

The
DELLA ROCCA

families of

**Manchester
and Lambeth**

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Introduction	5
G7 – BEASLEY family	6
G6 – DELLA ROCCA family	7
Mary Ann (1804 – 1875)	9
Michael (1805 – 1847)	9
John James (1806 – ?)	9
William (1812 – 1867)	9
Francis (1814 – 1816).....	9
Sarah (1815 – 1818)	9
Angelina (1817 – 1835).....	9
Ellen (1818 – 1851).....	9
Frances (1821 – 1822).....	9
Stephen Anthony (1824 – 1906)	10
G5 – Ellen DELLA ROCCA (1819 – 1851)	11
G4 – Ellen Dawson DELLA ROCCA (1845 – ?1912)	12
Clara Sarah Mary Ann DELLA ROCCA (1864 – 1942)	14
Appendix 039G – Mary Ann DELLA ROCCA (1804 – 1875)	15
Appendix 039H – Michael DELLA ROCCA (1805 – 1847).....	16
Mary Ann Elizabeth (1830 – 1830) 039HA	16
Clara (1832 – 1839) 039HB.....	16
James Michael (1833 – 1834) 039HC	16
Michael Joseph (1835 – 1902) 039HD	16
Frederick William (1837 – 1909) 039HF	19
Clara Ann (1840 – 1895) 039HG.....	19
Appendix 039J – William DELLA ROCCA (1812 – 1867)	21
Mary Ann (1836 – 1836) 039JA.....	21
William John (1839 – 1885) 039JB	21
Sarah Mary Ann (1843 – 1843) 039JC.....	22
Appendix 039O – Stephen Anthony (1824 – 1906).....	23
Sarah Ann (1848 – 1918) 039OA	24
Frances Theresa (1848 – 1941) 039OB	24
Mary Ann (1850 – 1939) 039OC.....	25
Charles James (1852 – 1852) 039OD	26
Alice Ellen (1854 – 1855) 039OE	26

Stephen Charles (1855 – 1915) 039OF	26
Ernest Henry (1857 – 1927) 039OG	28
Kate Elizabeth (1859 – 1944) 039OH.....	28
Louisa (1861 – 1931) 039OI	29
Elizabeth Alexandra (1863 – 1944) 039OJ	29
Stephen Edward (1863 – ?) 039OK	29
Clara Maria (1865 – 1908) 039OL.....	30
Frederick William (1868 – 1907) 039OM	30
Miscellaneous information.....	32
Sources	32
Other DELLA ROCCA families.....	32

Introduction

My great-grandparent on the DELLA ROCCA line of the family was Clara Sarah Mary Ann.

This is such an uncommon surname that when I first started researching it I was confident that practically all of the occurrences I found would be part of the same family. Although this still seems logically to be so I have discovered many Della Roccas that I cannot link to 'my' family. It has also become apparent that searching indexes for occurrences of the family is not as straightforward as would be supposed, as 'Della' is sometimes taken as a forename: searching for members of the family might involve looking for any of 'Dellarocca', 'Delarocca', 'Della Rocca', or often 'Rocca' with 'Della' as a forename (even, as has recently become apparent, such variations as 'Delarona' or 'Dellarosca').

Unfortunately, as will be shown, the line descends through two generations of illegitimacy, where in each case the father is unknown. This inevitably leaves large gaps in the family history, and successful further research along either of these lines is extremely unlikely.

Much of the information that follows was found in the Parish Registers of St Mary, Lambeth, where many of the Della Rocca family were baptised and married. It is apparent, however, that there are many gaps still to be filled.

There is an unsubstantiated rumour that the name 'Della Rocca' is carved in the stonework leading up to a castle by Lake Como, in Italy¹; and indeed the name certainly sounds to be of Italian origin. However, so far my researches have not shown any connection with an Italian family.

I have received much assistance from my (second) cousin Carol.

¹information contained in a letter dated 30 SEP 1991 from Miss Ivy Frances Della Rocca [039OFD], a great-granddaughter of Michael James

G7 – BEASLEY family

One of my 4xgt-grandmothers – and, because of the illegitimacy mentioned earlier, the only one I am likely to be able to trace – on the DELLA ROCCA branch is almost certainly Sarah BEASLEY.

According to both the 1851 census return and the age given on her death certificate she had been born in about 1780. A possible baptism (from the IGI) was on 15 MAY 1785; this assumes, of course, that she was baptised when she was a few years old, and this cannot be ruled out. However, this baptism was at Bicester, whereas the place of birth given in the census was Banbury, about 20 miles away.

If this is the correct baptism then her parents were Thomas and Mary, as shown in the tree (see ‘The DELLA ROCCA family: charts and diagrams’). There is little doubt that three children of Thomas BEASLEY and Mary were baptised at Bicester; but whether their third child, Sarah, is the Sarah who later married Michael DELLA ROCCA cannot be proved conclusively.

A possible marriage for Thomas and Mary was on 14 MAY 1772 – this took place at Chilvers Coton, just south of Nuneaton. If this is the right marriage, the couple later travelled over 50 miles south to Bicester, where their three children were baptised.

A possible marriage for Martha was to Thomas BROAD on 10 APR 1806, by which time she would have been about 32. The marriage took place at Woodstock.

Richard may have married Martha MILLER, on 18 MAY 1818, at Banbury.

G6 – DELLA ROCCA family

The first member of the Della Rocca family that I have found is Michael James. He died on 20 OCT 1838 at the age of 75¹ and was buried at St Mary, Lambeth, eight days later; he was therefore born about 1763. He married Sarah, who died in 1857 at the age of 77. This indicates that she had been born about 1780, and the 1851 census return², when she was living with son Stephen in Lambeth Walk (see later), indicates that she had been born in Banbury, Oxfordshire. (The same census entry indicates her year of birth to have been about 1779 so this correlates the earlier estimate of her birth-year.) The IGI records the marriage of a Michael DELAROSCA and a Sarah BEESLY in Manchester Cathedral on 02 MAY 1803³ and, as two of their children were baptised in the cathedral (see below) this is likely to be the correct marriage. My cousin Carol has obtained a copy of the register entry, which reads: “No. 768 Michael Delarosca of this Parish & Town of Salford artificial maker and Sarah Beesly of Manchester Were Married in this church by Banns April 17, 24 and May 1 1803 this Second Day of May in the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and three by me George Both parties appear to have signed their name; there was only one witness, William Shaw, who seems to have been the clerk as he witnessed all the marriages on the register page.

All the baptism records that I found during my early research had taken place at St Mary, Lambeth; after two decades I had found only seven children (from William onwards). In her letter Ivy DELLA ROCCA⁴ states that Michael and Sarah had a total of 21 children, although this must remain open to doubt for several reasons.

In her letter Ivy also states that Stephen Anthony (her grandfather) was the 21st child, and hence the last – and also that he was born on his eldest sister’s 21st birthday. From the ages given by him in the various census returns all that can be deduced is that he was born between April 1823 and March 1824. However, the letter does indicate that there was probably a daughter of Michael and Sarah’s born about 1803.

Further research using the IGI has indicated that two DELLA ROCCA children of Michael and Sarah were baptised in Manchester; a daughter Mary Ann born in January 1804 and a son Michael born about 18 months later. While these dates don’t correspond exactly, this goes a long way towards corroborating Ivy’s letter.

The IGI also records the baptism of John James DELLARONA, on 02 OCT 1807, again with parents Michael and Sarah. The similarity is such that this is highly likely to have been another son of the same family.

There is a gap of five years between John James and William. It is possible that two, maybe three, other children were born (and perhaps died) within these dates.

It is possible, of course, that some of their children were not baptised at all, but even so the likelihood of 21 children born to Michael and Sarah seems remote. However, there remains the possibility that Sarah was Michael’s second wife. Born about 1763, he could possibly have married about 1784 and produced several children – even, by a stretch of the imagination, a further ten or so – before his first wife died. It is likely that the children from this conjectured first marriage would have been baptised elsewhere, possibly near

¹ death certificate

² 1851 census return for 53 Lambeth Walk, HO107/1051

³ found by my cousin Carol

⁴ Ivy was a great-granddaughter of Michael; the information here is contained in her reply to my letter of about 1989

Manchester, although no other Della Rocca descendants have yet been found either in the IGI or elsewhere.

My own view is that Ivy was incorrect in stating that her grandfather was the 21st child. She could not have spoken to him (he died the year she was born) and whatever information she passed on came presumably from her father – and *he* died when she was only nine. I believe that the fact of her grandfather being born on his eldest sister's 21st birthday is probably correct but this figure of 21 was then associated, wrongly, with the total number of children.

William, who had now become the fourth known child, gave his place of birth as Holborn (1851) and Lambeth (1861).

So a possible scenario is this: Michael married, perhaps as early as 1784, and produced a number of children, some of whom may have died in infancy. Michael's wife died, and in 1803 he remarried, this time to Sarah, and they had at least three more children (Mary Ann, Michael and John) whilst they were living in Manchester. At some time between 1807 and 1812 the family moved to Lambeth, where the remainder of the children were born.

Of the ten children that I have found, only five (possibly six – I have found no further trace of John James) survived beyond the age of 18.

In 1814¹, when William and Francis were baptised, the family was living in what seems to be Irstow Street (the writing in the register is hard to decipher). In the parish register Michael's occupation is given as 'flower maker' or 'artificial flower maker', which I understand was a common occupation for the poor (and this possibly correlates with his occupation at the date of his marriage). When Francis was buried less than two years later in 1816 the 'residence or abode' was given as the workhouse (presumably this was the Lambeth Workhouse, which was at the southern end of Lambeth Walk). In 1817, when Angelina was baptised, Michael was a domestic servant; the following year, when their second daughter, Sarah, was buried the address was Hollyfield Row, which was in Princes Road, close to the workhouse. By 1822, when Frances was buried, the family had moved to Lambeth Walk and this is where they remained for the rest of their lives. Later still, at the baptism of Stephen Anthony, Michael James was again a 'flower maker'. It does appear that the family lived, for most of their lives, at or near the poverty line.

Michael James died on 20 OCT 1838² at 1 Bowhill Terrace (which was somewhere along the present Brixton Road); the cause of death is given as 'decay of nature': when Stephen married in 1845 the profession of his father, although he was by now deceased, was shown as 'Gent'. Was this mere wishful thinking?

It seems that Michael, the eldest son, provided a home for his widowed mother Sarah as the 1841 census³ shows Michael and his wife Charlotte living in Lambeth with Sarah, brother Stephen, sister Mary and three children. Ten years later, in 1851⁴, Sarah was living with her youngest son Stephen and his family in Lambeth Walk. She died six years later on 11 APR 1857⁵, at 9 Park Road, Clapham; the informant, present at the death, was her eldest daughter Mary Ann. Sarah, aged 78, died of 'bronchitis, 2 months; dropsy, 3 weeks'; Michael James, her late husband, was shown as an 'artist'.

¹ dates in this paragraph are taken from the registers of Lambeth St Mary

² death certificate

³ 1841 census return for Bolwell Terrace, Lambeth, HO107/1058/7, f10 p7

⁴ 1851 census return for 53 Lambeth Walk, HO107/1051 f271

⁵ death certificate

Mary Ann (1804 – 1875)¹

Mary Ann is the earliest child found to date; she was born on 31 JAN 1804 (just nine months after her parents' marriage) and baptised on 18 MAR 1804 in Manchester Cathedral².

Michael (1805 – 1847)³

Michael was also baptised in Manchester, on 06 DEC 1805, at about one month old. He married Charlotte Fortune MILLER. They had eight children, only three of whom survived into their teens. Michael died in 1847 and Charlotte survived him by ten years.

John James (1806 – ?)

John's baptism (as John James DELARONA) in Manchester Cathedral on 02 OCT 1807 was found in the IGI. He has not been found in the 1841 census return, nor does he appear in the ONS indices. It is probable that he died before 1841.

William (1812 – 1867)⁴

William was born on 16 SEP 1812 and baptised two years later, on 31 JUL 1814, in Lambeth. He married Mary Ann HOSGOOD on 28 JUL 1834, and died during the first few months of 1867. Only one of their three children survived childhood.

Francis (1814 – 1816)

Francis was born on 20 MAY 1814 and baptised on 31 JUL 1814, along with William, his elder brother, and was buried at the age of 21 months on 28 FEB 1816.

Sarah (1815 – 1818)

Sarah, the second daughter, was baptised on 15 OCT 1815. She died before her third birthday and was buried on 03 MAY 1818.

Angelina (1817 – 1835)

Angelina (is this perhaps an Italian name?) was born in 1817, baptised two years later on 30 MAY 1819 and was buried on 24 AUG 1835 aged 18⁵.

Ellen (1818 – 1851)

Ellen was a direct ancestor – one of my 3xgt-grandmothers. She was baptised on 30 MAY 1819⁶, together with her sister Angelina. See the section below, starting on page 11, for further information.

Frances (1821 – 1822)

Frances, the third child to die in infancy, was buried on 13 NOV 1822 aged under two.

¹ see Appendix 039G

² these dates, and most of those in this section, from the IGI

³ see Appendix 039H

⁴ see Appendix 039J

⁵ dates from registers of St Mary, Lambeth

⁶ baptism register, St Mary, Lambeth

Stephen Anthony (1824 – 1906)¹

Stephen Anthony was baptised on *09 MAY 1824*². He married Frances Elizabeth NEW on 30 JUN 1845³, and they had 13 children before he died in 1906.

¹ see Appendix 0390

² certificate of baptism, St Mary, Lambeth

³ marriage certificate

G5 – Ellen DELLA ROCCA (1819 – 1851)

Ellen was the seventh child and fourth daughter of Michael and Sarah, and my 3xgt-grandmother, although it took me over 20 years to discover this. She was baptised on 30 MAY 1819¹, the same day as her elder sister Angelina.

It seems that she never married²; although she had at least one child, a daughter Ellen Dawson (see later).

In 1841 she was a ‘female servant’ living in Kennington³ together with another servant and some assistants over a draper’s shop. Ten years later⁴ she was shown in the census as a ‘house servant’ in the employ of William BEASLEY, in Victoria Square, Westminster.

[William was two or three years her senior (he had been baptised on 25 JUN 1815) and one of eleven children baptised by William and Mary Cole BEASLEY at Surfleet, in Lincoln. It is possible that he was a relation of Ellen’s, perhaps a cousin.]

Some time later that year she must have left William’s household, for she died on 12 DEC 1851⁵ while she was living at 35 Stafford Place, Westminster (less than a quarter-mile from Victoria Square and just south of Buckingham Palace Gardens). Here she was again a domestic servant, and she was buried on 21 DEC 1851⁶ with the name DELLA ROCCA, at St Mary’s, Lambeth. She was 33. Although the death was registered in Westminster, the address given when she was buried was Lambeth Walk; presumably her family had buried her. The death was registered by ‘W. Della Rocca’ of 29 George Street, Princes Road; this was her elder brother William who was present at the death and, at the time, her only known surviving sibling apart from Stephen Anthony. The cause of death was “Paralysis: serious apoplexy 10 hours”. Her daughter Ellen Dawson would have been about six when she died – did the Della Rocca family bring her up?

¹ baptism register for St Mary, Lambeth

² the 1851 census entry shows her as unmarried

³ 1841 census return for Surrey House Clapham Road, Kennington, HO107/1056/1 f4 p1

⁴ 1851 census return for 7 Victoria Square, Westminster, HO107/1478 f45

⁵ death certificate

⁶ burial register for St Mary, Lambeth

G4 – Ellen Dawson DELLA ROCCA (1845 – ?1912)

The daughter of Ellen, mentioned above, was baptised Ellen Dawson DELLA ROCCA on 19 JAN 1845¹; no father was named. As no other occurrence of the name Ellen has been found, it seems safe to assume that Ellen Dawson is the illegitimate daughter of Ellen and therefore the grand-daughter of Michael James and Sarah, especially as the address given was Lambeth Walk. It is possible that Dawson was the father's surname, as no other 'Dawson' has been found. As she was illegitimate it is unlikely that her father, or any siblings, will ever be traced.

Her mother Ellen was 27 at the time of the baptism, and she died at the age of 33, when her daughter was six. This was on 12 DEC 1851², and her address was 35 Stafford Place, Westminster, where she was a domestic servant (and a spinster). Earlier that year Ellen had been employed as a house servant to Mr and Mrs William BEASLEY, at 7 Victoria Square, Westminster³, which is less than ¼ mile from Stafford Place (see the previous section).

The only record of a young 'Ellen' of the right age in the 1851 census is a daughter of Susanna DAWSON, aged 44, and living with five siblings aged between three and nineteen in Park Street⁴, which is very close to the southern end of Southwark Bridge. It is tempting, because of the surname, to accept this as the correct family, but Susanna, Ellen and one of her sisters have been found in the 1861 census⁵, which appears to rule this out. However, although Susanna is shown as 'married' no husband is shown in the census return and it is certainly possible that this missing husband could have been the father of my Ellen. However, it is extremely unlikely that I shall ever be able to prove this one way or the other.

At that time (1851) the various known members of the family who were alive are shown in the tree (their approximate age in 1851 is indicated in brackets). They were:

- Sarah [71], Ellen Dawson's widowed grandmother;
- her uncle Michael's widow Charlotte [50], living in Bolwell Street; her children were
 - cousins Michael Joseph [16], Frederick William [14], Clara Ann [11]
- her uncle William [39] and his wife Mary Ann [35]. William registered Ellen's death and at the time the family was living at 29 George Street, Princes Road
 - cousin William John [12]
- her uncle Stephen Anthony [27] and his wife Frances [26], living at 53 Lambeth Walk
 - cousins Sarah Ann [3], Frances Theresa [3].

If Ellen Dawson had lived with one of the family, it is likely to have been one of Charlotte, her aunt by marriage; William and Mary Ann; or Stephen Anthony and Frances Elizabeth. Of these three, Stephen and Frances were bringing up a young family and were already providing a home for his mother. The most likely family seems to have been William and Mary Ann. Having suffered the death of two daughters in infancy they may have been delighted to bring up a niece who was within a couple of years of their own youngest child, had she lived. Another reason for this hypothesis is that Ellen's death was registered by William. A problem with this is that in 1851 William and Mary Ann were living with William HOSGOOD, Mary Ann's father, and her sister Susannah together with her family.

¹ baptism register of St Mary, Lambeth

² death certificate

³ 1851 census return for 7 Victoria Square, Westminster, HO107/1478 f45

⁴ 1851 census return for 72 Park Street, Lambeth, HO107/1572, f285 p28

⁵ 1861 census for 48 Regency Place, Kennington, RG9/356, f64 p16

In 1861, ten years later, Ellen Dawson was 16, and the census of that year¹ indicates that she was a visitor in the household of George and Mary Ann FREEGROVE; and moreover that she was a niece – Mary Ann was her eldest sister².

By a stroke of luck the IGI revealed the baptism of Clara Sarah Mary Ann DELLA ROCCA, baptised on 30 OCT 1864, with mother's name Ellen but no father shown. This is undoubtedly my great-grandmother: it appears that her birth was never registered.

A John Dawson, son of Ellen (no father given) was born on 15 MAY 1868³, at 6 Chapel Street; he was baptised in July and buried the same month.

George FREEGROVE died in the first few months of 1865⁴, and the 1871 census⁵ shows Ellen still living with Mary Ann, but now in Lambeth. It also shows a second 'niece' Clara, aged six, who is almost certainly Ellen's illegitimate daughter and my direct ancestor.

Ellen Dawson later married Robert George JORDAN, a carpenter, on 24 SEP 1871⁶ at St John's, Clapham. Robert was a carpenter, and son of Robert JORDAN, also a carpenter; Ellen Dawson's father was unnamed on the certificate and shown as 'deceased'. Robert was 25 and Ellen 28: there is nothing to indicate that Robert was the father of either Clara or John Dawson.

The birth of Robert George JORDAN, a possibility for Robert's father, is registered in Shoreditch towards the end of 1847⁷.

The 1881 census return shows Robert and Ellen JORDON [*sic*] boarding in a house in Mitcham⁸ with Walter and Sarah WEST. Walter, from West Horsley, was a gardener and Robert is listed as an 'ag lab'. Robert and Ellen had a daughter Hannah, aged 2, also shown on the census return; no birth of a Hannah JORDAN was registered between 1875 and 1881 in the south of England but an Anna Maria JORDAN was baptised in Wimbledon on 10 OCT 1879⁹ where the parents were Robert George and Ella JORDAN. By 1881 Robert (shown as being born in Shoreditch) was aged 33 and an agricultural labourer.

The family has not been found in the 1891 census. A possible death for Robert is recorded at Croydon in 1910¹⁰, although this indicates a YoB of 1844 rather than 1847.

An Ellen JORDAN died at the age of 40 on 12 APR 1884¹¹, although she is shown as the wife of James JORDAN, labourer; the address is 'Workhouse infirmary, Croydon'. This is unlikely to be the correct Ellen.

Two other deaths of an Ellen JORDAN are registered, either of which is possible. The first is at Wandsworth, Q3/1912 ref 1d 584, where Ellen was 73; the second at Camberwell, Q3/1917 1d 652, where she was 84. The former is a little more likely as while neither YoB equates to 1845, the former is 1839 whereas the latter is 1833. Assuming that Ellen (her mother) was born in 1818, she would have been only 15 when the latter had been born – whilst clearly this

¹ 1861 census return for 27 Park Road, Clapham, RG9/368, f340 p30

² at least, the eldest sister I have so far found – see Appendix 039H

³ birth certificate

⁴ ONS death reference for George FREEGROVE, Q1/1865, St George Hanover Square, 1a 225

⁵ 1871 census return for 6 Chapel Street (Spencer House), Lambeth, RG10/678, f11 p22

⁶ wedding certificate

⁷ ONS birth reference for Robert George JORDAN, Q4/1847, Shoreditch, 2 450

⁸ 1881 census return for 4 Red Lion Cottages, London Road, Mitcham, RG11/828, f25 p47

⁹ IGI; no specific location is given

¹⁰ ONS death reference for Robert JORDAN aged 66, 3/1910, Croydon, 2a 163

¹¹ death certificate

is possible, she was more likely to have given birth at the age of 21, when the earlier possibility was born.

Clara Sarah Mary Ann DELLA ROCCA (1864 – 1942)

Clara was one of my great-grandmothers; she was baptised at St John's Church, Clapham, on 30 OCT 1864¹. Although her birth was not registered, it was on 08 OCT 1864. St John's was the same church at which her mother married Robert JORDAN a little over seven years later.

The 1871 census return² shows that she was staying (or living) with her mother Ellen and great-aunt Mary FREEGROVE in Chapel Street, Lambeth. Ten years later she was with William and Clara in Princes Road, where she was an assistant in the stewed eel shop run by the latter. William and Clara were both cousins of her mother's who had married one another (see page 19 for further details).

On 09 AUG 1885³ Clara Sarah married Thomas George GREEN, a mason. Clara's father is given as John Della Rocca, deceased. Their addresses at the time were Durham Street and Clayton Street respectively: both these are very close to the Oval at Kennington. Nothing of any significance at either address has been found in either the 1881 or 1891 census returns.

¹ IGI – not yet confirmed

² 1871 census return for 6 Chapel Street (Spencer House), Lambeth, RG10/678 f11 p22

³ marriage certificate: Parish Church, Kennington

Appendix 039G – Mary Ann DELLA ROCCA (1804 – 1875)

Mary Ann is the earliest child found to date; she was born (31 JAN 1804) and baptised (18 MAR 1804)¹ in Manchester – a later census return gives her place of birth as Salford.

She lived with her younger brother Michael for some time as the 1841 census² shows her living with his family, and their widowed mother Sarah, in Lambeth. By 1851³ she was a housekeeper, living in Chiswick. Her age was given, rather optimistically, as 38 (it should have been 47). A local man, George FREEGROVE, was a gardener at the house and on 30 MAR 1853⁴ he and Mary Ann were married. The marriage was registered in Lambeth; the address of each was given as Lambeth Walk and it is likely that they were living with part of Mary Ann's family. Her father was given as Michael Della Rocca (deceased), an 'artificial florist', so there is little doubt that she was indeed part of my family.

Sarah, Mary Ann's widowed mother, died on 11 APR 1857⁵; Mary Ann was the informant, present at the death, which took place at 9 Park Road, Clapham. This may have been the home of Mary and George, although the 1861 census return⁶ shows them living at number 27. They seem not to have had any children of their own but Ellen D[awson], the daughter of Mary Ann's sister Ellen, was staying with them. She was shown as a 'visitor' so perhaps this was not, after all, her permanent home.

George died in the first few months of 1865⁷, and the 1871 census⁸ shows Ellen still living with Mary Ann, but now in Lambeth. Mary Ann is shown as 'Head', but still married: her age is given as 66. Perhaps she had been concealing her true age from her husband for all those years? This census return shows a second 'niece' Clara, aged six, who is almost certainly Ellen's illegitimate daughter, my great-grandmother.

Mary Ann died a few years later in 1875⁹, at the age of 72 – further confirmation that she had been born around 1804.

¹ both these dates from the IGI

² 1841 census return for Bolwell Terrace, Lambeth, HO107/1058/7, f10 p7

³ 1851 census return for Salisbury House, Chiswick, HO106/1699

⁴ marriage certificate

⁵ death certificate

⁶ 1861 census return for 27 Park Road, Clapham, RG9/368, f340 p30

⁷ ONS death reference for George FREEGROVE, Q1/1865, St George Hanover Square, 1a 225

⁸ 1871 census return for 6 Chapel Street (Spencer House), Lambeth, RG10/678, f11 p22

⁹ ONS death reference for Mary Ann FREEGROVE aged 72, Q4/1875, Lambeth, 1d 269

Appendix 039H – Michael DELLA ROCCA (1805 – 1847)

Michael was born in NOV 1805 and baptised on 06 DEC 1805 in Manchester Cathedral¹.

He married Charlotte Fortune MILLER, a widow, on 19 JAN 1829 at St Mary's, Lambeth. She had been born in Newcastle on 06 NOV 1799, the daughter of Matthew PURDY and Mary CRAISTER, and baptised on 27 APR 1800². Her name is shown as MILLER on the marriage certificate; on the birth certificate of one of their children she is shown as 'formerly Purdy'. She had, presumably, married before although this first marriage has not been found.

I have found seven children, of whom four died before reaching their teens.

Michael and Charlotte appear in the 1841 census³, living in Bolwell Terrace⁴. At that time Michael was a plumber. Living with them was Michael's youngest brother Stephen Anthony, who was apprenticed in the same trade; children Michael, Frederick and Clara; Sarah (the by now widowed mother of Michael and Stephen); Mary, Michael's elder sister, who is shown as a nurse; and a Jane GREEN aged 15 (surely a coincidence!). Both Sarah and Mary were born 'not in Surrey', as were Michael and Charlotte.

Michael died on 24 JUN 1847, aged 41 years 7 months, and was buried on 04 JUL 1847. The informant was Sarah, presumably his mother.

A few years later the 1851 census shows Charlotte as a widow, living at 25 Bolwell Street⁵. She was a 'monthly nurse'. As well as the three surviving children (Michael J, Frederick and Clara A) three lodgers were sharing the house.

Charlotte died early in 1857⁶.

Mary Ann Elizabeth (1830 – 1830)

039HA

Mary Ann Elizabeth, the first child, was baptised on 03 MAR 1830 and was buried a little under nine months later on 28 NOV 1830⁷.

Clara (1832 – 1839)

039HB

The second daughter, Clara, was baptised on 20 JAN 1832. She survived into her eighth year and was buried on 08 SEP 1839.

James Michael (1833 – 1834)

039HC

James Michael was the first son of Michael and Charlotte. Baptised on 26 MAY 1833, he was buried a little over a year later on 01 JUN 1834.

Michael Joseph (1835 – 1902)

039HD

Michael Joseph, baptised 08 FEB 1835⁸, was the fourth child of Michael and Sarah but the first to reach adulthood. He married Frances Maria HUTCHINSON on 06 JUL 1856⁹. She

¹ both dates from IGI

² these details from the IGI

³ 1841 census return for Bolwell Terrace, HO107/1058

⁴ Bolwell Terrace, renamed to Bolwell Street, was a thoroughfare running east out of Lambeth Walk. In 1842 Sir Arthur Sullivan was born at no. 8

⁵ 1851 census return for 25 Bolwell Street, HO107/1572 f30

⁶ ONS death reference for Charlotte Fortune DELLAROCCHA, Q1/1857, Lambeth, 1d 223

⁷ these dates, and those for the next two children, are from the registers of St Mary, Lambeth

⁸ baptism register for St Mary, Lambeth

⁹ marriage register for St Mary, Lambeth

had been baptised on 03 NOV 1833¹, also at St Mary, Lambeth, the daughter of John and Jemima. At the time of the wedding Michael was living in Church Terrace. One of the witnesses was S. A. Della Rocca, his uncle Stephen Anthony.

In the 1861 census return the family was living at 24 St Alban's Street, Lambeth²; although Michael Joseph was not recorded as being in the house, Frances is shown as a 'painter's wife'. A Frederick HUTCHINSON, described as a visitor, was also present; he was, presumably, a relation of Frances.

Towards the end of 1863, when Clara Ann was born, Michael was a 'house painter journeyman'. By the time their fourth child, Henry William, was born (11 JUL 1865) they had moved to 4 Wood Street, Lambeth and in 1871 the census³ records the family living at 51 Hill Street, Newington. A further ten years on, in 1881, they had moved again to 2 East Street, Lambeth (recorded as a 'Dairy')⁴.

The census return for 1891⁵ shows yet another move, this time to White Hart Street, in Kennington, where Michael is recorded as a 'grainer'.

Michael died in 1902⁶ and Frances died about eighteen months later⁷; his death was registered in Camberwell and hers in Southwark.

I have found six children from this marriage of Michael Joseph and Frances Maria.

Emily Viger (1858 – 1921). 'Viger' (occasionally 'Vigar') is an unusual name and no source for this has yet been found. She was baptised in 1858 and by the time she was 23 she was a servant in Hampstead⁸, in the employ and household of Thomas DAKIN, a sugar refiner from Warrington. She married Alfred William WALTER⁹ in 1888; he was a hairdresser. The 1891 census return¹⁰ shows Alfred and Emily living in Fulham with son Alfred and daughter Emily. The family has not been found in the 1901 census, but in 1911 Alfred, Emily and son Alfred (now aged 22) were living in Peckham¹¹. Emily died in 1921¹²; her death was registered in Croydon.

Augusta Beatrice Alice (1861 – 1864), the second daughter, was born on 01 JUN 1861¹³ and died at the age of three.

Clara Ann (1863 – 1908) was born on 07 APR 1863. On 05 MAY 1890¹⁴ she married Henry John PARBERY, a waiter living at 101 Ponson Street; he was a widower and 14 years her senior. Clara Ann, who was 27 at the time, gave her father's name as Michael John: it is probable, however, that this was an error for Michael Joseph. The wedding

¹ baptism register for St Mary, Lambeth

² 1861 census return for 24 St Alban's Street, RG9/351

³ 1871 census return for 51 Hill Street, Newington, RG10/615

⁴ 1881 census return for 2 East Street, Lambeth, RG11/596 f52 p1

⁵ 1891 census return for 27 White Hart Street, Kennington, RG12/398 f69 p31

⁶ ONS death reference for Michael DELLA ROCCA, age 67, Q1/1902, Camberwell, 1d 539

⁷ ONS death reference for Frances DELLA ROCCA, age 69, Q3/1903, Southwark, 1d 88

⁸ 1881 census return for 4 Fitzjohns Avenue, St John's Hampstead, RG11/167 f57 p2

⁹ ONS marriage reference for Alfred William WALTER and Emily Vigar DELLA ROCCA, Q2/1888, St Saviour, 1d 232

¹⁰ 1891 census return for 1 Ethel Terrace, Fulham, RG12/50 f55 p33

¹¹ 1911 census reference for 1 Eglander Road, Peckham, RG14/2462 ED3 SN90

¹² ONS death reference for Emily V WALTER aged 63, Q4/1921, Croydon, 2a 377

¹³ birth certificate

¹⁴ marriage certificate, St Paul's Church, Newington

took place in St Paul's church, in the parish of St Mary, Newington, in the registration district of St Saviour; Clara Ann's address at the time was 40 Crampton Street. The 1891 census return¹ – a year after their marriage – shows Henry, a waiter, and Clara in Newington with son William, aged two months, and four elder children, presumably Henry's from his first marriage. Also living with them were two 'boarders'; Sarah WALTER (19) and Albert DELLA ROCCA (18). Sarah was possibly a younger sister of Alfred WALTER, who married Clara's elder sister Emily, although with the age difference of 14 years this is by no means certain. Albert is almost certainly Clara's younger brother.

Ten years later, by the time of the 1901 census return², Henry and Clara had moved to Brixton. Henry was still a waiter (the Carlton Club is recorded) and just two children were living with them. One was Albert O RACCU (which could possibly be meant for DELLA ROCCA); however, he is shown as a 'son-in-law' and is aged 13, which – perhaps by coincidence – is just the age that son George would have been. The second, Clara, is aged nine and is the daughter of Henry and Clara. Clara (Henry's wife) died early in 1908³ aged 44.

Henry William (1865 - ?) appears in both the 1871 and 1881 census returns, living with his parents. In most records he appears as 'Harry', rather than 'Henry'. In 1887 he married Catherine Louisa TWISELTON⁴ but he has not been found in the 1891 census four years later. However, he reappears in the following two: in 1901 he was living with Catherine and two daughters, Ethel (1892) and Daisy Lillian (1894) in Newington⁵, and ten years later the family had moved a short distance to Walworth⁶ and included daughter Dorothy Rosina (1902). This last census return records a total of four children of whom one (presumably between Daisy and Dorothy) had died. Harry died in 1924 aged 58⁷.

Alice Christine (1868 - 1872) appears in the 1871 census return with her parents. She died a little over a year later⁸.

Albert Edward (1872 – 1930), born 30 DEC 1872, was boarding with his elder sister Clara and her husband Henry PARBERY (see above) in 1891⁹. Six years later, early in 1897¹⁰, he married Mary Ann PARBERY, who was a daughter of Henry's by his first marriage and therefore Albert's step-niece (by marriage). The census return of 1901¹¹ shows Albert and Mary living in Newington with their 1-year-old son James and a 7-month-old William PARBERY, shown oddly as a niece; the family has not been found in the 1911 census. Albert was buried on 30 MAY 1930.

¹ 1891 census return for 101 Penton Place, West Newington, RG12/365 f111 p9

² 1901 census return for Langton Road, Brixton, RG13/420

³ ONS death reference for Clara Ann PARBERY, 1/1908, Camberwell, 1d 543

⁴ ONS marriage reference for Harry William D ROCCA and Catherine Louisa TWISELTON, Q4/1887, St Saviour, 1d 363

⁵ 1901 census return for 38 Pasley Street, Newington St Saviour, RG13/383 f24 p40

⁶ 1911 census return for 1 Marsland Road, Surrey Gardens, Walworth, RG14/1848 ED30 SN254

⁷ ONS death reference for Harry W D ROCCA aged 58, Q2/1924, Southwark, 1d 75

⁸ ONS death record for Alice Christine DELLAROCCA, 2/1872, Camberwell, 1d 363

⁹ 1891 census return for 101 Penton Place, West Newington, RG12/365 f 111 p9

¹⁰ ONS marriage reference for Albert Edward D ROCCA and Mary Ann PARBERY, Q1/1897, St Saviour, 1d 227

¹¹ 1901 census return for 158 Manor Place, Newington, RG13/382 f158 p16

Frederick William (1837 – 1909)

039HF

Frederick was born on 12 NOV 1837¹, when his parents Michael and Charlotte were living at 115 Lambeth Walk. He hasn't been found in the 1861 census return when he would have been about 23. Some time before 1866 he married Anne, although the ONS records show no marriage of a Frederick DELLA ROCCA between 1850 and 1872. Anne was about ten years older than Frederick and had been born in Taunton. By 1871 he and Anne were living in Newington²; he is shown in the Voting List for St Mary, Newington in 1878, living at 19 Camden Street³. Frederick was following his father's trade as a painter. No children from the marriage have been found.

They appear in the 1881 census return⁴, although it is possible that the return was completed in their absence, as Ann's age is clearly shown as 62 (it should have been 52 or thereabouts) and her place of birth was given as Lambeth, rather than Taunton. However, the address – 19 Camden Street – is the same as in 1871. The following return, that of 1891⁵, shows Frederick and Anne living at 3 Granby Buildings, Lambeth, next door to the family of Thomas GREEN, whose eldest son Thomas had married Frederick's cousin Clara Sarah Mary Ann. Frederick died on 04 JAN 1909⁶.

Clara Ann (1840 – 1895)

039HG

Clara Ann, the second daughter of Michael and Charlotte, was baptised on 12 JUL 1840. In 1861 the census shows her as a servant in the household⁷ of Joseph and Elizabeth TAYLOR, in Westminster.

She married her cousin William John (see later) on 17 JUN 1866¹, after his first wife Hannah had died. They have not been found in the 1871 census return, although William is listed in the Voting List for 1879⁸.

The 1881 census return⁹ shows William J with wife Charlotte living in Princes Road at no. 157/156 (described as 'house and shop in one'); Charlotte's employment was 'keeps a stewed eel shop', presumably the one over which they lived. Both ages and places of birth indicate that this should have been Clara – no Charlotte DELLA ROCCA has yet been found. Also living at the same address was a Catherine DELLA ROCCA, described as a 'second cousin'. No Catherine has been found elsewhere, and the likelihood is that this Catherine was, in fact, Clara Sarah Mary Ann – my direct ancestor. Strictly speaking, she was William's first cousin once removed – but second cousin is close enough. Why Charlotte and Catherine? Perhaps William 'renamed' them to avoid confusion.

William died in SEP 1885¹⁰, and a little under three years later, on 15 JUL 1888, Clara Ann was herself married a second time, to Charles Frederick Layton, at St Matthew's church in the parish of Newington¹¹. By this time Clara was 48; Charles was almost ten

¹ birth certificate

² 1871 census return for 19 Camden Street, Newington, RG10/620 f45 p20

³ *op cit*

⁴ 1881 census return for 19 Camden Street, Newington, RG11/549 f79 p14

⁵ 1891 census return for 3 Granby Buildings, Lambeth, RG12/392 f119 p32

⁶ ONS death reference for Frederick W DELLA ROCCA, age 71, 1/1909, Lambeth, 1d 235

⁷ 1861 census return for 12 South Street, Westminster, RG9/46 f85 p3

⁸ *op cit*, at 157 Princes Road

⁹ 1881 census return for 157/156 Princes Road, Lambeth, RG11/596 f100 p10

¹⁰ ONS death reference for William John D ROCCA aged 46, Q3/1885, Lambeth 1d 246

¹¹ marriage certificate, St Matthew's Church, Newington

years her junior, at 39. The address of them both was 60 Holyoak Row. Charles Layton was one of the witnesses at the wedding of Clara Sarah Mary Ann to Thomas George GREEN the month before William died (see the main 'Della Rocca' booklet).

Clara died at the age of 55 towards the end of 1895¹. Charles's death has not been conclusively found, but a Charles T LAYTON of the right age died in Yeovil in 1911²; his second initial 'F' could conceivably have been mistaken for a 'T', but why Yeovil?

No children from either of Clara's marriages have been found.

¹ ONS death reference for Clara Ann LAYTON, age 55, Q4/1895, Lambeth, 1d 260

² ONS death reference for Charles T LAYTON aged 61, Q4/1911, Yeovil, 5c 479

Appendix 039J – William DELLA ROCCA (1812 – 1867)

William, the second son of Michael James and Sarah, was born on 16 SEP 1812, probably in Lambeth¹ and baptised on 31 JUL 1814², along with his brother Francis.

He married Mary Ann HOSGOOD, four years his junior, on 28 JUL 1834. Although, in at least two census returns, her place of birth is shown as Maldon in Surrey, the only place in England with that spelling is in Essex; it is likely that she came from Morden, in Surrey, particularly as her father William had been born in Streatham. Most occurrences of the surname are found in Devon and it is possible that the family originated there.

I have found three children from this marriage, only one of whom survived more than a year.

The 1841 census return shows William and Mary Ann living in Thomas Place, Lambeth³; William John (their second child – the first had died in infancy) was with Mary Ann's father, William OSGOOD, in Cheam⁴, together with John and Jane, presumably Mary's younger siblings.

By 1851⁵, ten years later, William, Mary Ann and son William had moved to 29 George Street, Princes Road, Lambeth, where they were living with her father William HOSGOOD, together with Susannah and George SOUTH and two children. George is a 'son-in-law' and so Susannah is presumably another sister of Mary Ann's. In this census return William (Mary Ann's husband) is shown as having been born in Holborn; he was a plumber and painter.

However, the census return of 1861⁶ records his place of birth as Lambeth; it shows the family (just William, Mary Ann and son William John) living at 9 Loughboro Street, Lambeth.

Mary Ann died in 1865⁷. William survived her by a couple of years, dying in the first few months of 1867⁸ at the age of 55.

Mary Ann (1836 – 1836)

039JA

The first child was baptised on 18 SEP 1836 and died within a few months; she was buried on 04 DEC 1836.

William John (1839 – 1885)

039JB

William John was born in MAY 1839. At the age of 24 he married Hannah MAIN at St Mary Church, Lambeth, on 08 AUG 1863⁹. She had been born in Axbridge, Somerset, in 1842¹⁰.

She died just over a year after the marriage on 12 OCT 1864¹¹ of peritonitis without, as far as I have found, producing any children. The death certificate shows her age as 25, although she was probably nearer 23.

¹ according to the 1861 census return, although that of 1851 gives Holborn

² baptism register for St Mary, Lambeth

³ 1841 census return for 24 Albans Street

⁴ 1841 census return for Steven's Row, Cheam, HO107/1079/4, f29 p6

⁵ 1851 census return for 29 George Street, Lambeth, f428

⁶ 1861 census return for 9 Loughboro Street, Lambeth, f117 p9

⁷ ONS death record for Mary Ann DELLA ROCCA, Q2/1865, Lambeth, 1d 206

⁸ ONS death record for ~William DELLA ROCCA aged 55, Q1/1867, Lambeth, 1d 191

⁹ marriage certificate

¹⁰ ONS birth reference for Hannah MAIN, Q3/1842, Axbridge, 10 291

¹¹ death certificate

Twenty months later, on 17 JUN 1866, William married his cousin Clara Ann (the daughter of Michael and Charlotte – see page 19) in Kennington Parish Church¹. His address, at this time, was Durham Street; she was living at Henry Street. One of the witnesses was Frederick William (presumably her older brother); by this time both her parents were dead. No children have been found from this marriage, either. Further details of this family will be found above.

William John died on 03 SEP 1885; the informant on the death certificate is ‘C A Della Rocca, widow’, another indication that the Charlotte shown as his wife is incorrect. Three years later Clara married for the second time, to Charles LAYTON (see further information on page **Error! Bookmark not defined.**).

Sarah Mary Ann (1843 – 1843)

039JC

The second daughter survived for an even shorter time than her elder sister; born in 1843² and baptised on 25 OCT 1843, she died³ and was buried before the end of the year.

¹ marriage certificate, Kennington Parish Church

² ONS birth reference for Sarah Mary Ann DELLA ROCCA, Q4/1843, Lambeth, 4 258

³ ONS death reference for Sarah Mary Ann DELLA ROCCA, Q4/1843, Lambeth, 4 206

Appendix 0390 – Stephen Anthony (1824 – 1906)

Stephen, the youngest child of Michael and Sarah¹, was baptised on 09 MAY 1824².

It seems that he lived for a time with his brother Michael, at least until 1841 (see page 16). On 30 JUN 1845³ he married Frances Elizabeth NEW. She had been baptised on 29 MAR 1826⁴ at St Mary's, Lambeth, the daughter of Richard James NEW and Sarah Elizabeth SANDERS who had married at St Mary's on 31 JAN 1825.

At the time of his marriage Stephen Anthony described himself as a 'paperhanger'. Frances and he had a total of 13 children⁵, of whom all but three survived beyond infancy.

By 1851 he was a plumber and they had moved to 53 Lambeth Walk⁶. The census return for that year shows that as well as Stephen's mother Sarah, Richard NEW (described as a visitor, with the occupation of 'turner') was also staying there. This was probably a brother of Frances as he was four years younger than she. He later married an Elizabeth and in 1881 they were living, with seven children, at 2 Claydon Buildings in Lambeth⁷.

Ten years later the family was still at 53 Lambeth Walk, with Stephen now a 'plumber and glazier'. The census return for 1861⁸ shows that James George HEPBURN, a 'plumber and glazier's apprentice', was staying with them; this was daughter Sarah's future husband.

Their first two daughters, Sarah and Frances, were both married at Newington, which may indicate that Stephen Anthony and Frances Elizabeth had moved to Newington by 1863, the year of Sarah's marriage. However, they were living at 53 Lambeth Walk from 1850 to 1861; by 1868 they were living in Union Street, Kennington Road. Although the Post Office directory for 1868 shows the family at 58 Union Street, the 1871 census return⁹ gives the address as number 57.

In the 1881 census Stephen Anthony and Frances Elizabeth were once again living in Lambeth Walk¹⁰, but now at number 123. Ernest Henry was a house-painter; Kate Elizabeth, aged 21, a pianoforte teacher; Louisa a dressmaker; while Elizabeth Alexandra, at 18, was a 'pupil teacher'. Clara and Frederick were 'scholars'.

The 1884 London Business Directory shows Stephen, a 'plumber & Glazier', at 69 Lambeth Walk and they were still at this address at the time of the 1891 census¹¹. As well as four children (Kate, Elizabeth, Clara and Frederick) Clara's husband Thomas CARLILE (they married in 1888) and their one-year-old son Stanley were also living in the house; Thomas and Clara were 'licensed manager' and 'licensed victualler manageress', presumably of a local pub.

Frances died in 1899, aged 73¹²; this indicates she was born in 1826, although on her wedding day (30 JUN 1845) she was shown as 'of full age'. The various census returns all indicate a

¹ according to information in letter from Ivy Della Rocca; see earlier

² baptism register for St Mary, Lambeth

³ marriage register for St Mary, Lambeth

⁴ baptism register for St Mary, Lambeth

⁵ confirmed by Ivy Della Rocca: much of the information about this family comes from her letter

⁶ 1851 census return for 53 Lambeth Walk, HO107/1051

⁷ 1881 census return for 2 Claydon Buildings, RG11/596

⁸ 1861 census return for 53 Lambeth Walk, RG9/351

⁹ 1871 census return for 57 Union Street, RG10/665

¹⁰ 1881 census return for 123 Lambeth Walk, RG11/595

¹¹ 1891 census return for 69 Lambeth Walk, RG12/394 f126 p21-22

¹² ONS death reference for Frances E DELLA-ROCCA, age 73, 4/1899, Lambeth, 1d 249

year of birth of about 1825-26. If the ages given on the returns can all be believed then she must have been born between 3rd and 7th April 1825.

The 1901 census return¹ shows Stephen, now a widower, living in Berkley Street, Lambeth, with Kate, Elizabeth and Frederick. Stephen's age is shown as 74 although it should have been 77. Stanley R, a 12-year-old grandson, is also with the household and although his surname is indicated as 'do' – meaning DELLA ROCCA – this must be Clara's son, Stanley CARLILE.

Stephen Anthony died in 1906².

Sarah Ann (1848 – 1918)

0390A

Sarah Ann was baptised on 27 AUG 1848³. She married James George HEPBURN, a plumber, towards the end of 1863⁴; this is the James George HEPBURN who had been staying with her and her parents in 1861⁵. His birth, in 1842, had been registered in Clerkenwell⁶. They produced just three children: Arthur James⁷, Elizabeth C⁸ and Jane⁹. In 1871¹⁰, and for at least the next ten years¹¹, the family was living at 17 White Hart Street, Lambeth. They moved from there to Brixton¹², where they stayed for the next twenty years.

James died in 1900¹³ and by 1901¹⁴ Sarah Ann, still in the same house, had taken in a boarder. She has not been found in the 1911 census; according to Ivy¹⁵, she died in 1918 although no ONS record has been found.

Frances Theresa (1848 – 1941)

0390B

Frances was baptised on the same day as her sister Sarah Ann, on 27 AUG 1848¹⁶.

In 1869¹⁷ she married Joseph Croucher, an assurance clerk. He had been born in 1848¹⁸; the birth was registered in Newington. A couple of years after their marriage they were living in Leyton¹⁹ although Joseph, their first son, had been born in Camberwell. The next child, was born in Leytonstone but the next three were again born south of the river, in the Bermondsey/Peckham area²⁰. In 1881, by which time Joseph was clerk to a cabinet-maker,

¹ 1901 census return for 14 Berkley Street, Lambeth, RG13/406 f 25 p42

² ONS death reference for Stephen A DELLA-ROCCA, age 82, 4/1906, Lambeth, 1d 159

³ baptism register for St Mary, Lambeth

⁴ ONS marriage reference for James George HEPBURN and Sarah Ann DELLA ROCCA, Q4/1863, Newington, 1d 336

⁵ 1861 census return for 53 Lambeth Walk, RG9/351 f42

⁶ ONS birth reference for James George HEPBURN, Q3/1842, Clerkenwell, 3 83

⁷ ONS birth reference for Arthur James HEPBURN, Q2/1864, Lambeth, 1d 295

⁸ ONS birth reference for Elizabeth C HEPBURN, Q2/1866, Lambeth, 1d 321

⁹ ONS birth reference for Jane HEPBURN, Q4/1868, Lambeth, 1d 399

¹⁰ 1871 census return for 17 White Hart Street, Lambeth, RG10/660

¹¹ 1881 census return for 17 White Hart Street, RG11/600

¹² 1891 census return for 34 Wynne Road, Brixton, RG12/407 f12 p18

¹³ ONS death reference for James George HEPBURN aged 58, Q3/1900, Lambeth, 1d 305

¹⁴ 1901 census return for 34 Wynne Road, Brixton, RG13/434 f64 p7

¹⁵ letter from Ivy DELLA ROCCA

¹⁶ baptism register for St Mary, Lambeth

¹⁷ ONS marriage reference for Joseph CROUCHER and Frances Teresa DELLA-ROCCA, Q2/1869, Newington, 1d 301

¹⁸ ONS birth reference for Joseph CROUCHER, Q2/1848, Newington, 4 389

¹⁹ 1871 census return for 3 Hadley Road, Leyton, RG10/1685, f19 p30

²⁰ this information from the various listed census returns

they had moved further east to Deptford¹ where the last three children were born, and they stayed there for some years²; in 1891 all eight children were still living with their parents. Henry, the youngest child, was named ‘Henry Della Rocca’.

By the start of the 20th century they had moved out to Wallington³ and ten years later, in 1911⁴, they had moved a little further out to Epsom, where they were sharing an eight-room house with Sidney and Kate STONE. Joseph was retired by this time. The record shows that one of their eight children had died by this time.

Joseph died in 1925⁵; Frances survived him for 16 years and died in 1941⁶.

Mary Ann (1850 – 1939)

0390C

Mary Ann was born on 09 FEB 1850⁷ and baptised the following week on 15 FEB 1852⁸, the same day as her elder brother Charles. She first appears in the 1851 census return⁹, when the family was at 53 Lambeth Walk. At the time of the 1871 census¹⁰ she was still living with her parents, now in Union Street, but towards the end of that year on 04 DEC 1871¹¹ she married Alexander COPLEY in Stepney¹². Alexander had been born in Stepney towards the end of 1847¹³ and at the time of the 1871 census¹⁴ was living in Limehouse with his parents, who both been born in Sheffield in about 1806.

Alexander and Mary Ann’s first child, Ada Lingard¹⁵, was born on 09 DEC 1873¹⁶, just two years after their marriage.

In 1881, by which time they had been married almost ten years, they were living in Poplar¹⁷. Alexander was a ‘saw maker’. Three years later in JUL 1884¹⁸ a son, Alexander Frederick¹⁹, was born; thus there was a gap of some 11 years between Ada and her brother, suggesting the possibility of other children although none has been found.

The 1891 census return²⁰ shows the family of four living in Commercial Road, Limehouse; years later²¹ they were at the same address and employing a servant.

¹ 1881 census return for 51 Billington Street, Deptford, RG11/701f42 p32

² 1891 census return for 60 Jermingham Road, Deptford, RG12/504 f47 p15

³ 1901 census return for Brookridge, Onslow Gardens, Wallington, RG13/653 f87 p29

⁴ 1911 census return for Stamford Lodge, West Hill, Epsom. RG14/2960 ED13 SN43

⁵ ONS death reference for Joseph CROUCHER aged 77, Q2/1925, Epsom, 2a 59

⁶ Information from Ivy DELLA ROCCA

⁷ information from Alejandro Copley, Argentina; ONS birth entry for Mary Ann ROCCA, Q1/1850, Lambeth, 4 299

⁸ baptism register for St Mary, Lambeth

⁹ 1851 census return for 53 Lambeth Walk, Lambeth, HO107/1051 f271

¹⁰ 1871 census return for 57 Union Street, Lambeth, RG10/665 EN 15

¹¹ information from Alejandro Copley, Argentina

¹² ONS marriage reference for Alexander COPLEY and Mary Ann DELLA ROCCA, Q4/1871, Stepney, 1c 1067

¹³ ONS birth reference for Alexander COPLEY, Q4/1847, S Geo East, 2 879

¹⁴ 1871 census return for 7 West India Road, St Anne Limehouse, RG10/552

¹⁵ ONS birth reference, Ada Lingard COPLEY, Q1/1873, Mile End, 1c 588

¹⁶ information from Alejandro Copley, Argentina

¹⁷ 1881 census return for 74 Sussex Street, All Saints Poplar, RG11/507 p84

¹⁸ information from Alejandro Copley, Argentina

¹⁹ ONS birth reference for Alexander Frederick COPLEY, Q3/1884, Stepney, 1c 423

²⁰ 1891 census return for 668 Commercial Road, Limehouse, RG12/297 f4 p2

²¹ 1901 census return for 668 Commercial Road, Limehouse, RG13/322 f112 p6

Alexander died at the age of 55 in 1902¹; Mary Ann lived a further 37 years and died in 1939; this information came from Ivy Della Rocca². No record of a death has been found, although it is likely that she died abroad (see below, in the information for Alexander Frederick). I have a note of a Douglas Copley, of 23 Lychway, Church Hill, Horsell, Woking³.

Ada Lingard COPLEY was born towards the beginning of 1873; her birth was registered in Mile End. She lived with her parents until 1891, by which time she was 18; in 1894 she married⁴ Charles Edward A BALDWIN. The marriage was short-lived and her death was registered in Poplar the following year⁵.

Alexander Frederick COPLEY, born in 1884, was shown in the 1901 census⁶ as a 16-year-old electroplater. It seems likely that he emigrated in 1909; there is a record of a Frederick COPLEY, mechanic, embarking on SS Caronia from Liverpool to New York⁷. This was on 09 OCT 1909. The name adjacent to his on the passenger list is Mary COPLEY, although the list shows them as two single people, rather than as husband and wife, and it is possible that this was his mother; if this is so, then it is likely that she died abroad. Some time later Frederick moved to Buenos Aires, in Argentina, which is where he died in 1953⁸. He had two sons, Ada Raquel (1918 – 1998) and Alejandro Federico (1919 – 1989); the latter married Delia Rosa MIRABELLI (1920 – 2005) and they in turn had three children. They were Enrique Alejandro (1951), Hugo Ernesto (1952) and Sandra Miriam (1959).

Charles James (1852 – 1852)

0390D

Charles, Stephen Anthony's first son, survived only a few months; he was baptised on 15 FEB 1852 and buried on 04 APR 1852⁹.

Alice Ellen (1854 – 1855)

0390E

Alice Ellen shared the fate of her brother Charles, being baptised on 12 MAR 1854 and buried less than twelve months later.

Stephen Charles (1855 – 1915)

0390F

Stephen Charles was born in 1855¹⁰. His first wife was Caroline SMITH, born in Kingsland, Middlesex¹¹ in 1853; they were married in 1876¹². Stephen Charles was a 'plumber decorator' like so many of his family before him. Three children were born: Charles Frederick (1877), Frederick Alexander (1879) and Maud (1882). They lived in Railton Road, Brixton, for at least a decade, as shown by the census returns for 1881¹³ and 1891¹.

¹ ONS death reference for Alexander COPLEY aged 55, Q4/1902, Stepney, 1c 70

² information from Ivy Della Rocca in her letter

³ from Ivy Della Rocca's letter

⁴ ONS marriage reference for Ada Lingard COPLEY and Charles Edward A BALDWIN, Q2/1894, Stepney, 1c 505

⁵ ONS death reference for Ada Lingard BALDWIN aged 22, Q2/1895, Poplar, 1c 410

⁶ 1901 census return for 668 Commercial Road, Limehouse, RG13/322 f112 p6

⁷ www.findmypast.com/passengerListShowImage.action?imageSet=PL&uvn=621000013&vsn=560&pageno=15

⁸ information on Frederick's family in Argentina is from Enrique Alejandro COPLEY, grandson of Frederick

⁹ dates from registers at St Mary, Lambeth

¹⁰ ONS birth reference for Stephen Charles DELLA ROCCA, Q2/1855, Lambeth, 1d 263

¹¹ information from 1881 and 1891 census returns

¹² ONS marriage reference for Stephen Charles DELLA-ROCCA and Caroline SMITH, Q2/1876, Lambeth, 1d 478

¹³ 1881 census return for 56 Railton Road, Lambeth, RG11/623 f12 p18

By the time of the 1901 census return² Caroline's mother Mary Ann was living with them; the family had moved to Brixton. Caroline died a few months after the census was taken, on 18 JUL 1901³, and Stephen remarried towards the end of 1902⁴: the name of his second wife was Rosa Louisa REED. She had been born in 1872⁵ and the birth registered in Stepney. This marriage was registered in Poplar and produced Ivy (1906 – 1996) and Rosa Alexandra (1909 – ?)⁶. By 1911⁷ the 'new' family – Stephen, Rosa, Ivy and Rosa, was living in Forest Gate.

Ivy, born in Folkestone in Kent, was the source of much useful information about the Della Rocca family used throughout this document. Her father Stephen Charles died in November 1915.

The first son from the first marriage, **Charles Frederick**, was born in 1877. At the age of 20 he married Fanny Selina POULTER⁸, and they had at least seven children⁹. The 1901 census return shows the family living in two rooms in Clapham¹⁰ with children Maud (3) and Charles (1). The following census return, that of 1911¹¹, shows the family living in Brixton and Charles, at the age of 35, out of work. It is recorded that he fell under his horse at Vauxhall in 1915, and was killed¹².

Charles's brother, **Frederick Alexander**, was born in 1879¹³ and married Alice Maud WOOD in 1898¹⁴. They have not been found in the 1901 census return but that of 1911 shows them living in six rooms in Balham with their two children Gladys Lilian and Frederick Charles, born on 20 OCT 1900. They were sharing the house with Maud's brother William, who like Frederick Alexander was a 'house painter', and three boarders, all named SMYTH, so presumably brothers. Gladys married Dennis O'Malley. Her brother Frederick Charles married Elsie Gladys FRENCH on 01 SEP 1923; their only child was Kenneth John (born 21 JAN 1925); he in turn married Ivy Rose BANKS on 01 SEP 1947, 24 years to the day after his father's wedding. The three children from this marriage were Stephen Kenneth (1952), who married Carolyn GOODSELL; Peter John, who married Nicolette POWER; and Jane Noelle, who married Graham James TAYLOR.

Maud, the only daughter from Stephen Charles' two marriages, was born in 1882 and married John MAXWELL in 1903¹⁵. They had at least three children (May Isobel¹⁶,

¹ 1891 census return for 56 Railton Road, Lambeth, RG12/413, f55 p41

² 1901 census return for 67 Mervan Road, Brixton, RG13/430 f132 p22

³ ONS death reference for Caroline DELLA-ROCCA, age 48, 3/1901, Lambeth, 1d 267

⁴ ONS marriage reference for Stephen Charles DELLA ROCCA and Rosa Louisa REED, Q4/1902, Poplar, 1c 1094

⁵ ONS birth reference for Rosa Louisa REED, Q4/1872, Stepney, 1c 485

⁶ ONS birth reference for Rosa Alexandra DELLA-ROCCA, Q1/1909, Lambeth, 1d 299

⁷ 1911 census return for 3 Prestbury Road, Forest Gate, RG14/9561 ED5 SN304

⁸ ONS marriage reference for Charles Frederick DELLA-ROCCA and Fanny Selina POULTER, Q2/1897, Lambeth, 1d 906

⁹ the 1911 census return records three children, plus the name of a fourth that has been scored out; the record indicates that seven children had been born to the marriage, of whom three had died

¹⁰ 1901 census return for 36 Lyham Road, Clapham, RG13/466, f7 p5

¹¹ 1911 census return for 6 Brandon Road, Brixton, RG14/2104, ED5 SN402

¹² information from letter, *op cit*; ONS death reference for Charles F DELLAROCCA aged 39, Q2/1915, St George, Hanover Square, 1a 647

¹³ ONS birth reference for Frederick Alexander DELLAROCCA, Q4/1879, Lambeth, 1d 402

¹⁴ most of the information in this section is from Kenneth Della Rocca

¹⁵ ONS marriage reference for Maud DELLA-ROCCA and John Turnbull Douglas MAXWELL, Q4/1903, Lambeth, 1d 526

¹⁶ ONS birth reference for May Isabel MAXWELL, Q2/1904, Lambeth, 1d 467

Douglas Alexander¹, Doris Maud²) as indicated by the 1911 census return which shows them living in Herne Hill³.

Ernest Henry (1857 – 1927)

0390G

Ernest was born in 1857⁴ and baptised on 03 MAY 1863⁵ at the age of six. In 1883⁶ he married Elizabeth Louisa FORD, who had been born in Guernsey. From at least 1891 they were living in Brixton: the 1891 census⁷ and the 1891-2 Voting List⁸ show the family (with children Ernest⁹, May¹⁰, Allen¹¹ and Lillie¹²) at 24 Railton Road; and for the 1894-5 List Ernest was at Barnwell Road¹⁰. The family was still at this address in 1901¹³.

Ten years later, in 1911, they had moved house¹⁴ again; Ernest, from being a railway porter in 1901, had become a house painter like his father. The census return indicates that four children were born, but one had died: May's death was registered towards the end of 1904¹⁵. Elizabeth died on 13 NOV 1926 and Ernest survived her for only a few months, dying on 03 MAY 1927.

Kate Elizabeth (1859 – 1944)

0390H

Kate Elizabeth, born two years after Ernest Henry, was baptised on the same day, 03 MAY 1863¹⁶. She appears in each census return up to and including that of 1891 living with her parents, Stephen Anthony and Frances¹⁷, and by the age of 21 was a pianoforte teacher, later an 'assistant teacher'. She was still living with her widowed father and two siblings in 1901, in Berkley Street, Lambeth¹⁸, but ten years later (by which time her father had died) she appeared to be running a 'beer and wine house' – the census return shows her as 'employer' – at Lower Marsh, in Lambeth¹⁹. Living with her were her sister Elizabeth (also shown as 'employer'), and three nephews – Stanley and Harold, the two sons of their sister Clara Maria, and an eight-year-old Frederick DELLA ROCCA, the son of Kate's brother Frederick William who had died by that time (see his entry on page 31 for more details).

¹ ONS birth reference for Douglas Alexander MAXWELL, Q3/1905, Lambeth, 1d 448

² ONS birth reference for Doris Maud MAXWELL, Q2/1907, Lambeth, 1d 448

³ 1911 census return for 22 Chaucer Road, Herne Hill, RG14/2096, ED47 SN80

⁴ from census entries

⁵ baptism register for St Mary, Lambeth

⁶ ONS marriage reference for Ernest Henry DELLA ROCCA and Elizabeth Louisa FORD, Q4/1883, Lambeth, 1d 666

⁷ 1891 census return for 24 Railton Road, Brixton, RG12/413 f53 p37

⁸ *op cit*, in both instances

⁹ ONS birth reference for Ernest Arthur DELLA ROCCA, Q4/1884, Lambeth, 1d 417

¹⁰ ONS birth reference for May DELLAROCCA, Q2/1886, Lambeth, 1d 415

¹¹ no birth reference found for Allen

¹² ONS birth reference for Lillie DELLAROCCA, Q1/1891, Lambeth, 1d 503

¹³ 1901 census return for 26 Barnwell Road, Brixton, RG13/430 f91 p54

¹⁴ 1911 census return for 14 St Mary's Street, Lambeth, RG14/1976 ED2 SN243

¹⁵ ONS death reference for May Della ROCCA aged 18, Q4/1904, Pancras, 1b 63

¹⁶ baptism register for St Mary, Lambeth

¹⁷ see references given in this section

¹⁸ 1901 census return for 14 Berkley Street, Lambeth, RG13/406 p42

¹⁹ 1911 census return for 54 Lower Marsh, Lambeth, RG14/1953 ED11 SN123

Kate married William LEWIS in 1913¹; the marriage was registered, surprisingly, at Southampton. She died in JAN 1944² (according to Ivy). No children from the marriage have been found.

Louisa (1861 – 1931)

0390I

Louisa, born 06 APR 1861 and baptised along with Ernest and Kate Elizabeth on 03 MAY 1863, never married. By 1881, aged 19, she was a dressmaker and living at home in Lambeth Walk³ with her parents Stephen and Frances.

Ten years later she had moved to Saville Place⁴. This was a turning off Lambeth Walk, almost opposite Walnut Tree Walk; it no longer exists, but on the 1898 Booth Poverty map it is described as 'mixed'. Here she was living as a 'companion' to a staymaker – a Mrs Harriet Terrett (or Terrill), a widow from Whitechapel some 25 years older than Louisa. By 1901 Louisa and Harriet were still both living at the same address⁵ and both were shown as corsetmakers. Louisa hasn't been found in the 1911 census.

She died, still a spinster, in 1931⁶.

Elizabeth Alexandra (1863 – 1944)

0390J

Elizabeth Alexandra was also baptised on 03 MAY 1863⁷ and, like her sister Kate, was still living with her parents in 1901⁸ (the 1891 return shows her as 38, rather than 28; that of 1901 shows her age as 24, although she would have been 38). By 1911 she was living, perhaps running, a 'beer and wine house' with Kate (see above for more details).

She married Frederick HISCOCK in 1917⁹, by which time she was 54; like her sister Kate Elizabeth's, the marriage was registered in Southampton. Ivy's information is that she died in MAR 1944.

Stephen Edward (1863 – ?)

0390K

Apart from joining four of his siblings in being baptised on 03 MAY 1863¹⁰, nothing further is known of him. His birth does not appear to have been registered; he does not appear in the 1871 census and it is likely that he died before he reached the age of eight, although no such reference has been found.

Clara Maria (1865 – 1908)

0390L

Clara Maria was baptised on 17 SEP 1865. In 1888¹¹ she married Thomas Payne CARLILE. The 1891 census return¹² shows her as a 'licenced victualler' and Thomas as a 'licenced

¹ ONS marriage reference for William H LEWIS and Kate Elizabeth DELLA ROCCA, Q4/1913, Southampton, 2c62

² much information in this section is from Ivy Della Rocca; it has not all been confirmed

³ 1881 census return for 123 Lambeth Walk, RG11/595 f89 p42

⁴ 1891 census return for 17 Saville Place, Lambeth, RG13/405 f62 p16-17

⁵ 1901 census return for 17 Saville Place, Lambeth, RG13/405 f70 p16

⁶ according to Ivy DELLA ROCCA; certainly no marriage has been found

⁷ baptism register for St Mary, Lambeth

⁸ 1901 census return for 14 Berkley Street, Lambeth, RG13/406 f25 p42

⁹ ONS marriage reference for Frederick HISCOCK and Elizabeth A DELLA ROCCA, Q2/1917, Southampton, 2c 63

¹⁰ baptism register for St Mary, Lambeth

¹¹ ONS marriage reference for Thomas Payne CARLILE and Clara Maria DELLA ROCCA, Q3/1888, Lambeth, 1d 709

¹² 1891 census return for 69 Lambeth Walk, Lambeth, RG12/394 f126 p21-22

manager'; they were living with her parents in Lambeth Walk. They already had their first child, Stanley.

Ten years later, in 1901, the family was living in Lower Marsh¹ with children Kate and Harold. Lower Marsh had been built on the site of the ancient Lambeth Marsh, and had been a street market since the middle of the century. It is just south of the present Waterloo station. Thomas was an 'ale house keeper' and living with Thomas, Clara, Kate and Harold was Abel DURELY, a servant aged 17. Stanley was not shown, although he would have been only 11.

Thomas died later that year, aged only 44²; rather surprisingly the death was registered in Hastings. Clara died in 1908³.

Stanley was the elder son; he was registered as Stanley Richard P⁴ – with the P standing for Payne (according to Ivy). He is shown in the 1891 census return⁵, in Lambeth Walk with the family, but he has not been found in the next census. Ten years on, by which time both his parents had died, the census return of 1911⁶ shows him as a 'warehouseman, silk agent' living in the family home at Lambeth Marsh with his two aunts Kate Elizabeth and Elizabeth Alexandra, with Kate shown as 'head' of the household. His brother **Harold**, four years younger, was sharing the home and had the same profession.

Frederick William (1868 – 1907)

0390M

Frederick William's birth was registered in early 1868 and he was baptised on *02 FEB 1868*. He was living with his parents until 1901⁷, in which year he was described as a 'sanitary engineer' – perhaps a step up from a plumber!

In 1902 he married Caroline Sarah WADMAN⁸. She was a widow, born Caroline RIVETT in 1865⁹; in 1890 she married Charles WADMAN¹⁰ but he died only two years later¹¹. A son Frederick Stephen was born to Frederick and Caroline the year of their marriage, on 30 DEC 1902¹², and baptised on *01 FEB 1903*. Frederick senior died on 14 JUN 1907¹³ aged only 39: therefore does not appear in the 1911 census return¹⁴, but his widow Caroline is shown living in Kennington with a 16-year-old son Robert. His year of birth, 1895, is three years after the death of Charles WADMAN and seven years before Caroline remarried.

Frederick Stephen, the only child I have found from the marriage of Frederick and Caroline, was born at the very end of 1902. As his father died four years later, it is

¹ 1901 census return for 54 Lower Marsh (?), Lambeth, RG13/402 f60 p18

² ONS death reference for Thomas Payne CARLILE aged 44, Q2/1901, Hastings, 2b 21

³ ONS death reference for Clara Maria P CARLILE aged 42, Q3/1908, Lambeth, 1d 130

⁴ ONS birth reference for Stanley Richard P CARLILE, Q2/1889, Lambeth, 1d 416

⁵ 1891 census return for 69 Lambeth Walk, Lambeth, RG12/394 f126 p21-22

⁶ 1911 census return for 54 Lower Marsh, Lambeth, RG14/1953, ED11 SN123

⁷ 1901 census return for 14 Berkley Street, Lambeth, RG13/406 f25 p42

⁸ ONS marriage reference for Frederick W DELLARocca and Caroline Sarah WADMAN, Q1/1902, Lambeth, 1d 508

⁹ ONS birth reference for Caroline Sarah RIVETT, Q4/1865, Newington, 1d 205

¹⁰ ONS marriage reference for Charles WADMAN and Caroline Sarah RIVETT, Q4/1890, St Saviour, 1d 426

¹¹ ONS death reference for Charles WADMAN aged 26, Q1/1892, St Saviour, 1d 92

¹² ONS birth reference for Frederick S DELLA ROCCA, Q1/1903, Lambeth, 1d 364

¹³ ONS death reference for Frederick W DELLA ROCCA, aged 39, 2/1907, Lambeth, 1d 162

¹⁴ 1911 census return for 5 Gilbert Road, Kennington, RG14/1975 ED1 SN256

probable that he was their only child. In 1911 the census return¹ shows him living (or staying) with two of his aunts, Kate and Elizabeth in Lower Marsh, Lambeth. Also there were two cousins, Stanley and Harold, who were sons of another aunt, Clara Maria. See Kate's entry on page 28 for further details.

¹ 1911 census return for 54 Lower Marsh, Lambeth, RG14/1953 ED11 SN123

Miscellaneous information

Sources

As mentioned in the text, much of the information has been obtained with the help of my cousin Carol Pointer. In addition, most of the dates for Stephen Anthony's family were supplied by Ivy Della Rocca, my second cousin three times removed. Before his death I was also in contact with Kenneth DELLA ROCCA.

I have also, much more recently, exchanged emails with another cousin, Alejandro COPLEY, whose family is in Argentina.

The chart shows how Carol, Kenneth, Alejandro and Ivy are related to me.

Other DELLA ROCCA families

Many ROCCA families appear in the various census returns, but all are around the Manchester area. It is entirely possible that there is a connection – several instances of my DELLA ROCCA relatives are recorded as ROCCA, with Della as an additional forename – and the origins I have found point to Manchester and Salford.

The IGI records several children baptised in Hulme (a district of Manchester) with parents Joseph ROCCA and Frances Elizabeth. These are shown.

It is entirely possible that these represent a completely separate family from my own Della Roccas, but a connection cannot be ruled out.

I have identified every single occurrence of a DELLA ROCCA in every census return (1841 – 1911) with the exception of an Arthur (born c1889).