

Fullers, Poultens, Dodds and Whitmells

London, Warwickshire and Northants

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Acknowledgements and Disclaimers

As always, I have first to thank the staff of the various record offices, archives and cemeteries I have visited in putting together this account. Over the years I have been in contact with a number of people researching their own lines of the families described in this account and I would like to thank them all for exchanging their findings with me. However, particular thanks go to Kirk Quinn for sharing both his Magnum Opus on the Whitmells and a copy of Annie Whitmell's account of the family, and to members of my own family who have generously allowed me access the family photographs and documents. Any mistakes which have crept in are my own. I have come across a variety of spellings of some of the surname is researched and in writing in writing this history I haven't always been consistent – but then neither were they. There is a probably imperfect personal name index at the end. Baptisms, marriages and burials for central characters are from original registers; a few peripherals are sourced from transcripts, either in local record offices or online.

In early 2023 I was contacted by another Slynn descendant who pointed out that I had taken a wrong turning in my research in the final section concerning our Slynns ancestors. I have now corrected the error and updated some of the trees.

Abbreviations

LMA	-	London Metropolitan Archives
SoG	-	Society of Genealogists
TNA	-	The National Archives
NRO	-	Northamptonshire Record Office
WCRO	-	Warwickshire County Record Office
FHC	-	Family History Centre
LRO	-	Lichfield Record Office
CBS	-	Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies

Katharine Joan Fuller and her siblings: Camberwell and Streatham

I never knew my maternal grandmother, as she died before I was born. However, Grandma Joan lived for me through my mother's stories of her. My maternal grandfather's family has been traced in *Jessie Brown's Lot*, and part of my grandmother's – the bit I heard most about as a child – in *The Findlays of Leith and London*. The rest of her family, in all its branches, has taken me to London, Northamptonshire, Warwickshire, Shropshire, Kent and Sussex. This book deals with her paternal family: the Fullers and associated families in London and the Dodds and associated families in Northamptonshire and Warwickshire.

Grandma Joan was born on 21st August 1888 at 13, Lyndhurst Road, Peckham (now renamed Lyndhurst Way). Her birth certificate records her as Katharine Joan, daughter of Henry William Fuller, Wine Merchant, and Helen Fuller, formerly Kettle. Her father registered the birth on 3rd September, but I suspect her mother had a hand in choosing the venue of her baptism on 23rd of the month. This took place at St. Mary the Virgin church at Hayes in Kent, where all her siblings had been baptised, and where her mother's family had strong connections. The register gives her place of birth (as it does with her brothers and sisters) as Camberwell, otherwise Peckham.

Joan was the youngest of the family. She had two older brothers: Henry Alexander was baptised at Hayes on 3rd March 1878; and Alex William, always called Jack, was born on 24th August 1881 and baptised at Hayes on 23rd October. There were two older sisters as well: Helen Jane, born 19th July, baptised 21st September 1879, and Margaret Emma, born on 21st December 1884 and baptised on May 24th the following year (**See Tree 1 – page 11**). Auntie Margaret, as my Mum called her, was Joan's closest sibling both in age and friendship. They probably had more in common with each other than with their older siblings. Both parents died fairly young – their mother in 1897 and their father in 1901 – and what had been a prosperous middle class household (where Uncle Jack remembered peeping through the stair-rails to see his parents dressed in their finery to go out for the evening in the carriage), had degenerated into one where the older brother was trying to run the business and the youngest children were effectively brought up by the servants. I believe that Joan attended either Mary Datchelor School in Peckham, or James Allen's Girls' School in Dulwich, so she received a good education. At home, though, Emily Elizabeth Rummery, their general domestic servant, provided most of the mothering.

Fortunately, Emily, born in Rotherhithe, worked for the family for over twenty years, appearing with the family on the census returns of 1891, 1901 and 1911, so she was a constant in my grandmother's life. Other feminine influences after her mother died when Joan's was nine were Auntie Annie, her father's unmarried sister (who seemed a kindly lady, though getting on in years by the time her brother died in 1901), and Auntie Mary, her mother's younger sister. Mary Morton Taylor, née Kettle, had only one child, Leonard, on whom she doted, and my grandmother felt that she was often the scapegoat if he misbehaved.



Katharine Joan Fuller - 1888



Joan - 1890

Joan 1897



Joan 1909





Henry Alexander Fuller
Alex William Fuller (Jack)



Helen Jane Fuller



Margaret Emma Fuller



The 1891 census¹ shows the whole family at 13, Lyndhurst Road Peckham: Henry William Fuller, wine merchant, with his wife Helen, both born in the City of London; the five children – Henry Alexander, Helen Jane, Alex William, Margaret Emma and Catheline [sic] Joan – with ages ranging from 13 to two, all listed as scholars except for Joan. Two servants, 21 year old Maud Down from Plymouth and 18 year old Emily Rummery complete the household. Ten years later² the head of household is Henry Alexander, at 23 a Wine Merchant Manager, with Helen Jane as housekeeper. Jack is working as a carpenter's joiner, and the two younger girls are still at school.

Henry Alexander struggled with running the vintner's. The story was that he drank the profits. My grandmother became quite scared of him, and regaled my mother later with a tale of him drunkenly chasing her around the house brandishing a mouse. The business failed, and after his marriage to Florence Julia Holland Cox (Auntie Florrie) in 1906 (in Thanet registration district), he first moved to Croydon³, and then to France, where the couple settled in Seine St. Denis, north-east of Paris. The one child of this marriage was Molly Findlay Fuller, born at the outbreak of the First World War, on 20th September 1914. Auntie Florrie gave English lessons, though as children we were always slightly amused by some of the archaic usages in Auntie Molly's English. Despite living in France, Molly visited her cousins in England frequently both as a child and an adult. I remember her thinking she should cancel a visit during the 'Three Day Week' in the 1970s, because the French press had given such a dire view of life in England at the time that she felt she couldn't come and be a burden to us all. She was a large lady – and that included personality and sense of humour. She married twice, first briefly during World War II to Serge Jean Lasserre by whom she had a daughter Cécile, and then to Alain René Garnier, by whom she had a son. She lived in Aulnay sous Bois until her death on 20th September 1979.

By the time of Henry's marriage, Helen (Auntie Nellie) had already left home. She married Wilfred Robert Dadd at St. Giles, Camberwell on 26th July 1905. Uncle Wilf was the son of Edward Martin Dadd and Frances Rebecca Greenaway, with links to two artists - Kate Greenaway the children's book illustrator and Richard Dadd, the 'mad, fairy artist' who spent much of his life in Bethlem after murdering his father. They lived a comfortable existence until the Depression took them to Scunthorpe where their circumstances were somewhat reduced. Helen died in 1939, and Wilfred two years later. There were two children from this marriage: Laurence Greenaway Dadd (Uncle Laurie), born 31st January 1908, and Phyllis Greenaway Dadd, born 2nd January 1916. Phyllis remained a spinster, dying on 15th September 2000, while Laurie married twice, first to Gladys Myers at Louth in 1935, with whom he raised a family, and in much later life after her death to Gladys Hibbert in 1968. He worked as a bank manager in Spalding, and died in 1975.

¹ <http://search.ancestry.co.uk/> 1891 Census Peckham, RG12/46

² <http://search.ancestry.co.uk/> 1901 Census Camberwell, RG13/497

³ <http://search.ancestry.co.uk/> 1911 Census Croydon, RG14/3351



**Harry, Nellie,
Jack, Margaret
& Joan Fuller**





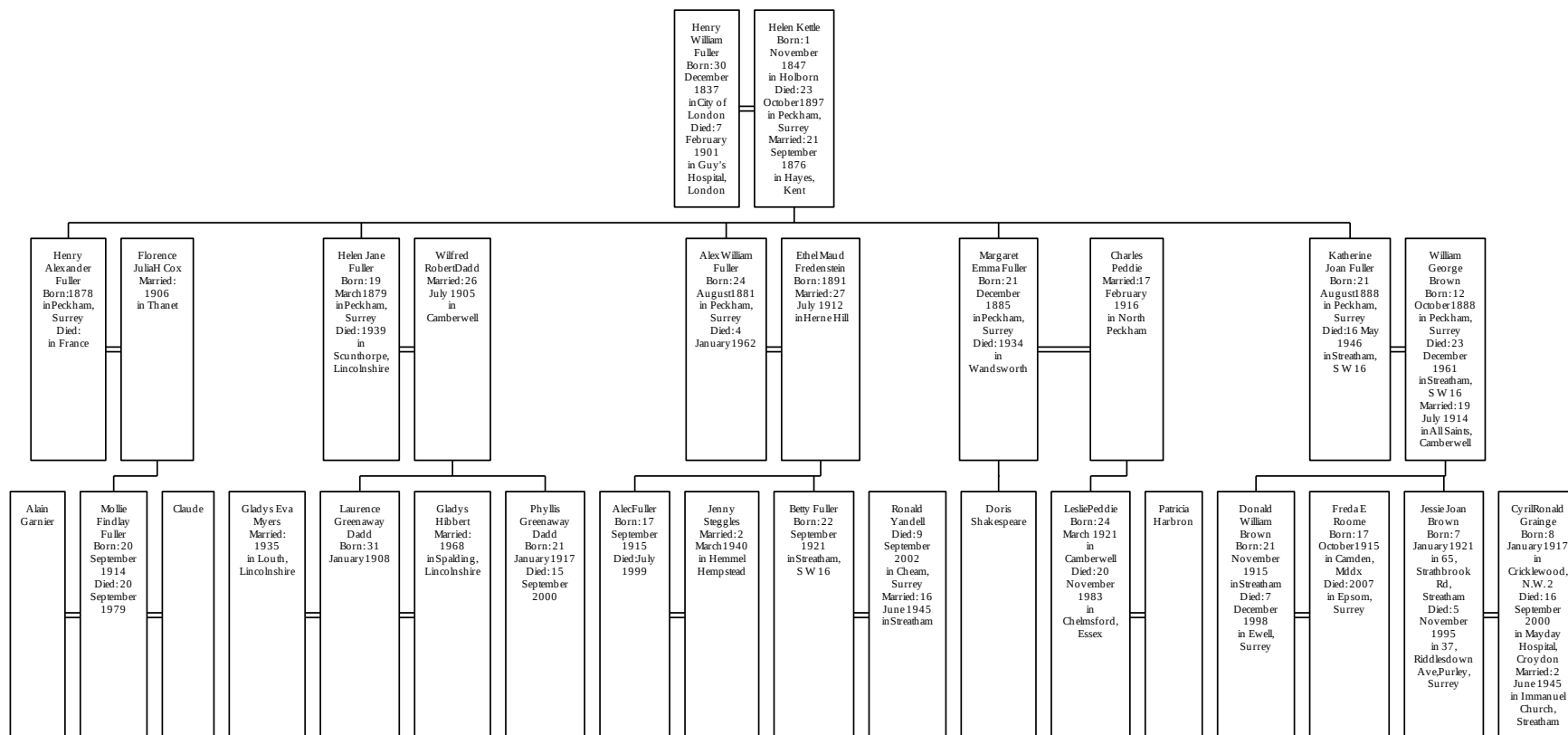
Wedding of Wilfred Dadd and Helen Jane Fuller

In 1911⁴ the head of household was Jack, a carpenter presumably working for himself, as Joan is listed as a book keeper. Margaret was still at home, though no occupation is given. As well as the dutiful Emily Rummery, Auntie Annie, aged 68, was living with the family. No occupation was given, and by this time she was probably being looked after as much as looking after.

Jack married late because he met his future wife, Ethel Fredenstein, when she was only 13. Apparently he told her that when she grew up he would marry her, which he did, on 27th July 1912 at St. Paul's Herne Hill. She was a descendant of German immigrants who came to England in the 1850s, and the family changed their name to Ford when the First World War broke out and anti-German feeling was at its height. Jack and Ethel's two children were Alec, born 17th September 1915 and Betty, born on 22nd September 1921. There were enough late summer and autumn babies born in this family to give rise to the legend that Fuller babies had to be conceived on Christmas beer. Jack spent many years in a wheel chair, following an accident when a lorry with an overhanging load backed in to him as he was attempting to help two drivers whose cars had been involved in a collision. Uncle Jack died on 4th January 1962, but Ethel, ten years younger, lived on until 1975.

⁴ <http://search.ancestry.co.uk/> 1911 Census, Camberwell, RG 14/2514

Tree 1 - Family of Henry William and Helen Fuller

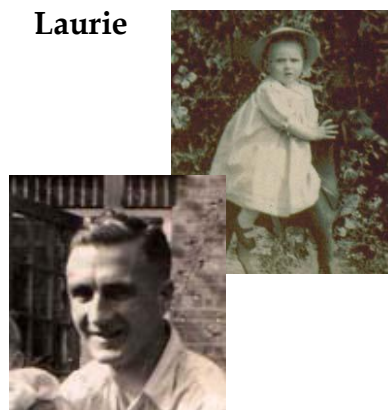


Henry William Fuller's grandchildren

Mollie



Laurie



Phyllis



Doris



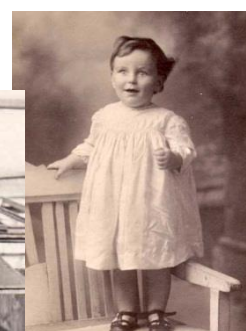
Alec



Betty



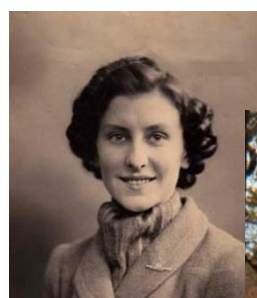
Les



Don



Jess



Alec joined the Navy during the war and on 2nd March 1940 married Jenny Steggles at Hemel Hempstead. At around this time he was promoted to the rank of Temporary Electrical Lieutenant⁵ in the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve. Alec died in 1999, leaving five grandchildren. Betty had a lifelong interest in the theatre. She trained at RADA and during the war was part of ENSA, entertaining the troops. She met her husband, Ronald Yandell, while on tour, but it was her mother who invited the young airman home to lunch and romance bloomed from there. Yan, as he was known, was born on 9th September 1919 in Peterborough, but had roots in Cornwall. He and Betty married in Pollards Hill, Norbury on 16th June 1945. Yan died on 7th July 2002, leaving Betty as family matriarch. Betty died on 18th March 2015.

The details are fuzzy, as details of family skeletons often are. However, at some point, Auntie Margaret went to work in a household where, to use Victorian parlance, she was 'got at' by a young man. The pregnancy was kept secret and Margaret was sent away to stay with an elderly distant relative for the duration. The resulting child, named Doris Shakespeare, was adopted, and although there are two delightful photos of her, I have no idea where she grew up. Margaret finally married aged 31, on 17th February 1916, at All Saints, North Peckham. Her husband, Charles Peddie, was apparently willing to accept what was considered at the time 'damaged goods'. Pictures of Margaret always show a rather wistful figure, and there was only one child from the marriage. Leslie Charles Peddie was born on 21st March 1921 in Camberwell, served in the Navy, married Patricia Harbron towards the end of the war and died at Chelmsford in 1983. His mother, Margaret, died in 1934, and Charles married again the following year, to Marie Harris.

One book survives from Joan's childhood, *Tails with a Twist – Verse by a Belgian Hare*, which has her signature in the front. It is an illustrated volume of doggerel poems like 'The Rabbit', which begins:

The Rabbit has an evil mind,
Although he looks so good and kind.
His life is a complete disgrace,
Although he has so soft a face.

She also kept an autograph album, the cover of which has the heading 'Joan Fuller' with an arrow through her surname and 'Joan Brown' written underneath, followed by the date 'July 1914', the month she got married. Some of the entries, though, date from much earlier, beginning in 1905. Emily Rummery has signed a page in a very neat hand, and there are entries from many friends and family members. Husband to be Will painted a cheeky picture of a polite young Scot with kilt riding up over his backside as he doffs his hat to bow to a young lady. The caption reads:

Always the little gentleman.

⁵ <http://search.ancestry.co.uk/> UK Navy lists 1888 to 1970

Both Elfreda Dadd, her Art teacher and Philip Dadd the artist – cousins of her brother-in-law Wilf – painted pictures in the book.



Autograph book painting by Philip Dadd

When she was eighteen, Joan had her horoscope read. How much she believed in what was said is open to question; it was a free reading, and phrased in such a way as to encourage the recipient to pay for a fuller one. She kept the free copy, but doesn't seem to have been sufficiently impressed to shell out for more information. The 'reading' is clearly a pro-forma, on impressively headed note paper, with:

Professor Harriss Edison Practical Astrologer Binghamton NY

emblazoned at the top, and while the content no doubt bears little or no relevance to my grandmother's personality, it does reveal something of the mores of the times. Dated May 13th, 1907, it includes phrases like:

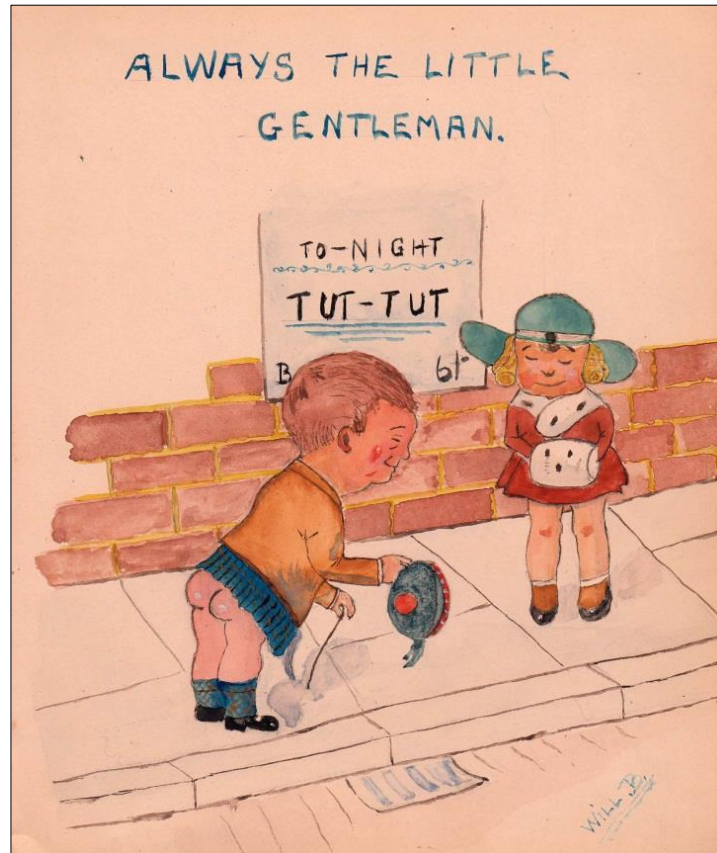
One of your lucky years is close at hand

and

you often say and do things which are not fully understood by your gentlemen friends

and

If your gentlemen friends were to fully understand your remarkable loyalty and strong affections, you would have more sincere admirers than you would care to entertain

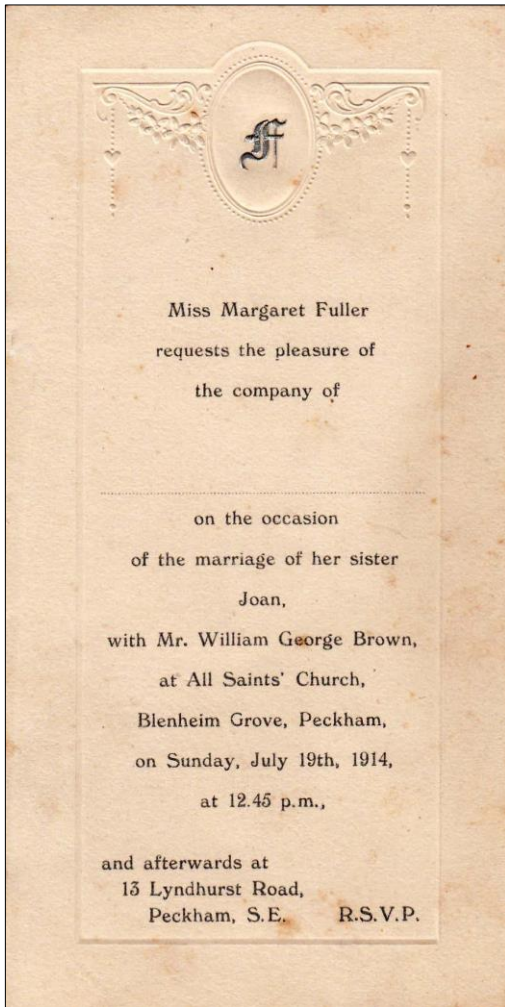


Autograph painting by William George Brown

My grandparents married at All Saints, Blenheim Grove in Camberwell – or Peckham - on 19th July 1914, with Joan's sister Margaret sending out the invitations as no parent was alive to do so. About to be sister-in-law Louisa Brown was the bridesmaid. The couple moved to a newly built house in Streatham, not as big as the three story house with basement below in Lyndhurst Road where she had grown up, but a roomy, solidly-built house all the same. With the exception of some of the war years, when she returned to Peckham while her husband, William George Brown, was in the army, she lived there for the rest of her life.

Details of her life with my grandfather, mother and uncle are outlined in *Jessie Brown's Lot*. She apparently had a passion for Agatha Christie books, which led to her being nicknamed Ag. She also smoked – a detail which surprised me as a child, as my mother did not and it was considered a somewhat racy thing for a woman to do at the time. However, she apparently also suffered from recurrent back pain, caused by an accident with a falling bale. Perhaps smoking helped to ease this.

Joan Brown



Wedding Invitation - Will and Joan



All Saints Blenheim Grove Peckham



Astrology is the
Key to Knowledge

Knowledge is the
Key to Wealth and
Prosperity

Wealth and Prosperity
are the Keys to
Happiness

SHORT, OR TRIAL ASTROLOGICAL READING FROM

Professor Harriss Edison PRACTICAL ASTROLOGER

Binghamton, N. Y., May 13, 1906

NOTICE

To show my faith in my
Astrological system, and to con-
vince you of my belief that a
LIFE READING
will be a great benefit to you
I promise that if after receiving
and carefully studying your Life
Horoscope, you are not entirely
satisfied with its correctness, if
you can honestly say that it is
not worth the price paid, if it is
not in every way superior to the
so-called LIFE Readings issued
by my imitators, I will refund
your money provided you return
me the HOROSCOPE in the
envelope you received it in, the
same day it reaches you.

Katherine J. Fuller

Dear Madam:-

Your birth date as given me indicates that you were born under the Zodiac Sign of Leo, which was also the Sign of Napoleon Bonaparte, Russell Sage, Julia Marlowe, Mrs. John A. Logan and other famous people. One of your lucky years is close at hand, the other a few years later.

A hasty examination of the above facts indicate that your life is a very important one from an Astrological point of view. Among other things it is shown that you often say and do things which are not fully understood by your gentlemen friends, thus causing them to form a wrong opinion of your general disposition.

Except from this failing, you possess a remarkably even temper and would be cool and collected in the face of real danger, although somewhat excited over trivial affairs. You have the power of making friends readily, but the indications are that this power has not been sufficiently cultivated as yet, and nothing will reflect to your advantage so greatly as a full and free development of your friend making capabilities.

You are kind-hearted, generous, sympathetic and magnetic, but sometimes are too much ruled by your emotions. You are quick to see the point of a story or joke, and dislike to listen to long winded story tellers who take much time in coming to the point of their stories.

You have exceptionally strong powers of love and attachment and will stand up for one whom you love to the last extremity. If your gentlemen friends were to fully understand your remarkable loyalty and strong affections, you would have more sincere admirers than you would care to entertain. You however sometimes hide this noble qualification under an indifferent manner, and should learn how to candidly, yet modestly, show the depths of your love making nature to the best and truest advantage, not on every occasion, but when the proper time comes.

In these short readings which I give freely, you will readily understand that I can only map out the salient points of character and am not able to make those deeper investigations which bring out important events. For instance: I see some danger during the coming year, a possibility that you will have to decide between two proposals which will come to you sooner than you anticipate and which will perplex you greatly. You will meet with some indignity at the hands of a jealous lady friend, and can avoid the same by proper knowledge. All of this, and many more signs pointing to important events in connection with your love affairs, but which each require deeper investigation than I can give in such a short sketch. You will note that my more complete Horoscope covers such matters fully, also you are privileged to ask many questions with an order for a fuller reading of your life as my system of Astrology reveals it.

Dict. to E-4.

Very sincerely yours

Prof. Harriss Edison.

Astrological Reading for Joan Fuller

In all probability smoking contributed to her early death from cancer. However, stress caused by the loss of both parents as a child, the First World War, subsequent Depression and Second World War was possibly a more likely contributory factor to the breast cancer which spread to the liver and was ultimately responsible for her early death on 16th May 1946. She was buried a week later at Camberwell New Cemetery, Honor Oak. The entry in the register reads:

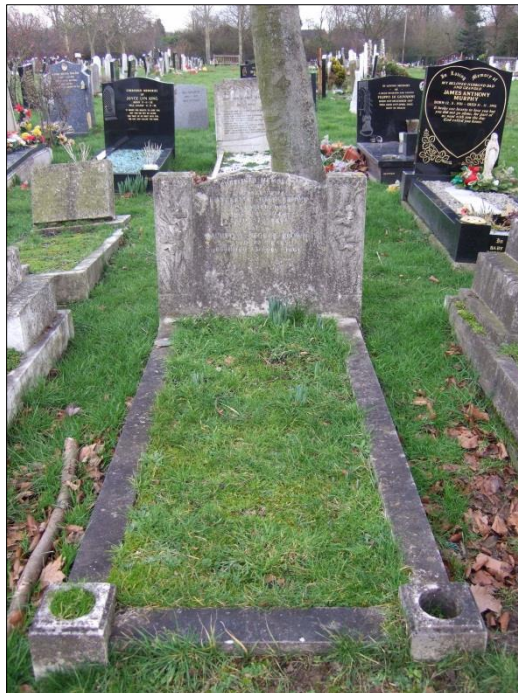
Entry no: 34285; Katherine Joan Brown; 57 years; 65 Strathbrook Rd
Streatham; 23.5.1946; by O.K. de Berry; Private; Grave no: 9119, sq. 40;
General; Receipt no: 36340

A headstone was erected which read:

CHERISHED MEMORIES
OF
MY DEAR WIFE
KATHERINE JOAN BROWN
WHO PASSED OVER
16TH MAY 1946
AGED 57 YEARS

Fifteen years later, the following inscription was added:

ALSO
WILLIAM GEORGE BROWN
AGED 73 YEARS
REUNITED 23RD DECEMBER 1961



Grave of William and Joan Brown

Stone daffodils decorate the sides of the headstone, but I was pleased to see real ones poking their heads through the grass on the grave even after all this time.

Letters of Administration were granted to my grandfather on 18th October 1946. The gross value of her estate was £283 3/11, very modest in comparison with some of her antecedents.

The early Fullers: Holborn

One of the jokes I grew up with was that we had all inherited 'The Fuller Conk', a thin nose with a bump at the top (useful if you wear glasses). I don't know how far back this attribute went, but the earliest member of this family I have traced for sure is a fairly shadowy William (**See Tree 2 – page 23**). He and a wife named Ann baptised a son, Richard Fuller (my three-times-great-grandfather) at St Andrew's Holborn on 9th November 1783. They were living at Grays Inn Lane at the time according to the register. Grays Inn Lane lies just to the west of the boundary of the City of London, was named for the nearby Inn of Court, and was a main route out of the City towards the north at that time. It is just possible that William was the son of an earlier William and his wife Mary, who baptised a son at St. Andrew's on 18th July 1740, also living in Grays Inn Lane. St. Andrew's Holborn was a huge parish, though, and as Fuller is not an unusual name a street name is not enough to clinch it.

The only other certain reference to William Fuller is in his son's apprenticeship binding in the records of one of the oldest livery companies in London, the Worshipful Company⁶ of Turners:

Fuller	6 th March 1799 Richard Fuller son of William Fuller of the
to	parish of St George the Martyr in the county of Surrey glass
Poulten	cutter to Robert Poulten Citizen and Turner of London for
	seven years by indenture dated this day
	Consideration £21

This tells us that William was a glasscutter, now apparently operating on the other side of the Thames in Southwark. However, there is also a St. George the Martyr church in Holborn, built as a chapel of ease to the parish church of St. Andrew's Holborn. Given the fact that Richard was born in Grays Inn Lane, I wondered whether the clerk filling in the records jumped to the wrong conclusion about which St. George the Martyr was meant, especially as I have found no trace of William in Southwark.

⁶ LMA Ms 3302/3 Apprenticeship Bindings 1760 – 1872 Turner's Company



Part of Gray's Inn fronting onto Grays Inn Road

The Land Tax records⁷ for the civil parish of St. Andrew and St. George the Martyr, Camden, (i.e. Holborn) suggest that I might be right. There is a run of returns from 1781 to '87 which place William Fuller in Queens Head Court off Gray's Inn Lane. Although it no longer exists, this court would have been almost directly opposite Gray's Inn, one of the four ancient Inns of Court in London. William regularly paid tax of eight shillings to a proprietor named Ann Wildon – although her name is not recorded on every return. These returns neatly surround the year of Richard's birth in 1783, when we know where William was living. There is then a gap in the records until 1795. We know that William must have still been alive as otherwise the apprenticeship bindings would have recorded him as deceased. In 1795 and '96 a William Fuller was recorded paying tax of eight shillings – possibly as a tenant of Dodds Estate – living in Widnall Place, which lies to the north side of Vine Street. Intriguingly, there is a little road adjoining Widnall Place called Glass Court. Could it have been named for the business carried out there? Vine Street still runs from Hatton Wall to Townsend Lane, at right angles to Saffron Hill, but both Widnall Place and Glass Court had disappeared by the time the 1851 P.O.L.D directory was produced. From 1798 until 1825 a William Fuller was taxed at an address called Pools Buildings. This was somewhere in the region of Little Grays Inn Lane, a road which turned from Grays Inn Lane towards Mount Pleasant. The landlord until 1808 was William Cook and from 1817 - 1825 the proprietors were recorded as Allen and Smith.

A glance at a modern map shows this area to be where other members of the family lived. Both Union Court, where Robert Poulten lived, and West Smithfield - which was Richard Fuller's home for many years - are within a quarter of a mile of

⁷ <http://search.ancestry.co.uk/> London, England Land Tax Records, 1692- 1932

Widnall Place; the two addresses on Grays Inn Lane are close and Castle Street - another of Richard's addresses - was less than half a mile away. So, despite the common occurrence of the name Fuller, it seems entirely possible that this is Richard's father. Presumably William died sometime after 1825, but no likely burial has been found.

Robert Poulten was paid £21 for taking Richard on, so presumably William could afford such a fee. Technically, in order to bind his son to a master in one of the London guilds, he had to be a freeman in his own right, and not a labourer; although I suspect these rules were on occasion flouted, the fact that he is recorded as a glass cutter suggests he had served his own apprenticeship at some point. Richard was presumably not an only child, as he had a sister-in-law named Sarah Fuller living with him in 1851, which implies at least one brother.

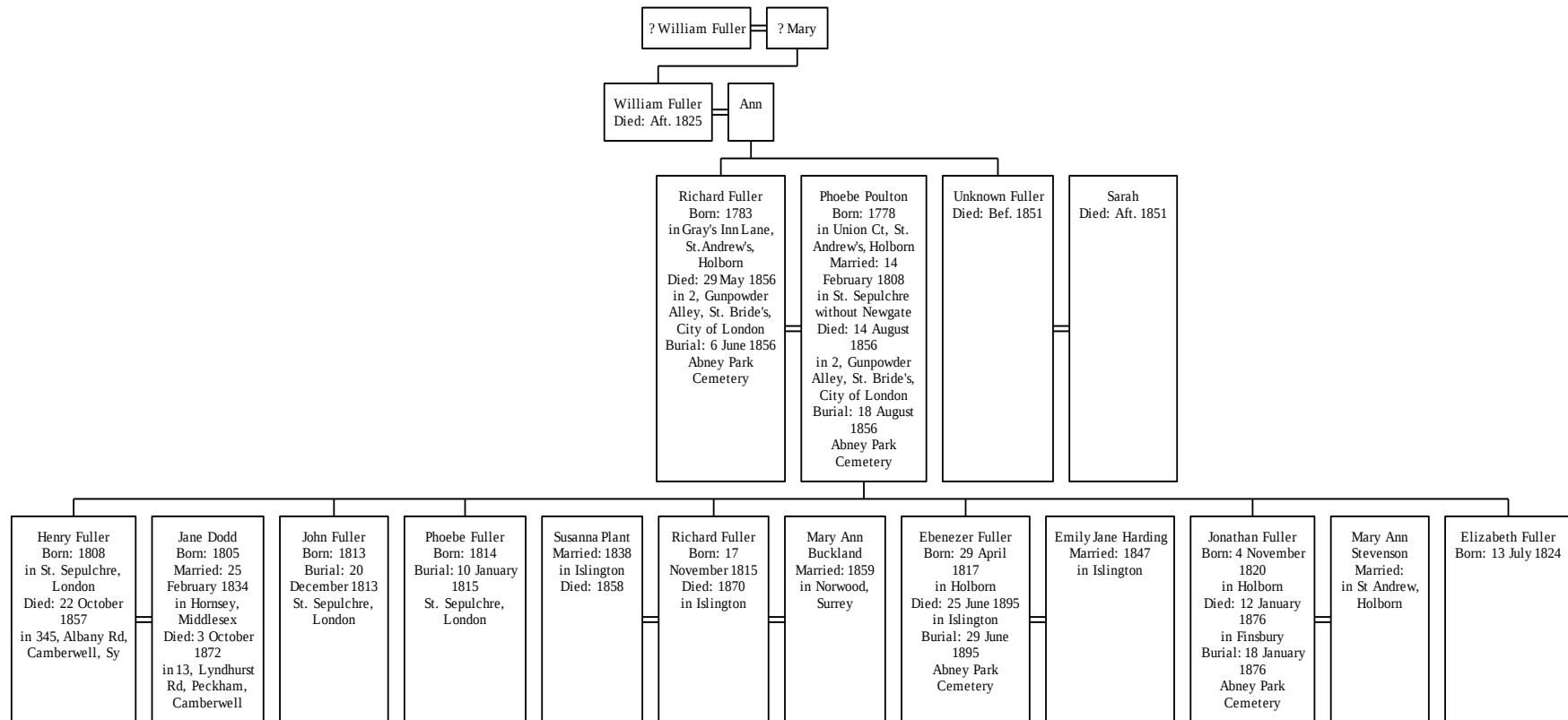
Richard Fuller left a much more detailed paper trail. He would have been 15 when he was bound to Robert Poulten for a training lasting seven years. The authorities were aware that teenage boys get into mischief, so the indenture⁸ they had to sign laid down the rules of behaviour in no uncertain terms:

This indenture witnesseth that Richard Fuller, son of William Fuller of the parish of St. George the martyr in the county of Surrey glasscutter doth put himself apprentice to Robert Poulten Citizen and Turner of London to learn his Art and with him (after the manner of an apprentice) to serve from the Date hereof until the full Term and End of Seven Years from thence following, to be fully complete and ended, during which Term the said Apprentice, his said Master faithfully serve, his Secrets keep, his lawful Commandments everywhere gladly do. He shall do no Damage to his said Master, nor see it to be done of others, but that he to his power shall let or forthwith give warning to his said Master of the same. He shall not waste the Goods of his said Master, nor lend them unlawfully to any. He shall not commit Fornication, nor contract Matrimony within the said term. He shall not play at cards, dice, tables or any other unlawful games whereby his said Master shall have any loss, With his own goods or others during the said Term, without licence of his said Master, he shall neither buy or sell. He shall not haunt taverns or alehouses, nor absent himself from his said Master's Service Day or Night unlawfully: but in all things as a faithful Apprentice he shall behave himself towards his said Master and all this during the said Term. And the said Master, in consideration of these premises

The said Apprentice in the same Art which he useth, by the best means that he can, shall teach and instruct, or cause to be taught and instructed, finding

⁸ LMA COL/CHD/FR/02/1580

Tree 2 - Descendants of ? William and Mary Fuller



unto his said Apprentice Meat, Drink, Apparel, Lodging and all the Necessaries according to the Custom of *London* during the said Term. And for the true Performance of all and every the said Covenants and Agreements, either of the said Parties bindeth himself unto the other by these Presents.

In Witness whereof the Parties above-named to these Indentures, interchangeably have put their hands and seals, the sixth day of March in the thirty-ninth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King GEORGE the Third by the Grace of God of *Great Britain, France and Ireland* King, Defender of the Faith &c. *Anno Dom* 1798.

Sealed and delivered, (being first duly stamp'd) in the Presence of

... Fisher

Richard Fuller

Richard may have stuck to the rules for seven years, but not much longer, as on 14th February 1808, at St. Sepulchre without Newgate, he married Pheobe Poulten, who was five years older than him, and the daughter of his erstwhile master.

Richard Fuller of this parish bachelor, and Phoebe Poulton of this parish, spinster, were married in this church, by banns, this 14th day of February 1808. Signed *Richard Fuller, Phoebe Poulton*, in the presence of Joseph Woollard, Ann Woollard, William Franklyn



St. Sepulchre without Newgate

There is no way of knowing whether this was what Robert had in mind for his eldest daughter; probably not, as the 'happy couple' had already jumped the gun and a son Henry was baptised on the same day in the neighbouring parish of St. Andrew Holborn. Presumably they didn't have the hard neck to ask the same vicar to perform both services. Michael Gandy, eminent genealogist, suggested during a course on tracing London ancestors that a wedding and baptism on the same day

might be taken to mean that the couple were not too keen and had been hoping for a miscarriage or stillbirth.



St. Andrew Holborn

After this initial haste, it was some time before a second child was born. There are no baptisms for John and Phoebe Fuller, born around 1813 and 1814, and their burials, at St. Sepulchre on 20th September 1813 and 10th January 1815 don't give parents' names, but I suspect they belonged to Richard and Phoebe. The next child, Richard, was also not baptised initially, but at some point, the family was drawn to the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion church at Finsbury Tabernacle, and the register there notes that Richard junior was born on 17th November 1815. Ebenezer, born 29th August 1817 was baptised first at St. Andrew's, on 24th April 1818, and then at Finsbury Tabernacle on 2nd October 1821 along with Richard and younger brother Jonathan, born on 4th November 1820. Elizabeth, born on 13th July 1824 was baptised there on 3rd April 1827.

By this time, the family was living at 60 West Street Smithfield, and Richard's occupation as Flint Glass Cutter and Stopper Maker appeared in *Robson's Directory*⁹ between 1820 and 1829. Flint glass was another name for lead crystal, and used flint or ground pebbles to provide the silica content. He made sure his business was well

⁹ *Robson's London Directory*, William Robson

advertised, as an entry also appeared in *Pigot's*¹⁰. Another directory, *Kelly's Post Office London Directory*, places him as:

Richard Fuller, Chemical Stopperer and Glass Cutter,
21, Castle St, Holborn



The Castle, Furnival Street

between 1831 and 1854, so presumably he had moved premises. Castle Street's exact location was a mystery for some time. One possibility I explored is a little road, now called Castle Court, which runs today between Farringdon Road and the back of Holborn Viaduct Station, two turnings northwards from Bear Alley, where Pheobe's mother had run a glass cutter's business in the late 1770s and early 1780s. The Castle Street near to Widnall Place presented another possibility. The Voters' Lists¹¹ for 1843, 1850 and 1851 also gave Richard's address as 21, Castle Street but didn't specify the location further. It was only on checking the P.O.L.D. Directory for 1851 that I noticed that the street directory records numbers 1 to 13 of Castle Street and then notes:

... here Took's Court intersects

It then lists the inhabitants of numbers 17 to 22, including Richard Fuller at 21 Castle Street and notes again:

... here Cursitor Street intersects

¹⁰ *Pigot and Co's London and Provincial New Commercial Directory for 1826-7*, J. Pigot and co, Manchester

¹¹ *Post Office London Directory*, Kelly

Comparing this with a modern map, it is clear that what was Castle Street is now Furnival Street; further proof if needed is that the Castle pub, first established on the site in 1541, still stands on the road albeit in a Victorian incarnation.

The censuses also show the family in Castle Street. In 1841¹² Richard and Phoebe were living with Ebenezer and Jonathan and daughter Elizabeth. Richard and Jonathan were both enumerated as glass cutters, but Ebenezer as a clerk. In 1851¹³ Richard was listed as 65, a glass cutter born in St. Andrew Holborn, and his wife, wrongly recorded as Rebecca, is 70, also born in St. Andrew's. Elizabeth, aged 25, born St. Mary Islington, was the only child still at home, but there was a widowed sister-in-law, 58 year-old Sarah Fuller, also from St. Andrew's, a rough dealer, which seems to imply something to do with gemstones.



Arms of the Turners' Company

The Worshipful Company of Turners thrived until the mid-18th century with wood-turning seen as an important skill. After this date, as wood-turning became less important, membership was opened up to those practising other crafts, which perhaps explains why the Fullers, glass-workers, belonged. The records of the Turners' Company, of which Richard and three of his sons were members, give a

¹² <http://search.ancestry.co.uk/> 1841 Census, St. Andrew Holborn, HO 107/724

¹³ <http://search.ancestry.co.uk/> 1851 Census, Holborn St. Andrew, HO 107/1527

wealth of information about his time as a master glass cutter. In 1830 he gained the Freedom of the City of London¹⁴:

At a quarter court held at Guildhall London on Wednesday 6th day of October 1830...

Richard Fuller apprentice to Robert Poulten Citizen of London deceased for seven years by indentures dated the 6th day of March 1799 made free this sixth day of October 1830.

Lives at no. 21 Castle St Holborn and is by trade a glass cutter.

He was now in a position to take on his own apprentices, and began with his second and third sons. The Apprenticeship Bindings¹⁵ show:

Fuller 6th March 1833 Ebenezer Fuller son of Richard Fuller
to the elder bound to his father the said Richard Fuller the
Fuller elder citizen and turner of London for seven years by indenture
(his father) dated this day

No consideration

The master lives at 21 Castle Street Holborn and the apprentice lives with him.

Richard junior's indenture¹⁶ shows him to have been taken on at the same time. Three years later, in 1836, Richard took on another two apprentices: his son Jonathan and John March son of John March of Enfield - a shoemaker, which suggests that business must have been good to support four apprentices at the same time.

Richard evidently moved his business from Castle Street towards the end of his life, as *Kelly's Directory*¹⁷ for 1855-7 lists:

Richard Fuller, Chemical Stopperer and Glass Cutter, 2, Gunpowder Alley, Holborn

and the move, though not the date, is confirmed by the Turners' Quarterage Books¹⁸, which noted the dues paid by members of the guild every three months. The first reference to Richard was dated 7th October 1830, at 21, Castle Street, Holborn, but regular payments were made over the years. At some point, someone crossed out the Castle Street address and written No. 2 Gunpowder Alley, East Harding Street over the top.

Richard's death, on 29th May 1856 was recorded at the above address, in St. Bride's:

Richard Fuller, male, 72 years, Glasscutter Master, Decay of nature

¹⁴ LMA MS 3295/6 Court Minutes Turners' Company 1825-72

¹⁵ LMA Ms 3302/3 Apprenticeship Bindings 1760 - 1872 Turners' Company

¹⁶ <http://search.ancestry.co.uk/>, Freedom of the City Admission Papers

¹⁷ *Post Office London Directory*, Kelly

¹⁸ LMA, MS 3299/11, Quarterage Book 1800 - 90 Turners Company

12 months. Certified, Elizabeth Fuller, present at death

and he was buried in the non-conformist cemetery of Abney Park in Stoke Newington, as burial 016032. Abney Park cemetery is a huge site. According to the plot maps, Richard and Phoebe's grave is on the edge of the path in section H03. Unfortunately, although the place can be pinpointed, the headstone has not survived.



**Abney Park Cemetery
Site of Richard and Phoebe Fuller's grave**

He left an intriguing will¹⁹, which raises questions about his relationship with his eldest son, as the following abstract shows:

This is the last will and testament of me, Richard Fuller of Castle St, in the City of London, glass cutter. To my son Ebenezer, my bookcase and secretary and the printed books therein. And my microscope and all things appertaining to it, to be delivered to him after my decease. I give and bequeath all household furniture and plate, linen and china in domestic use to my wife Phoebe during her life.
To my daughter Elizabeth Fuller £20.
To my son Jonathan Fuller £50.
The rest of my personal estate to my wife Phoebe. If my wife Phoebe predeceases me, the tools of the trade are to be given equally to my sons Jonathan and Richard in the belief that they will continue together.
The rest of my estate to be shared between my four children: Ebenezer, Richard, Jonathan and Elizabeth.

Phoebe, Ebenezer and Elizabeth were to be executors, and the will was witnessed by Frederick Nicholls Dewey of Ely Place, John Page Deeble, clerk to Mr Devey, and

¹⁹ TNA, Prob 11/2235, Will of Richard Fuller, City of London, 1856

Samuel Bracey of 36, Great Cambridge St, Hackney Rd. It was proved at London on 11th July 1856, and Ebenezer is named in the entry on Richard in the Death Duty Registers²⁰. Son Henry is notable by his absence. He had made his own way in the world, although he later returned to the family business for a time, so maybe there was a family rift, which was later healed. Maybe he didn't subscribe to the rest of the family's Methodist leanings; maybe his father didn't approve of his marriage. Perhaps it was his early unwillingness to be a glasscutter that rankled. His brothers Richard, Ebenezer and Jonathan were all apprenticed to their father, and continued, for a while at least, in the craft. Henry appears not to have served an apprenticeship.

Poulten links: Holborn and Stepney

Or sometimes Poulton, Powton, Poulteen or Poulter! Phoebe Poulton, Richard Fuller's wife, was baptised as the daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Poulton, Union Court, at St. Andrew's Holborn on 15th May, 1778, so she would have been nearly thirty when she married Richard, and five years older than her husband. For a Victorian bride, this was quite old, but I have found no reason for this late wedding. She had grown up in the glass industry, and presumably took some part in the business, as Richard bequeathed the tools of the trade to her. When she died, she passed these on to the sons who were still working with glass, and it seems from her will²¹ that the rift with eldest son Henry had not entirely healed:

This is the last will and testament of me Phoebe Fuller of Gunpowder Alley, Shoe Lane in the City of London, widow. I bequeath my portable writing desk to my son Henry Fuller and all my wearing apparel to my daughter Elizabeth Fuller. All the tools and implements of trade but not including stock in trade to my sons Richard and Jonathan trusting that they will continue together. And I bequeath all my real and personal estate to my four children, Richard, Ebenezer, Jonathan and Elizabeth and their heirs. I appoint Ebenezer and Elizabeth my executors. I revoke all former wills. Signed with the mark of Phoebe Fuller.
Witnessed: Thomas Blaney and Charles Cooke, clerks to Mr Devey, Ely Place.

The will was proved at London on 20th February 1857 by the oaths of Ebenezer and Elizabeth Fuller. She had died 6 months earlier, 9 months after her husband; her death certificate fills in the details:

14th August 1856, 2 Gunpowder Alley St. Bride, female, 78 years, widow, Gout and bronchitis 20 years, bronchitis 14 days, Jonathan Fuller present at the death, 2 Gunpowder Alley Fleet St., Registered: 18th August 1856.

²⁰ TNA, IR 27/317/068. Richard Fuller, 1856

²¹ TNA, Prob 11/2246, Will of Phoebe Fuller, City of London, 1856

Phoebe's father Robert Poulten had set the precedent for marrying the boss's daughter, as her mother was Elizabeth Clark, widow of Robert's master, George Lancaster, glass cutter. Elizabeth's baptism has not been found, but her marriage to George Lancaster took place at St. Sepulchre without Newgate in London on 17th January 1766, an act which made her step-mother to George's son George, born to his first wife Mary and baptised at St. Bride's Fleet Street in 1763. George and Elizabeth Lancaster had 6 children of their own: Ann, Leonard, Elizabeth, Mary Marsh, Joseph Marsh and Sarah, although three of these died as infants. Their burials and land tax records²² show that their parents were living at Bear Alley (the register gives 'Bare') in St. Sepulchre, and though in 1774 their address is recorded as St. Andrew's St. Sepulchre, I suspect this was the same place. Bear Alley existed before the Great Fire of London, and supposedly took its name from a local tavern and the fact that bear-baiting was at one time a popular sport in the area.



St. Sepulchre without Newgate

George Lancaster - son of tailor Leonard Lancaster, who apprenticed him to the Turners' Company in 1748²³ - died in 1774 and was buried at St. Sepulchre on 24th November (See Tree 3 - page 32). The register has a note beside the entry saying 'Bay St. Andrew's', which I take to mean that he was buried in that part of the churchyard reserved for those who lived in the St. Andrew's part of the parish.

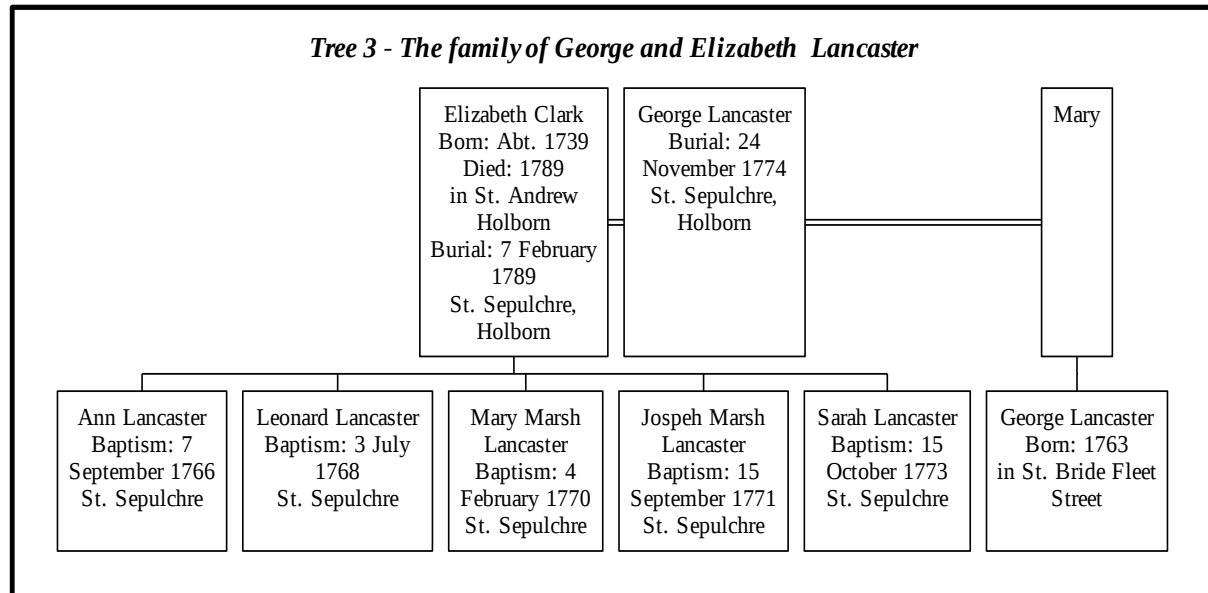
²² <http://ancestry.co.uk/> London England Land Tax Records, 1768; LMA, MS 11316/209

²³ <http://ancestry.co.uk/> Freedom of the City Admission Papers

Elizabeth presumably took over the business as she is recorded paying quarterage²⁴ up until 1778 as:

Lancaster Widow of George

Bear Alley Fleet Market



Three years later, Elizabeth married her deceased husband's erstwhile apprentice:

Robert Poulton of the parish of St. Andrew Holborn, London, bachelor and Elizabeth Lancaster of the same parish widow, were married in this church by licence on 19th January 1777 by me, Thomas Clark curate. This marriage was solemnised between us Robert Poulton, E Lancaster in the presence of R^d Perry, Deborah Gordon.

The marriage bond and allegation²⁵ still survive:

Know all men by these presents that we Robert Poulten of the parish of St. Andrew Holborn London Glass cutter are hereby become bound unto the Right Reverend Richard ... Bishop of London, in the sum of two hundred pounds ... Dated the eighteenth Day of January ...1777 The condition of this obligation is such ... that Robert Poulter [sic] Bachelor and Elizabeth Lancaster a widow may lawfully solemnise Marriage together...

and, on the same day:

Appeared personally Robert Poulten and made oath that he is of the parish of St Andrew Holborn London aged twenty-one years and

²⁴ LMA MS 3299/9, Quarterage Book 1770 – 83 Turners' Co.

²⁵ LMA Mf 10091E/90, Bond, Mf 10091/138, Allegation

upwards a bachelor and intendeth to marry with Elizabeth Lancaster of the same parish a widow and that he knoweth of no lawful impediment, by reason of any precontract, consanguinity, affinity or any other lawful means whatsoever to hinder the said intended marriage and prayed a licence to solemnise the same in the parish church aforesaid and further made oath that the usual place of abode of him this deponent hath been in the said parish of St. Andrew Holborn for the space of four weeks past.

Robert Poulsen



St. Andrew Holborn – interior

Robert's signature is clearly recognisable on both documents, but interestingly whoever filled in the bond wrote Poulter initially at the top of the document, and then changed the r to an n, but repeated the error further down the page, which maybe gives some indication of how Robert pronounced his surname.

Later the same year, Elizabeth took her step-son on as an apprentice. She demanded no fee or 'consideration', which is perhaps not surprising:

Lancaster to Lancaster	6 th August 1777 George Lancaster son of George Lancaster late citizen and turner of London deceased bound to Elizabeth Lancaster widow late wife of George Lancaster late Citizen and Turner of London deceased for 7 yrs dated this day. No cons.
---------------------------------------	---

Despite having remarried, Elizabeth kept working, or at least running her husband's business in her own name, and the quarterage book²⁶ shows her paying her dues at Bear Alley in 1783 and 1784. Maybe this explains the fact that Phoebe was the only child of her second marriage, but she had already given birth to six other children, so may have reached the end of her child-bearing years. Her quarterage payments stop in 1784 but maybe at this point George Lancaster junior completed his apprenticeship and took over his father's business. She lived for another four years, and was buried at St. Sepulchre on 7th February 1789. The burial register notes that she was from St. Andrew's Holborn, aged 50 years and was laid to rest in the area called Bays, presumably close to her first husband George.



Bear Alley

Robert Poulten's baptism was recorded on 26th November 1755 at the other side of London in St. Dunstan and All Saints, Stepney (**See Tree 4 – page 38**). The register gives another alternative for the surname:

Robert Son of Edward Powton Poplar Labourer and Phoebe 22 days old

Presumably, then, Phoebe Poulton was named for her grandmother. Again, I am indebted to the Turners' Company records²⁷ for confirming this link:

Poulten	7 th August 1771 Robert Poulten son of Edward Poulten
to	late of Poplar in the county of Middlesex Labourer
Lancaster	deceased puts to George Lancaster Citizen and Turner of
	London for seven years by indenture dated this day.
	Cons nil

²⁶ LMA MS 3299/10, Quarterage Book 1770 – 83 Turners' Co

²⁷ LMA, Ms 3302/3 Apprenticeship Bindings 1760 – 1872 Turners' Company

From 1781 to 1798 Robert appears on the Land Tax records for Union Court, East side, first with a landlord named Bignall, later with John Aldridge. Interestingly, the area is listed as St. Andrew and St. George the Martyr rather than St. Andrew's Holborn, which perhaps strengthens the theory that William Fuller was a local when he placed his son as apprentice to Robert.

He was made free as a citizen of London at a Court Day²⁸ held Wednesday 2nd day of February 1785:

Robert Poulten apprentice of George Lancaster late citizen and Turner of London made free

He was 29 years old at this point, and it almost seems that he only took his freedom after his wife's death. However, he was already calling himself a citizen a month earlier when he took his first apprentice²⁹:

Phelps to Poulten	18 th January 1785 Charles Phelps, s of Charles Phelps citizen and leatherseller of London bound to Robert Poulten Citizen and Turner of London for 7 years by Indenture. Cons £10 perpetual charity being the gift of Dr Matthew Bromfield to poor boys born in the parish of St Andrews Holborn London
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He also advertised his services, as an entry appeared in the 1790 edition of *Wakefield's Merchant and Tradesman's General Directory for London*³⁰ calling him a 'Glasscutter, earthenware glass'. Two other apprentices, James Underhill son of Robert Underhill carpenter of Exeter and Lawrence Perrin son of James Perrin cordwainer of Woodford in Essex, were taken on in 1787 and 1794 respectively.

Between these two events, however, Robert remarried - in somewhat indecent haste given that his first wife had only died in February. His second wife was named Elizabeth Hezmalhalch; the marriage took place at St. Leonard Shoreditch, and both signed the register:

Robert Poulten of this parish widower & Elizabeth Hezmalhalch of this parish spinster married in this church by banns this 10th day of March in the year 1789

Four children were baptised by this couple at St. Andrew's Holborn, all from the Union Court address: Richard Barrington on 2nd May 1790, Thomas on 15th January 1792, Elizabeth Ann on 1st December 1793 and Fanny (who later married Richard Griffin) on 4th June 1797. Richard married Sarah Elizabeth Howell in 1811 and was buried at St. Andrew's in 1854 aged 64.

²⁸ LMA, Ms 3295/4 Court Minutes Turners' Company

²⁹ LMA Ms 3302/3 Apprenticeship Bindings 1760 - 1872 Turners' Company

³⁰ *Wakefield's Merchant and Tradesman's General Directory for London, Westminster...*, Roger Wakefield

Robert's next apprentice was his future son-in-law, Richard Fuller, and the final one was his own son, Richard:

Poulten to Poulten	11 th April 1804 Richard Barrington Poulten son of Robert Poulten citizen and turner of London bound to his said father Robert Poulten Citizen and Turner of London for seven years dated this day No cons.
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The Quarterage Books³¹ track Robert Poulten's payments of 6d a quarter to maintain his membership of the Turners' Guild from 1785 -1799 and from 1801 – 1811; I suspect the gaps are in the records rather than his subscriptions. He is consistently listed as a householder at No. 16 Union Ct. Holborn Hill and described as a Glass cutter. The payments cease in 1811; Robert died the following year, and was buried from Union Court at St. Andrew's Holborn on 28th June 1812.

One final document adds colour to the character of Robert Poulten, as he endorsed a patent medicine in an advertisement in *The Times*³²:

The following new cure was thought so very extraordinary, and such a wonderful instance of the power of Medicine, that several respectable householders have attested the same. - Caes; Mr Edward Ash, Taylor, at Mr Cook's butcher, at 63 Drury Lane, was violently afflicted with a scorbutic, painful humour on both his hands..... After taking several medicines to no purpose, he applied on the 23rd July last 1787 to Mr Spilsbury in Soho Square for his antiscorbutic drops ... he recovered the use of his hands... [and] is perfectly recovered.... Witnesses to the above being a true Case Mr Robert Poulton, Glasscutter, No 16 Upper Union Court, Holborn.

The drops were sold in glass bottles (made by Robert, maybe?) and were recommended for 40 ailments, including scurvy, gout and rheumatism – a miracle cure indeed!

As already stated, the Turners' Company records had confirmed the fact that Robert's father was Edward Poulten of Poplar, a labourer; the date of his indentures suggested a birth sometime in the mid-1750s, and a baptism was found at exactly the right time in the register of St. Dunstan Stepney. During the 19th century, the east end of London had a reputation for poverty and overcrowding, but in the 18th century it was still relatively rural, although Stepney Green included a number of fashionable houses, and was a popular place of retirement for naval officers. An account of Poplar³³, a hamlet within Stepney parish, describes it as follows:

Poplar Marsh is reckoned one of the richest spots of ground in England;

³¹ LMA Turners' Co. Quarterage Books, MS 3299/10 & MS 3299/11

³² <http://www.ancestry.co.uk/> *The Times*, Wednesday, Jan 16, 1788; pg. 3; Issue 953; col D

³³ <http://www.mernick.org.uk/thhol/accohaml.html> *The Universal Magazine*, June 1795

for it not only raises the largest cattle, but the grass it bears is esteemed a great restorative of all distempered cattle. Part of this marsh is called the Isle of Dogs

It is opposite Greenwich in Kent; and when our sovereigns had a palace near the site of the present magnificent hospital, they used it as a hunting-seat, and, it is said, kept the kennels of their hounds in this marsh. These hounds frequently making a great noise, the seamen called the place the Isle of Dogs.

Jane Cox³⁴ describes the area in the 18th century as follows:

At the beginning of the 18th century Stepney was at its peak...

These were golden years for the East End, with a flourishing silk industry, naval victories and booming foreign trade. Daniel Defoe found between the pool of London and Blackwall in the 1720s three wet docks for laying up ships, 22 dry docks for repairing them and 33 shipyards building merchantman. There were warehouses stuffed with velvets and spices from the East, with sugar, rum, tobacco and coffee from the West Indies and a myriad alehouses and taverns.

The elderly and indigent were well provided for; all the hamlets set up their own workhouses and, in 1766, there were no less than eleven almshouses in Stepney parish belonging to various livery and trading companies.

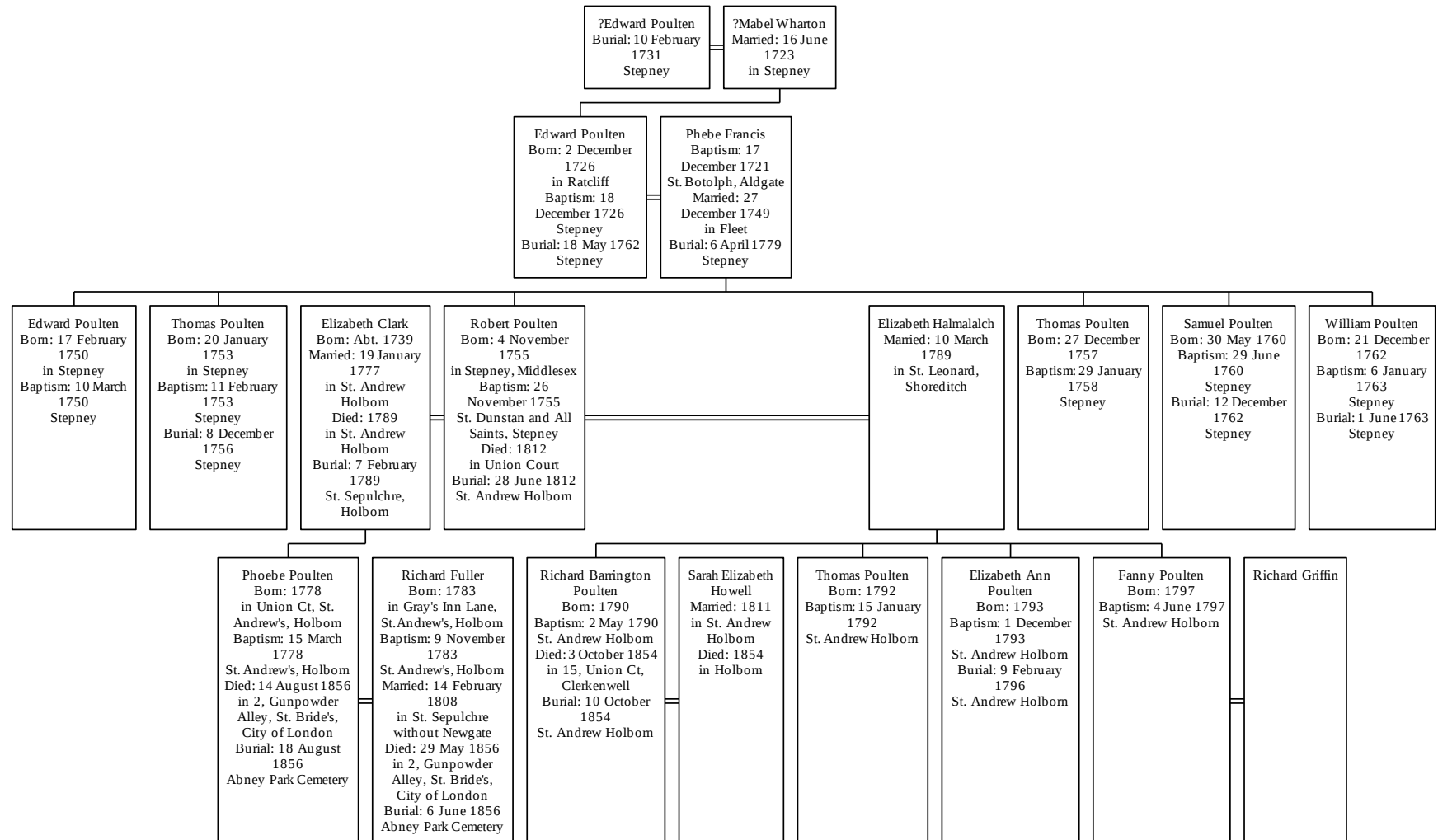


St. Dunstan and All Saints Stepney

Five other sons were born to Edward and Phoebe Poulten and baptised at St. Dunstan's: Edward, born on 17th February and baptised on 10th March 1750; Thomas, born 20th January and baptised 11th February 1753 but buried three years later on 8th December 1756; another Thomas, born 27th December 1757, and baptised 29th

³⁴ *Tracing your East End Ancestors*, Jane Cox, 2011, Barnsley, Pen and Sword Books

Tree 4 - Descendants of ?Edward and ?Mabel Poulten



January 1758; Samuel born 30th May - baptised 29th June 1760, and William born 21st December 1762 and baptised 6th January 1763. These last two also died young, Samuel was buried on 12th December 1762 and William on 1st June 1763. Edward junior seems to have married locally, to Elizabeth Heath on 18th August 1776, but Thomas may well have followed his brother to Holborn, where a marriage between a Thomas Poulton and Ann Woodard took place in 1778. There were, however, other Poulton families in the area at the time, so I may be conflating two Thomases.

With a first child born in 1750, an irregular marriage noted in the Fleet in 1749 seemed feasible, especially as the Fleet Prison (off Farringdon Road) was a very popular marriage location for those living in the East End. As Jane Cox³⁵ explains it:

For this period, great numbers of East Enders married at one of the 'marrying churches' in the locality or at 'the Fleet', not in the church at all... Before the system was regularised by Hardwicke's Marriage Act, couples of all sorts and conditions resorted, for a variety of reasons, to marriage venues outside their parish. These 'clandestine' or 'irregular' (but legal) marriages were conducted either in churches that were empowered to issue their own licenses or in non-ecclesiastical venues by dubious clergyman.

Fleet marriages were notorious, and in fact led to the Hardwicke Marriage Act 'for the better preventing of Clandestine Marriages' in 1754. Until that date, a marriage consisting of an affirmation by the parties in front of witnesses was seen as legal, even if there was no officiating minister. The Fleet Prison, used for debtors at this date, held numerous disgraced clergymen, sometimes with the right to roam in the 'Liberty of the Fleet' outside the prison confines, and these were happy to marry couples for a suitable fee. Despite their dubious status, Fleet marriages were recorded, and Edward and Phebe's entry, on 27th December 1749, has enough detail to confirm their identities:

Edward Powton Lab^r of Stepney Mid^x B^r
Phebe Francis of the same Sp Mr Wyatt GM

By this date the above-mentioned Walter Wyatt was coming to the end of a very profitable run of weddings; he performed his last only a few months later.

The only Pheobe Francis who has come to light was baptised on 17th September 1721, at St. Botolph without Aldgate as:

Pheoba Francis daughter to Edward and Mary,
Sun and Trumpett Alley, High St.

and while it is almost impossible to be sure of anything on such slender evidence in the teeming parishes of London in the mid-eighteenth century, Sun and Trumpett

³⁵ *Tracing your East End Ancestors*, Jane Cox, 2011, Barnsley, Pen and Sword Books

Alley led onto Aldgate High Street, which in turn linked to the Whitechapel and Commercial Roads leading to Stepney. Despite its evocative name, Sun and Trumpet Alley was described at the time as 'very ordinary' in John Strype's *A Survey of the Cities of London and Westminster*³⁶. Edward and Mary had three other children, all baptised at St. Botolph's – Elizabeth, baptised 15th May 1716, Ann, 27th September 1724, and Edward, born 16th April but baptised 17th August 1727. St Botolph's, along with St James' Dukes Place, also in Aldgate, were the two chief 'marrying churches' of the area.



St. Botolph without Aldgate

Pheobe was buried on 6th April 1779. The ceremony is recorded in the register of St. Dunstan Stepney, but Pheobe, resident at Poplar, seems to have been interred at the chapel there. This chapel, now known as St Matthias' Church³⁷, was built in 1766 with the help of the East India Company, which owned much of the land in the area. Poplar had been seen as a hamlet of Stepney, but its inhabitants resented having to travel over terrible roads to attend services at St Dunstan's and turned to the Company, which provided the land and money to add to that raised by public subscription. I suspect the company also provided a fair amount of employment in the hamlet. Three years before Phoebe's death, the company enlarged the chapel, which by then was too small for its congregation. Phoebe had outlived her husband by 17 years; Edward Poulten of Poplar was buried at St. Matthias on 18th May 1762, and the event recorded in the St. Dunstan's register.

³⁶ http://www.hrionline.ac.uk/strype/TransformServlet?page=book2_027

³⁷ <http://www.mernick.org.uk/thhol/stmatthi.html> *The Co-partnership Herald*, vol 2, no 16, 1932



St. Matthias Poplar

Edward Poulten seems to have been baptised at St. Dunstan's on 18th December 1726. I say seems as there was another Edward Poulten in the parish, who married Mary Ridley in 1753. He was a blacksmith and his apprenticeship record in 1739³⁸ shows him to be the son of Edward Poulten, porter of Ratcliffe deceased, so the only baptism in the right time frame could, theoretically belong to either man. However, the entry reads:

Edward son of Edward Polteen of Rat. Labourer and Mabel 16 days old

and although this also mentions Ratcliffe, the marriage entry at St. Dunstan's three years earlier, on 16th June 1723 reads:

Edward Poulton of MOT Clothier and Mabel Wharton of same Spinster

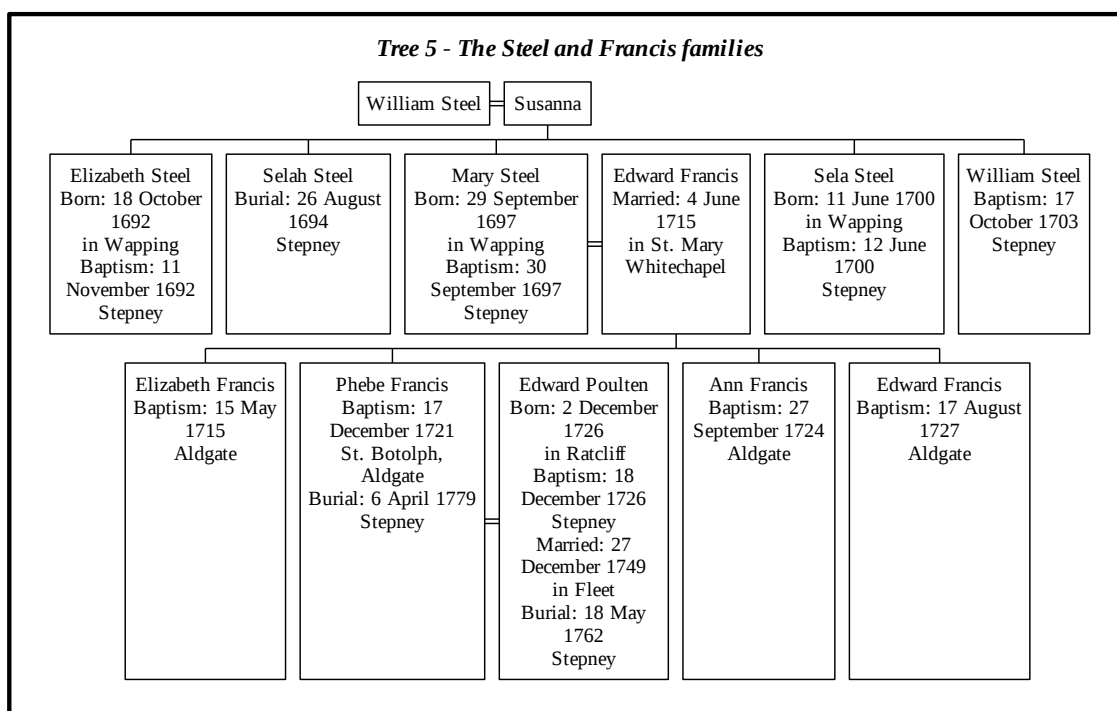
with MOT standing for Mile End Old Town and clothier meaning someone who sold clothes rather than manufacturing them. I suspect that the two Edwards may have been cousins, especially as both named a son Samuel. An Edward Polten of Ratcliffe, labourer, was buried at St. Dunstan's on 10th February 1731, and I have been unable to disentangle this line further.

However, somewhat to my surprise, it has been possible to take Phoebe Francis' purported line one generation further back (**See Tree 5 - page 42**). The parish which butts onto St. Botolph Aldgate is St. Mary Whitechapel - another favourite 'marrying church' in the area - whose church was built as a chapel of ease for the western part of the extensive parish of St. Dunstan and All Saints, Stepney. An entry in the marriage register for 4th June 1715 reads:

³⁸ <http://ancestry.co.uk/> Freedom of the City Admission Papers

Edward Francis of y^e parish of St. Botolph Aldgate and Mary Steel of this parish per banna

i.e. by banns. The reference to St. Botolph's makes it unlikely that this is a different Edward Francis, especially the first baptism for this couple takes place about 11 months later.



Mary Steel's baptism took place at St. Dunstan and All Saints Stepney on 30th September 1697, when she was one day old:

Mary dau^r of William Steel of Redmade Lane Mariner and Susanna Uxor

Uxor is Latin for wife, not her surname.

William and Susanna had four other children, Elizabeth – born 1692, Selah – buried presumably as an infant in 1694, another Sela in 1700 and William in 1703. The girls' baptisms all read Redmade Lane, but William's simply gives Wapping. Redmade or Redmaid Lane³⁹ was on the north side of Great Hermitage Street, close to where the London Docks now lie, and close to the River Thames, from where presumably, as a mariner, William sailed. The term mariner simply denotes a sailor, but I would love to know in what capacity, whether on a coastal vessel or one which travelled further afield.

See Part 2 for continuation

³⁹ A Topographical Dictionary of London and its Environs, James Elmes, London, Whittaker, Treacher and Arnot, 1831