interred] and those who were simply 'put in the ground' with no service because they had never been baptised into the church. The worry is that the interment of those who were not entitled to be buried might not therefore be recorded in the burial register. The only way round that would be to cross-check with the sexton's fee book or the register of graves showing who was put where, but the fee-books

may have been discarded and the grave book is likely to be still at the church, if burials are continuing there, rather than having been deposited in a Record Office.

It still seems most likely that, if a Baptist burial ground was available, that is where Sampson and Katherine Toovey would have been taken, even though they died in Coleshill. If their burials could be found, then details of other family interments should follow.

The study which follows has been divided into sections, one for Sampson Toovey and Katherine Shrimpton and one for each of their sons and daughters. Each grandchild's descendants are then detailed as far as they can be traced before moving on to the next grandchild. The exception is that the three unmarried daughters, plus another who did marry but was widowed early, have been grouped into one section because they lived together at various times. This avoided much repetition of census data.

The advent of digital searching makes fast genealogy possible, which makes barking up the wrong tree even more comprehensive and quicker than before. With a study of this size, involving over 300 people, it would be far too costly to order birth, marriage and death certificates for all of them. Where that has been necessary to solve a problem, it has been done. Wherever possible different sources have been combined to produce the likely answer and the account of the family written in such a way that the source of the information will be reasonably evident to anyone who understands the basics of family history. Untested suppositions have been flagged as such by the use of 'possible, probable, likely' etc, and these have been included simply as starting-points to help anyone who may want to explore the family further.

While great care has been taken to proceed with due wariness, it would be naïve to believe that no errors or typos have sneaked through. Should you spot such an error, please get in touch with Amersham Museum so that it can be put right.

Gwyneth Wilkie
January 2017

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1 THE TOOVEY FAMILY OF AMERSHAM: SAMPSON AND KATHERINE TOOVEY

The Museum building was occupied by various members of the Toovey family from the middle of the nineteenth century until 1980, for more than a hundred years. This is their story.

The founder of this branch of the Toovey family was **Sampson Toovey** (1783-1860). His birthplace is given in the 1851 census as Watlington and his age as 68, giving a birth-year of c1783. A child of that name was baptised in Watlington on 21 April 1783, the son of James Toovey and Elizabeth née Hine.

TOOVEY OF WATLINGTON

The name Sampson Toovey goes back a long way in Watlington and there are several instances of Wills and other documents mentioning that name from the 1640s onwards. The Prerogative Court of Canterbury proved the Will of a Sampson Toovey, yeoman of Watlington in 1676⁴. Another Will for a Sampson Toovey who was in addition a carpenter, and lived in the parish of St Botolph without Bishopsgate was proved on 9 August 1694.⁵ The rise in status of the family and their connections with The Howe, originally a farmhouse, are mentioned in the *Victoria County History*,⁶ and elsewhere. Detailed pedigrees can be found in *The Descendants of Toovey of Watlington, born ca 1540*, published in 1997 by Dr DW Jopling, PhD, FRSC. A copy of this booklet and the accompanying charts (kept separately among the roll pedigrees) can be found in the Library of the Society of Genealogists.

Sampson's grandfather made a Will which was proved at the Archdeaconry Court of Oxford on 10th November 1792. James Toovey the elder, of The Black Lion Inn, Brook Street, Watlington, made provision for his wife Sarah and son Richard, a schoolmaster, to carry on the business. Two daughters are mentioned; Mary Butteridge, wife of William Butteridge, collarmaker, of Nettlebed and Jane, wife of Richard White of Watlington, weaver. A son James, Sampson's father, is also mentioned. His baptism as the son of James and Sarah Toovey had taken place on September 7th 1755.

THE AMERSHAM TOOVEYS

SAMPSON TOOVEY (1783-1860) AND KATHERINE SHRIMPTON (1784-1860)

The date of Sampson's arrival in Amersham is unknown, neither do we know whether he arrived as a fully competent chairmaker or learnt his skills locally. He was already in Amersham in 1805, as he signed the register as a witness to the wedding of John Statham and Elizabeth Asperry.

The following year it was his turn to be bridegroom. On 17th February 1806 Sampson married an Amersham girl, **Katharine Shrimpton**, at St Mary's church in Amersham. The witnesses were Thomas and James Toovey and Sarah Shrimpton.

⁴ PROB 11/351/39 at the National Archives

⁵ PROB 11/422/114 at the National Archives

⁶ <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/oxon/vol8/pp210-252#highlight-first>

Thanks to the meticulous record-keeping practised at the Lower Baptist Meeting House in Amersham Katharine's date of birth and lineage can be found:

'These are to Certify that Catherine the daughter of Joseph Shrimpton & Sarah his Wife who was daughter of James and Martha Davny was born in the town of Amersham in the County of Bucks this 28 day of February in ye year of our Lord 1784 at whose birth we were present Kath Fowler & Thos Brickwell, Surgeon. Matthew Dorrell, Reg[ist]ers Keeper.'⁷

The births of the children she had with Sampson were noted in the same register:

John born on 22 Sept 1806	
Ann born on 13 June 1810	
Samuel born on 2 Oct 1812	
Sarah born on 4 Feb 1815	
Catharine born on 26 April 1817	
James 30 Oct 1819	[RG 4/239/41]
Henry 13 Apr 1822	
Elizabeth 24 Feb 1826	
Mary 13 Aug 1828	[RG 4/239/57]

The last three were in addition entered in the register kept at Dr Williams's Library in London on 25th July 1837, just after the introduction of civil registration. Henry was no 16407 and from this we gain the extra information that Charlotte Hatch, as well as surgeon Thomas Brickwell had been present when he entered the world. The Lower Meeting House Register shows no burials for this family.

The burial register of St Mary's, Amersham, shows that George Toovey aged 17 months was interred there on 22 January 1815. It is possible that he was a child of Sampson and Katherine and was born in the gap between Samuel (b 2 Oct 1812) and Sarah (b 4 Feb 1815). While the Baptist registers are rich in detail, lists of births were often entered retrospectively and in groups. Thus ff 40-41 of the Lower Meeting House Register contains a list of Toovey births from John to James consecutively and it may be that children not living (who, after all, would not in later life require proof of their age) were not recorded. Similarly Henry, Elizabeth and Catherine were registered *en bloc* on f 56 verso and there is a gap of almost four years between Henry's arrival on 13 Apr 1822 and Elizabeth's on 24 February 1826. So it is possible that Sampson and Katherine produced more than the nine children listed in this register.

Two aspects of their lives were particularly important for this couple and for many of their descendants : chapel and chairmaking.

CHAPEL: THE BAPTISTS IN AMERSHAM

Religion was clearly important in the lives of the Tooveys and almost up to the end of the century they were involved with the Baptist Upper Meeting House. The Baptists split into two congregations, one favouring open communion and the other a 'closed' system in which communion was offered only to their regular members who were of proven good standing. In Amersham the division came in 1823, with the Lower Meeting remaining open to all while the Upper Meeting was a 'closed' community. The Baptist Minister James Cooper, later to

⁷ The National Archives RG 4/239/4

become Samuel Toovey's father-in-law, moved with a small group of Baptists from the Lower to the Upper congregation in that year.⁸

The Minute Book records some of the events leading up to this split. On 10 November 1822

'Mr Cooper gave notice from the Pulpit that He should not administer the ordinance of the Lord's Supper or have any more Church meetings until the Church was in a more settled state, Consequently the ordinance has not been administered nor any Church meetings held since November 1822, except Mr Cooper requesting the members to meet in the vestry at the close of the afternoon service on the 16th of March 1823 when he gave notice that if nothing unforeseen prevented he should resign his Pastoral Charge at Midsummer.'

He did so on 24 June 1823 and two of the deacons, William Morten and Thomas Statham, also resigned.

However, a note in the The Minute Book⁹ records that Catharine Toovey transferred to the Upper Meeting in 1807, a year after her marriage, so it may be that **James Cooper** went to join the Tooveys, rather than taking them with him.

Three of Sampson's sons are believed to have been Deacons of the Upper Meeting House in Amersham.¹⁰ Samuel and James are known to have served in that capacity. Samuel married **Angelina Lewis Cooper**, becoming the son-in-law of James Cooper who had been the Baptist Minister in Amersham from 1819 to 1829. Some descendants were supporters of other Non-Conformist faiths: **James Theophilus Toovey**, a grandson of Sampson, contributed to the building of the Wesleyan Chapel in the High Street in 1899, where there is a plaque bearing his name. A great-granddaughter, **Constance Kate Grace**, was the wife and helpmeet of a Congregationalist Minister **Arthur Alfred Bourne**.

The connection of this Toovey family with the Amersham Baptists can be traced at intervals over 109 years from the birth of Katherine Shrimpton in 1784 to Samuel Toovey's appearance in court in 1893.

CHAIRMAKING

Sampson Toovey's descendants continued to be involved with chairmaking, just as he had been, although **Henry Toovey** and his son **Frederick Samson Toovey** branched out into furniture dealing and upholstery.

To a degree the family mirrored the rise and decline of one of the area's most prominent industries. The most extensive studies of the craft which turned into an industry have naturally concentrated on High Wycombe, for which most records are available. The raw materials for furniture making were plentiful in the Chilterns, to the extent that beech trees became known as 'the Buckinghamshire weed'. Elm, ash and yew were also easily obtainable.

⁸ For more information, see <http://amershamhistory.info/old-town/high-street-south/baptist-chapel/> and <http://amershamhistory.info/people/19th-century/john-cocks/>

⁹ NB/1/1 at the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies

¹⁰ See *South Bucks Standard*, 3 March 1893

Pole lathes were easy to make and were powered by a treadle, so could be used anywhere, in a workshop or even in the woods to take advantage of the fact that the wood was easier to work while it was still green. Many components of a chair (legs, fronts, stretchers, sticks, spindles and lists) could be made from the prunings which became available when plantations were thinned out to let some trees grow on.

A highly skilled craftsman putting in very long hours might make 4 gross a week of such parts. By the beginning of the twentieth century each gross, containing the correct ratio of 3 stretchers to 4 legs delivered to Wycombe would earn 9 shillings. This was more than most agricultural labourers could hope to get. Earnings were flexible — very often alternative seasonal sources of income, such as fruit-picking or harvesting gave a bit of variety or chairmaking could be fitted round other occupations, most frequently keeping a pub or supplying groceries.

Chair seats were formed from 2-inch planks using a curved and dished adze. A dozen of these could be sold on for one shilling and threepence in 1871.

A report by the Inspector of Factories in 1886 identified three levels of enterprise. The largest firms would own a sawmill and see the whole process through from sawing up the wood to finished chair. Others would have to use a public sawmill and then complete the whole process themselves. In the villages around were the turners, producing the parts that could be prepared on a lathe and selling them on at so much a gross. The number of manufactories had risen in Wycombe from 2 in the 1830s to about 50 by 1886. In 1871 it was calculated that roughly one chair a minute was being made there, around 525,000 a year, a figure which had doubled by 1886.

Although the trade seemed very buoyant, in fact profit margins were being eroded and thus wages began to fall. It is very difficult to find precise figures, but in the 1890s a 14 year-old polisher working a 55-hour week would have been paid around 10 shillings a week.

Less well capitalised enterprises faced the problem of having to pay their workforce for what they had produced before the money from selling the furniture came in. When there was a strike in 1872 250 different processes were identified that went into producing a range of chairs and only one of these involved machinery, but gradually production units increased in size and muscle power gave way to steam and electricity.

It might be thought that High Wycombe had an advantage over Amersham and other areas in that it had a railway from 1846. Chairs, however, were a cargo whose value was low in proportion to its bulk. They were easily damaged in transit. So for many years once a horse-drawn wagon had been loaded high with chairs it was just as cost-effective to send it on the thirty-mile journey to London by time-honoured means instead of having to load and unload a cart, only for the chairs to be left in the yard at the station perhaps getting damaged in the rain. They would then have to be man-handled on and off the train and on and off another cart, all of which risked further damage. On longer journeys, such as to Australia, chairs were often sent flat-packed and assembled on arrival, to save cargo space.

By the 1890s the industry's best years were behind it.¹¹ This is also the time when Henry Toovey ran into financial difficulties.

¹¹ For details of the processes involved in chairmaking and much background information, consult LJ Mayes, *The History of Chairmaking in High Wycombe*, 1960. John Rutland, *Wycombe's Wonderful Trade*, 2011, pp 8-9, draws on the *Bucks Free Press* for the 1886 report of the Inspector of Factories.

Sampson and Katherine Toovey

The 1830 Pigot's *Directory* shows that Sampson was established in the High Street and working as a chairmaker. He can be more precisely located on the tithe apportionment plans drawn up in October 1837, which lists him as occupying plot no 467.¹²

Along with John Weller, Charlotte Hatch, William Andrew and James Rumory, Sampson and John Toovey are tenants of Joseph Hatch. They appear to be occupying a long narrow building set at right-angles to the High Street and stopping just short of the stream.

By 1841, perhaps in need of more space, the family had moved to 'Wildon' (Whielden) Street. The enumerator listed the family as follows, with no indication of the relationship of family members: Sampson Toovey, 58, chairmaker; Catherine, 57; Samuel, 27, chairmaker; Sarah, 24; Catherine, 22; Henry, 19, chairmaker; Elizabeth, 13; Mary, 11; John, 32, chairmaker; Sarah, 31; John, 10; Mary Ann, 8; Emma 6; and Catherine, 4. Three of the sons, John, Samuel and Henry, are now also chairmakers and John has started a family of his own.

Directory entries show that in 1830 Sampson was living in the High Street, but by 1842 had moved to 'Wilden' [Whielden] Street. The Post Office Directory for 1847 confirms that Sampson continued his chairmaking business in the same street, though in 1847 it is called Union Street.

Pigot's 1842 *Directory* lists 'Toovey, Catherine, Straw Hat Maker, Wilden [Whielden] Street.' This could refer to either mother or daughter, but it seems much more likely that the enterprise was being run by the mother with, no doubt, the involvement of several daughters. Straw-plaiting and lace-making were two occupations carried on by many Buckinghamshire women in their homes, and thus not well paid, but at least any moments not already occupied by household duties could be used to earn a little money. The plaited straw would then be made up into hats and sold on and it looks as though that was Katherine's part of the process.

By 1851 Sampson had moved to Coleshill Green, an initiative not without its risks. The Reverend John Cocks mentioned the move in a letter dated 10 December 1849.¹³ He had just been to preach at Coleshill and remarked that Mr Toovey was in a poor state of health and low in spirits. 'He has been at a great expense in removing to Coleshill and has sustained several losses.' Mr Cocks probably meant financial losses as he had just observed that 'trade is dead', lamenting that this affected the adherents of his church and that 'I am sorry to say the cause of Christ in Amersham is very low, both with us and at the Lower Meeting.'

The 1851 census showed that Sampson's business has grown even further. As a chair manufacturer and master, he was employing 14 men. His age is now given as 68 and his wife's as 66. The youngest daughters Elizabeth, 24, and Mary, 22, are still living with their parents and Elizabeth is working as a dressmaker. A grandson, **James Grace**, is also with them.

¹² IR 29/3/2, accessed via FindMyPast.

¹³ Amersham Museum Collections, Doc 1360.2.

Next door is **Samuel Toovey**, aged 38, and also described as a chair manufacturer. His wife **Angelina** is 35 and they have a small family, **Maria Ann**, 3, and **Emily**, 5 months old.

Another of Sampson's sons is in the next house along. **John** is now 44, a chairmaker, with his wife **Sarah**, 43. **Emma**, who appeared in the 1841 census in Amersham, is 16 and her younger sibling **Catherine**, 13.

When in 1851 a census was taken of all churches, chapels and places of worship it was Samuel Toovey, Deacon, who filled in and signed the details of the Coleshill Baptist Preaching Station. There they could seat 70 and expected average attendance of 50 in the afternoon and 60 in the evening. On Sunday 30th March 1851 numbers were down, only 24 and 42 making an appearance.¹⁴ This could have been due to the miserable weather reported in other returns for this part of Buckinghamshire.

The return for the Upper Meeting House in Amersham was signed by Samuel's brother James as Deacon. While Coleshill reported itself as neither separate nor exclusive, the Upper Meeting House was both. With a seating capacity of 300, it had 60 worshippers in the morning, and 28 in the Sunday School. In the afternoon a congregation of 78 and 29 in the Sunday School and in the evening general congregation 65 [HO 129/148/26].

The Lower Meeting House was larger, able to seat 600. In the morning they had had 298 in the congregation and 137 in the Sunday School. For the afternoon the figures were 286 and 148, with an evening congregation of 353 [HO 129/148/24].¹⁵

The Kelly's Directory of 1854 lists Sampson as a chairmaker in Coleshill and adds 'Letters through Amersham'.

Both Sampson and Katharine died before the 1861 census took place. His death was announced in the *Bucks Herald* of July 14th 1860: 'On the 4th inst., at Coleshill, Mr Sampson Toovey, chairmaker, aged 79 years' but Katharine had gone first and her death was registered in the second quarter of the year. Where they were buried is unknown.

¹⁴ HO 129/148/29 at the National Archives. See alternatively *Buckinghamshire Returns of the Census of Religious Worship*, ed Edward Legg, Buckinghamshire Record Society, Vol 27, 1991, pp 34-35.

¹⁵ HO 129/148/26 and HO 129/148/24 at the National Archives. See alternatively *Buckinghamshire Returns of the Census of Religious Worship*, ed Edward Legg, Buckinghamshire Record Society, Vol 27, 1991, p 3.

2 JOHN TOOVEY (1806-1873)

John, born on 22 Sept 1806, was the first child of Sampson and Katherine Toovey to be registered at the Lower Baptist Meeting House in Amersham. Not surprisingly, he was also the first of the family to marry. The wedding took place in St Mary's Amersham on 5th November 1826 of **John Toovey** and **Sarah Cox**, when John would have been twenty. She was slightly older, having been born on 12th February 1805, the daughter of George and Christina Cox, who registered the birth at the Lower Meeting House. The births of four of John and Sarah's children were registered on 28th July 1837 at Dr Williams's Library, which was then at Red Cross Street, Cripplegate, London. Both parents signed the register as did the grandmother, spelling her name Katharine. From those entries, numbers 16393 to 16396, comes the added information that Sarah's father George Cox was a weaver.¹⁶

Those children were: **John born 30 Nov 1829**
Mary Ann b 9 Nov 1831
Emma b 16 Aug 1834
Catherine b 15 May 1837, all born at Amersham.

As already noted, in 1841 the couple were in Whielden Street and still part of John's parents' household. They then moved with them to Coleshill Green and were enumerated there in 1851. By that time only the two younger daughters, Emma, 16, and Catherine, 13, were still at home.

Possibly Sampson's sons had moved to Coleshill simply to support their father since by April 1861 both Samuel and John are back in Amersham and can be found next to the Wheat Sheaf Inn in Bury End.

John's address in the 1861 census was London Road, Amersham and he was being looked after by his daughter Emma, aged 26 and a dressmaker while Mary Ann and her mother Sarah, described as a nurse, are in Frogmore Street, Tring, looking after 70 year-old Rachel Honour. In 1871 John, aged 64, was still living at Bury End, and is still next door to his brother Samuel. John's wife Sarah is now 65. Their daughter Emma, 36, remained at home and continued to make dresses. At this stage John was employing 8 men and 2 boys in his chairmaking enterprise.

By 1881 Sarah is living in Amersham High Street with another daughter Mary Ann and a visitor from London, 8 year-old Henry Pollyn. Although 76, Sarah is working as a lacemaker while Mary Ann is a needlewoman. Sarah is recorded as a widow, but it was not possible to find John's death in the GRO Indexes for the Amersham area. The nearest match for name and age was a death in Islington in 1873 Q2. As some family members were living there it seemed worth sending for the death certificate. This showed that John, a chair manufacturer, died on 23 June 1873 at Highbury Terrace Mews, aged 66, of dropsy caused by liver disease. The death was declared by **John Gamblin** of the same address who was married to John's daughter Catherine.

Sarah died in Amersham in the second quarter of 1886, aged 81.

¹⁶ The National Archives RG 4/156/399

Children of John Toovey and Sarah Cox

John Toovey (1829-1882)
 Mary Ann (1831-1895)
 Emma (1834-1895)
 Catherine (1837-1891)

John Toovey (1829-1882)

John's son John was born, as already noted, on 30th November 1829. In 1841 he is with his parents and grandparents in Amersham. In 1851, instead of moving to Coleshill with the rest of the family, he is described as a lodger and servant living in the High Street with the family of **James Line**, a wheelwright. Four years later he married, according to the GRO Index for 1855, **Sarah Ann Mines**. This may be an error as her name is usually given in the censuses as Sarah J or **Sarah Jane**. She was born in Henley and was between 3 and 5 years older than John.

In 1861 they are running a beer house in Winchmore Hill and their first three children have been born in Coleshill. They are

John Walter Albert Eugene Toovey born in 1856
Clement Thomas Mines born 1858
Christopher Ernest born 1859.

As well as having a beer house John is a pot manufacturer employing 8 men and 3 boys. He was not the only person to live there and combine the two jobs. There is a suggestion that he may have succeeded **Emmanuel Pratley**, who is listed in the 1854 Kelly's Directory as potter and beer retailer, but was no longer there in 1861.¹⁷ The venture did not last long. Described as a potter and beer seller John was listed as insolvent and he was summoned to a court hearing in Chesham on 23rd September for his affairs to be examined (*London Gazette*, 10 Sep 1861, p 3689).

Assignee of the estate and effects of the said insolvent.

WHEREAS a Petition of John Toovey the younger, of Winchmore-hill, in the hamlet or parish of Coleshill, in the county of Hertford, Potter and Beer Seller, an insolvent debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Buckinghamshire, at Chesham, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said John Toovey, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said John Toovey, is hereby required to appear before the said Court, on the 23rd day of September instant, at twelve of the clock at noon precisely, for his first examination touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said Statutes; and the choice of the creditors' assignees is to take place at the time so appointed. All persons indebted to the said John Toovey, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. J. D. Francis, Registrar of the said Court, at his office, at Chesham, the Official Assignee of the estate and effects of the said insolvent.

WHEREAS a Petition of Thomas Harrison now and for three months last past residing at No. 99 Cleve-

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¹⁷ M Farley & B Hurman, 'Buckinghamshire Pots, Potters and Potteries, c.1200-1910' in *Records of Bucks*, Vol 55, 2015, p178. See also p 173 which

Has an image of the Potters' Arms and adjacent kiln at Winchmore Hill, now demolished.

The 1871 census finds the family in Winchmore Hill Cottage, next to the Wesleyan Chapel. This was built in 1861 in Fagnall Lane. The two younger boys are at school, but they have acquired two sisters, **Beatrice** and **Elizabeth**. John and John Walter are working as hawkers while Sarah Jane contributes by dressmaking. Although it does not say so, it may well be that they are now hawking pots, as fourteen pot hawkers were working out of the Coleshill/Winchmore Hill area in 1861.

By 1881 John and his family are back in Amersham, in Whielden Street, where he is working as a Life Assurance agent. Clement is a baker, but unemployed. He would go on to have a baker's shop in Whielden Street and Amersham Museum has a number of photos of him. Elizabeth, aged 14, is an errand girl. Mary, born just after the previous census, is still at school.

John, aged only about 53, died on 20th December 1882, leaving £129 and 16 shillings. He had had a varied career in contrast to many other members of the family who continued to make or sell furniture. Although he died fairly young, his youngest child had almost reached the age at which she could earn some money. Confusingly the GRO Index gives his death at death as 63, but combining the information from the census and the National Probate Calendar shows that to be an error.

Children of John Toovey and Sarah Jane Mines

John Walter Albert Eugene Toovey (1856-1923)
Clement Thomas Mines Toovey (1858-1947)
Christopher Ernest Toovey (1859-1919)
Arema Beatrice (1863-1890)
Elizabeth Julia Emma Toovey (1866-1929?)
Mary Jane (1871-1917)

John Walter Albert Eugene Toovey (1856-1923)

As the eldest child in a family struggling to make its way, John was already a hawker in 1871 at the age of 14. The enumerator does not specify what was being hawked, but it seems very likely that he and his father were hawking pots made in the Colsehill area.

In 1878, aged about 22, John married **Emily Lee** and in 1880 a child, **George Walter**, was born to them in the Uxbridge area. In the same quarter as the birth was registered, both mother and child died, Emily in Uxbridge and George Walter in Amersham. Emily had succumbed on 27 April 1880 at Gents Yard, Uxbridge, to phthisis (pulmonary tuberculosis) from which she had been suffering for four and a half months. Robert Woods and Nicola Shelton comment that: 'Victorian reports on phthisis regularly mention the link between maternal deaths and the incidence of tuberculosis.....It now seems more likely that the exertions of labour may have accelerated the development of tuberculous lesions in the lungs of those females already infected.'¹⁸ Whatever the cause, the death of this 22 year-old mother would have left the father with considerable practical difficulties to overcome in trying to rear his newborn son. Little George Walter must have been taken to Amersham and perhaps a wet-nurse found for him. He died in Whielden Street on 14 May 1880, aged ten weeks, which means that his mother must have given birth to him near the beginning of March. The cause of death was given as 'Tuberculosis Intestine 1 month, Exhaustion 5 days' and so the same disease claimed both mother and son. The death was declared by Mary Ann Toovey, the child's great-aunt, who was living in the High Street, Amersham. She seems to have done quite a lot of nursing, so may have had a role in trying to help the baby survive.

Towards the end of the same year, on 19th December 1880, at the Wesleyan Chapel in Uxbridge, John married **Mary Elizabeth**, the second daughter of Mr **James Taylor** of Chalfont St Peter (*Bucks Herald*, 1 Jan 1881).

It took prolonged searching to unearth him with his new wife in Gents Passage, High Street, Uxbridge, in the 1881 census. Now aged 24 he is working as a grocer's warehouseman and his wife, 23, was born in Chalfont St Peter. The surname was written as 'Tovey' and transcribed as 'Toney', Mary Elizabeth appears as 'Mary A'.

On the night of the next census he was away from home, visiting his brother **Clement** in Amersham. Another brother, **Christopher Ernest**, is either visiting or staying with Mary Elizabeth at 1 Chapel Street, Uxbridge in John's absence and the enumerator has listed John's wife and children as his.

Both John and Mary Elizabeth are shown as greengrocers. They have three living children: **Mary Hilda** aged 9, **John Paterson**, 5, and **Emily Mabel**, ten months old. Emily died in 1892. Two more daughters were born: **Edith Kate** in 1892 and **Alice Mabel** in 1894. Alice

¹⁸ R Woods & N Shelton, *An Atlas of Victorian Mortality*, Liverpool University Press, 1997, p 107.

was only just one when her mother died, leaving John for the second time a widower and this time in charge of four children. It probably accounts for Alice Mabel being adopted by cousins in Islington. **Henry John Gamblin** was the son of John's aunt Catherine who had married John Gamblin. He and his wife had no children of their own but Alice Mabel can be found with them in 1901 and 1911.

In 1899 John took as his third wife **Augusta Elizabeth Hall** and for the next two censuses they were living at 10 Baker's Yard, Uxbridge. John was successively a job master (hotel) and then a general dealer. As a jobmaster he may have been hiring out horses and conveyances. In 1901 his son and daughter John and Edith are with them, but in 1911 only Edith, aged 19 and with no occupation specified, is left.

In 1921 the couple are at 1 Union Place, York Road, Uxbridge and in 1923 John died aged about 66. Augusta lived on until 8 June 1944, when she died aged 79 at 20 Heath Road, Hillingdon. She seems to have had no children by John, although she was about nine years younger than him and would have been around 32 when they married. She was born in Iver, Bucks, on 1 December 1867 and the probate of her father's Will held by the London Metropolitan Archives¹⁹ gives some information about the family. The Will of John Hall of Cowley, baker, was proved on 7 July 1911. It mentions six children, George, Charles, Jane, Mary, Sarah and Augusta. She was left a field and four cottages at Iver Heath for life, after which they were to be sold and the money put in a trust for her children, so it looks as though she would have had some income of her own.

¹⁹ LMA ACC/538/2nd dep/5422

Children of John Walter Albert Eugene Toovey and Mary Elizabeth Taylor

Mary Hilda Toovey (1881-)

The oldest child of her father's second marriage, she was 9 in 1891, but is no longer with the family in 1901. In 1911 she is in service with the Galbraith family at 82 Conway Road, Southgate. It is not clear what happened to her subsequently.

Children of John Walter Albert Eugene Toovey and Mary Elizabeth Taylor

John Paterson Toovey (1885-1942)

John was living with his father and stepmother in 1901 when, aged 15, he was a grocer's porter. In 1914 he married **May Mitchell** in Uxbridge.

There is a strong likelihood that he served in the armed forces in WW1 because 'Toovey JP' is included in an online *List of Men from Providence, Old Meeting and Uxbridge Wesleyan Church who Served in the First World War and Survived*. Unfortunately medal cards often do not include a second initial and there are too many possibilities to be sure of making a proper identification.

In 1939 he can be found at 19 Manor Waye, Uxbridge, birth-date 26 June 1885. He is employed as a servant to an RAF Officer. This might perhaps imply that he had earlier served as an airman. Searching the AIR records at TNA did not produce any leads, but the RAF was only formed on 1 April 1918 and before that many airmen were seconded to the Royal Flying Corps from army regiments or to the Royal Naval Air Service from various branches of the Royal Navy, so again there was no clue about which unit he may have been with.

His wife May, born 28 June 1885, is in the household and also **Arthur John P Toovey**, an apprentice sheet metal worker. He appears to be their only child. In 1942 he married **Dorothy B Paget** and he probably died in Bracknell in 1995. There is a probable death entry for his mother May in Ealing in 1961.

Children of John Walter Albert Eugene Toovey and Mary Elizabeth Taylor

Emily Mabel Toovey (1890-1892)

Emily appeared in the 1891 census aged 10 months, but died the following year.

Children of John Walter Albert Eugene Toovey and Mary Elizabeth Taylor

Edith Kate Toovey (1892-1972)

Edith was the last of the brood to leave home and can be found with her father and stepmother at 10 Baker's Yard in 1911. Although she is 19, no occupation is given for her.

Six years later, so aged about 25, she married **William James Froud**, who was involved in the furniture trade. In 1939 they were living at 20 Heath Road, Hillingdon. Edith's birth-date is 2 April 1892 and William's is very close to that — 8 April 1892. He is now an upholsterer's journeyman and charge hand dealing with furniture. He had been baptised on 24 July 1892 at St John the Evangelist, Stoke next Guildford, the son of David and Minnie Elizabeth Froud. William's brother **George Alfred Froud** who was baptised on 24 May, 1903, at the same church, married **Hilda Grace Toovey**, daughter of **Clement Thomas Mines Toovey**, in 1930.

Living with them is John's third wife Augusta, Edith's stepmother. She was born on 1 Dec 1867, so is now over 70. The Register lists her both as being 'incapacitated' and as employed on 'unpaid domestic duties', a label that seems to be attached to any grown woman without a job title. She remained with Edith and William at the same address until her death on 8 June 1944 and William James Froud was executor of her Will.

Edith died in 1972 and William in 1976, both in the Hillingdon area.

Children of John Walter Albert Eugene Toovey and Mary Elizabeth Taylor

Alice Mabel Toovey (1894-1980)

Alice was the last child to be born to John and Mary Elizabeth. She was born on 9 August 1894 at 138 High Street, Uxbridge, and her mother, Mary Elizabeth Toovey, registered the birth. John was recorded as a greengrocer (Master), meaning that he was an employer. Alice's mother died when she was just over a year old and she was adopted and brought up by relatives. **Henry John Gamblin** was the son of John's aunt Catherine who had married **John Gamblin**. He and his wife, **Charlotte Louisa Harrington**, had no children of their own but Alice Mabel can be found with them in 1901 and in 1911, by which time she was aged 16 and working as a junior Board of Trade clerk at the Labour Exchange.

Although she was recorded in the 1901 and 1911 census under the surname of her birth, Toovey, no further trace of her could be uncovered under that name. Searching under her adoptive parents' surname, however, produced a marriage to **Frank Winkworth Gibbs** in 1916 in Islington. Alice and Frank Gibbs were then found in the 1939 Register. Her birth-date was given as 9 August 1894, Frank's as 25 March 1889, and he is a civil servant working for the Ministry of Labour, a ministry which would play a key role in WW2. Alice had worked at the Labour Exchange, which may explain how they first met. To clinch the identification they are living at 79 Selbourne Road, Southgate with Henry and Charlotte Gamblin.

They have a daughter **Phyllis M Gibbs**, born 6 January 1918, a qualified chiropodist, and another civil servant Mary L Hardern appears to be lodging there.

Frank died at the Highlands Hospital in Southgate on 12 September 1962, still resident at 79 Selbourne Road and aged 73. Alice Mabel survived him until 1980 and died at the age of 86.

Children of John Toovey and Sarah Jane Mines

Clement Thomas Mines Toovey (1858-1947)

Born on 24 February 1858, Clement was still at school in 1871, so it is not until 1881 that we can see what direction in life he is taking. He is an unemployed baker of 23 living at home with his parents in Whielden Street, Amersham. His great-aunt Ann had married Joseph Deeley, a baker in Chesham and although Joseph died in 1882, it is possible his choice of career was influenced by the family connection.

He seems to have had other interests too, for in 1886 he rented a three-acre plot from Mr T T Drake, who had decided to divide up the Union field and offer them to local people at 25 shillings per acre. Tithes and rates were not to be paid by the tenants, so that effectively the cost was reduced to between 18 and 19 shillings per acre (*Bucks Herald*, 20 March 1886).

By 1891 he has a baker's shop next to the Nag's Head pub in Whielden Street and a wife and family as well. He had married **Priscilla Jane Bates**, who was born in Lane End, in 1883 and their first four children, all boys, are listed: **John** aged 7, **Percy** 5, **Sydney** 3 and **Stanley** 1. Staying with them is Clement's brother John, aged 34, a greengrocer from Uxbridge.

By 1901 they are still next to the Nag's Head, but the road is called Union Street. Percy, 15, is earning money as a telegraph messenger. Sidney and Stanley have been joined by **Maurice**, 8, and the only girl, **Hilda** aged 6.

A number of photographs survive of Clement Toovey and his shop and one shows him sitting in the two-wheeled trap used for deliveries. One of the horses he owned featured in an article in the *Bucks Herald* of 7 May 1904:

'Accident at the Sewerage Works.- Nearly every labourer in Amersham knows what sewerage work is by now, but only those at present engaged on the short length in Church-street know what it is to remove a horse from a trench. Such an experience was given them on Friday last week, when the horse of Mr. C. Toovey, baker, while crossing the planks to its stable fell into the trench through the planks being of insufficient width. The horse received injuries through the fall which have rendered it unfit for work for a time. The contractor is providing Mr. Toovey with another horse in the meantime.'

1911 finds Clement aged 53 and Jane 48. They have been married 28 years and had 6 children, all still living. Three are still at home; Stanley, 21, a wheelwright; Maurice, 16, a milkman and Hilda, 16. No doubt there was plenty of work to occupy her around the bakery and the house, especially as her parents have taken in two young boarders, Gertrude and Sidney Smith, aged 8 and 6, born in South Croydon.

The *Bucks Herald* of 24 September 1910 reported an Amersham parish meeting which had been called to consider building an Elementary School at Winchmore Hill. Clement Toovey seconded the proposition. The Rector suggested as an amendment that instead of a separate school, transport should be provided for the children, but the original proposal was carried. The triumph was short-lived as local opposition proved to be too strong.

Jane died aged 72 on 11 November 1934 in Union Street and her son George Sydney, cabinet maker, was named as her executor. She was buried in The Platt Cemetery, Amersham.

In 1939 Clement was staying with his married daughter Hilda Grace in Weybridge. The Register gives his birthday, 24 February 1858, and tells us he is a retired baker and an invalid.

He appears to have belonged to the Ancient Order of Foresters and to the Brotherhood Movement, probably the Baptist Brotherhood whose aims were good fellowship, spiritual development and social betterment. The latter had a fund-raising event once a year in favour of the hospital (*Bucks Herald* 24 June 1932 and 12 June 1931).

Referring to him as 'Mr Clementine Toovey, a 78 year-old baker of Amersham', the *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* of 24 August 1935 noted that he was still using a gold watch 253 years old, which was supposed to have belonged to his great-great-great-grandfather. In 43 years he had only had to spend twopence on it.

He died in Amersham in 1947 and was also buried in The Platt Cemetery.

Children of Clement Thomas Mines Toovey and Priscilla Jane Bates

1 John Clement Toovey (1884-1972)

The first child of the family, John Clement was born in a leap year on 29 February 1884, so technically could only celebrate his birthday every four years. By 1901 he had already moved out of the family home and was in lodgings working as a bread baker aged 17 in West Wycombe.

In 1906 he married **Alice Eliza Brion** and by 1911 they were living at 32 Denmark Hill, High Wycombe, with one son **Horace** born in 1909. In 1913 a sibling, **Lewis Toovey**, would be added to the family.

Horace was not the couple's first son. In 1907 **Norman John Clement Frederick** had been born. One morning in late October 1908 John Clement was working in his bakehouse when the toddler, aged 16 months, came in with a message. 'Tea, Daddy' meant that his father's breakfast was ready. His father had just drawn off some boiling water into a tub on the floor. He turned to make certain that all the bread was out of the oven and in that instant he heard a scream as the child fell backwards into the boiling water. His father snatched him out and carried him into the kitchen where he and the child's grandmother **Elizabeth Brion** cut off his clothing and covered his scalded skin with flour and linseed oil. Dr Fleck was immediately sent for and his assistant Dr Ernest Routley arrived quickly and did everything possible. He re-dressed the injuries and continued to attend him until ten o'clock the following morning when the child died of shock and an accumulation of fluid in the lungs and on the brain. An inquest was held by the coroner Mr Charsley and reported in the *South Bucks Standard* of 6 Nov 1908. At this point the family was in Newlands Street. They perhaps moved to Denmark Street to get away from the scene of such a horrific accident. It transpired that the family was insured with the London and Manchester Industrial Insurance Company.

During the First World War John became a member of the RAMC and is listed as such in the *Absent Voters' List* of 1918. Familysearch²⁰ adds that he was no 59968 in the 35th Company.²¹

The marriage did not work out well, for in 1920 John Clement petitioned for divorce, citing Frank Gray as co-respondent.²² It is possible that John's absence from home while in the RAMC contributed to the break-up and he may also have been very much changed by the experience of war. Lewis would have been about 7 and Horace 11 when their parents split up. In 1939 their mother Alice Eliza, born 10 Nov 1885, is still in the family home, 32 Denmark Street, but with her new husband, **Frank S Gray**, a butcher's assistant born on 30 June 1887. With her is her son Lewis Toovey, born 23 Dec 1912, and his sister-in-law,

²⁰ www.familysearch.org

²¹ The source is WO 364 at the National Archives. It is alternatively accessible at Family History Centres run by the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints as film no 007283008, image 00996. If he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps as a conscientious objector there may be some mention of it in the local press. Records of almost all the local Appeals Tribunals, before which such a case would have been heard were destroyed. How much of the Tribunal's deliberations got reported depended very much on local editorial attitudes.

²² National Archives, J 77/1600/9656

Gladys Evelyn Toovey, née Taylor, born 5 Sep 1910. Gladys's husband Horace Toovey cannot be found, so may possibly be in the forces. Lewis, an upholsterer, married later that year **Doris Winifred West**.²³ Also with them is an upholsteress, **Olive A Gray**, born on 23 Nov 1920. Her birth was registered under the surname Brion.

John Clement seems to have moved away and lived in Kensington for a while and in 1934 is at 134 Kensington Park Road. He, too, remarried soon after the divorce and in 1921 **Rose Morris** became his second wife. By 1939 they have moved back to the High Wycombe area and are living at Rose Marie, Green Street, Hazelmere. John Clement is still baking bread. Rose was born on 9 July 1887 and living with them is a widow **Marie Sandheim**, born in August 1851.

John Clement died in the Amersham area in 1972, so lived very nearly as long as his sons. Horace died the following year and Lewis in 1974. Rose also died in 1974, on 24 January.

²³ Doris W West appears in the 1939 Register at 34 Victoria Street, High Wycombe and is working in an assembly shop (engineering). Her date of birth is startlingly given as 9 March 1875. Her maiden name West has been replaced by Toovey, so this must be the right Doris W West. Her entry in the Index of Deaths for 1983 gives her year of birth as 1915, which leads to an entry in the Index of Births for the first quarter of 1915 in Wycombe for a Doris W West with her mother's maiden name given as Lane. In the 1939 Register years of birth are recorded by only two digits and what seems to have happened is that '15' has been written to look like '75'.

Children of Clement Thomas Mines Toovey and Priscilla Jane Bates

Walter Percy Toovey (1886-1966)

Walter Percy's first job was a telegraph messenger in Amersham in 1901. Ten years later he had moved to 35A Alexandra Road, Northamptonshire and was a hairdresser. He has a wife, **Elsie May née Plumridge**, aged 24 and born in High Wycombe. The marriage has lasted two years and produced one child born in Northampton in 1910; **Eric Percy Toovey**, aged six months.

An article in the *Northampton Mercury* of 22 March 1918 mentions that Walter P Toovey had a hairdresser's shop at 48 Sheep Street. The item was about a meeting of the Appeals Tribunal dealing with conscription during the First World War. The military representative on the Tribunal was complaining about the exemption of three of the town's hairdressers, alleging that, although of military age, they had refused to hand over their businesses to be conducted by others. Toovey and McLellan were cleared of refusing to co-operate and their exemption was maintained. It was stated that of the town's 80 hairdressing establishments, only 44 were still functioning. Walter Percy was said to be 31 and rated grade 2. It is possible he escaped conscription altogether.

No further births to a Toovey/Plumridge pairing show up after 1911 and the marriage may not have been a happy one as Elsie May sued for divorce in 1933.²⁴ In 1939 Walter Percy, by then a master hairdresser, can be found at 9 Oakey Grove, Liverpool, with his second wife Minnie, born on 12 Dec 1893. The marriage took place in 1934 and she must have been previously married as the event is registered under two surnames, Grimmer or Hill.

His son Eric, however, born on 9 September 1910, has returned to High Wycombe and in 1939 is living at 101 Abercromby Avenue, where he is working as a furniture upholsterer. In 1931 he had married **Hilda Florence Barry**, born on 13 Oct 1910.

Walter Percy remained in the Liverpool area and died there in 1966.

Eric Percy Toovey, still of 101 Abercrombie Avenue, High Wycombe, died on 16 October 1974.

²⁴ National Archives, J 77/3247/9361

Children of Clement Thomas Mines Toovey and Priscilla Jane Bates

George Sidney Toovey (1888-1952)

He was aged 13 and living in the baker's shop in Union Street in 1901. In 1911 he had moved to Coventry and was one of widow Emily Gibbins's boarders and working as a carpenter and joiner. The following year, back in the Amersham area, he married **Lillie Worley**. No Toovey/Worley births have been found.

The couple could not be found in the 1939 Register, but George was described as a cabinet maker when his mother's Will was listed in the National Probate Calendar in 1934.

He died in 1952 and lies buried in The Platt Cemetery, Amersham, as does Lillie who lived on until 1974. The Probate Calendar has an entry in 1975 for 'Axten, Lillie, or Toovey, Lillie, of Dormers, Holmer Green, Hazlemere' who died on 16 December 1974. This may tie in with the marriage of a Lillie Toovey to John T Axten in 1956, but without obtaining the marriage certificates and Will it is impossible to be sure.

Children of Clement Thomas Mines Toovey and Priscilla Jane Bates

Stanley Ernest Toovey (1890-1958)

Stanley Ernest was born on 14 March 1890. In 1911 he was still living with his parents at the bakery in Whielden Street, Amersham, and was a wheelwright, so is following the Toovey family tradition by being a skilled woodworker. In the next few decades motor transport and metal wheels gradually replaced horse transport and wooden wheels and it is not surprising that by 1939 he had taken up a different trade and was a decorator. He had married in 1913 **Eliza J W Smith** and she appears with him at Hatherop, London Road. An announcement in the *Bucks Herald* of 31 May 1913 reveals that the marriage had taken place on 12 May at the Hinton Chapel in Chesham. Eliza was the eldest daughter of Mr W H Smith of Hatherop in Gloucestershire, which explains the name given to the house. The name is still being used for 11 Chequers Hill, Amersham. Eliza was born on 16 November 1894 and in 1911 was living with an aunt, Agnes Harris, a widow of 40, at Green Lane Cottages, Plantation Road, Amersham Common. Both were engaged on laundry work. Eliza must only have been about 18 when she married.

It was at Hatherop, Chequers Hill, that Stanley Ernest died on 31 May 1958. He chose his brother Henry Maurice as executor. On 30 July 1965 **Eliza Jane Willis Toovey** of the same address died at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading and her Will was proved by her son.

The couple had one child, **Clement William Stanley Toovey**, born on 8 February 1914. In 1939 he is a printer's compositor living at 16 Highfield Road, Chesham, with his bride **Clara née Allen** whom he had married in 1938. A later marriage is also recorded for him in 1949, to **Brenda Gurney Axten**.

On 14 June 1974 Clement William Stanley Toovey died at the house which had belonged to his parents, Hatherop, 11 Chequers Hill, Amersham, and was cremated at the Chilterns Crematorium. He is commemorated at The Platt Cemetery, Amersham.

Children of Clement Thomas Mines Toovey and Priscilla Jane Bates

Henry Maurice Toovey (1893-1990)

The 1911 census implies that within the family he was called Maurice. Aged 18, he was already a milkman and seems to have stuck to the same job throughout his working life. It is possible that this was not the case as the medal roll of the Royal Garrison Artillery includes details of Gunner 83210 Toovey, Maurice Henry, being awarded the Victory and British War Medals. While it is impossible to prove from such scant information that this was 'our' Maurice, a search for a Maurice Henry Toovey in the GRO births Index produced a blank.

In 1920 he was living at 94 Hallowell Road, Ruislip and in 1925 he married **Agnes Emma Jenkins**. They and their son **Dennis Frederick C Toovey** can be found at 103 Hallowell Road. Maurice is a milk salesman born on 8 March 1893. Emma is several years younger, having been born on 22 August 1900. Dennis is still at school, having been born on 10 August 1926, the year of the General Strike.

Despite being younger Emma died first, aged 77 in 1978. Maurice went on to the exceptional age of 97, so is possibly the longest-lived male descendant of Sampson Toovey.

Dennis married in 1949 **Pauline Janet Smith**. In 1962 they were living still in Ruislip at 94 Haydon Drive, but both died in Hampshire, Dennis in 1994 and Pauline in 1998.

Children of Clement Thomas Mines Toovey and Priscilla Jane Bates

Hilda Grace Toovey (1895-1962)

Hilda was born on 23 March 1895, the sixth and last child and the only girl. She was 16 in 1911 and no occupation was shown for her. She perhaps had plenty to do at home.

In 1930 she married **George Alfred Froud**, born on 17 December 1902. In 1939 they are living at Amerford, Brooklands Road, Weybridge. He had a job which was no doubt vital for the war effort as Inspector of Aircraft at the Vickers Armstrong works in Weybridge. Hilda's invalid father Clement is staying with them, but by 1947 was back in Amersham. No children are evident. They appear to have had a boy, **William B Froud**, born in 1920 only to die the following year.

George Alfred Froud was baptised on 24 May, 1903, at St John the Evangelist, Stoke next Guildford, the son of **David James Froud** and **Minnie Elizabeth Pickett**, so is a brother of **William James Froud** who married **Edith Kate Toovey** of Uxbridge in 1917.

Hilda remained in Surrey and died there on 30 July 1962, aged 67. George Alfred died the following year on 3 April 1963. Both deaths took place in St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey, and the home address was 79 Brooklands Road, Weybridge. George Alfred chose as executor of his Will his brother William James.

Children of John Toovey and Sarah Jane Mines

Christopher Ernest Toovey (1859-1919)

The first census to give any impression of the direction Christopher's life might be taking finds him not in Coleshill in 1881 with the rest of the family, but a general labourer aged 21 living in Islington and staying with his aunt **Catherine**, who had married **John Gamblin**. John was responsible for the maintenance of the Chapel on Highbury Hill and it is possible that Christopher picked up some work through him.

He did not remain in London, but in 1891 was back in Uxbridge working as a coachman. The enumerator lists him as the husband of **Mary Elizabeth Toovey** of 1 Chapel Street and father of their three children. In fact this is his brother's family and the real husband and father, **John Walter Toovey**, is visiting their brother **Clement** in Amersham. Coach-driving is not an easy skill to pick up and it is possible that his time with John Gamblin was influential in this choice of career. John himself, so far as we can gather from the censuses, was occupied largely with gardening and property maintenance, but his father Henry had been a coachman and his son Henry John was a carman and contractor in 1901, which implies that he had a delivery vehicle of some sort and one or more horses to draw it. Motor transport had not yet become common.

Christopher married on 24 March 1894 aged 29, taking as his bride **Minnie King**, of Chequers Yard, Uxbridge, a servant and daughter of **Henry King**, labourer. Christopher gave his address as High Street, Uxbridge, and the occupation of his father John Toovey as schoolmaster.

Seven years later, in 1901, they are living at 31 Belmont Road, West Hillingdon, and have three children, **Christopher L** aged 5, **Margaret M** [registered as **May Arema Minnie**], 3, and **Rowland W**, 2. In 1911 Christopher's job is unchanged, their address is 1 Belmont Cottages, Uxbridge, and Christopher, 15, May, 13, and Wallace, 12, have been joined by **Harold** aged 9, **Eva** 7 and **Dorothy**, 4. The marriage has lasted 17 years and produced 6 children, all still living.

When his daughter May married in 1916, her address was 2 Downton Villas, Harefield Road and her father's occupation was given as gardener.

Christopher Ernest Toovey died in 1919 and his wife Minnie probably died in 1946. Christopher would have seen the beginnings of the replacement of horsepower by the internal combustion engine.

Children of Christopher Ernest Toovey and Minnie King

Christopher Llewellyn (1896-1964)

In 1911 Christopher Llewellyn was an apprentice in a furniture shop and so following the family traditions. Whatever career he may have had in mind must have been set aside when war came.

He joined the Middlesex Regiment and as no 2857 in the 2/8 battalion landed in Egypt on 24 Aug 1915. He was made Lance-Corporal and ended the war as a Sergeant, no 554532, with the 16th Battalion of the London Regiment, to which he had been transferred on 9 September 1916. The medal card notes that he was awarded the British War and Victory Medals and the 1915 Star. He was also on the Silver War Badge list and was issued with badge no B341953 when he was discharged from the Army under para 392 of King's Regulations on 8 August 1919. This was given to men who had served in the forces to display when wearing civilian clothing. He was listed among the wounded in *The Times* of 19 Oct 1916, p 5, as 'Toovey 8815 Cpl C.L.'. According to the Medal Roll he only had this number between the 9th and 14th of September 1916. 'Toovey L' on the *List of Men from Providence, Old Meeting and Uxbridge Wesleyan Church who Served in WW1 and Survived* presumably refers to him.

In 1920 he married **Elsie Miller**. She was the key to finding the couple in the 1939 Register as Christopher's name could not be deciphered and the surname had been mangled, so that he was indexed (most unfairly, no doubt) as '??? Looney'. He was a sales manager at the General Fabricated Steel Engineering Works, then occupied in producing tanks. He was born on 2 Jan 1896 and Elsie on 8 Apr 1892. Their daughter **Peggy** is assistant to a printer and working on binding. There are two further blocked entries.

In 1945 Christopher and Elsie continued to live at the same address, 84 Harefield Road, not far from his widowed mother **Minnie** who, at no 131, is sharing a house with her daughter **Arema May** and granddaughter **Arema Eileen Webb**.

Christopher died on 5 January 1964 at Hillingdon Hospital, his address given as 84 Chiltern View Road, Uxbridge, leaving Elsie a widow. She appears to have survived him by five years.

Peggy married in 1948 **Donald W Robinson**.

Children of Christopher Ernest Toovey and Minnie King

May Arema Minnie Toovey (1897-1963?)

Born on 9 September 1897, May was too young to have an occupation in 1911. Nor was one shown when she married on her eighteenth birthday in 1916. The bridegroom was **Percy George Bailes**, 21, a Canadian soldier based at that point at Shorncliffe Barracks, Kent. The marriage was by banns at St Andrews Church, Hillingdon West, but neither witness was from the Toovey family.

In 1934 May Bailes is listed on the electoral rolls living with her sister Dorothy Mildred Toovey and her mother Minnie at 64 Harefield Road, Hillingdon West Ward, Uxbridge, only a few doors away from her brother Christopher. There is a possible death entry in 1963 in Surrey, which has not been followed up, but she appears for the last time on the Uxbridge electoral roll for 1964 at 93 Harefield Road.

It appears that there was one child of this marriage, **Arema E Bailes**, born in the last quarter of 1917 in the Uxbridge area.

It looked as though the father might have disappeared because he was killed in the war, yet no likely death was listed on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website. **Percy George Bailes** proved to have a rather complicated history, to which the military records were the key. Born in the first quarter of 1896 according to the GRO Index, he was the son of **George Bailes**, a 21 year-old cook, and **Mary Ann Saunders**, who married on 11 June 1894 in Christ Church, Marylebone. With his date of birth specified as 20 January 1896, he was baptised on the 23rd, the address being given as 28 Lowfield Road, West Hampstead, and his father was working as a porter. It looks as though this early baptism was privately performed, probably because the baby's life was in danger, since on 24 January 1897 he is again entered into the baptism register of St Marylebone, with the entry marked 'Received', thus completing his admission into the church. The family are living at 21 Walmer Street and his father is a grocer's porter. The child's date of birth is given as 20 January 1897, which is out by a year compared to the other records.

His father died in 1898 and on 18 April 1899 he started at Bell Street School aged just 3. This perhaps enabled his widowed mother to go out to work. In the third quarter of that year she married Owen Sheeren²⁵, a journeyman tailor, in Leeds, and the family can be found in 1901 at 7 Upper Greystone Street, Headingley cum Burley, Leeds. Percy Sheeren, as he is now listed, has a sister **Maud**, aged 1. The Bell Street School register shows that he re-entered under his new surname on 3 November 1908, when he was living at 16 Christ Church Buildings. He had previously attended Burley Lawn School, Leeds, and left Bell Street on 28 January 1910. For the 1911 census the family, including Maud, was at 18 Walmer Street, Marylebone. 15 year-old Percy was a conductor for the Vanguard Omnibus Company.

He enlisted as Percy George Bailes in the West Yorkshire Regiment, service number 9830, in November 1912, but was turfed out after only 61 days when they realised he was under age at 16 years 11 months. His next move was to join the Territorials, becoming no 1262 of the 3rd Battalion City of London regiment (Royal Fusiliers), but this time as Percy George Shearon. Having previously been an outdoor porter, he is now a porter working for James Shoolbred, a renowned furniture maker of Tottenham Court Road. When war broke out he

²⁵ A probable death for George Bailes, aged 24, can be found in Wandsworth in 1898. There is a marriage for Owen Sheeren and *Annie* Bailes in Leeds in 1899.

enlisted for a third time in Canada on 23 September 1914 at Valcartier as **George Bailes** giving his date of birth as 20 January 1894 and became soldier no 24682 of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He was working as a packer and cited two years' previous military experience with the Royal Fusiliers.

What ties all these attestations together are the details of next of kin, his mother Mrs Mary Shearon and stepfather Owen living at 25 Walmer Street, Sycamore Place, Marylebone, plus a tattoo on his right forearm which is mentioned at all three army medicals. This was the figure of a woman with a scroll bearing the name 'May'. It is possible, therefore, that he and May Toovey had been acquainted for some time.

Three attestations, although unusual, were not enough. On 25 April 1942 George Bailes, aged 46, born on 20 January 1896, living at 3508 Burnet Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio, and working for the King Machine & Tool Company, once again was registered for military service. His medical disclosed a gunshot wound on the left side of his body and a tattoo on his right forearm, but frustratingly no details of the artwork were recorded! His height is similar to earlier attestations.

The mention of a gunshot wound meant that he might have featured in the War Office Casualty Lists which could then lead to his unit being identified. G Bailes 24682 duly appeared on 10 April 1915 as part of the 13th Infantry Battalion of the Canadian contingent. Assuming he stayed with this unit he would have returned to Canada on 18 April 1919 and been demobbed on the 20th.²⁶ Perhaps this is what kept him apart from his wife.

Findagrave has details of a George Bailes, born 20 Jan 1896, who died on 17 November 1974 and is buried in the Adath Israel Cemetery, Price Hill, Hamilton, Ohio, Section 2, Row B, grave 256. This may tie up with a 1930 census listing for a George Bailes aged 34 (so born *circa* 1896) in Cincinnati. He is married to Pauline, a Russian-born speaker of Yiddish. This could explain the burial in a Jewish cemetery, but two details do not quite fit. He is supposed to have arrived in the USA in 1910, although in 1911 he was in London²⁷, and he is an attorney, which is in contrast to other jobs associated with him. It is not impossible that he could have qualified, but this is not what other records might have led us to expect.

Searching for details of this marriage led not to one, but two. On 22 July 1924 George Bailes married **Florence Schone**, a nurse, daughter of Theodore and Katherine Gowert. George was an attorney at law and declared he had been previously married and divorced.²⁸ His marriage to **Pauline Keeti**, daughter of Meyer Keeti and Clara Bloom took place on 30 March 1930, the licence having been obtained on the 27th. While the previous wedding was a civil ceremony, this was performed by Rabbi Weinburg. George again declares that he has been once married and divorced.

He states on both occasions that his parents were George Bailes and Mary Saunders. For most of his life his mother Mary had borne the name of George's stepfather, Owen Shearan

²⁶ The personnel files for the 13th Battalion of Infantry are held by the Library and Archives Canada at RG 9, iii-B-1, Vol 980, file P-27-3.

²⁷ As we have seen, in 1911 named Percy Sheeren he was living with his mother Mary, stepfather Owen and half-sister Maud at 18 Walmer Place, Marylebone, and working, aged 15, as a conductor for the Vanguard Omnibus Company.

²⁸ No divorce from May Arema Minnie Toovey could be found in the J 77 series at the National Archives.

(with several different spellings). So does this check out? As has been noted George Bailes, a cook, aged 21, son of William Bailes, a carman (deceased), married 23 year-old Mary Ann Saunders, daughter of George Saunders (deceased), a painter, on 11 June 1894 at Christ Church, Marylebone. Their son George or Percy George Bailes is otherwise known as Percy G Sheeren, but overall there is enough evidence linking his various appearances under different names to a common strand centred on his mother Mary Ann Saunders then Bailes then Shearen whose details are cited to the various authorities who want them.

Arema Eileen Bailes (1917-2000)

She was born in 1917, the daughter of May Arema Minnie Toovey and Percy George Bailes, then serving with the Canadian Infantry. In the third quarter of 1939 she married **Percy W R Webb**, a ticket printer born on 28 May 1912, who was living at 22 Southfield Close, Uxbridge. The couple were still there in 1949. In 1945, however, Arema E Webb had appeared on the electoral roll in Harefield Road with her mother Arema May Bailes and grandmother Minnie Toovey.

Percy died in 1987 and the death of Arema Eileen Webb is recorded in Hillingdon in 2000 citing her date of birth as 25 September 1917.

Children of Christopher Ernest Toovey and Minnie King

Roland Wallace Toovey (1898-1960)

Although Roland Wallace's birth was registered in the first quarter of 1899, he was born on 5 Dec 1898. In the 1991 census he was listed as Wallas. Aged 12, he is still at school.

He would have been only just old enough to have served in WW1. Wallace Toovey was no 315388 in the 3/10 and 1/8 battalions of the Middlesex Regiment (The Duke of Cambridge's Own). He was awarded the British War and Victory Medals, and was promoted to Acting Corporal, but the medal card has no date when he might have arrived at the Front. His name is included on the *List of Men from Providence, Old Meeting and Uxbridge Wesleyan Church who Served in WW1 and Survived*.

In 1924 he married **Alice Rose Childerhouse** and in 1939 they can be found at 22 Manor Waye, Uxbridge. He is working as a wood-cutting machinist and is a part-time volunteer for the Auxiliary Fire Service, like his brother-in-law **Walter Ansell**. His wife's birth-date is 4 April 1900.

The 1950 Electoral register shows them still at 22 Manor Waye.

Roland appears to have died in 1960 in the Cheltenham area and Alice Rose possibly in 1995 in Glamorganshire.

Children of Christopher Ernest Toovey and Minnie King

Harold Toovey (1901-1954)

Harold was the only child whose birth was not registered in the first quarter of the year. The 1939 Register gives his birth-date as 8 July 1901 and he is a self-employed nurseryman living at 89 Datchet Road, Slough. When his sister May married in 1916 she put 'gardener' for their father's occupation and it is possible that father and son could have worked together for a while before 1919, the year in which his father died.

With Harold in 1939 is Amy E Toovey, born on 15 Sept 1904. He had married **Amy E Austen** in 1929 and they appear to have had a daughter.

In 1948 he married **Cynthia Pettman**. She appears as Cynthia Toovey in the Electoral Roll of Finchley for 1949 at St Margaret's Avenue.

When Harold died on 26 January 1954 in Upton Park Hospital his address was still 89 Datchet Road, Slough, and probate was granted to the widow, Cynthia Josephine Toovey.

Children of Christopher Ernest Toovey and Minnie King

Evelyn Ellen Toovey (1904-1987)

Eva was the name used within the family, judging by the 1911 census. From the GRO Index it appears that she married **Walter H Ansell** in the second quarter of 1927 in the Uxbridge area.

The National Probate Calendar has an entry for Evelyn Ellen Ansell of 20 Bawtree Road, Uxbridge, who died on 15 March 1987 and the corresponding GRO Index entry gives the date of birth as 9 Jan 1904, which is very plausible.

Using the date of birth to re-interrogate the 1939 Register produced an 'Ansell' household at 41 Chiltern View Road, Uxbridge, consisting of Evelyn E, born 9 January 1904, and Walter H, a carpenter born on 16 Dec 1902. Walter was a part-time member of the Auxiliary Fire Service. The line following Evelyn's is blacked-out and may mean that there is a child of the marriage.

According to the electoral register they were living at 8 Cleveland Road in 1950. It was at 14 Cleveland Road that they were living when Walter Henry Ansell died on 4 Feb 1959, aged 57, and naming his widow Evelyn Ellen as an executrix.

Children of Christopher Ernest Toovey and Minnie King

Dorothy Mildred Toovey (1907-1995)

Dorothy would have been about 12 when her father died. She can still be found living with her mother Minnie and her married sister May Arema Minnie Bailes (plus presumably May's daughter Arema Eileen) until 1935 at 64 Harefield Road, Uxbridge.

In 1935 she married **Clifford A Nicholay** in Uxbridge. In 1939 the couple were living at Flat 1, Bawtree House, Bawtree Road, Uxbridge. Clifford, born on 16 April 1908 is a master plumber and the surname is spelt Nickolay. Dorothy's date of birth is 9 Jan 1907. There do not appear to be any children and the flat is shared with **Arthur Nickolay**, a foreman plumber and a woman who is likely to be his wife.

They continued to live at Bawtree House until at least 1955. Dorothy died first in 1995 in the Hillingdon Registration District and Clifford Archibald Nickolay survived only until the following year.

Details of his parents' marriage and his three siblings can be found in the WW1 service records of his father, **Frank Frederick Nickolay**.

Children of John Toovey and Sarah Jane Mines

Arema Beatrice (1863-1890)

Arema Beatrice was born in 1863. She was working as a housemaid in 1881 for a farmer, **William Hall Balster** and his wife **Elizabeth**, then of Rushey Meadow, Coleshill. He and his wife moved to Finchers, Beamond End, Little Missenden, where he died on 13 October 1885. His wife's death followed on 14th April 1886. They seem to have had a high opinion of Arema Beatrice as both named her as executrix of their Wills, with a local vet, **Eusebius Gustavus Crowhurst**. The National Probate Calendar entry wrongly states that she was the sister of Elizabeth Balster.

A month after the death of her remaining employer she found a new home by marrying **James Theophilus Toovey** on 13 May 1886 at Little Missenden. When she died on 21 February 1890 in London Road, Amersham, she left an estate of £1756-16s-2d and a son **Jonathan** and a daughter, called **Arema Beatrice** after her.

James's older sister **Maria Ann** lived with him, presumably to help bring up the children and run the house. In 1911 the family is living on Station Road, Amersham. James is a furniture dealer and Jonathan is following family tradition as a carpenter. In June 1913, however, he set off for Australia aboard the *SS Themistocles*. There, on 11 April 1914, in Albert Park, Victoria, he married **Eva Christine Gordon Gilbert**. The two may well have known each other previously as she came from the Chesham Bois/Amersham area. A child, **Dorothy Christine**, was born on 15th April 1915 at 64 York Street, St Kilda, Victoria, and another, **Frances Edna**, on 26 January 1917. The electoral roll for 1919 lists Jonathan at 36 Longmoore Street, St Kilda West, Balaclava, Victoria, but that was the year of his death. Just as he had grown up without his mother, so his daughters would grow up probably not remembering her father.

James Theophilus outlived his son and died on 24th September 1927 in University College Hospital.

Arema Beatrice in 1932 married **Frank Ernest Alderman**. He died on 22 September 1935 at Fern Haven, Chestnut Lane, Amersham, aged 50. In 1939, she had moved to The Alders, Parkfield Avenue, Amersham, and had staying with her two cousins, Eva and Daisy M Bryant and also two elderly widows, who may have been paying guests.

Arema Beatrice Alderman died in the Watford Registration District in 1972.

Children of John Toovey and Sarah Jane Mines**Elizabeth Julia Emma Toovey (1866-1929?)**

Like her sister, Elizabeth went into domestic service, but moved further afield.

In 1901 she is a general servant working for a family in Church Road, Southgate. Oddly enough that area is also called Winchmore Hill, echoing the place where she was born. Ten years later she has worked her way up the ladder and can be found in Ardilaun Road, Highbury, where aged 44 she is working as a cook-general for a widow, Annette Clutterbuck.

A housemaid of about half her age also lives in. Cooks-general earned more than general maids and the workload should have been less than when she was the only resident servant in a family with several children.

She must have moved to another post in the same area after Mrs Clutterbuck's demise in 1914, as the most probable death for Elizabeth was registered in Islington in 1929. She was aged 62.

Children of John Toovey and Sarah Jane Mines

Mary Jane (1871-1917)

After the death of her parents it seems likely that Mary would have lived with one of her older siblings if she needed to finish her schooling and then probably followed her two older sisters into domestic service, but that part of her life cannot be documented.

In 1890 she married **James Bryant**, a bricklayer's labourer ten years older than her and the couple lived briefly at Norwood's Yard in Amersham which is where the 1891 census finds them, before moving to Gillespie Road, Islington, where all their children were born. By September 1891 the family were living at 119 Gillespie Road, while at no 117, probably next door, lived Mary Jane's aunt, Catherine Toovey, now married to John Gamblin. Their son Henry Gamblin was still there, like the Bryants, in 1901.

By 1901 5 children had made their appearance: **Grace**, 9; **James**, 7; **Beatrice**, 5; **Eva**, 3 and **Ethel**, 1. By 1911 the oldest children are already earning, Grace being a packer & sorter in a laundry, James a factory hand at the Oxo factory and Beatrice also working in a laundry as a collar bander. The younger girls are still at school, but the family has been extended by the arrival of Elizabeth, 8; John, 5, and Joseph and Maria, both aged 2. A grandchild, **Constance**, was only 7 days old when the enumerator recorded her details.

Mary Jane, having successfully reared ten children at a time when infant deaths were common, died in 1917. At this point the youngest child, **Daisy May**, would have been about 5 and the oldest, Grace, about 25. It is possible that Mary Jane's sister Elizabeth, living in the same area of London, was also a source of help. James lived on until 1937.

Children of James Bryant and Mary Jane Toovey

Grace Arema Eliza Bryant (1891-?1933)

Born in 1891, she was baptised at Finsbury Park, St Thomas on 13 Sept 1891 and the family's address was given as 119 Gillespie Road. She is believed to have died in Athens on 17th August 1933. One Ancestry tree gives her surname as Harisiades.

Children of James Bryant and Mary Jane Toovey

James Thomas Bryant (1893-1916)

Born in 1893, he may have been named Thomas after his father's brother who died shortly before his birth. In 1911 he was employed aged 17 as worker at the Oxo factory. Probably he trained with the Territorial Force before the outbreak of war. He joined up at the Drill Hall in Handel Street, WC1, a building which still exists, becoming 2043 Drummer Bryant of the 1/1st (City of London) Battalion (Royal Fusiliers), part of the London Regiment. The complicated title results from battalions of the London Regiment, an entirely Territorial force, being affiliated to Regular units of the Royal Fusiliers. His low number indicates that he joined on or before August 12th 1914. After some weeks guarding the London-Newhaven railway line, he would have gone to Malta in September 1914. After returning to Avonmouth on February 21st 1915, the battalion deployed to France on March 11th 1915, a date confirmed by James's medal card. Here they formed part of the 25th Brigade of the 8th Division and during 1915 took part in the battles of Neuve Chapelle, Aubers and Bois Grenier. On 28th August 1915 *The Times* included his name amongst those wounded on active service. He may have returned to England for treatment and recovery. In February 1916 the battalion transferred to the 167th Brigade of the 56th Division and would see action at Gommecourt, Ginchy, Flers-Courcelette and the Transloy Ridge.

Only recently gazetted Corporal (*Supplement to the London Gazette*, 3 June 1916, p 5580) his next exploit showed him winning the Distinguished Conduct Medal:

'2043 Cpl. J.T. Bryant 1/1st Bn., Lond. R., T.F.

For conspicuous gallantry. When his company commander was wounded in an advance over the open under heavy fire, he remained with him for an hour, bound up his wounds, and then carried him to safety.' (*Supplement to the Edinburgh Gazette*, June 22 1916, p 1112)

The War Diary, written while the battalion was out of the trenches at St Amand on 3/4 June 1916 notes the award to James, now a Sergeant. Another Sergeant and a Driver had also received a DCM. A Military Medal went to another Sergeant and three officers gained Military Crosses.

James's qualities had been recognised, but he did not serve for long in his new rank, as he was killed in action on 15th September 1916. The War Diary (WO 95/2949/1) details the assault, carried out successfully against all the odds and how the position, captured at such fearful cost, then had to be abandoned:

"C" & "D" Coys moved to assault at 5-50am with "B" and "A" Coys in support. "C" Coy attacked German trench across S end of Bouleaux Wood with "D" Coy on the left attacking trench running in N Westerly direction from W edge of Bouleaux Wood. Artillery barrage ineffectual on the right. The enemy trench was undamaged and fully manned. Wire entanglements and machine gun fire stopped "C" & "D" Coys close to their objective, having lost 7 out of 8 officers and 75% OR [Other Ranks] in casualties.

"D" Coy took their objective and no 16 Platoon pushed forward at once and seized Middle Copse, which they consolidated, a Lewis gun was afterwards put in position there. "A" Coy advanced and pushed through them with covering parties pushed well out. At night they had to withdraw as both flanks were in the air.

Casualties: Lt JD Fry, 2nd Lts GS Hill, SF Snowdon, SH Easby(?), 56 OR killed. 7 officers & 136 OR wounded. 84 OR missing.'

It is fairly certain that James must have been amongst those not accounted for as the War Office Casualty Lists published in *the Times* reported initially on 27th October 1916 that he was missing, amending that on 14th February 1917 to killed. His body was never identified and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier 9D, Face 16B, one of the 72,246 servicemen of the British Empire who gave their lives during the battles of the Somme but whose bodies have never been recovered.

He does not seem to have made a Will but the register of soldiers' effects records his father James received from the army £27-11-5 owed to his son, plus a further £20. He would eventually have been offered his son's other medals, the Victory and British Medals and the 1914-1915 Star.

Children of James Bryant and Mary Jane Toovey

Annie Beatrice Bryant (1895-?1991)

In 1919 she appears to be the only member of the family registered to vote at the family home, 158 Gillespie Road. Later that year, on 19th April at Finsbury Park St Thomas, she married **Richard William Green**, a bachelor aged 28, son of Alfred Green, sheet-metal worker. Her age is given as 23 and the witnesses were Harry Green, James Bryant and Ella Bryant. The couple can be found again on the 1939 Register at 22 Hornsey Lane Estate. Richard, born 10th Feb 1891 gives his job as builder's labourer/ machine moulder (brass), which may mean he has found it difficult to get employment as a skilled worker. He has volunteered to do rescue and demolition work in the coming war. Annie's date of birth is given as 26th July 1895. She is occupied with 'domestic duties' and two obscured entries presumably refer to their children. There are 3 possible entries for the Islington area of Green/Bryant parentage: Richard AJ Green b 1921, Beatrice J in 1922 and 1925 Eva L. Also living with them is Maria H R Bryant. Bryant has been crossed out and replaced by Green, but this must be Annie's sister.

A probable death for her is recorded in August 1991 in Shepway, aged 96. Richard William Green of 22 Hornsey Lane Estate, Islington, was buried on 27 December 1962 in grave no Z/17811 at Islington Cemetery, Finchley.²⁹

Children of James Bryant and Mary Jane Toovey

Eva Mary Bryant (1897-1984)

Born on 21 Dec 1897, she continued living in the family house, 158 Gillespie Road, Islington, until 1939. The 1939 register finds her with her youngest sister Daisy May staying in Amersham with Arema Beatrice Alderman. In 1941 she married in Islington **Edward R Hill**. After the war they lived at 145 Drayton Park, N5. After Edward's death in 1950, aged 56, Eva stayed at the same address for some years. She moved further out of London before dying in the Redbridge registration district in 1984.

²⁹ Burial Register no 187864

Children of James Bryant and Mary Jane Toovey

Ethel Dorothy Bryant (1899-?1966)

Born in 1899 she cannot be firmly identified in any post-1911 records. An Ethel D Bryant lived in Arthur Henderson House, Hazelville Road, Upper Holloway, N19 and there is a possible death in Newton Abbot in 1966. She cannot be reliably traced in the 1939 register or in marriage records. She may have emigrated.

Children of James Bryant and Mary Jane Toovey

Elizabeth Mabel Bryant (1903-?)

She is not living with her siblings in the 1930s at the family home.

There are two local marriages for an Elizabeth M Bryant, one in 1924 to Ralph Turner, another to Edwin H Goodwin in 1930, but looking at births with either surname to a Bryant mother and trying to combine the information with the 1939 Register did not produce a reliable sighting. A renewed search based on a precise date of birth might give better results.

Children of James Bryant and Mary Jane Toovey

John Toovey Bryant (1905-1995)

According to the Baker/Bishop family tree on Ancestry he went to Australia, where he married **Florence Helen Bishop**. He died in Haberfield, Sydney, on 16th March 1995, aged 89. The couple had two children.

Children of James Bryant and Mary Jane Toovey

Joseph Henry Bryant (1909-1938)

He continued to live with his family at 158 Gillespie Road until about 1938. The household continued after his father's death with Joseph and his sisters Ethel, Eva, Maria and Daisy. He cannot be found in the 1939 Register or in the 1939 electoral roll for 158 Gillespie Road, but there is a death record for the last quarter of 1938 for a man of the right name, age and place. Burial records show that he was buried on 28 November 1938 at Islington Cemetery, Finchley, in grave no Z/17476.³⁰ His last address was 11 Bewdley Street, Islington, and he was aged 29.

³⁰ Burial register no 177110

Children of James Bryant and Mary Jane Toovey

Maria Hilda Rose Bryant (1909-1991)

She was born on 16 March 1909. The electoral roll of 1933 shows her still living at the family home, 158 Gillespie Road. In 1939, after her father's death, she is listed with other members of the family at Gillespie Road, so may have moved to live with her married sister Annie Beatrice Green at 22 Hornsey Lane Estate to help there and is working as a wholesale grocer's clerk. She is ready to administer First Aid at work and has joined the ARP. She was prepared to be above ground during air raids while most people were in the shelters.

In 1940 she married Albert F Green in the Islington registration district and died aged 82 on 3 January 1991 at Parkside, 65 Main Road, Romford.

There is a possibility that Albert Frederick Green could be the younger brother of Richard William Green who married Maria Hilda Rose's older sister Annie Beatrice. In 1911 is at 39 Albany Cottages, Popham Street, Islington. Aged 20, he has a younger brother Albert born in 1910.

Children of James Bryant and Mary Jane Toovey

Daisy May Bryant (1912-2010)

The youngest of a large family, she was born on 23rd March 1912 and continued to live in the family home, 158 Gillespie Road, where she is listed on the electoral rolls for 1936 and 1939. The 1939 register, however, finds her in Amersham with her sister Eva at the house of Arema Beatrice Alderman, The Alders, Parkfield Avenue, Amersham. She is, or has been, working as a machinist. She has very recently married **Albert Ambrose Dee** in Islington in the last quarter of 1939. Both survived the war and in 1945 are on the electoral roll for 19 Churchfield Avenue in North Finchley, N12. It is believed that both emigrated to Australia and died in Sydney, Albert in 2008 and Daisy in 2010.

Children of John Toovey and Sarah Cox

Mary Ann (1831-1895)

Born on 9 November 1831 Mary Ann went into service and in 1851 aged 19 is working in Hackney in the house of a GP, Henry Stapleton, and his wife Sarah. Another servant, Elizabeth Blackwell, 18, also lives in. In 1861 Mary Ann and her mother Sarah, described as a nurse, are in Frogmore Street, Tring, looking after 70 year-old Rachel Honour, a carpenter's widow. Perhaps there had been some kind of trade connection between the Honours and the Tooveys.

In 1871 Mary Ann, aged 39 and a needlewoman is in Edmonton, visiting Edward and Mary A Douglas of 5 Alpha Road, Edmonton.

Given Mary Ann's nursing skills it seems highly likely that she is the 'Mary Ann Toovey, Aunt' who was living in Amersham High Street and declared the death of George Walter Toovey, actually her great-nephew, on 17 May 1880. The baby, aged only 10 weeks, was the child of her nephew John Walter Albert Eugene Toovey and his first wife Emily née Lee, who had died the previous month.

In the next census she is living with her mother in Amersham High Street, still occupied at needlework, while her widowed mother is a lacemaker. After the death of both parents, Mary Ann, now at 59 a nurse, and her sister Emma, a needlewoman, went to live in Turpin's Row, Amersham. In 1891 they had two lodgers, Alfred and Joseph Howe, one a groom and the other a grocer's porter. This probably helped them to make ends meet.

Mary Ann died in the second quarter of 1895, shortly after her sister Emma.

Children of John Toovey and Sarah Cox

Emma (1834-1895)

Emma was born on 16 August 1834. She and her sister Catherine were living with their parents in Coleshill Green in 1851. Although not the youngest daughter, Emma, on the evidence of the censuses, remained at home for most of her life, looking after her father in 1861 in London Road, and both parents in Bury End in 1871. 1881 finds her staying with an uncle, **James Cox**, and his wife Ann in Oxford Road, High Wycombe. James is a chair manufacturer on a larger scale than the Tooveys, employing 15 boys and 23 girls and (although this part is difficult to decipher) apparently 83 machines. They are aged 67 and 73, so it may be that Emma has been sent to look after one or both of them. The only other member of the household is a 17 year-old maidservant.

After the death of their parents, Emma joined forces with Mary Ann and they both lived in Turpin's Row. Emma, described in 1861 and 1871 as a dressmaker, is still a needlewoman. Although the younger of the two, she predeceased her sister, dying in the first quarter of 1895.

Children of John Toovey and Sarah Cox

Catherine (1837-1891)

Catherine was born on 15 May 1837. Aged 13 in 1851, she was still at school and living with her parents in Coleshill Green. In 1861 she is working as a nurse in a household in South Hackney, at 21 King Edward Road. Her employers, a silk manufacturer called Thomas Kelsey and his wife, have three young children but she is not apparently a nursemaid, so is presumably there to care for the sick, just as her mother was doing at that time in Tring. By 1871, aged 33, she is a housemaid employed by Charles Roope, a retired draper at 134 Sloane Street, Chelsea.

In 1872 she married **John Gamblin**, keeper of the Chapel and gardener at Highbury Hill. In 1881 they are living at Chapel House, Highbury Hill and two children have been born, **Henry J**, 7, born in Highbury and **Mabel M A**, 5, born in Putney Heath. The household is completed by **Christopher E Toovey**, 21, Catherine's nephew, who is a general labourer.

It was impossible to find Catherine in any subsequent census. She appeared to have died in the first quarter of 1891 in Islington, aged 53. On two occasions she had been admitted to the Islington Workhouse in Liverpool Road on a medical certificate, in 1885 and 1887, with her religion given as Baptist. The workhouses were beginning to be used not just for destitute people, but also to house people in need of certain forms of medical care who could not be adequately nursed at home. More accommodation was built so that infirmaries were separated from the other workhouse buildings and the standard of nursing began to rise.³¹ Catherine may have suffered intermittent illness for the last few years of her life.

Her husband and son were at 119 Gillespie Road, Islington, (probably next door to the Bryants) on the night of the 1891 census, John was now working as a nurseryman while Henry, 17, is a telegraph messenger. Mabel Mary Ann, aged 15, has gone into service and is a general servant employed by Ann Bland, a widow of 54, who took in boarders at 24 Ordnance Road, Marylebone.

At no 117 Gillespie Road, which was presumably the house next door, was living **Mary Jane Toovey**, Catherine's niece, who had married James Bryant.

In 1893 John Gamblin married again and **Sarah Anderson** became his second wife on 31 March 1893 at the Congregational Chapel in Upper Street, Islington. Sarah, aged 45 was the daughter of a farmer, George Anderson, and was then living at 55 Danbury Street. John is described as a florist and the son of **Henry Gamblin**, a coachman. Later they moved further out of London, to Cedar Villa, Gordon Hill, Enfield. In 1901 John, 54, is a building contractor, Sarah, 53, is a blouse and apron maker and Mabel, 26, is a machinist also turning out blouses and aprons. Sarah was born in Long Sutton, Lincolnshire.

In 1908 John died at the same address, naming as executor his son Henry John Gamblin, mercantile clerk. There is a probable death entry for Sarah in the fourth quarter of that year.

³¹ More information can be found at <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/life/medical.shtml>

Children of Catherine Toovey and John Gamblin

Henry John Gamblin (1873-1957)

Henry had a job as a telegraph messenger in 1891. Four years later he married **Charlotte Louisa Harrington**. Aged 27, in 1901 he was a carman and contractor, living at 117 Gillespie Road, Islington. His wife was one year older than him and born in Lambeth. With them they have an adopted child, **Alice Mabel Toovey**, whose birth was registered in the Uxbridge district in 1894. The new GRO Index and the birth certificate showed that the mother's name was Taylor and so this must be the last child of **John Walter Albert Eugene Toovey** and **Mary Elizabeth Taylor**, who died in 1895. This was no doubt the reason why the baby was adopted within the family. They were still in the same house for the next census, by which time Henry was working as a clerk for a mercantile coal merchant. Alice was then aged 16 and working as a junior Board of Trade clerk at the Labour Exchange. Charlotte recorded that the marriage had lasted 16 years but produced no children.

By 1939 Henry has retired and the couple are living at 79 Selbourne Road, Southgate, a little further out of London. Henry's birth-date is given as 1 March 1873 and Charlotte's as 21 September 1872.

It was at the same address that Henry died on 27 November 1957, aged 84. His wife had died at the same age the previous year.

Although Alice Mabel is recorded in the 1901 and 1911 census under the surname of her birth, Toovey, no further trace of her could be uncovered under that name. Searching under her adoptive parents' surname produced a marriage to **Frank Winkworth Gibbs** in 1916 in Islington. Alice and Frank Gibbs were found in the 1939 Register. Her birth-date was given as 9 August 1894, Frank's as 25 March 1889, and he is a civil servant working for the Ministry of Labour, a ministry which would play a key role in WW2. Alice had worked at the Labour Exchange, which may explain how they first met. To clinch the identification they are living at 79 Selbourne Road, Southgate with Henry and Charlotte Gamblin.

They have a daughter **Phyllis M Gibbs**, born 6 January 1918, a qualified chiropodist, and another civil servant Mary L Hardern appears to be lodging there.

Frank died at the Highlands Hospital in Southgate on 12 September 1962, still resident at 79 Selbourne Road and aged 73. Alice Mabel survived him until 1980 and died at the age of 86.

Children of Catherine Toovey and John Gamblin

Mabel Mary Ann Gamblin (1875-1923)

Mabel Mary Ann was born in 1875. She went into service as a general maidservant in a boarding house, but by the 1901 census was back at home and working as a machinist making, like her stepmother, blouses and aprons. Her father died in 1908 and it seems likely that her stepmother also died later that year, but it has not been possible to locate Mabel in the 1911 census to find out how she was making her living.

In the second quarter of 1923 she married **Charles Anderson**. He was a retired fruiterer and they lived at Oaklands, Lavender Hill, Enfield, the address where he can be found in 1911 with his sister Eliza, aged 65, and his niece Lizzie, 43.

Trees on Ancestry indicate that Mabel Mary Anne's stepmother Sarah and Charles were siblings, the son and daughter of **George** and **Hepzibah Anderson** of Long Sutton in Lincolnshire.

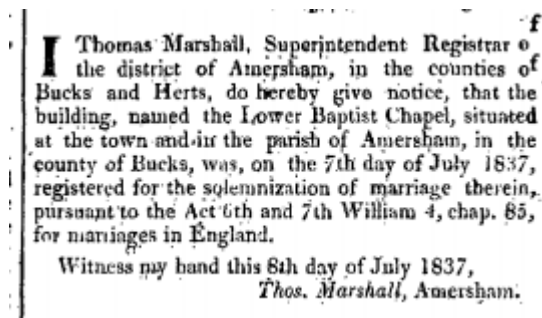
On 2 November of the year of her marriage she died in North Middlesex Hospital, aged 48, of heart failure and having suffered from acute manic depression. Charles lived only a few years longer and died on 2 August 1928 at Oaklands.

3 ANN TOOVEY (1810-1887)

Ann was born on 13th June 1810 and was the couple's second child to be listed in the register of the Lower Baptist Meeting House.

She does not appear in the crowded Toovey household in Amersham in 1841. As the eldest daughter she is likely to have left home, become self-supporting and made some space for her younger siblings. An Ann Toovey, female servant, can be found at High House, High Street, Chesham, a school for girls. The census took place on 6th June, just before her 31st birthday. The age given is rounded down to 25, rather than 30, but this is almost certainly her.

By 1851 she has moved next door and is the wife of the baker **Joseph Deeley**, aged 40, while her age is recorded as 39. The couple had been married on 26th February at the Lower Baptist Meeting House in Amersham by Mr Ayrton of Chesham.³² The chapel had been licenced for weddings on 7th July 1837, less than a week after legislation permitting that had come into effect.³³ While the ceremony could take any form the minister and the couple wished, the Registrar of Births and Deaths, Richard Sims or his deputy, would have been present to record the marriage.



In 1861 they continue to live next door to High House School. There is no sign that any children have been born, but the couple's ages are questionable as Joseph has aged 8 years in a decade and his wife only one! As in 1851 they have a maidservant living in. 1871 brings some detail of the business, as Joseph is now a grocer as well as a baker and is employing a journeyman and a boy. It is likely that his wife is also working in the family business, but the census, characteristically, gives no proof of this. Bakers would normally have risen very early to cook the bread and pastries before spending all day in the shop. Ann has gained only 3 years since the last census and now claims 43 years to Joseph's 58. No live-in servant is listed.

In 1881 Ann's unmarried sister Sarah Toovey, aged 64, was visiting them. This is the last census in which the couple appear. Joseph was still working and probably Ann as well. This time she correctly gives her age as 70 and Joseph is 74. The school next door is still functioning.

³² According to details given in the *Baptist Reporter and Missionary Intelligencer*, Vol 25, 1851, p220. The event is also recorded in the Cocks family Bible.

³³ *The London Gazette*, 11 July 1837, p1755.

High House was situated on the Broadway and is thought to date from the 17th century³⁴ and in 1888 Deeley's bakery was at 61 High Street.³⁵

Joseph Deeley died on 22nd April 1882. He left £273 19 shillings and chose as his executors his brother-in-law Samuel Toovey and the Baptist Minister, the Reverend Duncan McCallum. His age in the GRO Index is 76. Ann died in the third quarter of 1887, aged 77.

³⁴ [A History of the County of Buckingham: Volume 3](#). Originally published by Victoria County History, London, 1925, p 203.

³⁵ http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cmtilbury/bksppl_cheshamlist.html

4 SAMUEL TOOVEY (1812-1893)

Samuel was born on 2 October 1812 in Amersham, the second child of Sampson and Katherine Toovey. The 1841 census shows him working, like Sampson, as a chairmaker. He is aged 27 and is part of the large Toovey household in Whielden Street, where three generations lived together.

In the third quarter of 1846 he married, in the Leighton Buzzard area, **Angelina Lewis Cooper**. Daughter of a Baptist Minister **James Cooper** and his wife **Maria**, she was born in the parish of St Peter and St Paul at Bath in Somerset on 2 March 1815.³⁶

Her father James Cooper was chosen to become the Baptist Minister on a temporary basis in Amersham in 1817³⁷ and would remain there for 20 years. In 1823 the congregation split and the smaller group, of which the Toovey family formed part, moved to the old Upper Meeting House Chapel. In 1829 James Cooper moved again, to Leighton Buzzard.

By 1851 Sampson and his sons John and Samuel and their families appear to be living next door to each other at Coleshill Green. Sampson and Samuel are described as chair manufacturers and John as a chair maker. Sampson is employing 14 men, so this is quite a large enterprise. Samuel and Angelina have two daughters, **Maria Ann**, aged 5, born in Amersham and **Emily**, five months old, born in Coleshill.

Samuel Toovey, as Deacon, sent in the return for the Coleshill Baptist Preaching Station in the Religious Census of 1851. These were not separate or exclusive Baptists and he could report that on 30 March the congregation had numbered 24 in the afternoon and 42 in the evening. Attendance had averaged 50 and 60 over the past year, but the Rector of St Mary's Amersham blamed his untypically low figures on the unpropitious weather and it is likely that the same effects were being felt in Coleshill. Samuel's brother James, also a Deacon, prepared the return for the Baptist Upper Meeting House in Amersham.

Possibly the brothers had moved to Coleshill simply to support their father since by April 1861 both Samuel and John are back in Amersham and can be found next to the Wheat Sheaf Inn on London Road. Samuel and Angelina's family has increased and consists of Maria Ann, 13, Emily 10, **Ebenezer**, 7, and **Theophilus**, 4. All four are recorded as scholars, though the youngest may not necessarily have started school, and were born in Coleshill. Samuel, 48, is still a chairmaker and Angelina is now 46.

In 1871 Samuel and Angelina are still at Bury End, but more details of the chairmaking business are given: Samuel is employing 7[?] men and 1 boy. None of their children are at home, but a needlewoman, Mary Ann Harding, 53, unmarried, born in Amersham, is lodging with them, as she had been in 1861.

The *London Gazette* of 25 April 1879, p 3021, col B, carried a notice of voluntary liquidation instituted by Samuel Toovey of Bury End, Amersham, chairmaker, dated 19 April, with the first meeting with his creditors scheduled for 3 pm on 10 May at the Kings Arms Inn, Amersham. His solicitors, of 2 Warwick Street, Charing Cross, bore the wonderful name of Green & Cheese.

1881 shows little change. Samuel is continuing the fabrication side of the business as a chairmaker and cabinetmaker. He is now aged 68 and Angelina 66. James Theophilus,

³⁶ RG 4/1790/37

³⁷ Minute Book of the Amersham Lower Meeting Baptist Church, Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies, NB/1/1; 2 Nov 1817, 15 Feb, 3 July & 28 Oct 1818. *Baptist Magazine*, Vol 11, 1819, p 396

also a chairmaker and aged 23 is still at home, but a new member of the household is a 6 year-old grandson, **Charles Pearce**, born in Stockton. Neither mother nor father can be seen, but next door lives 83 year-old **Martha Pearce**, an annuitant.

The Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies holds three deeds³⁸ in which Samuel Toovey acts with the Reverend Donald McCallum, a Baptist Minister of Chesham, to convey freehold property, having surrendered the copyhold, from the original owner, Jane Susannah How of Hampstead, to Charles Long, a boot and shoe manufacturer of Chesham. The deeds relate to a freehold house on the High Street and part of High House Meadow which was copyhold. It seems likely that Samuel was involved as a businessman of good standing in the Baptist community and one who had the know-how to get things done.

By 1891 further changes are apparent. Samuel is once more a chair manufacturer. Angelina and James Theophilus are at home, but James is now a widower living on his own means and has a son **Jonathan**, aged 2. There is no sign of his younger child **Arema Beatrice**, born 1890. Along the High Street, however, in the charge of Louisa Lewin, a 50 year-old widow, is a nurse child aged 1 listed by the enumerator as **Emma B Toovey**, born in Amersham. As no Emma B was born in Amersham in the right time-frame, it seems highly likely that this is really Arema Beatrice with her unusual name normalised to the more familiar Emma. If so she has been placed close to where her father lives and so as to receive the care she needs.

This is the last census in which Samuel appeared as his death was registered in the last quarter of 1893. He was aged 81. Angelina, aged 86, died in the first quarter of 1901.

The last year of his life must have been marred by a case which was heard at the Amersham Petty Sessions before the magistrates who, on this occasion, were the Reverend E T Drake, chairman, and Captain Drake.³⁹ It may have been particularly galling for two warring Baptists to appear before the Rector. The Reverend Henry Beddow⁴⁰ had been summoned for assaulting Samuel Toovey and had immediately taken out a counter-summons against Samuel for an incident which had taken place in the Baptist Chapel on 5 February 1893. In response to a suggestion from the Rector that this would be better settled out of court both men said they did not wish the case to proceed, but that did not prevent details emerging. Mr Beddow's solicitor held firm, expressing the view that 'in the interests of the congregation – not a large one, he would admit – of the chapel in question, it would be better for the case to go on.'

Samuel's statement was reported as follows:⁴¹

'On Sunday, Feb 5th, he was in the vestry at the Upper Baptist Chapel, Amersham, in the evening. The defendant was the minister of the chapel, and had conducted the service. As soon as the service

³⁸ D-X 923/20, dated 5 Oct 1882; D-X 923/22 dated 6 Oct 1882 and D-X 923/23 dated 4 July 1884. The two men also acted as executors in 1882 for the Will of Samuel's brother-in-law Joseph Deeley of Chesham.

³⁹ Edward Tyrwhitt Drake graduated from Magdalen College Oxford in 1853, was ordained by the Bishop of Oxford in 1861 and served as Rector of Amersham with Coleshill from 1863 to 1904. The living was in the gift of Thomas Tyrwhitt Drake of Shardeloes. Captain Drake is probably Captain Thomas Henry Tyrwhitt Drake, JP, of Little Shardeloes. The Rector was also a Justice of the Peace.

⁴⁰ Henry Beddow appears in the 1891 census for Amersham. Living at Brickwick, he was aged 50 and born c1841 in Marylebone.

⁴¹ *South Bucks Standard*, 3 March 1893. See also *Bucks Herald* of 4 March.

was over, about 7.30 pm, witness [Samuel] opened the vestry door wide, with the intention of entering the chapel. There were two steps leading from the vestry into the chapel, and witness had got onto the top step when he opened the door. The defendant [Mr Beddows] rushed from the chapel and either hit or pushed witness under the rib, dislodging him from the step he was standing on. The hit or push was so violent that witness fell head foremost into the vestry. The defendant looked very savagely at him. Witness was about to enter the chapel from the vestry for the purpose of giving out a notice calling a meeting of the church members for the following Tuesday night. The defendant did not wish him to give out this notice, and pushed witness back into the vestry as he had described. It was witness's duty to give out the notices, as he was deacon of the church. The notice in question had no reference to the defendant. Someone picked witness up from the vestry floor, and he went into the chapel and gave out the notice. Finding himself injured, he then went to Dr Potts.'

Mr Hunt then proceeded to cross-examine Samuel. It emerged that although Samuel attended the church for which he was deacon, for the past three years he had chosen to sit in the vestry and so avoid having to listen to a man who 'had caused so much unpleasantness and had brought the cause to nothing'. Three years earlier he had apparently thrown Samuel out of the chapel, injuring him in the process. He had given the church notice that he would leave [but it is not clear whether that came before or after the most recent altercation].

He denied having rushed into the chapel, crying out 'Church notice'. The meeting was to have been called to consider how to advance the cause, attendance at chapel having dropped to 8 or 10 people. He had consulted other members of the congregation about calling the meeting, but not the minister, as the minister never consulted him. He and two of his brothers had held the office of deacon for many years.⁴² There had been no election for several years. He denied having annoyed the minister by unnecessarily opening and shutting windows and doors while in the vestry. He also denied trying to set people who attended chapel against the minister and having struck him with his elbow on the evening in question.

Alfred Bizzell, grocer, was called as witness. He had not attended chapel for some time, but had gone that evening at Samuel's request to be a witness to the calling of the meeting. He did not see any assault, but heard Samuel shout 'Murder!' when Mr Beddow got to the vestry door. A man called [Joshua] Rogers had gone to his aid. Afterwards 'Toovey seemed very much excited and affrighted and said that he was much shaken', but he had not realized he was injured until Monday. He heard the minister comment 'It is strange that we cannot have a service without this disturbance.' Bizzell also stated that there was no light in the vestry and that someone standing on the top step might have been pushed over when the door was opened. Mr Beddow had gone into the vestry with Toovey and one of them had shut the door.

Dr Potts then gave evidence that Toovey had called upon him on the evening of the 5th complainng of pain in his side and with a crushed hat. He was still in pain the following day. On further examination he discovered that the tenth rib had been broken in front. This would normally result only from a very severe blow by a fist, or a fall. He felt that the absence of bruising meant that a fall was the more likely cause.

Mr Hunt then put Mr Beddow's side of the case. He had descended from the pulpit and was approaching the vestry door when Toovey rushed out, hitting Mr Beddow on the chest with

⁴² It is evident from the above plus the Religious Census of 1851, that at that date Samuel was Deacon of the Coleshill Baptist Preaching Station and James of the Baptist Upper Meeting House, the post later held by Samuel. Which was the third brother? John is mentioned in the letters of John Cocks, Baptist Minister at Amersham, so may be a little more likely than Henry, who was 16 years younger.

his elbow. His injury was caused not by Mr Beddow but by slipping and falling over in the vestry.

For the past six years of Mr Beddow's ministry Toovey had manifested the greatest antipathy towards him and had taken members of the congregation aside as they emerged from the chapel to tell them that he was not fit to conduct the service. By constant interference he had done his best to ruin Mr Beddow's reputation and reduce his income. He would sit in the vestry during services opening and shutting windows and doors to cause annoyance both to the pastor and his congregation.

Mr Beddow then gave evidence. He had served at Amersham for six years. For the first three Toovey attended chapel, but for the last three he had sat in the vestry. On 5th February the vestry door had been opening and closing during the service and immediately after the service he went and opened the vestry door. Toovey, who had been standing on the second step, tried to rush past him, catching him with his elbow. Toovey then stepped back and sat on a form shrieking 'Murder!'. Beddow did not go into the vestry or close the door. Toovey then rushed out from behind him shouting 'Church meeting on Tuesday evening at 6 o'clock!' The minister then said that if a meeting was required he would call one. Toovey said it was nothing to do with him.

The court then went into the question of whether Samuel held the post of deacon. Mr Beddow denied that, saying that he only attended in order to cause annoyance and did not give out notices. He then denied the allegations made against him and stated that he had suffered from breathlessness after being hit by Toovey's elbow.

Toovey then riposted 'It was you who broke up the chapel and school by your disgraceful conduct. I opened the vestry door, not you.'

At this point the magistrates lost patience and declined to hear any more evidence, saying that both cases were very frivolous and ought never to have come to court. They did not believe that a man of over 80 could have struck a violent blow. Mr Beddow and his solicitor made one last appeal for some protection against constant annoyance. The magistrates having refused to warn Samuel about his future conduct, Mr Hunt said 'Very well, I may say for Mr Toovey's benefit that we will have to do something if he does not behave better in the future.' Costs were awarded, Mr Beddow having to pay 2 shillings and Samuel 4.

So the long association between the Toovey family and the Baptists in Amersham seems to have ended in rancour and acrimony.

Henry Beddow (1840-?1896)

The Rev Henry Beddow was born in the last quarter of 1840 in Marylebone, the son of John Beddow, a hatter, and his wife Elizabeth. His younger brother William also became a Baptist Minister and in 1881 the two brothers can be found together in lodgings in Marylebone with a third brother, Richard.

On 25 December 1860 at St Andrew Holborn Henry married Elizabeth Ann Stone, the daughter of a farmer, born at Chalgrove, Oxfordshire. Henry's sister Harriet Louisa Beddow was one of the witnesses. Henry at this point was a grocer at Mount Pleasant.

The couple initially lived at 4 Great Chesterfield Street, Marylebone, where they can be found in 1861. Elizabeth was four years older than Henry. By 1871 the couple have moved to Belper, where Henry was the Baptist Minister and four children have been born: Henry Charles (1863 Camberwell), Elizabeth Mary (1864 Camberwell), Charles William (1867 Middleton Cheney, Northants) and Emily Alice (1869 Arnold, Nottinghamshire). The birthplaces supply clues as to where Henry Beddow was appointed Minister.

Elizabeth Mary appears to have had a twin brother, Benjamin George, registered in the same quarter with the same reference and with the mother's name in each case being recorded as Stone. In 1881 he is staying in Middleton Cheney accompanied by his sister Emily Alice at the house of William Wakes, a shepherd.

Another child, Sarah Ann, was born to the couple in Chorlton, Manchester in 1874, followed by a son Jesse Emmanuel in 1878. In 1881, when Henry was away in Marylebone and two of her children in Middleton Cheney, Elizabeth can be found at 5 Laurel Cottages, Bath Road, Heston, Hounslow with Charles, aged 13 and Jesse, 2.

In 1891 Henry is resident in Amersham, but his wife appears to be living at 7 Redan Gardens, Aldershot, listed as a widow and head of the household. Whether that information came from her or is an assumption made by the enumerator, we cannot tell. With her are a daughter 'Mary L Beddow' (whose details match those of Sarah Ann), her son Jesse and a small granddaughter who had been registered as Dora Lilian Panek Beddow in 1889.

More can be learnt about Henry and his ministry as a result of his contacts with friends at Middleton Cheney, which were reported in the *Banbury Advertiser*. On 11 February 1886 it mentioned that he had returned to preach there, having only just resumed his duties after being forced to take a year off as the result of an unspecified but life-threatening illness. It must have been soon after that that he moved to Amersham as on 1 March 1888 the same paper gave some news of his endeavours there for just under the past two years. This was based on a letter he had written. He had apparently agreed to 'supply the pulpit' for three Sundays, which may mean three out of every four Sundays.

'He had known this cause years back, and had frequently supplied there when it was in a more prosperous state; but now he found it almost extinct, and, this being so, he was induced to remain, in the hope of being the instrument in God's hands of resuscitation. By that good hand upon him he has

been able to gather a congregation (chiefly people who were not under any religious influences), though the chapel is not yet crowded in a regular way. He is still little better than an invalid, and has been labouring under exceptional circumstances, internal and external, but.....has just opened a preaching room a little distance from Amersham, which he hopes to sustain, and is now anxious to open a second.'

His friends 'became aware.....that the difficulties he is grappling with had occasioned him much depression of spirit.'

That was five years before his disagreements with Samuel Toovey reached their climax.

What eventually happened to him is not clear. The *South Bucks Standard* on 14 December 1894 reported that he had resigned from the Parish Council. This may point to his withdrawal from Amersham. The General and Particular Baptists joined forces to create the Baptist Union in 1891. This may have done away with the need for separate meetings in Amersham. The Upper Meeting House had remained unused for some years when efforts were made around 1906 by Alfred Bizzell to hold meetings there once again.

There is a possible death entry for Henry Beddow listed in the third quarter of 1896 in the registration district of Blything, Suffolk, aged 54. This would give a birth-year of 1842 rather than the end of 1840, but it warrants further investigation.

Children of Samuel Toovey and Angelina Lewis Cooper

Maria Ann Toovey (1847-1927)

Born in Amersham, Maria Ann can be found with the family in 1851 in Coleshill Green and back in Amersham at London Road in 1861. In 1871 she and her brother James, ten years younger than Maria, are close by the family in Bury End but actually with their grandfather **James Cooper**, a widowed Baptist Minister then aged 77. It is possible that Maria Ann, then aged 23, had taken on the task of caring for him. He died in Amersham in the last quarter of the year with his age given as 78.

In 1881 she continued to live close to but separately from her parents and is found with Martha Pearce, aged 83. It seems that Martha died in 1882. Martha looked likely to have been the grandmother or great-grandmother of **Charles Pearce**, aged 6 in 1881, and living next door with his Toovey grandparents, Samuel and Angelina. Martha was an annuitant and Maria Ann was earning money by dressmaking.

In 1891 Maria cannot be found in Amersham, but is staying with **George Frederick Dorrington**, a commercial clerk, and his wife Maria, in Fleet Street, London. She is listed as the niece of one of them and the relative looked more likely to be Maria, aged 59 and born in Amersham. In 1869 in Islington George Frederick Dorrington had married **Maria Ann Cooper**. No further details could be found in the collection of London marriages licensed to Ancestry by London Metropolitan Archives, which might mean that the marriage did not take place in an Anglican church. That would not be surprising as Maria Ann turned out to be the sister of Angelina Lewis Cooper so, like her, the daughter of the Baptist Minister James Cooper and his wife Maria. Her birth had been registered as no 14742 on 24 July 1837 at Dr Williams's Library⁴³. She had been born on 29 December 1831 in Amersham and we get the extra information that her mother had been the daughter of **William Alderman** of Bath.

The 1841 census catches both Angelina, 25, and Maria, 9, in Back Lane, Leighton Buzzard, with their parents James and Maria. By 1851 James Cooper is widowed⁴⁴ and living at Clay Street, Soham, Cambridgeshire, aged 57, with only two of his children. **William H Cooper**, 20, is a bookbinder while 'Mary' A, 19, is working as a schoolmistress. Maria Ann Toovey was presumably named after Maria Ann Cooper.

After the death of their parents Maria Ann took on another caring role, looking after her widowed brother James Theophilus and his two children, so that in 1901 and 1911 she is part of his household. She died in the second quarter of 1927, aged 79, and he died later the same year.

⁴³ RG 5/153/227. James Cooper registered the rest of the family, all born in Amersham, on the same date on certificates no 14738-14743. **James** b 23 April 1821, **Jabez** 7 December 1825, **Emma** 6 October 1827, **William Henry** 9 July 1830, **Maria Ann** 29 December 1831 and **Timothy** 9 July 1834. The Registry had quite a rush of business following the introduction of Civil Registration on 1 July 1837 and possibly other Amersham Baptists, as well as James Cooper and John Toovey, took advantage of the opportunity to record their children's births.

⁴⁴ Two references in the GRO Index looked possible for the death of Maria Cooper. 1846 Q1 Leighton Buzzard was eliminated as it applied to a two year-old child. 1850 Q4 Newmarket 14 79 remains a contender as the deceased was aged 60, but has not been followed up.

Children of Samuel Toovey and Angelina Lewis Cooper

Emily Toovey (1850-1878)

Emily was born in 1850 in Coleshill and is with her family in 1851 and 1861. She cannot be found in the census of 1871, but in 1874 on 16 March she married **Charles Pearce** in St Paul's Church in Middlesbrough. Charles was recorded as aged 19, a wheelwright and son of Charles Pearce, gardener. He is living at Denmark Street and Emily at 20 Millbank Street. She gave her age as 22, whereas it is probably 23 or 24, but it is common for an age gap to be reduced by one spouse claiming a few years more or less. On 11 Nov 1878 at Bury End, Amersham, aged only 28, she died, a victim of phthisis (pulmonary tuberculosis), from which she had suffered for two years. On the death certificate she is described as the wife, not widow, of Charles Pearce, carpenter journeyman, which raises the possibility that he was still alive. Their son **Charles Pearce**, born in 1875 in Middlesbrough, is living in 1881 with his grandparents Samuel and Angelina Toovey and next door is, Amersham-born **Martha Pearce**, 83, who might, perhaps turn out to be his paternal grandmother or great-grandmother.

Martha died on 30 March 1882, leaving a Will.

Charles, aged only 9, died in 1884 on 29 September. As in his mother's case the death was declared by Samuel Toovey of Bury End, present at the death, and this time grandfather of the deceased. The death certificate makes grim reading. Charles also died of a form of tuberculosis. He had suffered from 'scrofulus' disease of the hip for two years, from dropsy for four months and from atrophy for a year, as certified by WJ Potts, surgeon.⁴⁵

In the absence of any real information it seemed worth testing the hypothesis that Emily's husband Charles Pearce may have had an Amersham connection, but it has not been possible to identify his family with complete certainty. Not being able to locate him in the 1871 census means that the birthplace of the 1874 bridegroom is not known.

The best candidate seems to be a Charles Pearce who was born in 1855 in the Amersham area to a mother whose maiden name was also Pearce and baptised on 8 July 1855 in Great Missenden. His parents **Charles Pearce** and **Ann Pearce** had married in 1847 in the Amersham area. In 1871 they are living in Church Street, Great Missenden and Charles (the father) is a labourer. Charles senior was baptised on 17 May 1822, the son of Phillip Pearce and **Martha** his wife. Phillip died aged 43 the year after the 1841 census, where the family can be found together at Prestwood Common.

The 1871 census for Amersham has a possible candidate for the Charles Pearce who would marry Emily Toovey. A Charles **Peedle**, aged 15 and born in Great Missenden is apprenticed to and resident with the wheelwright James Line. Apart from the last four letters of the surname, this is a good match with the Charles Pearce of Middlesbrough. No Charles Peedle of this age can be traced in other records, which supports the idea that there may be an error in the surname. No other Charles Pearce of the right age and an apprentice wheelwright can be discovered anywhere else in the 1871 census.

Martha Pearce is more difficult to follow consistently through the various censuses from 1841 to 1881.

⁴⁵ Walter Jeffrey Potts in the 1883 Kelly's *Directory* was a surgeon living in the High Street. Born in Devon, Mr Potts had qualified as an MRCS in 1861 and attended both cases.

In Bury End in 1851, a Martha Pearce aged 52 is recorded as a carpenter's wife and with a 15 year-old son, Jonathan, who did not appear in 1841. In 1861 in Bury End she is apparently the wife of Ruben Pearce, a carpenter aged 54 and born in Harefield. These sightings could be of an alternative couple who also appeared in the 1841 census. Reuben Pearce married **Martha Woodbridge** in 1835 at St Marylebone. In 1841 they are living in Edgware Road, Marylebone and have three sons, Reuben 13, Benjamin 9(?) and **Jonathan** 5, who looks likely to be the 15 year-old son in 1851 in Amersham.⁴⁶ Reuben is a carpenter and his age is rounded down to 35 and his wife's to 40. In 1861 a Reuben Pearce aged 55 died in the Amersham area, which would be consistent with the Reuben Pearce of the 1861 census at Bury End, who was born in Harefield in 1807.

So the 1851 and 1861 Amersham sightings appear to be of a different family. By 1862 both Marthas are widows who were born in Amersham around 1798 and 1799, so there would be no definite way to tell them apart.

In 1871 at Bury End there was a Martha Pearce, widow, aged 73, who had lodging with her Walter and Muriel Kite and their two small children. As she is an annuitant she seemed likely to be the Martha Pearce who died leaving a Will in 1882 and who was being looked after by Maria Ann Toovey in 1881.

In that Will she left, in a codicil 'all my furniture and other household goods and effects together with all linen and my wearing apparel' to 'Maria Toovey now living with me'. The rest of the estate was to be shared equally between the testatrix's son Jonathan Pearce and grandson George Woodbridge Pearce. The executor is Charles Woodbridge of Uxbridge. This Martha Pearce is not, therefore, closely related to the young Charles Pearce, despite living next door.

The Martha Pearce who was married to Phillip and appeared in the 1841 census as a lacemaker aged 43, born in Bucks and living at Prestwood Common, who may have been the child's great-grandmother, cannot be traced after that date although both death and marriage records have been searched.

The marriage certificate, however, showed that the two witnesses at the wedding in Middlesbrough in 1874 were **Timothy and Martha Cooper**. Searching that area for them in the 1871 and 1881 censuses produced nothing. But at 54 Jodrell Road, Bow, East London, in 1881 lived Timothy Cooper, aged 46 and born in Amersham, and his wife Martha. Timothy was a commercial traveller and an uncle of Emily Toovey. He was the youngest son of James Cooper and Maria Alderman⁴⁷ and the youngest brother of Emily's mother Angelina Cooper. He had married **Martha Irwin** in the Sunderland registration district in 1860 and two of their children had been born in County Durham. This ties in satisfactorily with Emily Toovey, but still does not explain why she was up in Middlesbrough or whether Charles Pearce originated from the Amersham area.

⁴⁶ Jonathan's birth was registered on 31 July 1837 at Dr Williams's Library, certificate no 16385. This states he was born on 21 March 1836 at the house of John Bateman in Amersham. He can be found in Hammersmith in 1861, a builder, with a wife Ann, and an Amersham-born son, George, aged 6. On 28 July 1837, certificate no 16365 had been issued to record the birth at Amersham on 31 July 1797 of Martha Woodbridge, daughter of Mary Woodbridge who was the daughter of William Woodbridge, carpenter.

⁴⁷ His birth was registered by his parents at Dr Williams's Library, certificate no 14743, dated 28 July 1837, and he had been born in Amersham on 9 July 1834

Looking once again at Charles Pearce who was baptised on 8 July 1855 in Great Missenden the son of Charles⁴⁸ and Ann Pearce, two more pieces of evidence can be found which, while not proving the theory, leave him still as a plausible candidate for Emily's husband.

When Charles married **Elizabeth Fanny Holliday** on 20 February 1879 at Berkhamsted he was recorded as a widower. This has puzzled some of his descendants who could find no evidence locally of any previous marriage for this bridegroom aged only about 24. If he had married Emily Toovey in Middlesborough, then her death in November 1878 would have freed him to marry again early in 1879. The 1881 census gives his trade as carpenter, not wheelwright, but he may simply have found it easier to find work in the less specialised area. This change is consistent with 'carpenter, journeyman' written on Emily's death certificate for her husband's trade.

He did not take Emily's young son to live with him nor did he declare the death of either Emily in 1878 or the son Charles Pearce in 1884, that office being performed by Samuel Toovey, so there is no documentary link between the Charles Pearce, carpenter of Berkhamsted, and these events. It is perhaps the case of a theory fitting the known facts, but the known facts not proving the theory.

⁴⁸ Charles died on 20 June 1876 leaving a Will dated 17 April 1873 in which his four children – William Pearce, Thomas Pearce, Charles Pearce and Clara Jane Pearce – are named. It was proved at Oxford by the executor Israel Pearce, plait dealer, of Great Missenden. No occupations or addresses are given for any of the children.

Children of Samuel Toovey and Angelina Lewis Cooper**Ebenezer Toovey (1853-1871)**

Ebenezer's Biblical name is probably a result of the family's Nonconformist sympathies. He appears with the family in only one census and by 1871, aged 17, has moved away and is learning a trade. He is a draper's assistant working for Alfred Bentall at 116 High Street, Sittingbourne, Kent. A visitor to the household is 27 year-old John Hallman, a Baptist Minister.

Ebenezer did not stay there long. The next and last trace of him comes from the GRO Index of Deaths where, with his distinctive name, he is shown as having died in the Cheltenham area in the last quarter of 1871. The death certificate shows that he died on 27 October of acute enteritis. He was aged 18 and still a draper's assistant and was living at 136 or 138 High Street, Cheltenham.

Children of Samuel Toovey and Angelina Lewis Cooper

James Theophilus (1857-1927)

Having been born in Coleshill, James would have spent only a few years there before moving back to Bury End in Amersham after the death of his grandfather Sampson Toovey in 1860. Aged 4, the small boy is enumerated as Theophilus. In 1871, aged 13 and now apparently known as James he is in the care of his 23 year-old sister Mary Ann and both are living with their surviving grandfather, James Cooper, in the same area of Amersham.

In 1881, working as a chairmaker, he is living with his parents and his orphaned nephew, Charles Pearce, aged 6.

By 1891 he has gone through considerable changes. Although back in his parents' house in Bury End, in the ten-year interval since the last census he has married, been widowed and is now responsible for bringing up a son and a daughter on his own. While the son **Jonathan** aged 2 is with him, one year-old **Arema Beatrice** has been placed as a nurse child a short distance away along the High Street and mis-recorded as Emma B Toovey. He is living on his own means.

He had married a cousin, **Arema Beatrice Toovey** (1863-1890), daughter of John Toovey and Sarah Jane Mines, on 13th May 1886 at Little Missenden. She had been working as a housemaid for a childless couple at Beamond End, who had left her a legacy and appointed her, with a local vet, as executrix of their Wills. When she died on 21 February 1890 in London Road, Amersham, she left James an estate of £1756-16s-2d.

By 31 March 1901 both of James's parents had died and he is working as a chair factor and furniture dealer rather than as a chair maker. His sister Maria Ann, at 53 about ten years older than him, is housekeeping and helping to bring up the children. Aged 11 and 12, they are no doubt still at school.

In 1911 the family is living on Station Road, Amersham. James is a furniture dealer and Jonathan is following family tradition as a carpenter. In June 1913, however, he set off for Australia aboard the *SS Themistocles*. There, on 11 April 1914, in Albert Park, Victoria, he married **Eva Christine Gordon Gilbert**. The two may well have known each other previously as she came from the Chesham Bois/Amersham area. A child, **Dorothy Christine**, was born on 15th April 1915 at 64 York Street, St Kilda, Victoria, and another, **Frances Edna**, on 26 January 1917. The electoral roll for 1919 lists Jonathan at 36 Longmoore Street, St Kilda West, Balaclava, Victoria, but that was the year of his death. Just as he had grown up without his mother, so his daughters would grow up probably not remembering her father.

James Theophilus outlived his son and died on 24th September 1927 in University College Hospital.

Arema Beatrice in 1932 married **Frank Ernest Alderman**. He died on 22 September 1935 at Fern Haven, Chestnut Lane, Amersham, aged 50. In 1939, she had moved to The Alders, Parkfield Avenue, Amersham, and had staying with her two cousins, **Eva** and **Daisy M Bryant** and also two elderly widows, who may have been paying guests.

Arema Beatrice Alderman died in the Watford Registration District in 1972.

James Theophilus Toovey is still commemorated in Amersham by a stone set in the wall of the Methodist Church on the High Street which simply says 'JT Toovey'. It looks as though it was probably built into the wall around the time the foundation stone was laid, a ceremony

reported in the press on 27 October 1899.⁴⁹ This was the culmination of many years' endeavour by the local Wesleyan congregation who, until then had been making use of the Friends' Meeting House in Whielden Street. They had bought four dilapidated houses on the High Street and demolished them, paying £10 for the cottages and £150 for the site. The new building would have a capacity of 250 people and would cost about £400 to build. The plaques must have been intended to mark the contribution of people who had helped most towards the creation of this new chapel. Perhaps the bad relations between James's father and the Baptist Minister Mr Beddow had something to do with this change of religious allegiance.

⁴⁹ *South Bucks Free Press*, 27 Oct 1899, p 7

5 DAUGHTERS OF SAMPSON TOOVEY AND KATHERINE SHRIMPTON: SARAH (1815-1898), CATHERINE (1817-1907), ELIZABETH (1826-1920) AND MARY(1828-1857)

Anne Toovey, the oldest daughter, moved to Chesham and married Joseph Deeley. Of the remaining four sisters, one married, but even so their lives intertwined to the point where it seemed more logical to recount their lives together rather than separately.

Sarah and **Catherine** were born five and seven years after Anne, who moved away from home quite early to earn her own living. They were followed by two boys, James and Henry. The youngest of the brood were **Elizabeth** and **Mary**.

In 1841 the four girls are part of the very large Toovey household. In their early twenties, Sarah and Catherine probably were kept very busy with domestic duties. Pigot's 1842 *Directory* lists 'Toovey, Catherine, Straw Hat Maker, Wilden [Whielden] Street.' This could refer to either mother or daughter, but if it was a family enterprise no doubt the daughters were contributing their share of the work. Mary probably had little sensation of being the youngest because of the presence of her brother John's children, a boy of 10 and three daughters aged 4, 6 and 8.

Before the next census, on 14 Sept 1846, **Catherine** had married **Thomas Grace**, a bootmaker and son of William Grace, chair-maker. Aged 27, he was two years younger than Catherine. Both gave their address as White Street, Southwark, which is where they can both be found in the 1851 census, at no 36. They are staying with Samuel Rutter, a watch and clock maker whose wife Eliza, 28, was born in Amersham. The Rutters have three children and an apprentice. Thomas Grace, 31, listed as a shoemaker, was born in Amersham. He and Catherine now have a son **Edward**, aged 1, also born in Amersham. Mary Grace, a widow of 69, is also visiting.

It looked as though Eliza and Thomas might be brother and sister and Mary their mother. The births of two children of **William** and **Mary Grace** of Amersham Common appear in RG 4/249, the register of the Old Meeting House (Baptist) in Chesham, Thomas born on 19 July 1819 and Eliza on 23 May 1823. Although Mary is widowed Thomas gave the name of his father as William when he got married.

Meanwhile, back in Amersham (or rather, Coleshill) Mary and Elizabeth, aged 22 and 23, are with their parents, Sampson and Catherine Toovey, who are in their late sixties. Elizabeth is a dressmaker. Also in the household is a grandchild, **James Grace**, aged 3. Both boys were born in Amersham, James in 1847 and **Edward Sampson Grace** in 1850.

Sarah Toovey is a visitor in an all-female household in Amersham High Street. This also contained the widowed **Mary Cocks**, aged 79, almost certainly the wife of the Baptist minister **John Cocks**, who had died in Amersham in December 1850.

In 1852 Catherine Grace became a widow. Thomas Grace, whose address was given simply as 'High Street', died on 21 April. He had been suffering for the past six years from phthisis (pulmonary tuberculosis). That is roughly the same length of time as his married life. He was 32 years old and a cordwainer. His two sons were very young, aged about 5 and 2 when he died, so probably retained no real memory of their father. The death was declared by **Elizabeth Shrimpton** and registered by Richard Sims.

On 4 September 1857, at Coleshill, **Mary Toovey** died. She was only 29 years old but had been suffering for four years from ovarian dropsy. It was, however, typhus fever which killed her after a month's illness. She was described as a needlewoman. Once again the death was declared by Elizabeth Shrimpton of Union Street.

Elizabeth Shrimpton may have been a friend, a nurse or a relative, since Mary Toovey's mother was Katherine Shrimpton. In 1851 Elizabeth was living in Union [Whielden] Street, the 56 year-old wife of Henry Shrimpton, tailor, but by 1861 had moved into an alms-house, described as 'formerly a lace-maker'.

In 1860 both Sampson and Katherine Toovey died, which meant that their unmarried daughters could no longer live under their parents' roof.

The 1861 census finds Catherine, 42, working as a monthly nurse and looking after Sarah Munday and her recently born son in a house in Amersham High Street. Such nurses would move in and look after a newly delivered mother and her child for the first few weeks after the birth. Dickens's caricature of the untrained and frequently drunk nurse Sairey Gamp should perhaps be counterbalanced by Mrs Beeton who in 1860 detailed the qualities which should be possessed a woman in that role:

'She should be scrupulously clean and tidy....honest, sober and noiseless in her movements...possess a natural love for children, and have a strong nerve in case of emergencies.'

Catherine's own children, James and Edward, now 13 and 11, are close by, being cared for by their aunts Sarah, 43, and Elizabeth, 34, in another building on the High Street, which was shared with Henry Shrimpton. Sarah is working as a sempstress and Elizabeth as a dressmaker.

It is clear that all three women are having to capitalise on their domestic skills to maintain themselves plus, in Catherine's case, maintain her two children.

In 1871 Sarah, 55, and Elizabeth, 45, are living together on the High Street. Sarah is described as housekeeper and Elizabeth as a dressmaker. 'Housekeeper' could imply that Sarah had paid work outside the home, or the enumerator may have felt that 'housewife' was not the appropriate term for an unmarried woman.

Catherine is not in Amersham for the 1871 or 1881 census. She is keeping house for her son Edward in Caversham, near Reading.

The 1881 census shows a variation in the pattern. Still in the High Street, Elizabeth, 55, is now a lodging-house keeper. Her older sister Sarah is not present because she is staying with the eldest sister **Ann Deeley**, wife of the baker Joseph Deeley, in Chesham. Whether on a temporary or longer-term basis, their niece **Louisa Toovey**, daughter of their brother Henry has moved in. She was 19 and a milliner. Elizabeth also has a lodger, Ann Eliza Lawrence, aged 76 and living on an annuity.

The 1891 census reveals that they are living in the White House in the High Street, but specifies no occupation for Sarah or Elizabeth. Catherine has returned, but as a visitor, and they have a 35 year-old maltster lodging with them.

Sarah died in 1898, aged 83, and the 1901 census shows that Catherine, 83, has now moved back to live with Elizabeth, now 75, and that both ladies are described as living on their own means.

In 1907, aged 90, Catherine Grace died, leaving Elizabeth as the sole survivor of the five sisters, since Ann's death in 1887. Elizabeth proved resilient. She must have paid for an

entry in the 1911 and 1915 Kelly's *Directory*, which listed 'Toovey, E. (Miss), apartments, White House, High Street'. The 1911 census showed that Elizabeth, now 84, had taken on a housekeeper, Gertrude Cooper, also giving a home to her two sons aged 13 and 14. This must have been a mutually beneficial arrangement and brought new life into the house. A young Police Constable is boarding there and there is also one visitor. The householder's schedule looks very much as though Elizabeth, in a slightly wavering hand, filled in her own details on the top line before passing it to Mrs Cooper, who signed on behalf of the household. Elizabeth very nearly made the next census, only relinquishing life in the last quarter of 1920, at the age of 94.

Children of Catherine Toovey and James Grace

Both sons were born in Amersham and seem to have been looked after there by the wider family, especially their aunts, while their widowed mother was working.

James Grace (1847-1885)

Like a number of his Toovey relatives, and perhaps influenced by his two aunts who earned their living by sewing, James went into the drapery trade and moved to Staines where, in 1871, he is living in Gresham Road and working as a draper. He has acquired a wife, **Catherine Jewell Parsons**. Aged 22, she is a year younger than him. She was born in St Albans and the marriage took place in the Hatfield registration district in 1870. They have a small daughter Catherine, aged only 3 weeks. They registered her as **Florence Kate**

By 1881 they have moved to 4 Alexandra Road, Hillingdon. James, 33, is a commercial traveller for a draper. He is at home on census night, but may have been away quite a bit. Catherine's mother is with them; **Mary Parsons**, 58, born in Wheathampstead, Herts. The couple have five children, **Ernest** aged 8 born in Caversham, **Constance Kate** 6, born in Reading, **Walter James** 5, born in Watford, **Gertrude Mary** 2 and **Edith May**, 10 months old, both born in Hillingdon. No doubt an extra pair of hands was much needed.

Gertrude Mary died in 1882. More seriously for the prosperity of the family, James died in the last quarter of 1885.

Faced with the problem of earning a living for herself and her children, by 1890 Catherine had set up a draper's shop herself at Brighton House, High Street, Rickmansworth. Only Constance, a milliner, and May who, at 10, is too young to be working remain with her. The 1901 census shows the same set-up, but both girls are now draper's assistants.

In 1911 Catherine is still running the shop with the help of an assistant, but none of her children are with her. She filled in the details asked only of currently married women, stating that she had borne seven children of whom only three were still alive. None of the entries in the GRO death index licenced to commercial websites showed convincingly when she died, nor did she apparently leave a Will. One possibility to follow up was the death of a 'Catherine Y Grace' in St Albans in 1936 with a calculated birth year of 1848. The GRO's new online index showed that this was indeed the entry for Catherine Jewell Grace, aged 88.

Children of James GRACE and Catherine Jewell PARSONS**Florence Kate Grace (1871-)**

Born just in time for the census, she did not appear in the next census, but her death cannot be found either in the GRO's own online index or in any of the commercial indexes. The mother's name is given in the GRO's online index of births as Parsons.

Children of James GRACE and Catherine Jewell PARSONS

Ernest Edward Grace (1872-1954)

Ernest's entry was almost illegible in the 1881 census in Hillingdon and he was not with the family in 1891. That was because he had joined the Royal Navy aged 18 on 14 September 1890 on a 12-year engagement. ADM 188/204/144609 gives us his date and place of birth, 14 Sept 1872 at Caversham. It is possible that he was born there so that his mother could be cared for by her mother-in-law. His trade on joining was given as draper's assistant and his height was 5 feet 5¾ inches. He served in quite a large number of units, both shore-based and at sea, starting with two training-ships. At first his conduct and character are described as very good, but after the middle of 1891 he is sentenced to at least two spells of 14 days in the cells. The other entries are less easily interpreted, periods of 60, 28 and 42 days accompanied by 'Imp.' Does this mean so many days stoppage of grog or leave for impertinence? Whatever the punishment, the outcome is very clear. On 10 June 1893 he put ashore, that is, discharged from the Navy, as undesirable.

As he did not appear in subsequent censuses or in the death records, it seemed worth checking emigration records. These showed an Ernest Grace aged 21 sailing for Sydney in August 1893 aboard SS *Damascus*. But he was a farmer, something which could hardly be learnt in just a few weeks. Australian records showed an Ernest Edward Grace aged 26 being admitted to Liverpool Asylum for the Infirm and Destitute, New South Wales, on 2 March 1899 suffering from neurasthenia. The records show that this was a first admission, that Ernest was single and had been born in Twickenham, London. He had come out on the ship *Damascus* and had been working in restaurants in Melbourne and Sydney until 12 months previously. He had been unable to work since and had no means and was living in Liverpool. Part of the entry appears to read '5 yrs in Colys [Colonies?] NSW 4 Vic 1'. Perhaps this has something to do with his entitlement to help. A further column deals with relatives. His mother lives in Rickmansworth, Herts and is 'cmftble' [comfortable?]. A brother lives in Virginia, America, but there is no address.⁵⁰ An uncle, Mr **Ernest Parsons**, lives at Bargo near Picton, on the Great Southern Road and this must mean in New South Wales. In the last column, where the edge of the paper has torn away is the information that his father was called 'James.....commercial traveller'.

Ernest was discharged on the 25th to the Hospital for the Insane at Parramatta. He died on 4 August 1954 and was buried in Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery. Australia's death records are helpfully detailed and gave the parents' names as James Grace and Catherine Jewell Parsons, so there is no doubt about his identity.⁵¹

⁵⁰ This is most likely to be Walter James Grace. See p 70.

⁵¹ The grave identifier is Sect.Presb.3 Row 2 Plot 38 and the death registration number is 004159, p 892.

Children of James GRACE and Catherine Jewell PARSONS

Constance Kate Grace (1874-1970)

She was born in the Reading area and remained with her mother longer than any of the others. She would have been about 11 when her father died and may have finished her schooling in Rickmansworth. In 1891 she is listed as a milliner and in 1901 as a draper's assistant aged 23 [though she was probably 26].

On 28 August 1901 in the parish church she married a schoolmaster **Arthur Alfred Bourne**, 24, of Basing Cottage, Rickmansworth. He was the son of **Thomas Alfred Bourne** and both fathers were recorded as 'Traveller, deceased.' Catherine Jewell Grace signed the register.

The 1911 census shows Constance Kate living with her husband at 147 King Henry's Road, Hampstead. He is a Congregational Minister and was born in about 1877 in St Johns Wood. They have a daughter **Dorothy**, aged 8 and born in Rickmansworth. Arthur Alfred began as a schoolmaster teaching at private schools in Portman Square and Baker Street, London. In 1905 he was invited to be a lay pastor at Radlett, taking over as full-time minister three years later. He then moved to New College Chapel in London, before going to Hunstanton in 1917. A move to Rhos-on-Sea followed in 1925, and he went on to Harpenden in 1932. During the Second World War he was the Congregational Minister for Matlock in Derbyshire. The 1939 Register shows Arthur living at The Manse, Mountain View, Chesterfield Road, Matlock, but Constance Kate is not with him and cannot be found elsewhere. By this time he was starting to struggle with increasing disability and had to give up the ministry at the end of the war, returning to Harpenden for his retirement. He died on 22 Sept 1954 while living at 32 Milton Road, Harpenden. The *Congregational Year Book* of 1956, pp 509-510, has an obituary plus, 2 pages further on, a photograph.⁵² This includes a tribute to Constance Kate: her husband often 'confessed his indebtedness to his wife, both in the ministry and at home. She survives him, having been his devoted companion for 54 years.'

There is a probable death entry for Constance Kate in the Bournemouth area in 1970, aged 95 and giving a birth-date of 3 July 1874. The National Probate Calendar for 1970 gives the date of death as 3 January 1970 and the address as 28 Beechwood Avenue, Bournemouth.

⁵² *The Congregational Who's Who*, published in the mid-1930s, adds that apart from reading, his favourite recreation was golf. For a more detailed account of his academic attainments, including the information that he entered the Royal Commercial Travellers' School at the age of 7 and later taught at Fretherne House School (which was in Baker Street, Marylebone) see the *Derbyshire and Chesterfield Herald* of 24 March 1939, which also includes a photograph of him.

In 1931 there was a Fretherne House School in Welwyn.

Dorothy Bourne (1902-1995)

Dorothy was born in Rickmansworth in 1902 and was with her parents in South Hampstead in 1911. Her name means 'gift of God'.

She graduated from the University of London with a BA from University College London and went into teaching, becoming headmistress of Wentworth School, College Road, Bournemouth⁵³ in about 1934. This is where she was in 1939 and the Register shows that she had also trained as an ARP Warden.

When she presented the awards at the Bournemouth Musical Festival in 1935 she told the audience that she had just returned from the Headmistresses' Conference in Cambridge, where many speakers had emphasised the importance of musical training, elocution and dramatic work, adding that in her view they were the 'necessary complements of Latin and mathematics and history and geography.'⁵⁴



WENTWORTH, BOURNEMOUTH.

BOARDING SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. (Recognised by the Ministry of Education.)

Chairman of Governors :—THE REV. S. M. BERRY, M.A., D.D. *Head Mistress* :—MISS D. BOURNE, M.A.
A FIRST-CLASS residential School, thoroughly equipped and up to date in every way. The building stands in its own grounds of nearly 10 acres, with a frontage to the sea of 400 feet, affording lacrosse pitches, seven tennis courts, two net ball courts.

Individual interests considered and close personal supervision given. Entrance and Leaving Scholarships. Pupils are prepared for University Examinations. Science and Biology Laboratories. Domestic Science. Arts and Crafts. Exceptional musical advantages. School Orchestra. Good games. Excellent health record. Highly qualified Staff. Resident trained Nurse.

Inclusive Fees :—£65 per term. Illustrated prospectus on application to the Principal.

⁵³ The school was founded as Bournemouth Collegiate School in 1899 in Poole. Although non-denominational it had links to the United Reformed Church. In 1923 it moved to the former home of Lord Portman, Wentworth Lodge and thus became known as Wentworth School. It offered a strong academic education to girls. During WW2 it was evacuated to Wales. In 1960 it became Wentworth Milton Mount School and changed to being co-educational in 2008. When a large loan was unexpectedly called in by the bank it became part of the United Church Schools Trust, then merged with Uplands School and the name was changed back to Bournemouth Collegiate School.

⁵⁴ *Western Gazette*, 28 June 1935

She was named, with her mother, as an executrix of her father's estate in 1954. When she was baptised at Rickmansworth on 5 August 1902 her birth-date was given as 2 July 1902 and this matches both the 1939 Register entry and the death registration of a Dorothy Bourne in Poole, Dorset in 1995, born on 2 July 1902 and aged 93.

John Frye Bourne (1912-1991)

John was born in Hampstead born on 18 February 1912. During the flu epidemic of 1918, when he was aged only 6, he had a serious bronchial illness and painting and drawing helped him through the long period of recuperation. Later he went to Bishop's Stortford College, a school founded in 1868 to educate the sons of Non-Conformists. There his talent for art was developed by two teachers, Ronald Gray and Percy Horton, and so successfully that he won a place at the Royal Academy Schools aged only 16. He is said to have been the youngest pupil there since Turner. Although he found some of the teaching not very inspirational, he won two scholarships. The Landseer Scholarship was awarded for the best work done in the examination taken to proceed into the second term and he also gained one from the British Institute. Even while still a student he was commissioned to paint portraits and he exhibited at the Royal Academy on six occasions between 1932 and 1949.

In November 1936 he became engaged to **Edith Dorothy Norah Hett** (1906-1984), elder daughter of the late Mr & Mrs EEM Hett of Aldwickbury. She too was an artist and they both belonged to the Hertfordshire Art Society of which she was the district correspondent.⁵⁵ In 1937 they married and in 1939 they were living at Parkgate, Piggottshill Lane, Aldwickbury, Harpenden. The war interrupted his career and on 13 February 1941 he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on the General List.⁵⁶ He is believed to have spent part of the war in North Africa and to have been responsible for camouflage operations around Alexandria.

After the war he continued to paint and was a member of Chelsea Arts Club.

In 1956 the Bournes moved to Devon and lived at Rosehill, Sidbury, near Sidmouth. Norah died on 9 February 1984, aged 78, and John on 12 September 1991, aged 79.⁵⁷ To commemorate them a permissive footpath has been created over land which they loved.⁵⁸

⁵⁵ *Luton News and Bedfordshire Chronicle*, 5 Nov 1936.

⁵⁶ *London Gazette*, 28 Feb 1941, p 1205, col A, records that Cadet John Frye Bourne (174024) had successfully passed through the 167th OCTU [Officer Cadet Training Unit]. This was probably at Blenheim Barracks, Aldershot.

⁵⁷ *London Gazette*, 26 Sept 1991, p 14700

⁵⁸ <http://cwr.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Module=CountryWalkDetails&Site=2584>

Children of James GRACE and Catherine Jewell PARSONS

Walter James Grace (1875-)

Like his brother Ernest, Walter James appears only once with his family. In 1891, aged 15, he is away from home. He is living with five other draper's assistants at 23 Simpson's Buildings, Wandsworth. While the earlier census gave his birthplace as Watford, this is more specific and states that it was Rickmansworth (which was within the Watford registration district). The next glimpse of Walter James Grace is as a passenger aboard the SS *Pavonia* bound for New York in June 1893. He is 17¼, a draper and last resident in London. These details are consistent with the 1891 census and with what his brother Ernest believed. His brother Ernest had apparently lost trace of him in Virginia six years after his arrival, but his mother seemed to have numbered him amongst her surviving children in 1911.

A further record was found for a Walter James Grace, born in England, who was a decorator, and sailed out on the *St Louis* in 1904. The different trade and date of sailing made this look like a red herring.

The decorator could be located in the census of 1900, not in Virginia but in Buffalo City, Erie, New York, Ward 22. He was born in England in October 1875 and had come to the USA in 1896, details which were consistent with Ernest's brother. He had been married about four years earlier to Anna A and they had two daughters, **Gertrude F**, aged 3 and **Helen K**, 11 months old, both born in New York State. Looking for the marriage produced a marriage licence docket, no 8086, issued on 2 November 1896 in Allegheny, Pennsylvania, to Walter James Grace, born on 14 October 1875 in England and resident in Wheeling, West Virginia, decorator, to marry **Anna J A Carmody** born on 14 September 1873 in New York, residing at 4 (?) Irwin Avenue, Allegheny.

The precise birth-date given here would need to be checked against the birth certificate, but Walter James's birth was registered in the fourth quarter of 1875 and the evidence starts to knit together with the mention of West Virginia. He may have found better employment prospects as a decorator than as a draper's assistant and may have travelled back to England since his previous arrival in 1896. He is mentioned on a number of passenger lists, suggesting that he might have travelled fairly frequently between the US and England. A passenger of the right name arrived in the States again at Chester, Pennsylvania, on 24 October 1904 aboard the SS *Celtic*, a widower of 29, of American nationality, last resident in London, and heading for 1521 Turner Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania.

On 29 Dec 1905 the Allegheny authorities issued a marriage licence, F9045, for **Margaret Mullin**, born in New York on 4 Sept 1883 and W James Grace, decorator, born 14 Oct 1871 (not 1875) whose previous wife had died. They married on 18 February 1906.

Another marriage licence, issued on 1 September 1922 for a marriage which took place on the 15th was for **Helen Catherine Grace** of 109 North Street, Batavia, NY, aged 23 and a book-keeper to marry **Leland William Mayer**. The bride's parents are listed as Walter J Grace and Anna Carmody of Buffalo, NY. The couple continued to live in Genesee, but had no children.

Gertrude worked as a telephone operator until she was admitted to Pittsburgh City Tuberculosis Hospital, where she died three months later on 5 June 1916. Her date of birth is not given, but she was born in Buffalo NY, her father being Walter Grace, born in England and her mother Anna Carmody, born in Batavia, NY. Gertrude was apparently buried in Batavia on the day of her death.

It has not been possible so far to follow Walter James's story any further.

Children of James GRACE and Catherine Jewell PARSONS**Alfred John Grace (1878-1878)**

Born in the second quarter of the year, he died in the third quarter. The new online GRO index gave the mother's maiden name as Parsons, which enabled him to be identified.

Children of James GRACE and Catherine Jewell PARSONS**Gertrude Mary Grace (1879-1882)**

She appeared in one census and died aged only 3.

Children of James GRACE and Catherine Jewell PARSONS**Edith May Grace (1880-1907)**

Like Gertrude, Edith May was born while the family was in Hillingdon. She was the youngest child and would have been only about 4 or 5 when her father died. She remained with her mother for the 1891 and 1901 census, living in the centre of Rickmansworth. By 1901 she is contributing to the family business by working alongside her mother and older sister Constance as a draper's assistant. In 1907, aged only about 27, she died.

Children of Catherine Toovey and James Grace

Edward Sampson Grace (1850-1920)

Edward, like two of his Aylesbury-born cousins who were close to him in age, became a railway clerk. Unlike them he worked for the Great Western Railway. Aged 20, in February 1870, he joined the Goods Depot in Reading at an annual salary of £60, rising to £70 in 1872 and £80 in 1874. The ledger which records this⁵⁹ has a column headed 'name and residence of sureties'. This is filled in with the name of the European Guarantee Society, amount £300, date 1 June 1870. This is then crossed out and replaced by 'GWR Fund. £300. No 1120. From 1st June 1871'. A possible explanation of what this may mean comes from the following:

'In Victorian times, a man who was laid off through ill-health was without pay, so some railway companies established funds to which the employees contributed to provide some financial support to sick and injured staff.....The Great Western Railway appointed trustees included the Chairman of the Directors and the General manager or Chief Mechanical Engineer. The funds were invested in reputable shares such as government stocks, or in the case of the GWR, shares of the GWR itself.'⁶⁰

Part of Edward's salary would have gone towards providing this security, perhaps with a maximum pay-out of £300. The same ledger notes that he was away ill and had no salary from 27 Aug to 8 Sept 1872.

The 1871 and 1881 censuses show that he was living in Caversham near Reading (in Bridge Street in 1881), working as a Railway Clerk, then Railway Goods Clerk and that his mother Catherine was living with him as housekeeper.

Catherine moved back to Amersham and her place as housekeeper was taken over by a cousin of Edward's, **Emily Amelia Rutter**, who is of the same age as Edward and appeared with him in the next three census. By 1891 he had moved to 80 White Cross Road, Holmer, Leominster, Herefordshire, and was still in the same job.

For the 1901 and 1911 censuses he had changed both his job title – Railway Goods Agent – and his abode, to Banbury in Oxfordshire, which was also served by the GWR. He and Emily Amelia lived at Colemans Road, Neithrop, Banbury in 1901, and then at 77 Middleton Road, Grimsbury, Banbury. In 1901 and 1911 the household was prosperous enough to employ a servant-girl to help with the housework. This was the address at which Edward died on 20 Oct 1920, aged about 70. His appointed executrix was his niece Constance Kate Bourne and he left £710-7-11. His cousin and housekeeper had predeceased him in 1916.

⁵⁹ RAIL 264/399/478

⁶⁰ Frank Hardy, *My Ancestor Was a Railway Worker*, 2012, p 59

6 JAMES TOOVEY (1819–1897)

James was born on October 30th 1819 in Amersham and his birth was registered at the Lower Meeting House Chapel.⁶¹

James does not appear with other members of his family in the census which took place on 6th June 1841. Just a month before, on 5th May, he had married **Eliza Keen**, daughter of **William** and **Sarah Keen**, a shoemaker, and is living with his in-laws in Whielden Street. James, following the family trade, is a chairmaker. The couple got married in London, at St Martin-in-the-Fields. The ceremony was by banns (called on April 18th and 25th and 2nd May) not licence and unusually the register gives the residence of both as Amersham. If neither had established residence in the London parish, as should have been the case, this may indicate considerable determination to avoid having to marry at St Mary's Amersham.

People sometimes went to considerable lengths to avoid having dealings with those of a different faith. Of Long Crendon it has been said: 'There were Church shops and Chapel shops, and people buying groceries would go out of their way to patronise one from their own religion. For the Sunday School outings there were church waggonettes and Chapel waggonettes drawn by Church horses and Chapel horses.'⁶²

By 1851 the couple have had two children, **James Clifford** aged 9 and **Gertrude**, 3. Their mother is working as a dressmaker and the family is still in Union [alias Whielden] Street.

James was closely concerned with the Baptists of the Upper Meeting House in Amersham. As Deacon, he submitted the returns for the 1851 Religious Census, which shows that on the morning of 30th March 60 worshippers were in the congregation and 28 children at Sunday School. In the afternoon the figures were respectively 78 and 29. The evening service was attended by 65 people. On the same day the Rector of St Mary's Church reported attendance down because of bad weather.⁶³

His involvement with the chapel may have brought other contacts too. **Dr George Thomas Congreve** was introduced to the Tooveys by the **Revd W Jeffery**. Congreve's speciality was the treatment of consumption (or pulmonary tuberculosis). In the book he published in 1881, *On Consumption of the Lungs, Or Decline and its Successful Treatment*, the Toovey family of Amersham are specifically mentioned on p 78. Dr Congreve apparently kept up a correspondence with James who was an enthusiastic advocate of his treatments. An extract from one of his letters is quoted:

'The young woman I wrote you about is quite *another person* since taking your medicines. She was so reduced by weakness before as to be totally unable to follow her employment. Her medical attendant pronounced the case *hopeless*, ordered cod-liver oil, port wine, etc, but I told her friend it was a case of *rapid consumption*. She is now so restored as to follow her usual employment. I have known other cases benefited by taking your medicine, and would earnestly recommend it. James Toovey' [Case XXV, p 79].

⁶¹ RG 4/239/41 at the National Archives

⁶² Joyce Donald, *The Letters of Thomas Hayton, Vicar of Long Crendon Buckinghamshire 1821-1887*, Bucks Record Society, Vol 20, 1979, p. x.

⁶³ HO 129/148/29 at the National Archives. See alternatively *Buckinghamshire Returns of the Census of Religious Worship*, ed Edward Legg, Buckinghamshire Record Society, Vol 27, 1991, pp 2-3.

An even more remarkable recovery was attributed to James's recommendations. **Mr G Moody** of Sherfield English in Hampshire [birthplace of James's son-in-law Samuel Moody, who had a brother called George] had also been told by his doctor that his case was hopeless.

'One lung was said to be gone, and the other much diseased. My friends then heard of your medicine through Mr James Toovey. I took five large bottles, attending to the instructions of your book with strong faith, and, by God's blessing, I gradually improved, and one symptom after another passed away until (nine months after commencing) I resumed my occupation' [Case LXVIII, p 100].

In addition to his medical practice Congreve, like James, was a Baptist Deacon. He was Superintendent of the Sunday School at the Baptist Church in Rye Lane, Peckham, and composed hymns and published hymnbooks for use in Sunday Schools. No doubt the two men had much to discuss apart from diseases of the chest.⁶⁴

In 1861 the family can again be found in Union [or Whielden] Street. The parents' occupations remain unchanged and Gertrude Eliza, 12, is apparently still at school. 19 year-old James Clifford has left Amersham to work as a shop-boy for a grocer and cheesemonger in Chipping Barnet High Street, Hertfordshire. By 1871 the family has moved to Bury End. James, 51, is now a stationer, but Eliza, 54, is still dressmaking. This time Gertrude Eliza is not with them, but James Clifford, 29 and working as a grocer's clerk, has returned and is living at home.

In 1881 James and Eliza have changed their jobs completely and moved to Turnham Green, where they are working respectively as servant and attendant to a medical practitioner, Dr **Samuel Instone** of 25 The Avenue, Bedford Park. What prompted this change is impossible to know, but perhaps James's interest in medicine had some bearing on the post he decided to accept. Ten years later he is a widower and staying with his daughter and son-in-law in Finchley. Eliza had died in 1884.

James died on 30th January 1897 in Amersham. He left £89 and 6 shillings and his son proved the Will.

⁶⁴ Born in 1821, Congreve had a medical training and was practising medicine in 1871, but took his qualifications late in life - Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries of London in 1876, MRCS 1879. He has been described as the author of the best-selling self-help manual on consumption (D Birch & M Llewellyn, *Conflict and Difference in Nineteenth-century Literature*, 2010, p94). He lived at Coombe Lodge, Rye Lane, Peckham. In 1893 large bottles of his medicine were priced at 22 shillings, small ones at 11 shillings (M Rickards & M Twyman, *The Encyclopedia of Ephemera*, 2000, p259). He died on 14th March 1898, leaving an estate worth £150,411 13 shillings and elevenpence.

Children of James Toovey and Eliza Keen

James Clifford Toovey (1842-1909)

As we have seen, having been born in Amersham, James left the area and worked as a young man in the grocery trade in a shop in Barnet High Street. He then returned to his parents and Amersham and was working as a grocer's clerk in 1871. The Baptists opened a British School in the year he was born so it seems likely that he would have been educated there. This grounding and his experience of commerce must have stood him in good stead for in 1876 he was accepted as a clerk (Lower Division) by the Board of Trade.⁶⁵

Two years earlier he had married **Sarah Charlotte James**, who was born in Hampton Wick, Middlesex, and by 1881 they have a daughter, **Margaret**, aged 4, and the couple, both aged 39 are living in Barnet. By 1891 little has changed, except that they have moved from no 20 Alston Road to no 22. Margaret, aged 14, is still at school. In 1901 James is still in the same job working as a civil servant of the Second Division for the Board of Trade. Margaret, now a young woman of 24, has no recorded occupation.

On 28 December 1907 James died. He left £1824 12s 9d and appointed his wife and his brother-in-law Samuel Moody executors. His wife and daughter remained at 22 Alston Road and in 1911 the widow, aged 69, is living on private means while Margaret, allegedly 32, still has no occupation. Her mother was to die the following year, 1912.

Child of James Clifford Toovey & Sarah Charlotte James

Margaret Toovey (1876-1954?)

It is difficult to know what happened to Margaret after her parents' death or how well prepared she was to lead an independent life. A search in the 1939 Register produced details of a Margaret Toovey, born on 27th June 1876, living in St Peter's Hospital, Spital Road, Maldon. This was a National Assistance Institution where she was occupied on unpaid domestic duties. This suggests that she had run out of money or, perhaps for other reasons, was unable to support herself. A death for a Margaret Toovey of the right age, 77, was recorded in Maldon in the second quarter of 1954, but without sending for the certificate it is impossible to know whether this is the right one.

⁶⁵ *The London Gazette*, 3 Oct 1876, p 5301.

Children of James Toovey and Eliza Keen

Gertrude Eliza (1848-1933)

Born in Amersham, most of Gertrude Eliza's life would be spent elsewhere. In 1861 she was still living with her parents, but by 1871 when she would have been aged about 22, she had left home. She could not at first be found in the 1871 census, but as the next event in her life was marriage and it took place in Kensington in 1874, a likely theory was that, like many young people from Amersham, she had gone into service in London. Searching likely areas for an Amersham-born Gertrude tracked her down. She had found a post as companion to a Mrs Magdalen Malherby, 38, born in Germany and living at 17 Rutland Terrace, Hammersmith. Perhaps English conversation was part of her duties. The husband may have been away from home a lot as he was a courier.

Her future husband **Samuel Moody** was in 1871 working as a grocer's assistant in the High Street, Barnet, so it seems likely that she may have met him through her brother James Clifford, who had done the same kind of job in the same place ten years earlier and may have kept up his contacts in the area.

By 1881 Samuel, who was born in Sherfield, Hampshire, is a grocer in his own right and the couple are living in Whetstone High Road, Finchley, Middlesex. They have four children: **Gertrude E**, 6, and **Florence M**, 5, both born in Barnet; **Winifred**, 3 and **Mabel I**, three months old, born in Whetstone. The household is completed by a grocer's assistant and a maidservant.

1891 finds the family in the same place, but it has expanded. Three sons have been added to the three surviving daughters; **Stanley C**, 8, **Francis J**, 6, and **Clifford G**, 3. As before an assistant and a maidservant are accommodated and also Gertrude's widowed father James Toovey (unkindly transcribed as James Looney).

By 1901 the household is starting to shrink. The parents are aged 55 and 53. The two remaining daughters have both gone into teaching: Florence, 24, has a post at a Board School and Winifred, 22, is a governess. Francis, 17, is a grocer's assistant, while Clifford is still at school. As before, a grocer's assistant and a maidservant are living in. They are aged 20 and 19, so overall this is a youthful group.

In 1911 only three of the children are still at home. Florence Mary, 35, is continuing her career as a Council teacher. Winifred Eliza, 33, has no apparent occupation, but is probably busy helping her parents. The youngest boy Clifford George, 23, is, like his uncle Clifford James, a clerk in the Civil Service. The family employs a maidservant still. Samuel and Gertrude are now aged 65 and 63. The census records that the marriage has lasted 37 years and that, of the 8 children borne by Gertrude 6 are still alive. Mabel Isabel, who appeared in the 1881 census, had died in 1882. Six other children are recorded in the census. **Sydney Samuel**, born in 1879 died early in 1880. The couple successfully reared their first three children, but the fourth and fifth died in infancy.

Samuel Moody's shop lay on the western side close to the intersection of the High Road with Totteridge Lane and further away from the junction with Friern Barnet Lane. By 1920 it had been taken over by J Salmon and Son, who continued to supply groceries.⁶⁶

At what stage Samuel gave up work we do not know but it is clear from the evidence presented to the Middlesex Military Appeals Tribunal by his son Francis James in 1917 that

⁶⁶ http://www.friern-barnethistory.org.uk/userfiles/file/Shops/High_Road_N20/Whetstone-Shops-1911-1937.pdf

from June onwards Samuel, who had suffered a stroke,⁶⁷ would have been incapable of earning his living. The only way to keep the business running was to find a manager while Francis James was away on war service. With so many businesses in similar difficulties, demand must have outstripped the supply of capable substitutes.

Despite his failing health Samuel Moody did not die until 15 May 1926 at his house Dandysford, Totteridge Lane, Whetstone. His son Francis James, merchant, was named as executor.

Gertrude Eliza continued to live in the same house until her death on 28th January 1933. Two of her children were executors, Francis James, architect, and Florence Mary. The estate amounted to £5025 8s 10d.

⁶⁷ See page 82

Children of Samuel Moody and Gertrude Eliza Toovey

(1) Gertrude Emily (1875-1964)

Born in 1875, Gertrude married in 1895 at about the age of 20 and went to live in Horsham, where her husband, **John Tobitt**, was a draper. His father Samuel⁶⁸ had been both grocer and draper, with a shop on the High Street in Henfield and in 1881, aged 17, it was the grocery part of the business that John was working in.

By 1901 the couple are living at 16 West Street, Horsham. John, 37, is a draper and clothier. The first two children, **Doris G** aged 2 and **John E S**, 8 months, have made their appearance. Gertrude's brother **Stanley Charles Moody**, 19, is with them and working as a clothier's assistant. The household is a large one with a male and a female draper's assistant both aged 24, a female dressmaker, 25, and assistant, 17, a nurse aged 19 and a no doubt very hardworking female servant of 17.

The 1911 census shows that the family has expanded. Doris, 12 and Eric, 10, have been joined by **Gwendolen**, 9, and **Averil**, 6, and no infant deaths are noted. John is now a draper and outfitter and they are still at 16 West Road.

In September 1939 they are living at Khartoum, Gordon Road, Horsham, with one servant and their dates of birth are given as 23rd June 1863 for John and Gertrude 24th November 1875. John died there just after the end of the war, on 19th June 1946, naming as executors his wife, his son Eric John, depot manager, and George Charles Cole, civil engineer. When Gertrude died at Oban, 10 Fay Road, Horsham, on 23rd August 1964, she chose Keith Cooper, company director, to administer her estate.

Children of Gertrude Emily Moody and John Tobitt

Doris Gertrude married **William John Idris Tucker** in Cardiff in 1934. In 1939 they are living at 42 Claremont Road, Hornsey, Middlesex. Her birthdate is given as 20 Nov 1898. She had been an Elementary School teacher until her marriage. During the Depression of the thirties, women working for public bodies had to give up their posts on marriage, so that the available jobs could be shared around and more households have one income coming in. Doris's surname of Tucker is confirmed in the Will of Winifred Eliza Moody and in a codicil dated 26 June 1961 her address is given as 103 Romilly Road, Cardiff. She probably died in 1980 in Weston Super Mare, aged 81.

Children of Gertrude Emily Moody and John Tobitt

John Eric Samuel Similarly John can be found in the 1939 register, born on 15 July 1900, living at 23 Featherstone Road, Birmingham. He is a transport driver and married to Kathleen. A possible marriage to **Kathleen Wheeler** had taken place in Kensington in 1928. John probably died in Birmingham in 1983.

⁶⁸ Samuel died on 22 May 1920 at Rushouse, Henfield, Sussex, having named as his executors James William Tobitt, minister of religion, John Tobitt, draper, and Charles Tobitt, draper and grocer. Samuel's wife Sarah appears to have died in 1917.

Children of Gertrude Emily Moody and John Tobitt

Mabel Nora Gwendolen married **George Charles Cole** in the third quarter of 1930 in Horsham. In 1939 they are living at Upperfield House, Easebourne, Midhurst. George Cole, born on 13 July 1901, is working as County Divisional Surveyor for the West Sussex County Council and is a Chartered Civil Engineer. Gwendolen's birth-date is given as 12 Dec 1901 and probably in preparation for war she has joined the Women's Voluntary Service, an organisation which put immense efforts into bringing practical help to everyone and anyone affected by the war. George Cole, then of Upperfield House, Easebourne, died on 1 April 1963 and Gwendolen's death was registered in the first quarter of the following year.

Children of Gertrude Emily Moody and John Tobitt

Averil Mary married **Keith Cooper** in 1936. Before that, like her oldest sister she had been a teacher. The passenger list of the *SS Arundel Castle* which brought her back from Capetown to Southampton in June 1932 recorded her destination as 37C Ranelagh Gardens, Ealing. The electoral roll for 1929 shows that she had previously shared lodgings at 18 Lancaster Gardens, so clearly had established a quite independent life. The 1939 Register shows that they were living in Surrey at The Birches, Wormley Hill, Hambledon. In Winifred Eliza Moody's codicil of June 1961 this is expressed as "'Birches", Wormley Hill, Godalming'. She was born on 12 June 1904 and her husband on 14 Sept 1907. He was the manager of a stick factory and was still apparently so in 1964, when he was an executor of Winifred Eliza Moody's Will. A little more can be gleaned about him from the online history of Sydenhurst Ramblers Cricket Club⁶⁹, which mentions the brothers Harold and Keith as owners of Cooper & Sons, manufacturers of walking sticks and supporters also of Brook Cricket Club. Wikipedia notes that Wormley was the site of the Cooper & Sons walking stick factory.⁷⁰ Apparently they once made shepherds' crooks for export to Australia, but diversified into other walking aids in the 20th century.⁷¹ The original building has been replaced by housing, but Coopers walking sticks seem to be still available to buy. There is a very probable death for Averil in 1998 registered in the Chichester area. She spent her last years as a widow because Keith died in 1990 in Sidmouth.

⁶⁹ <http://www.sydenhurst.co.uk/11.html>

⁷⁰ Surrey History centre also holds some records at Z/453 dated 1991-2003 about the closure of the factory belonging to [Cooper & Sons Ltd, walking stick manufacturers of Chiddingfold](#). Chiddingfold is only a couple of miles from Wormley and was apparently a major centre for the manufacture of walking sticks in the 1850s. A Keith Cooper aged 3 with an older brother Harold Henry appears in the 1911 household of his father Samuel John Cooper, walking stick manufacturer of Chiddingfold, so this could well be Averil's future husband.

⁷¹ <http://www.sihg.org.uk/books/SurreyIndPast.pdf>

Children of Samuel Moody and Gertrude Eliza Toovey

Florence Mary (1876-1952)

Born in 1876, Florence Mary remained at home, but had her own professional life, working as a teacher. At a time when qualifications were becoming more formalised she registered under number 59232 with the Teachers Registration Council on 1st September 1920. This cost a guinea and gives brief details of her career. Having been assistant mistress at Albert Street Council School, North Finchley from 1895 to 1913 she was appointed First Assistant mistress at North Road Council School in East Finchley from 1913. Her qualifications included a Board of Education Certificate, an Elementary Certificate of the National Froebel Union and a Teacher's Singing Certificate.

She died on 2nd June 1952 with her address given as Dandysford, Totteridge Lane, Whetstone, and left £503 19s 6d.

Children of Samuel Moody and Gertrude Eliza Toovey

Winifred Eliza (1877-1964)

Winifred (Winnie in one census) worked as a governess in her early twenties, but did not apparently pursue teaching as a career. She may well have been kept busy helping to run the household.

On her death on 23rd October 1964 she left £22,928. It seems likely that much of this was tied up in property since, perhaps as a result of her sister's death, she applied in 1952 to register several houses with the Land Registry. These were Dandysford, where she lived until her death, Maple Cottage, Rose Cottage, Oak Cottage, Vine Cottage 'and land adjoining Totteridge Lane, Whetstone', so it is possible that further plots remained to be developed.⁷² A clearer picture might emerge from reading the Wills of her parents and siblings and from local planning records.

Children of Samuel Moody and Gertrude Eliza Toovey

Sydney Samuel (1879-1880)

This was the couple's first son and he was given his father's name, but died in infancy.

Children of Samuel Moody and Gertrude Eliza Toovey

Mabel Isabel(la) (1881-1882)

In the GRO Index of Births her name appears as Isabella, but in the Index of Deaths it is Isabel. She was three months old on 3rd April when the 1881 census was taken.

⁷² *The London Gazette*, 3 Nov 1964, p 9385 and 2 Dec 1952 p 6359

Children of Samuel Moody and Gertrude Eliza Toovey

Stanley Charles (1882-1924)

Stanley was the eldest son to survive into adulthood. In 1901, aged 19, he was learning his trade as a clothier's assistant in Horsham, living in the house of his brother-in-law John Tobitt and sister Gertrude Emily. By 1911 he was back in Whetstone. Described as draper, clothier and boot-dealer and an employer, he was living with his brother Francis James at the Parade, Whetstone, so looks to be well on the way to establishing his own business.

During the First World War he was Private 209725 of the Mechanical Transport section of the Army Service Corps. It looks as though he was conscripted as he joined on 13 September 1916, a 34 year-old clothier and boot factor, and on his service papers there is an annotation 'appeal pending'.⁷³ He gave his address as 4/5 The Parade, Whetstone, and his brother Francis James as next of kin. He was 5 feet 2¾ inches tall and was supplied with spectacles by the army. He was posted to no 606 Company, which had been formed in January 1916 and remained in London as no 23 Local Auxiliary Company. There are several mentions of Holland Park in the file. From 21 March 1917 he was an Acting Corporal (paid). In March 1919 he was given 28 days' furlough and discharged to the Reserve with medical category B2.

In 1924, however, on 25th March, he died at the family home, Dandysford, predeceasing both his parents. That he had been successful in business is suggested by the fact that his estate amounted to £4282 19s 6d.

⁷³ His name does not appear in the index to MH 47 at the National Archives where the papers of the Middlesex Military Appeals Tribunal have been deposited.

Children of Samuel Moody and Gertrude Eliza Toovey

Francis James (1883-1966)

The 1901 census listed Francis as a grocer's assistant. In 1911, aged 27, he was sharing lodgings with his brother Stanley at 4, The Parade, Whetstone, possibly above Stanley's shop. Francis is, however, a grocer. He is described on the census form as an employer, which casts doubt on whether at that time he was working for his father.

Like his brother Stanley, Francis did not volunteer for military service and eventually his case came before the Military Appeals Tribunal in Finchley, where his application for exemption was turned down on 17 January 1917. Francis appealed against that decision and his case had a further hearing before the Middlesex Military Appeals Tribunal sitting at Guildhall, Westminster, on 3 April 1917.⁷⁴

The papers reveal that Francis was a grocer and provisions merchant and responsible for all the buying and financial aspects of his father's business. Samuel Moody was then over 72 and no longer capable of running the enterprise on his own. Both of Francis's parents and his sister were wholly dependent on the business. His two other brothers were in the army. Francis himself, before the war started, had taken out mortgages to the value of over £9,000 and those loans were partly secured upon the business. Since the beginning of the war they had been trying to find a buyer. Most of the local residents relied on the shop for their supplies. His initial appeal was turned down on the grounds that 'No serious hardship would be caused if the applicant were called up for military service.'

Francis renewed his efforts to find a manager, but was let down at the very last minute by a man he had expected to hand over to. His father went away on holiday on 1 June that year and suffered a stroke which removed any hope that he could have maintained himself by alternative lighter work. A surgeon in Horsham, FWE Kinnear MRCS, reported that he was suffering from neurasthenia and paralysis agitans, as well as heart trouble. 'Owing to the agitated state of his hands he is unable to hold a pen or do any clerical work.'

Francis had been enrolled as Special Constable no 0017726 and in the meantime the Commander of 'S' Division, based at Albany Street Police Station, NW1, wrote twice to the Tribunal complaining that he had not been performing the duties assigned to him and requesting that any exemption granted to him should be made conditional upon his carrying out his duties as constable and adding 'I however venture to hope that his exemption will not be extended as he seems to have taken every possible means of evading Military Service and also of neglecting his duties as Special Constable.'

Despite that, he was granted a final exemption until 30 July.

It is not possible to be completely certain about what branch of the forces he went into, but the most likely record is for a Francis James Moody who (like Stanley) ended the war as A/422210 Acting Corporal in the Army Service Corps and was awarded the Victory and British Medals. Against that has to be weighed an only partly legible snippet from the 1939 Register, where opposite Francis's name is written 'Middlesex Regiment (Infan.....) Retired.....' The word following 'retired' looks like 'hid..', but could be 'med' for 'medical grounds'. So far it has been impossible to link him to any WW1 record involving the Middlesex Regiment.⁷⁵

⁷⁴ The National Archives MH 47/35/50

⁷⁵ If he continued to serve as a regular soldier beyond 1920, the records will be with the Ministry of Defence and not at the National Archives which holds those of hostilities-only WW1 servicemen.

When his brother Stanley died in 1924, Francis was his executor and described as a shipping merchant, but when his mother's estate was listed in the National Probate Calendar of 1933, his job title had changed to architect.

This may have something to do with the development of the family's land holdings, as plans were submitted in 1931/2 for roads, sewers, houses and flats to be built on Green Road, Woodlands Estate, Totteridge. In the application Francis James Moody, of Dandysford, is named as the owner, but the architect is JH Taylor of Chancery Lane.⁷⁶

After that date it was difficult to know what happened to Francis, especially as there seem to have been at least two other men who bore that name. Searching the 1939 Register, however, brought forward only one candidate of the right name and birth year. At 1 Levington Road, Grimsby, a Francis J Moody, born 23rd August 1883, a Hoover salesman, is living with a wife, Olga. If Francis was giving Dandysford as his address in 1931 it seemed unlikely at first that this could be a match, and it was not certain that J stood for James, but no death other than one in Grimsby could be found which matched the details so far known. When James's birth certificate was obtained, the date of birth was the same as that given on the 1939 Register. He had married **Olga Smith**⁷⁷ in 1922 in the Grimsby registration district.

In the Will of Stanley Charles Moody, dated 11 March 1924, the address of Francis James Moody, shipping merchant, was given as 251 Cleethorpes Road, Grimsby, so the initial speculation was confirmed by some hard evidence. It seems likely that his business would have suffered heavily during the depression of the thirties.

Two children were born in the Grimsby area to parents whose surnames were Moody and Smith; **Stanley C F Moody** in 1922 and **Winifred F** in 1924 and these echoed the names of James's siblings. Stanley died in 1923 before reaching his first birthday, but Winifred was listed with her parents on the 1939 Register and her date of birth given as 21 May [or possibly March?] 1924. Aged 15 she is 'seeking work'.

Francis lived on until 1966 and his death was recorded in the district of Cleethorpes. Thus Francis outlived all his siblings, his sisters Gertrude Emily and Winifred Eliza having died in 1964.

⁷⁶ LMA/4070/01/07620

⁷⁷ It appears that Olga was the daughter of a marine engineer, William Edwin Smith, and Maude Elizabeth Inch who had married in 1900. In 1911 the whole family can be seen at 12 Levington Street, Grimsby, which shows Olga as the third child and oldest daughter.

Children of Samuel Moody and Gertrude Eliza Toovey

Clifford George (1888-1955)

In 1903 Clifford had been accepted into the Civil Service as a temporary boy clerk in the Post Office⁷⁸ and in 1911 was still a member of the Civil Service and living at home. Three years later war broke out. On 29th October 1915 he was gazetted Temporary Second Lieutenant in the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment). He served in India and finished the war with the rank of Captain, gaining the 1914-15 Star and British Medal. The medal card shows that he was also a lieutenant in the Uganda Volunteer Reserve.

From forms and correspondence that survive in his Army papers at the National Archives,⁷⁹ a little more of his history can be pieced together.

While in the Civil Service he served on the Commission on Coastal Erosion and on the Railway Strike Commission in 1911.

When he applied for a commission, his standard of education was attested by W[illiam] Latimer, MA, Headmaster of the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Barnet, so he may have been a pupil there. In February 1904, aged about 16, he had joined the Civil Service Cadet Corps and was promoted to Corporal in May 1906 and Sergeant in 1907. By 1908 he was a Colour Sergeant Instructor in charge of physical drill and gymnastics in charge of training recruits and Headquarters Companies. From this he transferred as a Private to the Prince of Wales Own Civil Service Rifles which formed the 15th Battalion of the London Regiment. He resigned from that on 31 December 1911 because he was going out to Uganda. Once there he was able in 1912 to join the Uganda Volunteer Rifles and on the outbreak of war the Uganda Volunteer Reserve was formed from the original force and is the unit mentioned on his medal card. He was enrolled as a Private on 6 August 1914 but rose to the rank of Sergeant again 12 days later. On 16 January 1915 he was appointed Lieutenant and put in charge of the Indian Company. According to his CO's testimonial this was viewed as a thankless task, but one which he performed with great efficiency.

He could ride a little and wore spectacles for general use, his eyesight having been assessed as 6/24. He resigned his commission on 30 June 1915 in order to return to England, taking with him not only his CO's recommendation, but also one from the Governor of the Uganda Protectorate saying he 'is very anxious to go to the Front, in France, as early as possible.' His character reference was supplied by G B Ennis, Colonial Commercial Manager, of Platt Grange, Borough Green, Kent, who had known him for 4 years.

The application form for a temporary commission which he filled in on 18 October was one for use by aspiring officers who had not passed through an Officers Training Corps or been to University.

On 21 October 1915 he was ordered to report to Captain Wooton at the Fine Art Club, High Street, Ipswich, known as the Ipswich School, a training camp for officers, as a Temporary Second Lieutenant attached to the 15th (Reserve) Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment. As an officer he was responsible for his own travel expenses to Ipswich, but was informed that he would not need to procure camp kit and bedding.

⁷⁸ *The London Gazette*, 17 Nov 1903, p 7036

⁷⁹ *The London Gazette*, 1 Nov 1915, p 10746 and medal card, WO 372/14/61965. Further information may be found at the National Archives, WO 339/45595.

By 22 September 1916 he was a Temporary Captain and employed as 'Physical and Bayonet Training Supervising Officer', so it looks as though he was building on some of his earlier experiences.

In July 1917, apparently once more a Second Lieutenant, he reported sick with colitis at the Military Families' Hospital in Chatham and about three weeks later was sent on to Eaton Hall in Cheshire⁸⁰ to recuperate. On 23 August 1917 he embarked at Devonport for service abroad, but instead of France, he was on his way to India and disembarked at Bombay on 22 November. In December 1918 he was a Platoon Commander in Nasik. On 29 July 1919 he was Mentioned in Despatches by the Commander in Chief of India for services during the war at Simla, and this was allegedly gazetted on 2 Dec 1919. Finally on 1 October 1919, aged about 31, he boarded the SS *Kigoma* in Bombay to sail back to England for demobilisation.

Much of the rest of his working life was spent abroad. He was listed as a passenger aboard the *Nevasa* leaving London on 26th January 1920 for Calcutta as an Assistant General Manager, but his name has been crossed out, so probably the *Nevasa* sailed without him.

He arrived in London on 6th April 1923 having boarded the *Modasa* at Killilindi in Kenya and is listed as a business manager travelling from Uganda, aged 35. In the second quarter of that year he married **Elizabeth H Black** in Kensington. On 1st December 1923 he boarded the *Usambara* at Southampton, heading for Uganda via the port of Mombasa in Kenya and described as an Import and Export Manager. His wife does not figure on the passenger list, but details can be found of two further voyages they made together. They sailed on the *Wangoni* leaving Southampton on 2nd March 1928 for Beira, on the way to Uganda and giving as their last address 96 Alexandra Road, London NW8. Again they left Southampton on 7th October 1931 aboard the *Tanganyika* heading for Lourenço Marques (now Maputo) in Mozambique. This time they had been staying at Dandysford. Elizabeth's age is consistently given at 8 years younger than her husband and her birth-year as 1896, which should help with any further research.

His brother Stanley Charles specified in his Will of 1924 that Clifford George should replace him as trustee of the Whetstone Estate, so this is a further clue about the family's finances at that date.

The couple cannot be found in the 1939 register, but towards the end of the war Clifford was awarded the O.B.E. 'for public services in Uganda'.⁸¹ Clifford died in the third quarter of 1955 in the Hendon registration district, which included Whetstone. No Will is listed in the National Probate Calendar.

⁸⁰ The Duke of Westminster's residence in Cheshire from 1914 accommodated a military hospital open to all ranks. From 1917 it was for officers only.

⁸¹ *The London Gazette*, 1 Jan 1945, p 32

7 HENRY TOOVEY (1822-1910)

Born on 13 April 1822, Henry was aged 19 in 1841. Living with his family in Whielden Street he was working as a chairmaker.

On 5th May 1844, Henry married **Sarah Dumbarton** at St John the Baptist, Hillingdon. Both were apparently of full age and resident in Hillingdon. Sarah was born in Amersham, the daughter of **Thomas Dumbarton** (1797-1863) who, like Henry and his father, was a chairmaker and also a Baptist. On 19 September 1823 she was baptised at Amersham St Mary, the daughter of Thomas and his wife Isabella, and in 1841 the family is living in Meeting Yard, off the High Street.

By 1851 Henry is a furniture broker living in the High Street, aged 29, a year older than his wife Sarah. Three sons and a daughter are listed: **Henry** 9, **William** 6, **Catherine** 4 and **Herbert** 1.

He was the first of the Tooveys to live in the Museum building, at what is now 49 High Street.

By 1861 the older children, Henry and William, have moved out. Catherine, 14, and Herbert, 11, are still there and three more children have been born since the previous census: **Frederick**, 7, **Emma**, 4 and **Mary Ann**, 2.

In 1871 Henry is listed as an upholsterer and broker, but the census reveals bigger changes. His wife Sarah died in the third quarter of 1863, having given birth the previous year to another daughter, **Louisa**.

On 14th May 1864, once more at St John the Baptist, Hillingdon, Henry married his second wife **Caroline Williams**, daughter of **Thomas Williams**, a plasterer. She was baptised on 6th May 1832 in St Mary's, Hay, Breconshire and her mother's name was given as Elizabeth. The marriage was again by banns and both are allegedly resident in Hillingdon. By the time of the census Henry had been presented with two more sons, **Alfred** aged 3 and **Albert**, 2.

By 1881 the family has grown again. Henry is now a grocer and upholsterer. His son Frederick, 26, is the only child of his first marriage still living at home. Described as a carpenter in 1871, he is now an upholsterer and, no doubt, working in his father's upholstery business. Alfred, 13, the oldest child of the second marriage, and his brother Albert, 12, are listed as grocers. The two newest arrivals, **Jane**, 9, and **Walter**, 7, are still at school.

Henry's second wife Caroline died in 1885, so the 1891 census finds him in a much-reduced household. The enumerator notes that he is living in a grocer's shop on the High Street. With him are two of his sons: Walter, 16, is a grocer's assistant while Frederick, still unmarried at 33, is an upholsterer and cabinet maker. Next door is a drapery business run by Sarah and Emily Aldridge.

In the same year, 1891, Perry's *Bankrupt and Insolvent Gazette* of 4 November (p 1042) recorded that a County Court judgement for a debt of £14 -5-6 had been made against Henry in connection with the furniture-dealing business in the High Street. No corresponding notice could be found in the *London Gazette*. Some time after that he seems to have gone to live with his youngest daughter by his first marriage, **Louisa Hooker**, in Watford. He is there for the 1901 census and died there early in 1910.

Although Henry's early training was as a chairmaker, he seems to have been drawn towards dealing and shopkeeping rather than fabrication and a number of his children were involved in both the furniture and the grocery trades.

An advert in the *Bucks Herald* of 17 Oct 1846 lists Henry as the agent for the Amersham area supplying tea and coffee 'neatly packed in Tinfoil' on behalf of Mansell & Co of 2 Bucklersbury, London, and the 1847 *Post Office Directory* confirms this, listing him as a tea dealer living in Union Street, where his father Sampson Toovey is making chairs.

However Kelly's 1854 *Directory* echoes the 1851 census and shows him as a furniture broker living in the High Street. A broker is likely to be buying furniture made locally and selling it on in bulk to retailers, rather than selling directly to the public. The same details are given in 1864, 1877 and 1883, although the 1881 and 1891 census entries show the family also involved in the grocery business. The 1895 Kelly's *Directory* shows that his son Frederick S Toovey has taken over the furniture dealing business in the High Street.

Henry is mentioned several times in the *Bucks Herald*. It looks as though he was occasionally involved in legal processes involving distraint of property, either as a valuer or dealer. On 25 Feb 1882 the *Herald* reported that Henry was a co-defendant in a case in which goods had been seized because of non-payment of rent. James Edwards, a member of the Board of Guardians had let a cottage in Chalfont St Peter to Mrs Carlton. She had since offered to pay what was owed, and wished to recover goods worth £25 18 shillings. In 1891 Henry served a notice on behalf of Alfred Berry on Rebecca Lunnon, who had got behind with rent of 1 shilling and sixpence per week for a cottage in Coleshill (*Herald* 28 Nov).

On one occasion he was sued by Joseph Kingham, a grocer in Aylesbury, to recover £3-18-1 for groceries supplied. At issue were two tubs of American butter invoiced at £5-5-0. Henry Toovey alleged that it was rancid and that he had shown it to Mr Kingham's son, who agreed it had gone bad. Henry managed to sell it for amounts varying between tenpence and threepence a pound. The second tub was worse. It was shown to the Sanitary Inspector, who recommended it should be destroyed. That sold for only threepence a pound(!). Henry said he had lost £2-13-7 on the deal and he won the case (*Herald* 11 Nov 1882).

Some further details of Henry's debt problems can be found in the *Bucks Herald* of June and July 1893. The first concerns the grocery business. CB Chasteney & Co, wholesale grocers of Berkhamsted, were owed £5 10 shillings and told the court that Henry Toovey was in a position to settle the debt as he had sold his grocery business for £50 or £60. It is impossible to tell whether the early death of his second son William Hine Toovey in 1880 had had an adverse effect on the business. An order was made for him to go to jail for twenty-one days, but so long as he paid off the debt at 5 shillings a month it was not to be executed (10 June 1893).

The following month another case was heard by the County Court. Law Brothers, who were running an upholstery business in Curtain Road, Shoreditch, had already obtained an order in the Shoreditch County Court whereby Henry Toovey was to pay off his debt by monthly instalments of £4. He had not done so and they now claimed £15 13 shillings. They had tried to have goods seized to cover the debt, but Henry's son had claimed that the goods belonged to him. The ownership of the Amersham furniture brokerage was in doubt. Henry did not appear in court, but sent a letter saying that he could not pay. Judge Holl QC, who had also presided at the earlier hearing, declined to issue a warrant for Henry's committal because he doubted that the defendant, who was aged 72, had the means to pay. He amended the earlier court order so that the monthly amount was reduced to £1 (9 July 1893).

If these sums do not sound large, it should be remembered that in 1913 *Round About a Pound a Week* was published by Maud Pember Reeves of the Fabian Women's Group. It contained detailed studies of women whose husbands were in steady employment but who

were struggling to bring up families in Lambeth. The total sum owed by Henry would have kept such a family, 20 years later, for about 4 months.

Perhaps Henry had good reasons for moving away from Amersham.

Children of Henry Toovey and Sarah Dumbarton

Henry [Dumbarton] Toovey (1841-1927)

Henry was born on 4 October 1841 in Amersham. His birth was registered by his mother and as his parents were not then married he was given the name **Henry Toovey Dumbarton**. He appears in subsequent censuses as Henry Toovey and on his daughter's marriage certificate as **Henry Dumbarton Toovey**.

By 1861 Henry was away from home and earning his living. Aged 19, he was a footman in Walton Street, Aylesbury, the official residence of Captain Willoughby Carter, Buckinghamshire's first Chief Constable and a stern disciplinarian. Adverts for footmen show that employers often sought tall men of good appearance and manner. How long the job lasted we do not know, but on 3rd September 1867 Henry, now working as a carpenter in Bermondsey married **Salome Fleet**, daughter of **Francis Fleet**, also a carpenter. Henry's father's occupation is given as cabinet maker. Later censuses give Salome's birthplace as Stoke Mandeville, but in 1861 she was living with her parents in Walton Street, making it highly likely that the two had met, or at least knew of each other, before moving to Bermondsey.

The first child, **Sarah Jane**, was born in Peckham in 1868, but the couple had returned to Aylesbury by 1870 in time for the birth of **James Henry**. The 1871 census shows that they were living in Exchange Street, Aylesbury. Henry is now a carpenter and joiner. His age is given as 27, not 29 as we might have expected, while Salome is 25 and the children 2 and 1.

By 1881 the family had moved to 9 Bourbon Street, Aylesbury, the parents' ages had increased by 11 years and they had a family of six children, the new arrivals being **Alfred 9**, **May 7**, **Francis 4** and **Kate 2**.

Directories of 1883 and 1887 list Henry as a cabinet maker and upholsterer at 9 Bourbon Street.

By 1891 they are prosperous enough to have moved to 3 Temple Square. Henry is now an upholsterer as well as a cabinet maker. The two eldest are earning, James Herbert being a railway clerk living at home while Sarah Jane has found a post as a nursemaid in Harrow, working for a solicitor, Charles Woolby, and his wife. Henry and Salome have two more children, **Rose 7** and **Salome 4**.

The 1899 Kelly's Directory shows how the scope of Henry's business had increased now that he is in a prime location in Aylesbury. He is 'cabinet maker & upholsterer, carpet planner, French polisher, blind maker & furniture maker & repairer.'

In 1899, aged 54, Salome died and was buried on 4 November at Aylesbury Cemetery. In 1901, although the family is still at the same address, Henry's household is being run by his eldest daughter Sarah Jane, now 31. May Julia is working as a ladies' [sic] maid. Apart from them only **Minnie Rose** and **Salome**, now 18 and 14, are at home, but there is a boarder in this now predominantly female household, the schoolmistress Annie Agnes Faulds.

A few months after the census, on 19th September 1901 at St Saviour, Paddington, London, Henry married for the second time. The bride, **Frances Nelly Shorey**, daughter of **James Shorey**, was 28, exactly half her husband's age. The 1911 census schedule delivered to 3 Temple Square had another two of Henry's children to record, **Hattie [Henrietta] Constance**, 8, and **Reginald John**, 4. Three years later Reginald Toovey, of St Mary's Infant School was awarded a prayer-book as a prize (*Bucks Herald*, 21 Feb 1914). In 1878 James Henry, aged about 8, had also won a school prize, a copy of Goldsmith's works at Aylesbury Endowed Schools (22 June 1878).

In July 1916 no 3 Temple Square was advertised for sale by auction, producing the information that the tenant Mr Toovey was paying an annual rent of £14 10 shillings (*Bucks Herald*, 15 July). Henry was connected with the Aylesbury Medical Fund, a part of the Hearts of Oak Benefit Society (*Bucks Herald*, 2 Dec 1905), while Miss KE Toovey was often mentioned for her talents in singing and acting.

On 6 Jan 1928 the *Herald* carried the following report:

A Dual Bereavement: — The death occurred on Friday last of Mr Henry Toovey, of 50, Buckingham-street, a well-known Aylesbury tradesman, formerly in business as a cabinet maker at Bourbon-street and Temple Square. He was 86 years of age. He was twice married and leaves a widow, three sons and three daughters. The funeral took place at Aylesbury Cemetery on Tuesday, the Vicar (Rev F.J.Howard) performing the last rites. It was a sad coincidence that a married daughter, formerly Miss Kitty Toovey, now resident in Wales, was also bereaved by the death of her husband on the day of her father's death, and the funerals took place on the same day.'

If that account was accurate it would mean that four out of his ten children had pre-deceased him. In fact, of his six daughters and four sons, only one died before him, Minnie Rose in 1923.⁸²

The 1939 register shows that Frances Nellie is still in Aylesbury with her two children. They have moved a short distance away from the centre and are at 22 Milton Road. Reginald has become a solicitor's clerk. Henrietta (or Hattie) is also doing office work, as a clerk at a laundry, and has trained as an ARP Warden. In 1940 she married Edward W Jarvis in Aylesbury. Indications are that she died in Tunbridge Wells in 1992.

Findagrave has a reference to a Reginald John Toovey at Chiltern Crematorium with a date of 2nd July 1994.

There is a possibility that Frances did not die until 1969 as a death with a calculated birth-year of 1874 is recorded then in North Bucks for a Frances E Toovey. Her birth had been registered in 1873 as Frances Ellen Shorey.

Henry is sometimes referred to as Henry Dumbarton Toovey. The 1891 census gives his name as Henry D Toovey, but otherwise there seems little support for the extra name, although it occurs in some of his children's marriage certificates. It does, however, help to distinguish him from his father Henry.

⁸² See p 99

Children of Henry [Dumbarton] Toovey and Salome Fleet

Sarah Jane (1868-1949)

Sarah Jane's first appearance in a census is in Aylesbury in 1871, but she was born in Peckham in the third quarter of 1868. In 1891 she is away from home, aged 22 and working as a nursemaid in the household of a solicitor, Charles Woolley and his wife, of Harrow Road, Wembley, who have two small boys. No doubt as the eldest girl of a large family she had plenty of experience in looking after children.

In 1901 she is back in Aylesbury caring for widowed father and the rest of the family and is described as 'housekeeper at home'. Her three younger sisters are all still in residence and range in age from 14 to 26, and they have a lodger, an assistant schoolmistress from Lincolnshire, aged 21.

In 1911 the Temple Square household contains only Henry, his second wife and their two children. There is no sign of Sarah Jane. So far she has not been found either in the 1911 census or the 1939 Register.

At some point following her father's second marriage, which took place in September 1901, Sarah Jane presumably found that she could look for employment again.

A granddaughter of Sarah Jane's sister Kate Eleanor kindly passed on the news that Sarah Jane had worked as nanny to the children of George Ernest Morrison, an Australian also known as 'China Morrison' or 'Morrison of Peking'. He had an adventurous life. As a young man he was brought in haste from New Guinea to Edinburgh in great pain in the hope that the broken-off tip of a warrior's spear could be removed from his abdomen by the renowned Professor of Surgery John Chiene. Morrison then completed in Edinburgh the medical qualifications which he had begun at Melbourne University and later became correspondent for *The Times* in Peking before being appointed political advisor to the Chinese government.

On 26 Aug 1912 at Emmanuel Church, Croydon, he married his New Zealand born secretary Jennie Wark Robin, aged 23 to his 50 years. Their three sons were born in Peking, Ian Ernest MacLeavy in 1913, Alistair Robin Gwyn in 1915 and Colin George Mervyn in 1917.⁸³

Only a few years later Morrison died. The family had moved to Sidmouth in Devon after staying for a while in Paris, hoping for an improvement in Morrison's health. Jennie, writing to her mother-in-law, Rebecca Morrison, revealed that 'Nurse (my nannie) and his faithful valet Wilmer were in the room when he died on 30 May 1920.'⁸⁴ Elsewhere she stated 'Nurse's name is Miss Toovey, and if you want to write to Sidmouth, the new address for one year is 4 Milford Avenue, Sidmouth' (p 827).

Jennie was utterly grief-stricken and her early death on 20 June 1923 is usually attributed to a broken heart. In the aftermath of her husband's death, however, she had to return to China. A measure of the very great trust she felt for Sarah Jane was that she felt able to leave the three boys, then aged about 7, 5 and 3, in her charge so soon after what must have been a traumatic event for them:

⁸³ Ian married Marie Neubauer in HK 1941, Colin her sister Steffi in 1946. Film *A Many Splendoured Thing*, 1955, was based on the autobiographical novel by Han Suyin, the pen-name of Elizabeth Comber, a doctor of Chinese-Belgian descent who fell passionately in love with Ian Morrison while he was correspondent of *The Times*

⁸⁴ *The Correspondence of GE Morrison, Vol 2 1912-1920*, ed Lo Hui-Min, 1976, p 824

'I have taken a tiny furnished house at Sidmouth for a year, and am leaving Nurse there with the governess and children. I know they are absolutely safe with Nurse and the governess Miss Bebbington' (p826).

Long-term plans were to send the boys to Winchester and Oxford, as their father had wanted. In fact they were destined to go to Winchester and Cambridge

It is difficult to know at what point and where Sarah Jane came into the Morrisons' lives, but 'Nurse (my nannie)' could imply that she had perhaps have been taken on in order to nurse one of the parents and then stayed on as nanny. Her own upbringing must have afforded her considerable experience in looking after younger children and running a household and she may have added some more formal qualifications in nursing. Clearly she had proved herself to be of sterling worth and a great support to an employer married at 23 and widowed at 31.

After Jennie Morrison's death on 20 June 1923 it is less easy to gauge her role, but the electoral rolls show her remaining in the same house (The Mount, Witley, Surrey) which was given in the *National Probate Calendar* as Jennie Morrison's abode when she died, though the death did not take place there but in a London hospital. Sarah Jane was still resident there in 1927 and may have been providing a secure base and some continuity for the Morrison boys. Ian's name is also on the electoral roll at that address in 1927, when he would have been about 24. The boys' maternal grandparents were also in Surrey, in 1920 at 14 Lismore Road, Croydon, and in 1941 at Kilimani, Waverley Lane, Farnham.

A needlecase containing some of the boys' name-tapes, ready to sew on their clothes when they went to school, has been passed down to a great-niece of Sarah Jane.



There is then a gap in the electoral rolls on Ancestry until 1936 and 1938 when Sarah Jane's address is Gong Hill, Farnham. In 1938 her name is joined by those of all three boys at Morris Lodge, Lower Bourne, Farnham. By 1939 Sarah Jane's address has changed to St Mary's, Ridgway Road, Farnham, which was cited by the middle son, Alistair, as his latest address when sailing on the *SS Orbita* to Valparaiso in July that year. He became an ornithologist and married a photographer Hedwig Marie (Hedda) Hammer.

Electoral Rolls show that she was in Guildford, The Mount, in 1925 and at Morris Lodge, Gong Hill, Farnham in 1936 and 1938. By 1945 she had joined forces with her sister May Julia and they can both be found at St Mary's, Ridgway Road, Farnham. That is where Sarah Jane died on 9 April 1949. Julia May was her executrix.

Children of Henry [Dumbarton] Toovey and Salome Fleet

James Henry (1870-1949)

Born on 27 January 1870, James Henry attended the Aylesbury Endowed Schools where he was awarded a copy of Goldsmith's works as a prize in 1878 (*Bucks Herald*, 22 June).

In 1891, aged 21, he is still living with his parents and working as a railway clerk. Records of the London Midland & Scottish Railway Company show that in 1883 he had been a weigher of goods at Wellingborough and earning 8 shillings (presumably per week). He became an apprentice and then a clerk. By 1891 his salary had risen to £80 per year. He married **Florence Jane Olive Fowler** in 1894 in Hemel Hempstead and in 1901 the two are living at 20 Cowper Road in Hemel with their son **James Rowland Toovey**, born in 1898. James Henry is described as a Railway Superintendent. Aged 31, his salary has risen to £130.

By 1911 they have moved to 41 Gladstone Road, Watford. James Rowland is still at school and the details supplied by the parents show that no other children had been born. Soon after this James is promoted to Chief Clerk of the Parcels Section earning £185 and, by early 1914, £200. Towards the end of the war he moves into dealing with passengers' bookings and his money increases, bringing him £500 by 1927. He retired on 31 May 1930 and in 1939 the couple are at 53 Kenya Avenue, Hove, Sussex. Having perhaps moved there hoping for a peaceful retirement, they would have found that the south coast was unpleasantly close to enemy territory. Whether they managed to stay there or not is not known, but James Henry was in Sussex after the war. He died on 18 December 1949 at 193 Upper Shoreham Road, Kingston-by-the-Sea though resident at 53 St Leonards Gardens, Hove. His wife Florence died at 279 Kingsway, Aldington, Hove, on 25 January 1960.

James Rowland Toovey (1898-1985)

Staff records of the London & North Western Railway⁸⁵ show that James was taken on as an apprentice on 16 January 1914. His date of birth is given as 27 Oct 1898. A later entry reads 'OHMS 23/2/17'. James would have been about 16 on the outbreak of war and thus not old enough to join the armed forces. He attested on 7 October 1916 and then had to wait to be called up, but reported to Chatham on 13 February 1917 and from that point was 'On His Majesty's Service'. His service records include a letter from Colonel C A Close. This notes that he was apprenticed to a firm of surveyors, a qualification likely to be useful in the Field Survey Companies of the Royal Engineers. The Colonel wanted him to be posted to the 19th Company of the Royal Engineers 'after a short course of drill at Chatham'. It appears that Sapper 232446 Toovey joined the 19th FSC [Field Survey Company] on 14 March 1917. He went out to France in February 1918 where he joined the 5th Field Survey Company, serving also with the 11th and 13th. He earned the classification 'Very Superior'. On 9 November 1918 he was returned from France, transferred from no 6 Field Hospital to the University War Hospital in Southampton, suffering from influenza. Recovering from that, he was sent on furlough and then discharged to the Reserve on 14 February 1919. When he joined up he gave his address and that of his father as next of kin as 73 Gladstone Road, Watford, but on demobilisation his forwarding address was The Rates and Taxes Office, L&NW Railway, Euston Station.

In 1923 he married **Edith Louise Arnold** and by 1929 they were living at 70 Spencer Road, Harrow. She died on 23 February 1955 at Bristol General Hospital while residing at 31 Kewstoke Road, Stoke Bishop, Bristol 9. The National Probate Calendar lists her husband as a civil servant.

⁸⁵ RAIL 410/1849, page 3696

They had two sons. One became a vet and the other worked in insurance in India.

Further entries in the Calendar concerning his parents' estates reveal that James Rowland Toovey was a valuation officer in 1954 and had retired by 1960. His name crops up in the catalogue of the National Archives as the opponent of various companies such as the Bristol Waterworks who were appealing against rating valuations.

His second marriage took place later that year to **Kate Winifred née Sainsbury**, widow of Henry J Wheeler, whom she had married in 1929. Her death took place on 1 August 1966 at the Victoria Cottage Hospital, Sidmouth, where she had been living at 17 Malden Road.

His third venture into matrimony was in 1967 in the Kingsclere registration district when he married a first cousin, the widow of Frank Helyar. She had been born **Doris May Toovey**, daughter of Alfred Herbert Toovey and Florence Mary Palmer⁸⁶. The grandparents of both James and Doris were Henry [Dumbarton] Toovey and Salome Fleet.

They lived at 3 The Barn, Old Church Lane, Old Basing, Basingstoke, where James died on 26 March 1985, aged 87. Doris survived him by more than ten years and died aged 98 on 17 Apr 1996.

⁸⁶ See next page

Children of Henry [Dumbarton] Toovey and Salome Fleet

Alfred Herbert (1872-1961)

Alfred Herbert is the only one of Henry's four sons to have followed the same trade as his father. He was born on 22 Feb 1872 in Aylesbury. This date was recorded when he was baptised on 15 Dec 1888 at St Mary's church, aged 16. He did not remain long in Aylesbury: three years later he is enumerated on the Isle of Wight, where he is working as an upholsterer and lodging with an elderly couple at School Green, Freshwater.

On 17 October 1896 the *Bucks Herald* carried an announcement:

'Toovey-Palmer – At St Mary's Church, Aylesbury, on the 13th inst., by the Rev H Robinson, Alfred Herbert Toovey, of Upper Teddington, son of Mr H Toovey of Aylesbury, to **Florence Mary Palmer**, also of Aylesbury.'

Although Alfred returned to Aylesbury to find a bride, he had clearly established himself independently of his father's business and he remained in Teddington until at least the Second World War.

In 1901 the couple, both aged 29, are living at 1 Malden Villas in Teddington and have a 2 year-old daughter, Doris. Alfred is working as a cabinet maker. By 1911 they have moved to 8 Albert Road, Teddington. **Doris May**, 12, is still at school and according to the details given about the marriage is the only child born of that union. Alfred's sister Salome, 24, an assistant in a draper's shop, is with them, but the 1911 census form gives no information on whether this is a visit or a longer-lasting arrangement. Nor does it reveal that Florence will give birth again later that year to a second daughter **Florence Joan Lily**.

The 1939 Register finds the couple at 10 Cedar Road in Teddington. It confirms Alfred's date of birth and tells us that Florence was born on 16 September 1871. Neither daughter is with them.

Florence died in 1956, aged 84. Alfred outlived her by about 7 years and died in the Victoria Cottage Hospital in Thame with his address given as 25 Cotmore Gardens, Thame. His executors were noted as Florence Joan Lily Fenlon (wife of **Thomas Herbert Fenlon**) and Doris May Helyar, widow. Doris had married in 1923 **Frank E Helyar**.

The 1939 Register gives Doris's date of birth as 22 Apr 1898. Frank, born on 11 June the previous year is a probate clerk and they are living at Battle Cottage, Speen Holt Garden, Newbury. There is a death entry for Frank E Helyar of the right age in 1959 and the National Probate Calendar lists Frank Eric Helyar of 'Two Oaks File Barn [Tile Barn?] Woolton Hill Newbury' who died on 8 March 1959. As probate was granted to Lloyds Bank there is no further proof that this was Doris's husband, but it seems highly likely.

In 1967 Doris married for the second time, becoming the third wife of **James Rowland Toovey**, the son of James Henry Toovey and Florence Jane Olive Fowler⁸⁷. They were thus first cousins as Henry [Dumbarton] Toovey and Salome Fleet were grandparents to both of them. He died on 26 March 1985 but Doris lived on until 17 April 1996, when she was aged 98.

Alfred Toovey Sutton (1891-1985)

Several trees on Ancestry claim that Alfred Toovey Sutton, born on 20 Oct 1891 in the Isle of Wight, son of **Sophia Jane Sutton** (1861-1904) was fathered by Alfred Herbert Toovey.

⁸⁷ See p 93

There is a death entry for Alfred Toovey Sutton in 1985 at Eastbourne which gives his date of birth as 20 Oct 1891. The GRO Index for the fourth quarter of 1891 lists only 'Alfred Sutton'. The birth certificate should show whether the date of birth is a match, but there is no middle name and unless the parents were married, the Registrar should not have included the father's name on the certificate. It therefore is unlikely to prove much.

Alfred T Sutton can be found in 1901 aged 9, born in Newport, the grandson of Edward Taylor of New Village, Freshwater. Sophia Sutton, 38, is his step-daughter and works in a laundry doing ironing. She died three years later.

In 1911 Alfred, 19, is still living with his grandfather and is a shop assistant. They are still at New Village, but this time the address is expended to New Village Cottage, Camp Road, Freshwater.

Alfred had already joined the Territorial Force, signing on with the 5th Hants (Howr) Battery affiliated to the Royal Field Artillery. 'Howr' is likely to mean 'howitzer'. He was sworn in on 23 March 1910, aged 18 years and 5 months and was 5 foot 7½ inches tall. He was born in Newport and is working for the firm of W Tomkins. His signature on the attestation document has been transcribed as 'Alfred Tony Sutton'. It might just be Tovy, but certainly not Toovey.

There is a medal card for Alfred T Sutton, Gunner 925410 RFA, who was awarded the Victory and British Medals and the 1915 Star. He went to France on 4 Oct 1915 and was transferred to the Reserve on 6 May 1915. It is very difficult to trace the histories of individual soldiers in the Royal Field Artillery.

The 1939 Register produced an Alfred T Sutton with the birth-date of 20 Oct 1891, but frustratingly does not reveal what 'T' stands for. He is a commercial traveller living at 49 Longbridge Road, Ilford. Clara E Sutton, born on 20 November 1888, is there, occupied with unpaid domestic duties. **Charles A F Sutton**,⁸⁸ born on 26 Jan 1920 is a nautical instrument maker. An Alfred T Sutton married **Clara E Reed** early in 1915 in Kensington.

It seemed worth obtaining the marriage certificate in the hope of seeing Alfred T Sutton's full name and to discover who was declared as the father. On 4 January 1915 Alfred Toovey Sutton, aged 23, married Clara Evelyn Reed, aged 27, by licence at the Kensington Register Office. He was living in Maresfield Park, Uckfield, while she resided at 18 Phillimore Gardens, Kensington, and was the daughter of Charles Reed, a farm bailiff. The surprise is that he was employed as a draper's warehouseman, whereas we might have expected that someone with his Territorial service and artillery training would already be in the army. Alfred's father was recorded as 'Toovey Sutton (deceased)...Of independent means.' It is not unusual for children born out of wedlock to supply for the marriage register details which reflect their own name and ascribe some vague occupation, often with enhanced social status.

Alfred would presumably have been conceived round about February 1891. The census shows that Alfred Herbert Toovey was in Freshwater on 5 April 1891 and it certainly looks as though Alfred Toovey Sutton grew up believing that Alfred Henry Toovey was his father. Whether Alfred Henry was ever aware that he might have contributed to the island's population is not clear.

⁸⁸ The GRO indexes show that Charles AF Sutton, mother's maiden name Reed, was born in Fulham in 1920 and also that Charles Alfred F Sutton, born on 26 Jan 1920, died in 1999 in the Havering registration district of Essex.

Children of Henry [Dumbarton] Toovey and Salome Fleet

May Julia (1874-1955)

Born in 1874, May Julia was still living at home in Aylesbury in 1901. Aged 26 she was working as a lady's maid. There is a possible sighting of her in 1911, although not all the details match. Her name is given only as May, she was born in Aylesbury, but her age is given as 32, though we might have expected 36. She is working as a lady's maid, which is compatible with the 1901 census. Given her job, she may well have decided to lower her age a trifle. The household is a wealthy one, employing a butler, a chauffeur and a footman – a ratio of 9 servants to 3 members of the family shown. They are at Manton Priory, Oakham, Leicestershire, William Blackett's residence.

May Julia appears in a number of electoral rolls in Kensington up to the outbreak of the Second World War. Once again it is not possible to be certain it is her but, given her job, it seems likely that she would be living in a fashionable part of London.

She has not so far been found in the 1939 Register.

By the end of the war she was living with her older sister Sarah Jane at St Mary's, Ridgway Road, Farnham. Her address is given as 2 Ridgway Road, Farnham when she died on 5 May 1955 although the death actually took place at 44 Hale Road, Farnham. Her executor was named as her nephew **Francis Herbert Toovey**, chief clerk and son of her brother Francis William.

Children of Henry [Dumbarton] Toovey and Salome Fleet

Francis William (1876-1959)

Francis William was born on 28 Oct 1876 and baptised on 30 March 1891 at St Mary's, Aylesbury. Aged 14 in 1891 he is still at home. His older brother James is a railway clerk and in June 1892, Francis was taken on by the London & North Western Railway. In 1901 he is a railway clerk living as a boarder at 5 Lily Terrace, Canning Road, Wealdstone.

On 23 May 1904 he married an Aylesbury girl, **Rose Newns**, at St Mary's Aylesbury, as the *Bucks Herald* reported on 28 May.

Rose was the daughter of **Jonathan Newns** and **Maria Hopkins**. Jonathan died aged 34 in 1883 and Maria married **William Bonham** in the third quarter of 1890. He had been their lodger in 1881. Rose thus became his step-daughter. In 1891 she was aged 13 and working as an assistant in a boot-shop. By 1901 she is working at home as a dressmaker, but is enumerated as Rose Newns Bonham.

By 1911 Francis and Rose were living at 7 Graham Road, Wealdstone, and had two children, **Francis Herbert**, 3, and **Gladys May**, 2. They were both born in Wealdstone and the electoral rolls show Francis already in the house in 1906. He is now a Railway Booking Clerk. A third child, **Basil Rupert**, would be born in 1912.

It was not easy to find them in the 1939 Register, but an 'FW Hoovey, Railway Cooking Clerk, retired' was eventually identified. Francis and Rose (who was born on 21 Aug 1877) are living at 202 High Street, Harrow (or Wealdstone?), and with them is their son Basil, born on 19 April 1912 and now a Financial and General Clerk for the MCC [Middlesex County Council] Education Committee.

At 67 Oxhey Lane, Harrow, Francis H Toovey, born 4 Dec 1907, had become the Chief Clerk in an Insurance Company and is married to Lilian, born on 14 Dec 1908. The marriage of Francis and **Lilian Ivy Mountain** took place in the last quarter of 1934 in the Finsbury registration district.

No clear trace of Gladys could be found, but there is an entry for the marriage of Gladys M Toovey and **Frederick J Hamilton** in the third quarter of 1934 in the Hendon registration district.

Francis died on 4 Oct 1959 in the Edgware General Hospital, Hendon, and his executrix was Rose Toovey of 202 High Road, Weald. The Will might contain up-to-date information on his children. There is a possible death entry for Rose in 1966 in the Hendon area. The age is 66 and the calculated birth year 1878.

Children of Henry [Dumbarton] Toovey and Salome Fleet

Kate Eleanor (1878-?1972)

Kate Eleanor was born in 1878, the fourth surviving child and second daughter of Henry [Dumbarton] Toovey and Salome. Her talent for music has already been mentioned and she took part in numerous concerts, plays and fund-raising events which found their way into the columns of the *Bucks Herald*.

In 1896 she was working as a pupil teacher at the British Schools in Aylesbury. When she reached the end of her training they decided to appoint her for three months as an assistant mistress (*Bucks Herald*, 19 Dec 1896).

On 9 March 1901 it was reported that on March 1st Choirmaster Mr EJ Hams, when choir practice at the Congregational Schools in Aylesbury ended, had presented a morocco-bound copy of the hymnal to her. The previous Sunday, the Sunday School teachers and others had clubbed together to give her a carriage clock in a case and an illuminated list of all those who had subscribed to it. In all 60 people had contributed. She was about to embark on a new career in Felixstowe and her contributions to the Congregational Schools as pupil, teacher and chorister, were gratefully remembered.

Aged 22, she moved to Felixstowe just in time to be enumerated there. She had found digs with another elementary school teacher in the house of Mr and Mrs John Fitch at (?)Mavis Villa, probably in Quilter Road. She may not have remained long in Felixstowe, for the *Bucks Herald* of 1 Nov 1902 gives an account of a concert given by the orchestra of the PSA during which 'Miss KE Toovey of Bletchley (formerly of Aylesbury).....sang exceedingly well.'

The next major event in her life took place on 15 Oct 1907, when, at Wealdstone Parish Church, she married **Richard John Williams** of Aberavon, Neath. The couple can be found in 1911 at Broadmead, 33 Castle Street, Aberavon, Port Talbot. Her husband is five years older than she is and working, like two of her brothers, as a Railway Clerk. They have one daughter, **Avrille Joan**, aged 11 months. They have been married three years and had one child.

The *Bucks Herald*, marking on 6 Jan 1928 the passing of her father Henry in Aylesbury, mentioned that she, Kitty, had been doubly bereaved by losing her husband at almost the same time. Richard John Williams had indeed died on 30 December 1927 at their house, 13 Connaught Street, Port Talbot. Avrille Joan would have been about 17 at that point.

A search for further children born after the census produced two references. **Betty Joyce Williams** in 1914 and **Rosalie Jean Williams** in 1916. This array of information was then used to search the 1939 Register. Still at 13 Connaught Street was Kate E Williams, born on 7 Nov 1878, widowed and now Principal Teacher in a private school. With her was Betty J Williams, born on 13 March 1914, a secondary schoolmistress and already a volunteer for the WVS Casualty Service. Avrille Joan Williams had left Wales. Born on 20 April 1910 she also was a secondary schoolteacher working in Bath and living there at Rosemount, Hayfield Road. Rosalie J Williams, born on 21 March 1916, was an elementary school teacher lodging at Chapmans Farm, Henley.

Kitty's talents and her previous professional experience meant that the early death of her husband did not result in so much of a financial disaster as it did for other women in her family and her daughters followed her into teaching.

There is a reference for her death in 1972 in the Bristol registration area, aged 93, but the National Probate Calendar of 1973 gives the date of her death as 30 January 1972 and her

address as 13 Connaught Street, Port Talbot, so she may not have died in the house she had lived in for so many years.

Kate Eleanor Toovey and her family

Kate was born in November 1878, the fourth child of the family. Her exact day of birth was a matter of some doubt, as by the time her father came to register the birth he could not remember which day she had been born. She also would have preferred to have been christened Katherine rather than the more familiar 'Kate'.

Though the family was not by any means well off, her childhood seems to have been stable and happy. She spent time riding a bicycle (without brakes) round the Buckinghamshire lanes; she and her brothers waited with great excitement for the latest instalment of the Sherlock Holmes stories. Her favourite brother was always Herbert (Alfred Herbert), who later made various pieces of furniture for her. At some point her talent for singing must have become clear: she apparently had a very good contralto voice and took part in concerts and competitions.

Kate trained as an elementary school teacher by the 'Pupil Teacher' method (i.e. while working in a school) and this stood her in good stead later in her life. I have no idea how she met Richard Williams of Aberavon [part of Port Talbot] in Glamorganshire, but seem to remember that she went there on holiday to stay with a friend. As a child she had played school, using chickens as pupils, and referring to herself as 'Mrs Williams', so maybe meeting Richard seemed like a stroke of fate...

Richard Williams also came from a large family and was an intelligent young man. He began as a clerk with the Great Western Railway and worked his way up in a Wellsian way via night-school etc. to become the general manager of the Aberavon Docks. He played the clarinet, became a Freemason, and took a keen interest in William Blake and in Swedenborgian philosophy. (His brother, William Williams of Sketty in Swansea, a phrenologist, actually possessed the skull of Swedenborg.) Unfortunately (and his vegetarianism may possibly have played a part in this) he developed pernicious anaemia, the cause of which in those days was not understood; he died in 1927 at the relatively young age of 53, leaving Kate with no pension and with three young daughters to raise.

Ignoring calls from her sisters to take the girls as quickly as possible out of school and into wage-earning, Kate insisted that their education was all-important. She declined the well-meaning offer of a place for one of the girls at a Freemasons' boarding school, preferring to keep the family together. To provide an income, she opened a small school herself in the house in Connaught Street; the middle downstairs room was always afterwards known as

the 'schoolroom' and had useful leftover pens, paper, etc. for later children such as myself to play with. One of her small pupils was Geoffrey Howe, the son of a local solicitor and later Chancellor of the Exchequer, though he was soon sent off to a prep school.

Kate's daughters, Avrille, Betty and Jean, all went on to higher education. Avrille (b.1910) read English at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, the first pupil to go to Oxford from the local grammar school. She married A.H. ('Joe') Scarrott and after the war they settled in Bristol where Avrille taught and Joe became a respected social worker. They had one son and a grandson. After Joe died in 1977, Avrille moved back to Port Talbot to be near her youngest sister. She died there in 2001.

Betty (b.1914) read Geography at Aberystwyth, gained a First and began research into anthropology under the direction of Professor H.J.Fleure. (I don't know why she discontinued this.) In Aber, she met her future husband, Arwyn Thomas, a chemistry student from Llanelli. During WW11, Arwyn worked for the MOD (or its then equivalent [War Ministry?]) in various research establishments connected with the development of weapons. They bought a house in Orpington in Kent, but on March 27 1945 the last V2 rocket to be aimed at London fell nearby, blowing in all the windows; Betty and her baby daughter were safe but had to take temporary refuge in South Wales. Sadly, Betty died of TB in 1951 and her daughter went to live in Port Talbot with her grandmother and aunt Jean. Arwyn remarried, and died in Orpington in 1976. Betty's daughter has three children and one grand-child.

Rosalie Jean (b.1916), always known as Jean, trained as a teacher at Avery Hill Training College, and taught in London during the war, fire-watching, and accompanying a class of children from Ealing who were evacuated to the country. After Kate suffered a bout of ill-health of some kind, Jean gave up her job in London and returned to teach in Port Talbot where she remained, eventually becoming head of Central Infants' School, and looking after her mother and niece. She took an active role in St Mary's Church, teaching Sunday School and serving on the Parish Council. She died in Port Talbot in 2006.

During her long widowhood, Kate lived on quietly in Port Talbot, keeping house for her daughter and later her grand-daughter. She retained her lively mind, reading and keeping active. Eventually she became too frail for Jean to look after, and she spent her last months with Avrille and Joe in Bristol, where she died in 1972.

RW, 7.6.2017

Children of Henry [Dumbarton] Toovey and Salome Fleet

Minnie Rose (1883-1923)

Minnie Rose was born in the second quarter of 1883. She was baptised on 16 September 1892 at Aylesbury St Mary and her date of birth, 18 May 1883, was included in the church register. She was still at home in 1901 and, although aged 18, had no specified occupation.

She has not been found in the 1911 census, but in the last quarter of that year she married **Frank H Meager** or Meagor in the Brentford registration district. Attempts to find her in the 1939 register produced nothing, although there was a Frank H Meager, born on 12 Nov 1883 living at 6 Whitton Avenue East, Wembley. He was a motor engineer inspector. The lady living in the same house performing unpaid domestic duties was not Minnie, but Margaret B Meager, born on 1 Dec 1881. Also present is **Ernie** born on 4 July 1913. Frank married a **Margaret B Hales** in the third quarter of 1923 in Marylebone. Back-tracking, the death of Minnie R Meager was found in the first quarter of 1923, registered in Brentford with the calculated year of birth given as 1884, so this could be the man she married.

The 1901 census shows a Frank H Meager living at 32 Charteris Road, Willesden. He is a mechanical engineer aged 17, born in Llandaff, Glamorgan, and the son of Thomas H and Alice Meager. A Frank Henry Meager died on 10 Dec 1972 at 8 Colebrook Road, Withdean, Brighton. He was aged 89 so born around 1883. Further investigation would be needed to show whether these are pieces of the right jigsaw.

As for the possible son Ernie, born on 4 July 1913, no births around 1913 to Meager/Toovey parents showed up. He proved to be Albert Ernest Meager, born in Croydon. His mother's maiden name was Walding and he was the son of Arthur James Meager born c1878 in Penge, working in 1911 as a carman and living at 4 Cornish Grove, Penge, and Marian Maud Walding, born c1880 also in Penge, who married in 1901. So he was not of Toovey descent.

Children of Henry [Dumbarton] Toovey and Salome Fleet

Salome (1886-1951)

Born on 4 August 1888 and named after her mother, Salome Toovey was baptised at St Mary's Aylesbury on 16 Sept 1892, on the same day as her sister Minnie Rose. She was still at home aged 14 in 1901 and being cared for by her oldest sister Sarah Jane, who seems to have taken over the running of the household after the death of their mother in 1899.

In 1911 Salome was with her brother Alfred Herbert, his wife and daughter at 8 Albert Road, Teddington. She was working as a shop assistant in a draper's shop.

Two years later, in the Luton registration district, she married Wilfred Pates. He appears with his family in 1911 at 59 Waller Street, Luton, the 22 year-old son of **Frank Pates**, also a master tailor and (presumably) Ellen Agnes, his then wife.

They had two daughters, **Peggy** born on 10 February 1915, who married in 1941 **Philip H Smith**, and **Mary E**, born in 1920, who also married in 1941. The bridegroom was **Norman J Moore**.

The 1939 Register lists them at 27 Westbourne Road, Luton. Wilfred is still a master tailor. Peggy was born on 10 Feb 1915 and is working as a private secretary in the hat trade. Her surname was later crossed out and replaced by 'Smith'. There is one blacked-out entry which is likely to be Mary.

Salome died in Lister Hospital, Hitchin, on 13 March 1951, while still residing at 27 Westbourne Road, Luton. Wilfred was then a departmental manager. He lived on until 1975, still apparently in Luton and at the same address, where he died on 25 April. The GRO index gave the date of birth as 1 Aug 1888 which tallies exactly with the 1939 Register.

Peggy died in the Hastings area in 2007.

Children of Henry [Dumbarton] Toovey and Frances Nellie Shorey

Henrietta Constance (1902-1992)

Born on 17 October 1902, Henrietta Constance, or Hettie, appears only in one census. She was living with her parents and brother in 3 Temple Square, Aylesbury and going to school.

While at St Mary's Infants she had been awarded a prize (*Bucks Herald*, 11 Dec 1909) and again when she had progressed to St Mary's Mixed School (same, 20 Dec 1913). She gained a certificate of excellence after the diocesan inspection (same, 21 Feb 1914). The *Bucks Herald* on 29 June 1918 reported that she had successfully passed an intermediate exam in book-keeping.

Her clerical skills led her to a job as clerk in a laundry and in 1939 she was combining her day job with being an ARP Warden and living at home at 22 Milton Road. A few months later she got married and a detailed account of the occasion was published on 5 Jan 1940 on the front page of the *Bucks Herald*.

'Marriage of Miss H.C.Toovey – The marriage took place at Holy Trinity Church, Walton, on Monday, of Miss Henrietta Constance Toovey, only daughter of Mrs and the late Mr H. Toovey of "Hillingdon", Milton Road, Aylesbury, and Mr Edward William Jarvis, only son of Mr and Mrs Edmund C Jarvis, of Broadway, Westminster, London SW1. The bride is a member of the local A.R.P. Service, being attached to the Wendover Road post as a telephonist. The bridegroom was in uniform, as a wartime serving member of the Royal Artillery (Anti-Aircraft Section). The bride was given away by her mother, and was attractively attired in a powder-blue two-piece, with navy hat and shoes to tone. She also wore a spray of white carnations and white heather. Her bridesmaid was Miss F. Jarvis, sister of the bridegroom, who wore a flowered dress, navy coat and hat, and shoes to tone. She also wore a spray of pink carnations. The bride's only brother, Mr R.J.Toovey, was best man. The ceremony was performed by the Vicar (the Rev. Brian Hession), in the presence of a number of friends, and suitable bridal music marked the opening and close of the service. The reception was at the "King's Head" Hotel, and Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis afterwards left for Elsenham, Essex, for their honeymoon.'

Hettie apparently died in the Tunbridge Wells area in 1992, aged 90.

Children of Henry [Dumbarton] Toovey and Frances Nellie Shorey

Reginald John (1907-1994)

Born on 7 May 1907 Reginald had a similarly successful academic record and attended the same Church Schools in Aylesbury as his sister. He was presented with a prayer-book after a diocesan inspection in February 1914. After leaving school he found employment as a solicitor's clerk and in 1924 gave evidence in court while working for the Aylesbury solicitors Horwood and James.

He was for a while secretary of the Victoria Slate Club, which seems to have been a kind of insurance scheme as it paid out sick and death benefits.

In 1939 he is still a solicitor's clerk and living with the rest of his family at 22 Milton Road.

No marriage record has been found for him, though he once played the part of the bridegroom in a school entertainment (*Herald*, 23 Nov 1912). Perhaps that was enough?

He died in the Milton Keynes area in 1994 but returned to his father's birthplace, Amersham, to be cremated in July.

Children of Henry Toovey and Sarah Dumbarton

William (1844-1880)

Born on 12 September 1844, William was with his family in Amersham in 1851, a scholar aged 6. By 1861 he had moved away and, aged 17, was working as a tea dealer's shopman, living in the household of George W James, who managed a tea dealing business, at 233 Holywell Street, Shoreditch. As early as 1846 his father had been agent for Mansell & Co's teas, so William was learning a trade which might be useful within the family as well as to himself. Although the GRO Index lists him as William, in the 1861 census he is William H Toovey. He cannot be found in the 1871 census, but the death of William Hine Toovey was registered in Amersham. He died of lymph on the brain on 23 June 1880, aged 36, and the declarant was his brother Alfred. William's occupation was given as Grocer, master, so he must have been employing others.

Details of his career after 1861 are so scanty that it is difficult to know whether William had returned to Amersham to work or simply to die. The death certificate implies that he had only been afflicted for 2 days before his death, so that does not sound like a lingering illness. The *Bucks Herald* of 1 Nov 1879 carried a short item which is of interest in this context. This states that Mr W Toovey, a grocer of Amersham, had applied to magistrates for a licence to store 40 gallons of benzoline on his premises, as had James Pearce, also a grocer, and Joseph Hatch, ironmonger. So it seems likely that William had returned to take on this part of his father's enterprise. His half-brothers were only 11 and 12 and the time of William's death. Despite their being described as grocers in the 1881 census, it must have been impossible for them to carry on the business in the same way as William.

Children of Henry Toovey and Sarah Dumbarton

Catherine (1847-)

Born in the second quarter of 1847, Catherine is still at home, aged 14, in 1861. She has not been found in the 1871 census, but on 26 December 1874 she married in the Anglican Church in Amersham, St Mary's, **Walter William Arnold**. He was from the parish of St Luke's, Southampton, and the son of Joseph Arnold, who apparently had passed on the trade of engraving to his son.

Census entries show that he was born in about 1849 in Birmingham, where his Oswestry-born father Joseph may have gone to learn or practice the art of engraving. His mother, Sarah, was born in Warwick. Walter William was employed as an engraver in the Survey Office in Southampton in 1871. One wonders how the couple met. In 1881 Walter William is lodging in 10 Dorset Street, Southampton, now aged 32, a writing engraver and a widower.

No convincing death entry for Catherine has yet been found, but a child, **Walter William Arnold**, was born in Southampton in 1876 and the newly granted access to the GRO indexes showed that the child's mother had been named Toovey. There is a corresponding death entry for a child of that age and name in Tamworth the following year which could be worth following up. This suggests that the child had been sent to be cared for by the father's relatives, but no immediately convincing entry for the death of his mother shows up in the GRO indexes around the relevant dates.⁸⁹

⁸⁹ The child was born in the first quarter of 1876, (Southampton 2C 5). The only possible relevant death entry for a Catherine Arnold of the right age is in the second quarter of 1876, Neath 11A 333. Aged 30, she was buried, according to the National Burial Index, at St Thomas's Church, Neath, on 10 June 1876. No further information could be obtained through the British Newspaper Archive or Welsh Newspapers Online, but when the death certificate was obtained this turned out to be the death from phthisis of an unmarried daughter of Edward Arnold, a coal miner of Tynycia. So what happened to Walter William Arnold's bride remains a mystery.

Children of Henry Toovey and Sarah Dumbarton

Herbert James (1849-?)

Herbert appears with the family in 1861 as a scholar aged 11 and as 'Herbert J'. The closest correspondence in the GRO Index is with the birth of James Toovey in Amersham in the second quarter of 1849. In 1871, aged 22, Herbert James is a grocer's assistant living in Orchard Street, St Albans. He has a wife, Annie, 23, who is a dressmaker born in Stokenchurch and a one year-old daughter, **Frances Ann Louisa**, born in Waterend, which is part of Stokenchurch. The marriage took place in the last quarter of 1869 in the Wycombe registration district and the bride is recorded as **Ann Towerton**.

The GRO records show that another daughter was born to Toovey/Towerton parents: **Emma Mary Toovey's** birth took place in the last quarter of 1871 in St Albans. She only reached the age of 5, however, and died in the second quarter of 1877, back in the Wycombe registration district.

The 1881 census shows that Annie, 34, has returned to Waterend with her daughter and is listed as a widow. This implies that the death of Herbert James Toovey should be sought in the ten years between the two censuses and probably closer to the 1871 census, given that a marriage which had proved rapidly fertile produced only two children. However, it proved impossible to find a likely entry in the GRO Index either for that 10-year span or subsequently. Either the death took place but cannot be found or possibly the marriage foundered and Herbert continued his life under a different name or abroad while Annie styled herself a widow for reasons of respectability.

Annie is living in 1881 as a boarder in the household of the widowed **Ann Stone**, 79, and the enumerator lists **Frances Ann Louisa**, 11, as her granddaughter. This is a strange echo of the past as the 1851 census finds Annie, then a child of 4, living with her widowed mother **Frances Towerton**, a 25 year-old lacemaker who is a lodger in the house of John and Ann Stone in Waterend.

It looks as though Annie, in similar circumstances to her mother, sought the same refuge as she had lived in as a child. The search for a possible marriage of Frances Stone to Mr Towerton led to the 1846 marriage in Uxbridge of **Frances Ann Stone** and Thomas Towerson (sic). The Wycombe district recorded deaths for Thomas Towerton in the first quarter of 1847 and in the third quarter of 1849. Frances had a second daughter, Mary aged 1 in 1851, making the 1849 death the likelier of the two and strengthening the possibility of Annie being Ann Stone's granddaughter and Frances Ann Louisa her great-granddaughter.

Before her marriage to Herbert James Toovey, Annie was working in 1861 as house servant to **Thomas Brown**, grocer and baker living at the High Road, Hayes. He was her uncle by marriage, having married **Emma Stone** in 1856.

Annie remarried in the last quarter of 1881 and the 1891 census finds her as the wife of **Thomas Green**, 45, who is farming Kiln Farm, Stokenchurch and they appear to have had three children, Thomas 7, Daisy 5 and Hilda, 5 months. Frances is living with them. The couple had married at St Mary Magdalene, Bermondsey, both giving their address at 19 Fort Road. Thomas was a labourer and son of a farmer Samuel Green. The church register confirms that Annie's father was **Thomas Towerton**, deceased.

In 1895 Frances Ann Louisa Toovey married **Henry Sutton** in the Wycombe registration area. The 1901 census finds them living at 40 Desborough Avenue, High Wycombe. Henry, aged 34 is a chairmaker born in Stokenchurch and Frances three years his junior. They have two sons, both born in Wycombe, **Herbert**, 5, and **Harold**, 1. A daughter, **Ivy Annie**, who must have been Harold's twin sister, was born and died in the first quarter of 1900.

By 1911 they are at 95 Dashwood Avenue. Herbert, 15, is working, as is his father, as a chairmaker and Harold, 11, is still at school. They have a lodger, who filled in the census form. Frances reveals that she has been married for 17 years and has borne three children, of whom one died.

Frances herself died soon after the outbreak of the Second World War, on 18 October 1939, while the family was living at 31 Spearing Road. The 1939 Register shows that Henry, born on 24 Feb 1865, was working as a benchman and Harold, born on 15 Jan 1900, as an iron bedmaker and chairmaker. Frances's date of birth was 4 Dec 1869.

In Frances's former home, 95 Dashwood Avenue, is living her son Herbert, born on 11 Feb 1896. He was a press operator and classified as a heavy worker. He married in 1924 **Minnie Giles**, born on 6 May 1898 and they had a son.

Children of Henry Toovey and Sarah Dumbarton**Frederick Samson Toovey (1853-1945)**

See the separate account at the end of this section.

Children of Henry Toovey and Sarah Dumbarton**Emma (1856-1880)**

Emma is at home aged 4 with her parents in 1861 and aged 14 with her father and stepmother Caroline in 1871. She probably had the choice of remaining at home to help with the second family or going out to work. Many girls in her situation went into domestic service, which provided a place to live. However, she died aged 24 in 1880, so there is no documentary proof of how her short adulthood was spent, although the death certificate might provide further information.

Children of Henry Toovey and Sarah Dumbarton

Mary Ann (1859-)

Born in 1859, Mary Ann, aged 2, was the youngest of Henry and Sarah's children to appear in the 1861 census. She was not there in 1871, when she would have been only about 12, although a child Elizabeth, 11, is listed. This may simply be a mis-recording of Mary Ann. There is no corresponding entry for Elizabeth aged 1 in 1861 and the only birth entry for an Elizabeth Toovey around then is in 1865, which would make her about 6 at the time of the census. Happily a trawl for an infant death for Mary Ann produced nothing, but looking for a marriage did

In 1881 Mary Ann was employed as a draper's assistant at London House, Main Road, Bexley Heath. In 1889 when she married Police Constable **John Harding** of 12 Crescent Street, Bethnal Green, she was a milliner. The wedding took place on 27th March 1889 at St Thomas in Bethnal Green. Mary Ann had been living at 4 Hansard Street.

By 1891 they had moved to 62 Lenthall Road, Dalston, Hackney and had a daughter of 5 months called Amelia. She had been baptised **Minnie Amelia** at Dalston St Philip on 1 Jan 1891 and the birth date is given as 7 Nov 1890. She may have been named after the Amelia Harding who was a witness at the parents' wedding. A likely death registration can be found in the second quarter of 1892 in the Amersham district for a one year-old Minnie Amelia, but no record of burial in the registers of St Mary. The death certificate would need to be obtained to take this further.

In 1901 John's occupation is described as 'police constable metropolitan' and the family is at 17 Murray Road, Islington. The parents are aged 37 and 38. The oldest son **Frederick John** is 7. He was baptised at All Saints, Camden, on 21 Oct 1894, when the family was living at 5 Wrotham Road. His birth-date is given as 5 July 1893. He has three younger siblings, **Florence Maud** 5, **Frank** 3 and **Edward**, only 8 months, all born in Holloway.

John had retired on a pension by 1911 and the family has moved out of London to 6 Whites Farm Terrace, Perkins Road, Ilford. Details required for the 1911 census shows that Mary Ann had been married for 22 years and had borne 6 children, of whom 4 are still living. At that point the family consists of Mary Ann and John, now a police pensioner, plus **Frederick John**, 17, a stock-keeper's assistant born in Camden Town; **Florence Maud**, a dressmaker aged 15 and two boys still at school, **Frank** 13 and **Edward**, 11.

The two children who died appear to be Amelia, born to Harding/Toovey parents in the last quarter of 1889 in Bethnal Green and whose death was registered in the same quarter, plus Minnie Amelia, born a year after her deceased sister, whose probable death in Amersham in 1892 has already been noted.

The surname Harding is very widespread which makes it difficult to pursue any of the family further. However, three possible leads came up for the oldest boy.

A death was indexed for Frederick John Harding aged 17 in the second quarter of 1911 (Edmonton 3A 265).

A second possibility was a Frederick John Harding who, already a police constable, attested for the Military Mounted Police on 17 Nov 1915, when he was aged 23 years and 4 months. His next of kin was his mother Mary Ann Harding of Butlers Cross, Ellesborough, Buckinghamshire. In favour of this being our man is his occupation, suggesting he could have followed his assumed father John Harding into the police, plus the fact that the mother was called Mary Ann and had Buckinghamshire connections. Searching the 1911 census

for Butlers Cross produced his family – John Harding the stepson of George Salmon was then a gardener aged 18 and clearly not the Ilford-based 17 year-old being sought.

A much more convincing prospect was Lance Corporal 200953 Frederick John Harding of the 4th Battalion the Essex Regiment who was killed on 27 March 1917 aged 24. His next of kin were John & Mary Ann Harding of 60 Perth Road, Ilford. The address is not the same as in 1911, but the town and the names of both parents match. Searching the 1911 census of Ilford produced no John Hardings other than Mary Ann Toovey's husband. The 4th Essex Battalion was made up of territorials. F J Harding's original number was 3260, which implies that he joined early in June 1915. The 4th Battalion had recently moved to St Albans and on 21 July 1915 sailed from Devonport via Lemnos to Gallipoli, landing at Suvla Bay on 12 August. They were evacuated from there on 4 December and were sent on to Alexandria via Mudros. The rest of the war was spent in Egypt and Palestine. In 1917 the new longer numbers were allocated. In March 1917 the 4th Essex took part in the First Battle of Gaza. On the morning of the 27th a fierce counter-attack was mounted by the Turks and the battalion was forced to retreat. 9 officers and 49 other ranks were killed, 12 officers and 322 other ranks wounded. A further 74 men were unaccounted for and this must have included Frederick John as he was reported missing in the list published on 30 April 1917. The balance of his pay (£8) was not forwarded to his father John until 18 July 1919 and it would have been some time later that he received his son's medals, the British War and Victory medals. Frederick John Harding is commemorated on the Jerusalem Memorial, panels 32-38, and on the Ilford War Memorial.

Only one of the family can perhaps be traced in the 1939 Register. **Frank Harding**, a Post Office sorting clerk is living at 353 Thorold Road, Ilford, with Alice K Toovey. His date of birth, 24 January 1898 falls within the right quarter and he married **Alice K Hodson** in 1922 in the West Ham registration district. The marriage certificate would show the fathers' names.

No trace of **Florence Maud**, born in 1896, has so far been found. Accurate details of her date of birth would allow more precise searching of the 1939 Register.

Further research on this family could be done using the Metropolitan Police records held by the National Archives, particularly any pension records. John, who spent his working life in various parts of London, had been born in Buckland, Devon, in about 1861.

Children of Henry Toovey and Sarah Dumbarton

Louisa (1862-1905)

Born on 25 March 1862, Louisa was enumerated with her family in 1871, but it is not until 1881 that it can be seen in what direction her talents lie. Aged 19 and already a milliner, she has moved in with her aunt Elizabeth Toovey, who is a lodging-house keeper. Her other aunt, Sarah, is away, so it is not clear whether this is just a stop-gap arrangement.

By 1891 she has moved much further away and can be found working as a draper's assistant in the house of John Mackie, a draper living at 53, Church Street, Camberwell. Her age is given as 27.

She married **George Frederick Hooker** in St Pancras in 1892. He was a carpenter and joiner, born about 1867 in the Hemel Hempstead district. In 1881 he can be found with his family in Cotterells Road, Hemel Hempstead, aged 13. He attended Boxmoor Junior School and their records have his date of birth as 1 Dec 1867.⁹⁰ He died in Watford in 1947.

In 1901 Louisa and her husband are at 27 Cardiff Road, Watford, and have 4 children, **Mary** 6, **George** 4, **Edward** 1 and **Kate**, one month old.

Henry Toovey, Louisa's father, is staying with them and this may be a long-term arrangement as his death was registered in the first quarter of 1910 in the Watford area. Aged 72 and described as a widower and upholsterer in 1901, his age on death was given as 86.

The 1911 census finds a diminished family living at 23 Holywell Road, Watford. Of the four children found in the 1901, three are still alive, **Mary Louisa**, born in Northwood and now 17, plus her two Watford-born brothers, **George Frederick Jnr**, aged, 14 and **Edward Henry**, 11, who is still at school. The page is slightly torn where the parents' details are written and the length of their marriage is given as 5 years, which is not right for Louisa who married in 1892. The figures for the children of that marriage have been written in as 5 born and 3 still alive and then struck out, so it appears that, Henry Toovey, Louisa and Kate have all died as well as another child not featured in the censuses.

Kate is recorded in the GRO indexes as **Catherine Maud**. She died aged only 2. Her name on baptism is indexed as Kathleen Maud. With her two brothers she had been baptised on 3rd May 1901 at St Mary's in Watford.

A marriage is recorded in 1906 for **Emma Dolamore** (or Dolomore) with the widowed George Frederick Hooker. Backtracking from this, a death was found in the second quarter of 1905 for a Louisa Hooker of the right birth year. She was 41.

According to family tradition one of the two youngest girls died and while her father was out registering the death, Mary Louisa was sent to tell him the other had also died. From the GRO Indices it looks as though this must be Kate, aged 2, and **Jenny Edna**, whose birth was registered in the first quarter of 1903. Both died in the fourth quarter of that year. They were buried in the Vicarage Road Cemetery. Their mother is believed to have died of a broken heart and from her daily visits to the grave in bitterly cold weather.

More grief awaited the family. **George Frederick junior** was about 18 when war broke out in 1914. His attestation papers have not survived and so it is impossible to tell when he joined the army, but *Soldiers Died in the Great War* shows that he did so in Spitalfields. He

⁹⁰ Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies, HED1/210/8

would have undergone some months' training before his arrival in France on 27th July 1915. He served as no 13026 with the 2nd Battalion of the Essex Regiment and was promoted Lance-Corporal. In April 1916 he was a patient at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, most probably having been evacuated there from France. Usually his family would have been informed of his whereabouts and given railway warrants so that they could go and see him. He died of wounds there on 11th April 1916 and his name was laconically listed in the *Times* of 2nd May (p 13, col B); 'Essex R- Hooker 13026 L-Cpl GF'. He lies buried in the Netley Military cemetery at Eastleigh in Hampshire, grave ref C.E.1789. In the regiment's medal roll his new rank is crossed and he and several others on the page have been reduced again to Private. The Register of Soldiers' Effects shows that his father was given his arrears of pay, amounting to £10-17s-3d and some years later also received his medals, the Victory and British War Medals and the 1915 Star. The War Diary (WO 95/1505/1) will show what actions the 2nd Essex was engaged in, but without knowing the date when George Frederick became a casualty it will not be possible to know when and where he sustained his wounds. The death certificate should give some idea of how long he had been afflicted before dying if no records are available for Netley.

Edward Henry very nearly survived the war. For most of it he was too young to serve, but when he did enlist at the beginning of 1918 he had been working in a munitions factory, a job not without its own dangers. He was called up on 4th February 1918 and went to Bedford to join the 3rd Battalion Bedford Regiment. Perhaps he wangled a transfer to his brother's regiment as in March he was with the 1/8th Essex, a cyclist battalion who fought as infantry but used bicycles to speed up their manoeuvres, a modern development of the mounted infantry regiments who had fought in the Boer War. After training he arrived in France on 11th July 1918. Troops were then often drafted to other regiments to fill gaps in their ranks. Three days after landing he was posted to the 2/23rd (East Surrey) London Regiment, joining them in the field on 15th July, where they saw action in the Ypres area. What happened to him is not known, but he was posted missing on 2nd September 1918, just over two months before the end of the war. The War Diary (WO 95/2330/4) should give more detail. His father probably had an agonised wait, hoping to hear from the Red Cross that his son had been taken prisoner, hoping that he might somehow have survived and would turn up on one of the trains bringing troops back to London. Eventually it must have been acknowledged that he was never coming home. He is one of the 9,843 soldiers whose bodies could not be found who are commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Panel 6.

Thus **Mary Louisa**, by the end of the war, was the sole survivor of the five children. She had married **William Henry Thorpe** in February 1916 at Watford and the couple went on to have children. She died in 1981.

CHILDREN OF HENRY TOOVEY AND CAROLINE WILLIAMS

Alfred (1867-1888)

Alfred was the oldest child of Henry's second marriage. Judging by the 1881 census he had responsibilities thrust on him at an early age, as both he and his younger brother Albert, aged 13 and 12 are described as grocers. No doubt they were employed in the family business. In 1880 Alfred had declared the death of his half-brother William to the Registrar, Richard Sims. In 1885, when he was about 17, his mother died.

On 7 March 1886, claiming to be of full age, Alfred got married in St Leonard's, Shoreditch. His bride was 22 year-old **Minnie Caroline Smith**, daughter of Herbert Smith, a butler. They both gave their address as Kingsland Road. Alfred's occupation and that of his father is given as 'grocer'.

Alfred could not be found in any subsequent census. Minnie was easier to track down. Aged 27 and working as a laundress, she was living in 1891 at 43 Greyhound Road, Fulham. Laundry work was hard physical labour and usually entailed working at least a 12-hour day. With no detergents available the washing had to be soaked, boiled, rinsed, wrung or mangled, scrubbed, mangled again, partly dried and ironed, with some of the processes repeated as necessary.⁹¹ Sometimes more delicate skills such as goffering could be developed. Listed as a widow and head of household, Minnie had two small children, Minnie 4 and Alfred 3(?) and would have had to work immensely hard to cover the costs of rent and food, warmth, clothing and probably child-minding. She gave her birthplace as Mayfair. Minnie junior was born in Amersham as **Minnie Caroline Toovey** in the last quarter of 1886. She was baptised there at St Mary's with the right parents' names, on 8 Dec 1886. The father's occupation is given as grocer's assistant, but grocer had been put on the marriage certificate. Alfred Junior's age was difficult to decipher and no likely birth could be found in Woodford, Essex, or elsewhere, for the likely range of dates.

A reference in the GRO Index of Deaths for Alfred Toovey in the second quarter of 1888, aged 22, so born circa 1866, was swiftly found. He died of phthisis pulmonaris (pulmonary tuberculosis) on 16 April 1888 at 58 Averill Street, Fulham. He had been suffering from it for 17 months.

It seems that his daughter's life was also cut short as there is a death entry for her aged 5 in the last quarter of 1891 in Fulham. She died on 9 October 1891 at 43 Greyhound Road, Fulham, of acute pneumonia. Thus within the space of two years Minnie Caroline's family had been reduced by half.

Searching for further clues produced a marriage for Minnie Caroline Toovey in the last quarter of 1901 to either Joseph Greaves or **Fred Parkinson**, but in an unlikely place — Bradford. But an Alfred Toovey born in Woodford was also in Bradford in 1911. He and his mother, Minnie Parkinson, were living together at 180 Exeter Street, Otley Road, Bradford. Minnie is again a widow, but has an 8 year-old daughter Florence. Alfred, 23, is a warp dyer and the family has a lodger, perhaps to help make ends meet.

Like so many of his generation, Alfred was caught up in the First World War. He enlisted on 26 November 1916, aged 27 years and 362 days, which should help to pinpoint his birthday. He was 5'6½" tall and his chest, fully expanded, measured 39½. He gave his occupation and labourer and his mother, Minnie Parkinson, as next of kin. He became no 19524 in the

⁹¹ For more detail see Margaret Ward, *Female Occupations, Women's Employment 1850-1940*, 2008, pp 142-5.

Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment. The records are damaged and hard to read, but it appears that he was not sent abroad, that in April 1917 he was transferred to Class WA Reserve and finally discharged as surplus to military requirements on 14 Dec 1918. At one point a form was filled in indicating that he was no longer fit for work outside, but had been found a lighter job indoors, working on some government contract.

A possible marriage entry was found in 1919 for Alfred H Toovey and **Julia Lloyd**, but a search for parents with that combination of surnames produced nothing. However a possible death entry for Minnie C Parkinson, aged 66, so born circa 1863, is listed in the last quarter of 1929 in Bradford.

The 1939 register found them as a couple living at 61 Chatham Street, Bradford, and gives Alfred's birth-date as 29 Nov 1887. He is a hawker of greengrocery while Julia A Toovey, born 31 Dec 1887, is a charwoman. Also in the household is **Veronica**, born on 23 June 1925, a pirn winder in a yarn mill. Her original surname of Toovey has been crossed out and amended to Newman, the annotation being dated 14/9/44.⁹² She may be their daughter. A search for Veronica Toovey's birth in 1925 produced an entry giving the mother's name as Dunn and in 1915 Julia Dunn and Ellia M Lloyd had married. Julia was therefore a widow when she married Alfred, which explains why Veronica's mother's name is indexed as Dunn, not Lloyd.

Alongside Alfred's name, very faintly in pencil, is what looks like 'Ref 310 Alfred Horace'. So the 'H' may stand for Horace rather than Henry.

This, plus the specific date of birth given in the 1939 register meant that it was worth renewing the hunt for Alfred's birth. Concentrating on Alfred Horace with no surname in the relevant quarter brought up one entry which seemed worth pursuing. It transpired that an Alfred Horace was born on 29 Nov 1887 in Chelmsford Road, Woodford, which was in the West Ham registration district and registered by his mother Minnie Caroline. But somehow confusion had crept in and although his parents had married in March 1886 and his father's details are entered (name Alfred, occupation grocer's assistant) he too is listed under Smith! Even more confusingly the Mother is shown as 'Minnie Caroline Smith formerly Mattingley'. There is no hint of this surname on the marriage certificate where her father is shown as Herbert Smith and she was only 22 when she married Alfred Toovey. No trace of any such previous marriage can be found, but at least there is an explanation for why Alfred Toovey junior's birth did not show up.

There is a plausible death entry for Alfred H Toovey in Bradford in the last quarter of 1967, aged 79, so born circa 1888, which could be followed up.

⁹² The GRO Index contains an entry for the marriage of Veronica Toovey and Fred Newman, 1944 Q3 Bradford 4 560. Veronica died in 1985 aged 60.

Children of Henry Toovey and Caroline Williams

Albert Ernest (1869-1930)

Although he and Alfred, aged 12 and 13, were listed as grocers in 1881 when both their parents were still alive, by 1891 Albert has suffered demotion to grocer's assistant and is amongst a group of seven young men similarly employed who are lodged at 14 Broadway, Ealing. He could not be located in 1901.

In 1911 he is apparently still a grocer's assistant. He is lodging with Thomas Crosby at 50 Craven Street, Coventry, aged 40 and married, with his birthplace recorded as 'Hammersham', Bucks.

Searches in the GRO Index for the marriage led nowhere. Two marriages of an Albert E or Albert Ernest took place in London, but the surname was Tovey and the details did not check out.

A possible death was found for an Albert E Toovey in 1930 in Birmingham, aged 60, so born c1870. He died on 18 March 1930 at 61 Hillaries Road, Gravelly Hill, Birmingham and his wife Elizabeth was the executrix. The couple are listed at this address in the electoral rolls for Erdington South Ward from 1920 to 1927, but while both forenames are given for Albert Ernest, Elizabeth appears only to have one.

A search for an Elizabeth Toovey whose husband happened to be away in 1911 was tried several times to no avail. Sheer obstinacy led to one final effort and this time FindMyPast came up trumps with a married lady aged 37 living at Exmouth Place, Chepstow, Monmouthshire. Not only was she a candidate by being husbandless on census night, but she had a 10 year-old son, **Albert Ernest** who, with luck, might turn out to have been named after his father. Elizabeth and her son had both been born in Northern Ireland, she in Lisburn and he in Belfast. A daughter was also present, 'Eveline' aged 2 and born in Southampton. This was very welcome as it meant that the new search facility offered by the GRO would reveal the mother's maiden name. It turned out to be Hull and the child had been registered in 1908 as **Evelyn Elizabeth**. The census provided other useful information — that the marriage had lasted 13 years and produced 3 children, all of whom were alive. So where was the third one?

Sarah Jane Toovey, aged 11 and therefore the eldest, was with her grandparents, Hugh and Jane Hull at 23 Lonsdale Street, North Belfast. She had been born in Antrim. This now seemed the best place to look for the marriage. The GRONI index produced no record of the marriage, but the two children's births were found. Sarah Jane was born on 21 May 1899 and Albert Ernest on 24 December 1900, both at 3 Concord Street, Belfast.

Familysearch produced a marriage for **Elizabeth Hull** at the expected place and time, 1898 Q4 Belfast 1 388, but nothing for Albert Ernest Toovey! He had been indexed as Albert Ernst Torney. The marriage took place in Belfast at the Trinity Church of Ireland on 9 November 1898.

A second, more determined, search of the 1901 census for Northern Ireland found the entire 'Toorey' family together at 3 Concord Street, Belfast North. Albert is a grocer aged 32 and born in Amersham. Elizabeth, 27, was born in Lisburn. Sarah Jane is 1 and Albert Ernest 3 months old.

Using these details the 1939 Register was searched, but no trace was found of Elizabeth, nor could her death be found.

No trace of Sarah Jane appeared either. Perhaps she was in Northern Ireland.

Albert Ernest appears to have married **Florence A Howlett** in 1922 in the Aston district and she can be found at 143 Haunch Lane, Birmingham in 1939. Her birth-date is 3 September 1893 and also in the house is **Audrey E Toovey** born 3 October 1923 to Toovey/Howlett parents. Albert is not present to support this theory, but he is listed in the 1940 Kelly's *Directory* as resident at 143 Haunch Lane.

A possible marriage of Evelyn E Toovey to **John M Dent** took place in the last quarter of 1929 in the Birmingham North district. In 1939 Evelyn E Dent is living at Oak Lands, Birmingham Road, Sutton Coldfield. She is a cinema director and manageress, born on 28 April 1908. Comparing that with the date on her birth certificate should show whether this is the right trail. There are three possible children in the household, but again, perhaps because of the war, no husband present.

Children of Henry Toovey and Caroline Williams**Jane (1871-)**

Jane appears aged 9 in the 1881 census, but is no longer with the family in 1891. Two Toovey daughters called Jane were born in the second quarter of 1871. Mary Jane was the daughter of John Toovey and Sarah Jane, so it would seem that Jane Charlotte was the full name of Henry's daughter.

In 1891, like many other members of the family, she is working as a draper's assistant and lodging with two other assistants in the household of Lydia J Stubbs, a widowed draper, at Regency Place, Gordon Terrace, Willesden. Her age is given as 18.

After that unfortunately no convincing indications have been picked up from death, marriage or migration records to show what happened to her.

Children of Henry Toovey and Caroline Williams

Walter (1873-1962)

In 1891 Walter, the youngest of Henry and Caroline's children, was working in Amersham as a grocer's assistant and living in Amersham with his father and his half-brother Frederick.

Ten years later he had moved to Willesden and had a wife, Kate, aged 24, and three years his junior. They are living at 37, Redfern Road, with another young couple, Ernest F Shrimpton, from Coleshill, and his wife. Both men are carpenters.

Kate was born in Prickwillow, Cambridgeshire, according to the censuses. Ernest's marriage to Kate Saunders took place in the Thetford Registration District in the third quarter of 1899. Kate had been working as a servant in London Road, Thetford, in 1891, and gave her birthplace as Mile End, Cambridgeshire, which is just up the road from Prickwillow.

The 1911 census finds the couple at 2 Tring Villas, Meads Road, Edgware. Walter is still working as a carpenter. They have a son aged only 2 months, **Ernest Walter** Toovey. He is the only survivor of four children. The death registers for Hendon show deaths for **Alfred William** in 1900, **Kate** in 1902 and **Agnes Mary** in 1904, all of whom died before their first birthday. Kate was baptised on 4 June 1902 at St Matthew's in Willesden, so that her parentage is confirmed. A further probable birth took place in 1916 in that district; **Herbert Frederick** Toovey's mother's maiden name was Saunders.

Ernest Walter must have been watched over with considerable anxiety. Speculative searches suggest that he married **Florence R Few** in 1933 and died in 1992 in Northamptonshire. In 1939 the couple were at 81 Slough Lane, Wembley. Ernest is a master builder and has trained as an ARP ambulance driver. His birthdate is 30 January 1911 and Florence was born on 13 June 1909. There is a blanked-out entry between their names in the 1939 Register, indicating a possible child.

Walter and Kate are still in the area in 1939, living at 11 Green Hill, Wembley and he, like his son, is a builder. A possible younger sister of Kate's, Florence Saunders, is also part of the household. Two entries are blanked out, but that of Florence I A Toovey, born on 23rd December 1915, and occupied on unpaid domestic duties, comes between them. There is a marriage entry in the fourth quarter of 1938 in the Chichester district for **Florence I Gee** and **Herbert F Toovey**, so theoretically the two closed entries could be those of her husband and child. **Florence Irene Ada Gee's** birth was registered in 1916 Q1 in the Pancras area of London and her mother's surname was Avey.

There are possible death entries for Kate in 1948 and Walter in 1962 which would need to be followed up.

FREDERICK SAMSON TOOVEY (1853-1945)

Frederick was born in the last quarter of 1853. He appears in the 1861 census as the third child and second son of Henry Toovey and Sarah Dumbarton, aged 7. His mother died when he was about 10. In the next census he is a 17 year-old carpenter still living at home, as are his three sisters, **Emma** 15, 'Elizabeth' 11 and **Louisa** 9. 'Elizabeth' appears in no other census, but is the right age to be **Mary Ann**. Frederick now also has two young half-brothers, **Alfred** 3 and **Albert** 2.

By 1881 Frederick, 27 and unmarried, has added upholstering to his skills as a carpenter. He is the only child of Sarah Dumbarton remaining at home. Henry's second family has now increased. Alfred and Albert, though aged only 13 and 12, are listed as grocers and the two younger children, Jane 9 and Walter 7, are still at school.

In 1891 the enumerator issued separate schedules for Frederick and Henry. Frederick, now an upholsterer and cabinet maker, is apparently living in his own upholsterer's shop, next door to the grocery shop which is occupied by his widowed father Henry and his youngest son Walter, 16 and a grocer's assistant. All the rest of Henry's children have gone.

The 1901 census shows that on one side of Frederick's shop the Aldridge's drapery business is continuing, while on the other **Walter J Ward** and family are running a grocery business. Walter Ward may therefore be the man to whom Henry Toovey sold his grocery business for £50 or £60, as was alleged in court in June 1893. A big change has taken place in Henry's life and he is now married with three children – **Edith**, 14, **Mabel Kate** 5 and **Herbert Frederick** aged 2.

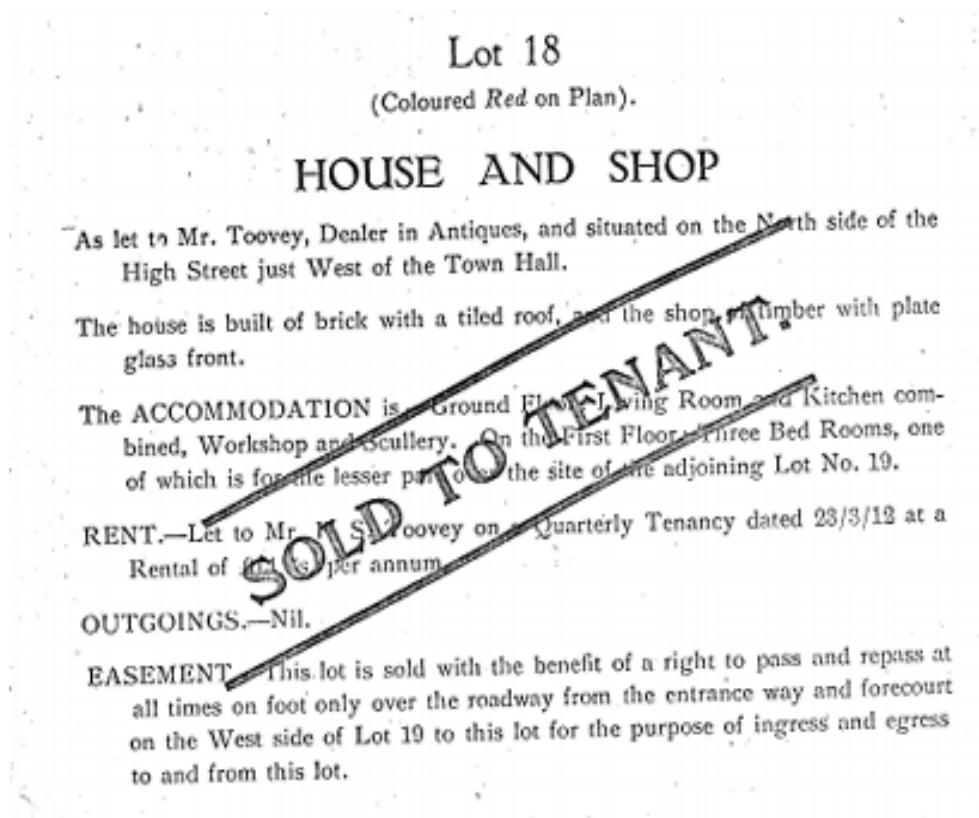
In 1911 the drapery business is still next door, but on the other side, instead of a grocer's store, are Thomas Hyland, a worker in the brewery yard, and his wife. The enumerator lists their building as a cottage. Similarly Frederick's dwelling is classified as a cottage, but the Aldridges are in a draper's shop. This census shows another child, **Ronald Frank** aged 9. Mabel Kate is 15 and Herbert Frederick 13. There is no information on whether he is still at school. Edith is not present. Frederick Samson Toovey is now a furniture dealer. The schedule was signed by Frederick as head of the household and he writes his second name clearly as 'Samson', not 'Sampson'.

The most interesting features of this census return, however, are the so-called fertility details. Frederick lists four children born and still living and puts the length of the marriage at 25 years. No marriage can be found around the year 1886, but Frederick Samson Toovey and **Sarah Ann Clare** did marry on 31st March 1895 at All Saints, Camden Town. He was aged 39 and a furniture dealer. She was 31, the daughter of John Clare, painter, deceased. Both of them gave their address as 8B College Place, Camden. This may have been used as some kind of accommodation address, allowing them to claim the six weeks residency needed for marriage.

Sarah Ann Clare and **Edith Clare** can be found in Chesham in the 1881 census. Sarah Ann is living with her widowed mother Ann and both are working as laundresses. Two more of Ann's grandchildren are part of the household, Ellen King Clare, aged 4, and John Bernard King. Ellen King Clare's birth was registered in the second quarter of 1877. Sarah Ann's sister Elizabeth then married Charles Henry King early in 1879 and John Bernard King was registered in the last quarter of that year. In 1891 Ellen is enumerated as Ellen King. This is a striking parallel to Edith Toovey Clare's registration and subsequent name. It looks as though Sarah Ann and Frederick had a relationship of long standing but, for whatever reason, did not marry until after Frederick's father's departure to Watford.

Sarah Ann Toovey's life came to an end on 24 June 1923. The National Probate Calendar has a listing for her, but there was no Will. Instead her husband took out letters of administration for an estate amounting to £178 6 shillings and twopence. The Probate Registry would release no further details and so any hope of tracing their daughter Edith, who had moved away from home, was scotched.

A big change occurred in 1928. The building had been rented by successive members of the family since before 1851 from the Tyrwhitt Drake family of Shardeloes. Now many of the properties they owned in the town were put up for sale and their tenants encouraged to buy them in advance of the auction if they could. Frederick Samson was one of those who could and did, so that 'Lot 18, House and Shop' was not amongst those which passed into new ownership on May 31st that year.



The 1939 Register lists Frederick Samson living at 66 High Street, Amersham, now retired and a widower, Sarah Ann having died on 24 June 1923. His birth-date is given as 29 Oct 1853. With him are his daughter Mabel Kate, born 17 Oct 1895 and his son Ronald Frank, born 21 Jan 1902, who has again diversified the business as he is an antique dealer and cabinetmaker.

Frederick died early in 1945 and appears not to have left a Will.

Children of Frederick Samson Toovey and Sarah Ann Clare

Edith (1885-)

An entry for the birth of Edith Toovey *circa* 1885 cannot be found, but the GRO Index lists Edith Toovey Clare born in the second quarter of 1885 in the Amersham registration district, which covers Chesham. Aged 5, she can be found at 24 Blucher Street, Chesham, living with her grandmother Ann Clare, 64, and her mother Sarah Ann Clare, 29, both of whom are working as laundresses.

As we have seen in 1901, aged 14, she is still with her mother, now married to Frederick Samson Toovey, and living in the High Street, Amersham. On the 1911 census form he acknowledged four children and claimed he had married earlier than was the case, presumably to cover Edith's birth. On 27 November 1901 she was baptised into the Church of England at Amersham St Mary and her birth-date was recorded as 28 April 1884, not 1885.

In 1903 she embarked on a career in the Post Office, being appointed in May as a learner at Hemel Hempstead. Perhaps before taking that step she had gained some experience in the Amersham Office. Nearly four years later, in March 1907, she moved to Berkhamsted as a Sorting Clerk and Telegraphist. Fourteen months later she moved to Bicester where she was enumerated in 1911 as a 25 year-old Post Office Clerk lodging at 5 Church Street with the Pankhurst family.

After that there is no clear trail. The 1939 Register has a possible entry for an Edith Toovey, employed in domestic work at 69 Bridge Lane, Hendon, Middlesex, by Ernest Taylor, a boot manufacturer, and his wife. Her birth-date is given as 28 April 1886, so although the year is a new variant, the day and month match those given at the baptism. Aged about 54, if this is really Edith, she was unlikely either to be involved in military service or to have had children after this date. The Post Office Archives may hold more information.

Children of Frederick Samson Toovey and Sarah Ann Clare**Mabel Kate (1895-1974)**

Mabel Kate was born on 17 Oct 1895, when her older sister Edith would have been about 10. She was about 28 when her mother died. Her date of birth is known from the 1939 register which also shows that she was occupied on unpaid domestic duties, no doubt housekeeping for her father and brother, and later on only for her brother.

Known as Kitty, she died on 16 Jan 1974, with her address given as 49 High Street. She was aged 79. Unlike her brother, she had made a Will.

Children of Frederick Samson Toovey and Sarah Ann Clare

Herbert Frederick Toovey (1898-1928)

Herbert was the first son, so far as is known, of Frederick Samson Toovey and Sarah Ann Clare. In the 1911 census he was aged 13, so could have left school. Only his military service records show that by the age of 18½, when he joined the Royal Flying Corps, he was a cabinet maker. He enlisted on 21 August 1916 as no 44450 and served initially as an Air Mechanic 2nd Class (Rigger). As aircraft were largely constructed of canvas and wood, his woodworking skills must have been of great value. At only 5 feet 2½ inches tall, he may also have been able to work on parts of the fuselage which were hard to access.

It is difficult to establish where he spent the war years. The record appears to suggest that he was with 210 Squadron, but that had originally been 10 Squadron Royal Naval Air Service and the record shows that he was never formally part of the RNAS. His casualty sheet remained blank and he cannot be found in the rolls of medals awarded to those who served overseas. The decipherable dates given for his transfers start with 25 Sept 1918 when, having been promoted to the rank of Corporal Mechanic a week earlier, he was posted to 112 Squadron. 112 had been formed on 30 July 1917 and based at Throwley Aerodrome in Kent. Equipped with Sopwith Pups, its role was to defend London. After little more than a week with 112, on 2 Oct 1918 he was posted to 152 Squadron. That was a brand-new Squadron, formed at Rochford only the day before he joined it, and flying Sopwith Camels in a night-fighter rôle. His last posting was to 102 Squadron on 15 February 1919. They had flown on night bombing raids intended to disrupt the enemy's rail supply network. He was discharged to the reserve on 8 April 1919⁹³, having spent his final year as a member of the RAF, into which RFC and RNAS personnel had been transferred on 1 April 1918.

It is not clear where he lived after leaving the RAF. Apart from the *Absent Voters' List* of 1918 which gives his address as 66, High Street, Amersham,⁹⁴ he does not appear on any easily accessible electoral roll. As he was known to have died in London in 1928, it seemed possible that he had moved away from home. The death certificate, however, showed that he died in St George's Hospital on 29 Feb 1928 of tetanus. A splinter had pierced his finger while he was planning some wood. An inquest was held on 2 March and concluded that his death was accidental. The certificate clearly states that his address was 66 High Street, Amersham, and that he was an antique dealer, which shows that he must have returned to the family business in Amersham after his war service.

He had returned from the war, only to fall prey to an infection which was prevalent on the battlefields of WW1, where richly manured earth was thrown up by explosives and driven into the wounds of men and horses, with fatal results. An antitoxin was developed and refined as the war went on.

A little further detail about what happened to Herbert Frederick comes, surprisingly, from the columns of the *Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser* of 10 March:

'While cleaning a piece of mahogany on February 17th, Herbert Frederick Toovey, 30, antique dealer, of High Street, Amersham, Bucks, ran a splinter into the index finger of his right hand. He died 12 days later from lockjaw.'

⁹³ For his service details see AIR 79/415/44450

⁹⁴ Later re-numbering changed this to 49

Children of Frederick Samson Toovey and Sarah Ann Clare

RONALD FRANK (1902-1980)

Ronald Frank was born on 21 Jan 1902 and the birth was announced in the *Bucks Herald* of 25 January. He is the only one of the four siblings to be entirely of the twentieth century. His date of birth was crucial also in sparing him any involvement in the First World War, as he was only 16 when it ended. He was only 9 when the 1911 census took place, so the 1939 register is the first significant evidence about what path he had taken. By this stage his father had retired, though was still living on the premises, in what is now the Museum building, and Ronald Frank, a trained cabinet maker, was dealing also in antiques. The air-raids of the Second World War destroyed many houses along with their contents. The making of new 'utility' furniture was controlled so that each piece used the minimum quantity of scarce resources. People setting up their homes had to scrounge around for furniture and this should have meant that for some years the trade in secondhand furniture and restoration was buoyant.

Ronald Frank and his shop are within the living memories of Amersham residents, or were when Richard Boyles produced his family history in 1995. He was able to turn to Jean Archer, Amersham's first Lady Mayor and a keen local historian, who died in 2004:

'His sister Kitty Toovey, looked after him before she died. After that he became an awkward person. He had an antique shop at the front of the house and the window display never changed. Also he would not sell anything. After his death the house was in a mess and the volunteer force renovated it from 1983 to 1991 to make the museum.'

Eventually Ronald was taken ill and had to be moved to Wycombe Hospital, where he died on 14 August 1980. As his siblings, so far as anyone has been able to determine, all died childless, he was the last of the line. His solicitors, Francis & How, twice attended to try and draw up a Will for him, but it was too late and he died intestate. A genealogist had to be recruited to trace living descendants of Ronald's grandfather Henry Toovey (1822-1910). The sale of 49 High Street, as it was known by then, was completed on 6 April 1984, and the estate distributed in varying amounts according to the intestacy laws to the 29 heirs who had been discovered.

The original part of 49 High Street, the hall house, was left in such parlous condition that in 1982 Chiltern District Council had to shore up the building to prevent its collapse and protect it from further damage by erecting a temporary roof.

Since then the building has taken on new life as the Amersham Museum and this is a small contribution to its history.