

The
DELLA ROCCA

families of

**Manchester
and Lambeth**

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Introduction

My great-grandmother 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 several Della Roccas that I cannot link to my own 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 (and even, as has recently become apparent, such variations as 'Delarona' or 'Dellarosca').

Unfortunately, as will be shown later (and is apparent from the chart), my direct line descends through two generations of illegitimacy, where in each case the father is unknown. This inevitably leaves large gaps in the history of my direct ancestors, and successful further research along either of these lines is extremely unlikely. Nevertheless, I have amassed a considerable amount of information about my collateral Della Rocca ancestors.

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 Italy; 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 information from Ivy Della Rocca¹, and considerable assistance from my (second) cousin Carol.

¹ sent to me in a letter dated 30 SEP 1991 from Miss Ivy Frances Della Rocca [039OFD], a great-grand-daughter of Michael James

G7 – BEASLEY family

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

According to the age given on her death certificate¹ she had been born in about 1779; the 1851 census return² confirms this and also gives her place of birth as Banbury, Oxfordshire. From this information it has been possible to find her baptism (shown opposite) at St Mary, Banbury, on 15 MAR 1779. True, the surname is written as BEARDSLEY but this is not really a problem: I have found it as BEAZLEY, BEESLEY, BEASLEY and other variations.

A possible marriage for her parents is that of Joseph BEARDSLEY and Hannah SMITH on 04 APR 1774 at St John, Coventry, although Banbury is some 30 miles south of Coventry.

Attempts to trace ancestry further back than this are likely to prove futile without further information, as three possibilities for the baptism of Hannah Smith have been found:

01 AUG 1745	St John, Coventry, WAR	John, Margaret
25 FEB 1754	Holy Trinity, Coventry, WAR	Randel, Elizabeth
05 AUG 1757	St John, Coventry, WAR	Thomas, Mary

Always assuming that the marriage date of 1774 is correct, the last two are probably too late; so the first baptism is likely to be the correct one.

and a possible three for Joseph BEARDSLEY:

02 FEB 1743	St John, Deritend and Bordesley, WAR	Benjamin, Elizabeth
30 JUN 1745	Halesowen and Olbury, WOR	Joseph, Phebe
19 JUL 1745	Halesowen, WOR	

These places are all within five miles of one another, and about 25 miles west of Coventry.

A possible history is as follows.

Joseph BEARDSLEY, born in about 1745 in Halesowen, moved to Coventry where, aged about 30, he married Hannah SMITH in 1774. She had been born in that city. Joseph and Hannah then moved to Banbury where their two daughters, Hannah (1775) and Sarah (1779) were born. Sarah moved to Manchester (over 120 miles from Banbury) where she met and married Michael DELLA ROCCA in 1803.

It's feasible, but did people travel that sort of distance at the end of the 18th century?

¹ her death certificate shows an age of 78 when she died on 11 APR 1857

² 1851 census return for 53 Lambeth Walk, Lambeth, Surrey HO107/1051 f271

G6 – BEASLEY family

The baptism register for St Mary, Banbury, shows only one baptism of a Sarah between 1734 and 1800. Although there is a variation in the surname (BEARDSLEY) the baptism date was *15 MAR 1779*; the parents were Joseph, a weaver, and Hannah.

The register also shows one other child baptised by this couple; another daughter, Hannah, on *20 FEB 1777*. This entry shows an address of Grimsbury: the surname given is 'Bazeley'¹.

Grimsbury no longer exists as a distinct locality although in the 19th century it was recorded² as 'a hamlet in Warkworth parish, Northampton, close to the boundary with Oxford, the river Cherwell, and the Oxford and Rugby railway'. According to Wikipedia it is 'a largely residential area forming the eastern part of Banbury, Oxfordshire'.

Nothing further has been found about Sarah until her marriage to Michael DELLA ROCCA in Manchester on *02 MAY 1803*³.

¹ so it is not at all unreasonable that this could later have been heard as 'Beasley' or 'Beezley'

² in John Marius Wilson's *Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales* (1870-72)

³ marriage register for Manchester Cathedral

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. In 1803 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), shows that she had been born in Banbury, Oxfordshire. (The same census entry indicates her year of birth to have been about 1779 so this corroborates 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. A copy of the register entry is shown opposite. Both parties appear to have signed their name; there was only one witness, William Shaw, who was probably the parish clerk as he witnessed all the marriages on the register page. Although Michael is of ‘this parish’, ‘& town of Salford Artificial maker’ has been added – this latter is, presumably, his trade or occupation at the time.

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, which are examined later.

The records of Manchester Cathedral show three Della Rocca baptisms between 1804 and 1807: Mary Ann (31 JAN 1804 / 18 MAR 1804); Michael (no birthdate, but baptised 06 DEC 1805); and John James (29 AUG 1807 / 01 OCT 1807). John James died and was buried on 09 JUN 1809⁵ at Trinity Chapel, Salford.

The next baptism I have found is that of William (16 SEP 1812 / 31 JUL 1814), and this took place at Lambeth (St Mary). Thus some time between June 1809 and September 1812 the family moved from Manchester to London: during this interval of three years it is possible that a further child was born (and perhaps died), but none has so far been found.

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. 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 – though hardly, 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 Manchester, although no other Della Rocca descendants have yet been found either in the IGI or elsewhere. However, the first son being named Michael could be an indication that there were no earlier children – or at least any earlier boys.

My own view is that Ivy was incorrect in stating that her grandfather, Stephen Anthony, 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, Stephen Charles – and *he* died when she was only nine.

¹ death certificate

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

³ marriage register for Manchester Cathedral, p37; this was one of twelve marriages on this date

⁴ Ivy was a great-granddaughter of Michael; the information here is contained in her reply to my letter of about 1989 (see later, page 41)

⁵ Bishop’s Transcripts

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

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 1809 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 survived beyond the age of 18, and the remainder of this volume follows their stories. The chart opposite shows the five children that reached adulthood. Apart from my direct ancestor Ellen¹ the four others all married and their children are shown. It is worth noting that Stephen Anthony was only six years older than his oldest niece (Mary Ann Elizabeth, Michael's daughter) and that the first of Stephen Anthony's children wasn't born until after the youngest of its cousins; this is simply because of the large family sizes, and the fact that Stephen was the youngest. It shows that the ages of the 24 grandchildren of Michael James and Sarah spanned an astonishing 38 years, or more than one generation.

William and Francis were baptised on *31 JUL 1814*², when the family was living in Jurston Street³, near Waterloo. From several reports this seems to have been one of the worst type of slums in London. 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). The address was the same at the date of Sarah's baptism (*15 OCT 1815*). When Francis was buried less than two years later on *28 FEB 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), but when both Ellen and Angelina were baptised on *30 MAY 1819* the address was Hollyfield Row⁴ and Michael was shown as a domestic servant. The following year, when their second daughter, Sarah, was buried the address was again Hollyfield Row. By 13 NOV 1822, when Frances was buried, the family had moved to Lambeth Walk. When the last child, Stephen Anthony, was baptised on *09 MAY 1824* Michael James was again a 'flower maker'. It does appear that the family lived at or near the poverty line for most of their lives.

Michael James died on 20 OCT 1838⁵ 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 deceased by that time, was shown as 'Gent'. Was this mere wishful thinking? The address given in the Burial Register of St Mary, Lambeth, gives Michael's address as 'Lambeth Walk', which was where son Stephen was living.

It seems that Michael, the eldest son, provided a home at Bolwell Terrace for his widowed mother Sarah as the 1841 census⁶ shows Michael and his wife Charlotte living in Lambeth with Sarah, brother Stephen, sister Mary and three children. Ten years later, in 1851⁷, Sarah

¹ see the following section, page 12

² dates in this paragraph are taken from the registers of Lambeth St Mary

³ this street no longer exists but was in the general area now covered by Baylis Road, running between Waterloo Road and Westminster Bridge Road

⁴ this was in Princes Road, close to the workhouse

⁵ death certificate

⁶ 1841 census return for Bolwell Terrace, Lambeth, HO107/1058/7, f10 p7

⁷ 1851 census return for 53 Lambeth Walk, HO107/1051 f271

was living with her youngest son Stephen and his family in Lambeth Walk. She died six years later on 11 APR 1857¹, 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’.

Ten children from the marriage have been found although, as explained above, there may have been others.

Mary Ann (1804 – 1875)²

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 Cathedral³.

Michael (1805 – 1847)⁴

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 – 1809)

John’s baptism in Manchester Cathedral was on 02 OCT 1807⁵. The register also gives his date of birth as 29 AUG 1807 and confirms his parents as Michael and Sarah. The burial is recorded (at Trinity Chapel, Salford)⁶ of John DELLA ROCCA on 09 JUN 1809 and his age is given as 22 months.

William (1812 – 1867)⁷

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 18⁸.

¹ death certificate

² see Appendix 039G

³ these dates, and most of those in this section, from the respective parish register

⁴ see Appendix 039H

⁵ baptism register, Manchester Cathedral

⁶ Bishop’s Transcripts

⁷ see Appendix 039J

⁸ dates from registers of St Mary, Lambeth

Ellen (1818 – 1851)

Ellen was a direct ancestor – one of my 3xgt-grandmothers. She was baptised on *30 MAY 1819*¹, together with her sister Angelina. See the section below, starting on page 12, for further information.

Frances (1821 – 1822)

No baptism has been found for Frances, the ninth child and the child to die in infancy. She was buried on *13 NOV 1822* aged under two, and so the year of birth has been assumed.

Stephen Anthony (1824 – 1906)²

Stephen Anthony was baptised on *09 MAY 1824*³. He married Frances Elizabeth NEW on *30 JUN 1845*⁴, and they had 13 children before he died in 1906.

¹ baptism register, St Mary, Lambeth

² see Appendix 039O

³ certificate of baptism, St Mary, Lambeth

⁴ marriage certificate

G5 – Ellen DELLA ROCCA (1818 – 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 1819*¹, the same day as her elder sister Angelina. The address of the family at this time, given in the register, was ‘Hollyfield Row’, which was ‘about a furlong on the left hand in Elizabeth Place, going from Kennington Cross towards Lambeth Workhouse’².

Not unusually, the baptism register does not show Ellen’s date of birth. With the assumption that the ages shown in the 1841 and 1851 census returns, together with that shown in the burial register, are correct her age of birth can be narrowed to between 08 JUN 1818 and 21 DEC 1818.

It seems that she never married³; although she had at least one child, a daughter Ellen Dawson (see the following section).

In 1841 she was a ‘female servant’ living in Kennington⁴ together with another servant and some assistants over a draper’s shop. Ten years later⁵ 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, on her mother’s side.]

Some time later that year she must have left William’s household, for she died on 12 DEC 1851⁶ 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 1851*⁷ (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 53 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, page 107

² from ‘A Topographical Directory of London and its Environs’, 1831

³ the 1851 census entry, the year in which she died, shows her as unmarried; and her burial is in her maiden name

⁴ 1841 census return for Surrey House Clapham Road, Kennington, HO107/1056/1 f4 p1

⁵ 1851 census return for 7 Victoria Square, Westminster, HO107/1478 f45

⁶ death certificate

⁷ burial register for St Mary, Lambeth, page 150

G4 – Ellen Dawson DELLA ROCCA (1843 – ?1912)

The daughter of Ellen, mentioned above, was baptised Ellen Dawson DELLA ROCCA on 19 JAN 1845¹, one of 19 children baptised at St Mary, Lambeth, that day. No father was named; the mother's name was Ellen, and the address was Lambeth Walk. 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. 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 at the time 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) – this information comes from the 1851 census.

Ellen Dawson (aged about 8) does not appear, so it seems that she was being looked after elsewhere. As Ellen is shown as 'unmarried' in the census return, presumably Mr and Mrs Beasley were not aware that she had a young daughter.

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 diagram opposite (their approximate age in 1851 is indicated in brackets). They were:

- Mary Ann [47], Ellen Dawson's eldest aunt; she was unmarried and 'in service' as a housekeeper in Chiswick
- Sarah [71], Ellen Dawson's widowed grandmother, who was living with Stephen Anthony at 53 Lambeth Walk. Ellen's grandfather, Michael James, had died in 1838
- her uncle Michael's widow Charlotte [50], living in Bolwell Street (Michael had died four years previously). Her children were:
 - cousin Michael Joseph [16]; in 1841 he had been at Bolwell Terrace and by 1856 his address was Church Terrace
 - cousin Frederick William [14]
 - cousin 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] also (presumably) living in George Street

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

- her uncle Stephen Anthony [27] and his wife Frances [26], living at 53 Lambeth Walk
 - cousin Sarah Ann [3]
 - cousin Frances Theresa [3]
 - cousin Mary Ann [1].

If Ellen Dawson had lived with one of the family, it is likely to have been one of Mary Ann, her aunt; Charlotte, her aunt by marriage; Stephen Anthony and Frances Elizabeth; or William and Mary Ann.

- In 1851 Mary Ann was employed as a housekeeper, and living in Chiswick. As she was in service, it is unlikely that she would have been able to look after a young girl
- Charlotte had been widowed four years earlier, and was bringing up two sons and a daughter
- 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, and Ellen does not appear here

All four families have been found in the 1851 census, and Ellen Dawson appears in none of them. Her whereabouts in April that year, while her mother was in service in Westminster, remain a mystery.

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 at Clapham; and moreover, that she was a niece – Mary Ann was her eldest sister², the sister that had been born in Manchester.

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 in Clapham; 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 in Lambeth (at 6 Chapel Street, the address where John Dawson was born). 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

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

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 Ellen's father, was registered in Shoreditch towards the end of 1847¹.

The 1881 census return shows Robert and Ellen JORDON [*sic*] boarding in a house in Mitcham² 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 1879³ 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 or any subsequent census. A possible death for Robert is recorded at Croydon in 1910⁴, although this indicates a YoB of 1844 rather than 1847.

An Ellen JORDAN died at the age of 40 on 12 APR 1884⁵, 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. It is also possible that Robert died and Ellen remarried.

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 1864⁶, one of nine baptisms that day. Although her birth was never registered, the baptism register helpfully records it as 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 return⁷ 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 living 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; they had married one another in 1866 (see page 24 for further details).

On 09 AUG 1885⁸ Clara Sarah married Thomas George GREEN, a mason. Clara's father is given as John Della Rocca, deceased. The story of Thomas and Clara is continued in the *Recent Generations* booklet.

¹ ONS birth reference for Robert George JORDAN, Q4/1847, Shoreditch, 2 450

² 1881 census return for 4 Red Lion Cottages, London Road, Mitcham, RG11/828, f25 p47

³ IGI; no specific location is given

⁴ ONS death reference for Robert JORDAN aged 66, 3/1910, Croydon, 2a 163

⁵ death certificate

⁶ Baptism register for Holy Trinity, Clapham, page 249

⁷ 1871 census return for 6 Chapel Street (Spencer House), Lambeth, RG10/678 f11 p22

⁸ marriage certificate: Parish Church, Kennington

Unlinked Della Rocca families

There are a few occurrences of the Della Rocca name that do not appear to be linked to the families in this document. They are listed below, together with any information, in case a link is discovered.

Marco and Hettie

The 1939 Register records a Dellarocca family at 43 Whitcomb Street, Covent Garden: it comprises

- Marco (DoB 27 FEB 1896), married, café owner
- Hettie (DoB 14 SEP 1906), single, cashier

They are the only two people in the household and my assumption is that they are brother and sister. Hettie's entry has a pink line through with a note 'see page 19'. On this page there is an additional entry for 43 Whitcomb Street:

- Motisi John (DoB 22 JUL 1905), married, fruit merchant and importer. Above this line is the word 'Giovanni'.

Further research shows the birth of Marco DELLAROCCA in Borgdtaro¹, Italy, on 23 FEB 1896. He married Hettie Emily SIMS on 24 APR 1924 and died in Cadillac, Michigan (USA) on 08 MAR 1981. There appears to be no connection with my family.

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).

¹ No such place can be found, although this is probably meant to be Borgotaro (the common name of Borgo Val di Taro), a town and commune in Emilia, 63km from Parma

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

Mary Ann is the earliest child of Michael James and Sarah 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. Unusually the baptism register (shown opposite) gives the date of birth.

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 35 (it should have been 47). A local man, George FREEGROVE, was a gardener at the same 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. Unsurprisingly, the age of both is shown as 'of full age': in fact, George was 26 and Mary Ann 49. Did George know that Mary Ann was some 23 years older than he was? 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. The marriage certificate is shown opposite; one of the witnesses was Stephen Anthony DELLA ROCCA, Mary Ann's youngest brother, who was three years older than George.

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 (not surprisingly, in view of her age at the time of her marriage) 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, aged just 38. 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 are 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 register page 225, St Mary, Lambeth

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, the eldest son of Michael James and Sarah, was born in NOV 1805 and baptised on 06 DEC 1805 in Manchester Cathedral¹.

On 29 MAR 1824, aged 18, he was bound into an apprenticeship with the Royal Navy² for four years. Soon after leaving, he married Charlotte Fortune MILLER, a widow, on 19 JAN 1829 at St Mary's, Lambeth. She had been born in Newcastle on 26 NOV 1799, the daughter of Matthew PURDY and Mary CRAISTER, and baptised on 27 APR 1800³. 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 was a house-painter, sometimes a 'painter and glazier', and in the 1840s he became a plumber.

The first address I have found, recorded in March 1830 at the baptism of their first child, Mary Ann Elizabeth, was Westminster Road (although this is likely to have been Westminster Bridge Road), yet when the same child was buried nine months later the address was Lambeth Walk. They remained here for about ten years until, some time between November 1837 and September 1839, they moved to Bolwell Terrace.

This was a turning off Lambeth Walk (it later became Bolwell Street), built in the 1830s. Part of it was demolished in 1951⁴, and the remainder disappeared in the 1970s when Lambeth Walk was redeveloped. Arthur Sullivan (later Sir Arthur) was born at 8 Bolwell Terrace, six doors from Michael and Charlotte, in 1842. Arthur's father, Thomas, paid £22 annual rent for his house so presumably Michael's rent was similar.

Michael and Charlotte appear in the 1841 census⁵, living in Bolwell Terrace, at which 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 1847⁶. The informant was Sarah, presumably his mother.

A few years later the 1851 census shows Charlotte as a widow, living at 25 Bolwell Street⁷. She was a 'monthly nurse'. As well as the three surviving children (Michael J, Frederick and Clara A) three lodgers were part of the same household; another family (Thomas and Maria KERRIDGE and their two sons) were also living in the same house. Was this the same house as ten years earlier, or had Charlotte moved following the death of her husband?

Charlotte died early in 1857⁸.

¹ both dates from IGI

² *UK Apprentices indentured in Merchant Navy*; see opposite page

³ baptism register of All Saints, Newcastle upon Tyne

⁴ the front door of No. 8 is preserved in the Museum of London

⁵ 1841 census return for Bolwell Terrace, HO107/1058

⁶ dates from Lambeth St Mary burial register

⁷ 1851 census return for 25 Bolwell Street, HO107/1572 f30

⁸ ONS death reference for Charlotte Fortune DELLAROCCA, Q1/1857, Lambeth, 1d 223

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 1830*¹.

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*, although the burial register (see opposite) quite clearly shows her age as 3.

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 1835*², was the fourth child of Michael and Charlotte but the first to reach adulthood. He married Frances Maria HUTCHINSON on *06 JUL 1856*³ at St John, Waterloo, rather than St Mary, Lambeth where he and his siblings had been baptised. She had been baptised on *03 NOV 1833*⁴, 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.

When their first child, Emily, was baptised the family were at 79 Union Street. This is a major thoroughfare in Southwark, running east-west between Blackfriars Road and Guy's Hospital, immediately south of the railway line.

In the 1861 census return the family was living at 24 St Alban's Street, Lambeth⁵, just off Kennington Road⁶, and only a few hundred yards from Lambeth Walk. 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 a few years younger than Frances and presumably a relation.

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 Street⁷, Lambeth but by August 1869, when Henry William and Alice Christine were baptised, their address was 20 Elfin Road, off Wyndham Road. Just 18 months later, the 1871 census⁸ 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')⁹, but by 1884 (when son Albert Edward started at St Mary the Less school) their address was 6 Chester Street (this road runs between Kennington Road and Lower Kennington Lane).

¹ these dates, and those for the next two children, are from the registers of St Mary, Lambeth

² baptism register for St Mary, Lambeth

³ marriage register for St John, Waterloo

⁴ baptism register for St Mary, Lambeth

⁵ 1861 census return for 24 St Alban's Street, RG9/351

⁶ St Alban's Street, along with the surrounding area, was rebuilt between 1928-1934 as the China Walk Estate

⁷ Wood Street was immediately opposite the Lambeth Workhouse

⁸ 1871 census return for 51 Hill Street, Newington, RG10/615

⁹ 1881 census return for 2 East Street, Lambeth, RG11/596 f52 p1

The census return for 1891¹ shows that Michael and Frances had made yet another move, this time to White Hart Street, in Kennington, where Michael is recorded as a ‘grainer’: ten years later, the 1901 census² shows their address as 52 Hollington Street, in Camberwell.

In November that same year Frances entered the Newington workhouse³, and the next day was moved to the St George’s workhouse. The very next day, Michael too entered the workhouse. Frances was moved back to Newington on 23 NOV 1901 and six days later she was discharged, at her own request. Michael remained there: on 06 JAN 1902 he was moved to the infirmary and he died shortly afterwards, presumably still there⁴.

Just before Christmas 1902 Frances was admitted to the Newington workhouse again, but once again she discharged herself, on 12 MAY 1903. She died after a further fifteen months or so⁵; her death was registered in Southwark.

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

Emily Viger (1858 – 1921). ‘Viger’ (occasionally ‘Vigar’ or ‘Vigor’) is an unusual name and no source for this has yet been found (it is possibly a family name). She was baptised in 1858 at the Lying-in Hospital⁶, which presumably means that she was less than a month old. By the time she was 23 she was a servant in Hampstead⁷, in the employ and household of Thomas DAKIN, a sugar refiner from Warrington. She married Alfred WALTER in 1888⁸. He was a hairdresser by trade, and his birth had been registered at St Martin in the Fields⁹; he was some 10 years Emily’s junior. They lived in Fulham, which is where their two children were born: Alfred Lawrence J was born on 05 MAR 1889¹⁰, and daughter Emily Frances was born towards the beginning of 1891¹¹, but died in the second quarter of the following year¹². The 1891 census return¹³ shows Alfred and Emily living in Fulham with son Alfred and daughter Emily. The 1901 census shows Alfred and Emily, with son Alfred and a male servant living in Marylebone¹⁴, but by 1911 Alfred, Emily and son Alfred (now aged 22) were living in Peckham¹⁵. Alfred junior was a law clerk, and his father was still a hairdresser, but he died the following year¹⁶. Emily died in 1921¹⁷; both deaths were registered in Croydon. Son Alfred Lawrence died in 1974¹⁸.

¹ 1891 census return for 27 White Hart Street, Kennington, RG12/398 f69 p31

² 1901 census return for 52 Hollington Street, Camberwell

³ Newington workhouse admission records: Frances, 10 NOV 1901; Michael, 12 NOV 1901

⁴ ONS death reference for Michael DELLA ROCCA, age 67, Q1/1902, Camberwell, 1d 539

⁵ ONS death reference for Frances DELLA ROCCA, age 69, Q3/1903, Southwark, 1d 88

⁶ the original Lying-in (or Maternity) Hospital was established in 1767 on the north side of Westminster Bridge Road; a new building was constructed on the east side of York Road and opened in 1828

⁷ 1881 census return for 4 Fitzjohns Avenue, St John’s Hampstead, RG11/167 f57 p2

⁸ ONS marriage reference for Alfred William WALTER and Emily Vigar DELLA ROCCA, Q2/1888, St Saviour, 1d 232

⁹ ONS birth reference for Alfred William WALTER, Q3/1867, St Martin, 1a 401

¹⁰ ONS birth reference for Alfred Lawrence J, Q2/1889, Fulham, 1a 255; date of birth from death registration

¹¹ ONS birth reference for Emily Frances M WALTER, Q1/1891, Fulham, 1a 344

¹² ONS death reference for Emily Frances M WALTER aged 1, Q2/1892, Lambeth, 1d 260

¹³ 1891 census return for 1 Ethel Terrace, Fulham, RG12/50 f55 p33

¹⁴ 1901 census return for 14 Earl Street, Marylebone, RG13/113 f110 p1

¹⁵ 1911 census reference for 1 Oglander Road, Peckham, RG14/2462 ED3 SN90

¹⁶ ONS death reference for Alfred W Walter aged 45, Q4/1912, Croydon, 2a 371

¹⁷ ONS death reference for Emily V WALTER aged 63, Q4/1921, Croydon, 2a 377

¹⁸ ONS death reference for Alfred Lawrence J WALTER, Q4/1974, Southend/S, 9 2569

Augusta Beatrice Alice (1861 – 1864), the second daughter, was born on 01 JUN 1861¹; it appears that she was never baptised. She died at the age of three, and was buried on 20 NOV 1864.

Clara Ann (1863 – 1908) was born on 07 APR 1863. She was baptised at St John the Divine, Kennington, but not until 06 OCT 1869², when she was 6½ years old. The family was then at 20 Elfin Road, in Camberwell. She appears in both the 1871 and 1881 census returns, living with her parents Michael and Frances.

On 09 FEB 1888 a child, named as Albert George Harry, was born at Sayer Street. The parents named on the birth certificate are Harry DELLA ROCCA, a journeyman mason³, and Clara Ann DELLA ROCCA, formerly DELL. The informant is shown as F. DELL, present at the birth, of 56 Crampton Street, Newington. The likelihood is that Albert was Clara Ann's illegitimate son, with the informant being Frances, Clara's mother. On 05 MAY 1890⁴ she married Henry John PARBERY, a waiter; it is possible that he was the father of Albert George.

Henry was the son of Henry and Maria, and had been born in about August 1850⁵, so he was some 13 years older than Clara. In 1870⁶ he had married Elizabeth RUTTERFORD. They had five children by the time of the 1881 census⁷, and at least one was born later⁸. The first two had been born in Blackfriars and Southwark, the following two both in Stratford, and the fifth in Hendon. Elizabeth died in 1888⁹, leaving Henry a widower.

His second marriage, to Clara Ann, took place a little over two years after Elizabeth's death. The wedding, on 05 MAY 1890, 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; Henry's was 101 Ponson Street. 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 1891 census return¹⁰ – a year after their marriage – shows Henry, a waiter, and Clara in Newington with son William, aged two months, and four elder children. The three eldest of these (Carrie, 15, Mary, 12, and James, 7) were clearly Henry's from his first marriage; the fourth is shown as George PARBURY. There is no birth registration for a George PARBERY and at age 3 it seems that this was the child born to Clara before her marriage (and named Albert George Harry). Further research shows that he was baptised on 01 JUL 1888 at St Paul, Lorrimore Square¹¹, which would tie in with a birth in February that year. Also living with the family were two 'boarders'; Sarah WALTER (19) and Albert DELLA ROCCA (18). Sarah was

¹ birth certificate

² baptism register

³ the only occurrence of a Harry DELLA ROCCA I have found is Henry William, Clara Ann's younger brother. Apart from the obvious difficulty with this, Henry was a house painter, rather than a mason

⁴ marriage certificate, St Paul's Church, Newington

⁵ his age is recorded as '8 months' in the 1851 census

⁶ ONS marriage reference for Henry PARBERY and Elizabeth RUTTERFORD, Q1/1870, Lambeth, 1d 503

⁷ 1881 census return for 8 Florence Street, Hendon, RG11/1366 f 75 p16

⁸ Lizzie Ellen (1870, Blackfriars), Henry Frederick C (1872, Southwark), Catherine Mary (1874, Stratford), Caroline Eliza (1875, Stratford), Mary Ann (1878, Hendon), James Jackson (1883, Walworth)

⁹ ONS death reference for Elizabeth PARBERY aged 41, Q1/1888, St Saviour, 1d 107

¹⁰ 1891 census return for 101 Penton Place, West Newington, RG12/365 f111 p9

¹¹ parish register, page 11. Lorrimore Square is in Walworth, in the triangle formed by the railway line, Kennington Park Road (the A3) and Camberwell New Road. It is considerably less than a mile from Albany Road.

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 (Edward) was Clara's younger brother.

Ten years later, by the time of the 1901 census return¹, 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 was aged 13, which is just the age that son George would have been: the likelihood is that the surname is indeed Della Rocca and 'son-in-law' should have been 'stepson'². The second, Clara, was aged nine³ and was the daughter of Henry and Clara. Clara (Henry's wife) died early in 1908⁴ aged 44, and Henry died aged 68 in 1917⁵.

George (Albert George Harry) enlisted in the 2nd Battalion the Rifle Brigade, which is where the 1911 census shows him as a 'rifleman'. His place of birth is given simply as 'London'.

In 1916 he married Mabel Charlotte KEVAN⁶, and they had at least three children: Evelyn M (14 NOV 1919⁷), Winifred H (1922), and Doreen (1927). The 1939 Register shows that Evelyn was living at Cobham in the household of Reginald and Violet BUXCEY; in 1944 she married Frederick E STEHR⁸. Mabel died in 1938⁹, aged 50, and three years later George married Gertrude Rose CLARKE¹⁰. The 1939 Register shows Gertrude, who was a catering manageress, living at 12 Camden Street, St Pancras 18 months before the wedding. George died (the death was registered as 'Albert G H') in 1964¹¹, aged 76; Gertrude survived him for some 23 years and died in 1987¹².

Clara Catherine (or Katherine) later married Henry William OSBORNE on 21 APR 1917¹³ at Islington Register Office. At the time her address was 25 Rheidol Terrace; his was 67 Windsor Terrace.

Henry William (1865 – 1924) was born on 11 JUN 1865, although he was baptised, along with his sister Alice Christine, on 22 AUG 1869 at St John the Divine, Kennington. The address given in the baptism register is 20 Elfin Road; this was a turning off Wyndham Road, which runs between Camberwell New Road and Camberwell Road. He appears in both the 1871 and 1881 census returns, living with his parents. In most records he appears as 'Harry', rather than 'Henry'. On 02 OCT 1887 he married Catherine Louisa TWISELTON¹⁴ but they have not been found in the 1891 census four years later. However, he reappears in the following two: in 1901 he was

¹ 1901 census return for Langton Road, Brixton, RG13/420

² during the 19th C the two terms were often used interchangeably

³ ONS birth reference for Clara Catherine PARBERY, Q1/1892, St Saviour, 1d 183

⁴ ONS death reference for Clara Ann PARBERY, 1/1908, Camberwell, 1d 543

⁵ ONS death reference for Henry J PARBERY aged 68, Q2/1917, Marylebone, 1a 641

⁶ ONS marriage reference for George A H DELLA-ROCCA and Mabel G KEVAN, Q3/1916, Wandsworth, 1d 1326a
⁷ 1939 Register

⁸ ONS marriage reference for Frederick E STEHR and Evelyn M DELLA-ROCCA, Q1/1944, Dartford, 2a 1641

⁹ ONS death reference for Mabel C DELLA-ROCCA aged 50, Q1/1938, Lewisham, 1d 1184

¹⁰ ONS marriage reference for Albert G H DELLA-ROCCA and Gertrude R CLARKE, Q1/1941, Surrey NE, 2a 353

¹¹ ONS death reference for Albert G H DELLA-ROCCA aged 76, Q3/1964, Canterbury, 5B 237

¹² ONS death reference for Gertrude Rose DELLA-ROCCA, DoB 26 OCT 1908, Q1/1987, Surrey mid-east, 17 53 187

¹³ marriage certificate

¹⁴ ONS marriage reference for Harry William D ROCCA and Catherine Louisa TWISELTON, Q4/1887, St Saviour, 1d 363

living with Catherine and two daughters, Ethel (1892) and Daisy Lillian (1894), in Newington¹; ten years later the family had moved a short distance to Walworth² and included daughter Dorothy Rosina³. This last census return records a total of four children of which the fourth had been Arthur H, who had been born Q2/1903 and had died Q1/1904. By 1921⁴ the two eldest girls had left home and Harry and Catherine, with daughter Dorothy, had moved to Pasley Road.

The 1939 Register shows Dorothy Rosina living at 21 Ingrave Street, Clapham Junction, where she was a 'militia suits machinist'.

Katherine died in 1923⁵; Harry died a year later, aged 58⁶.

Alice Christine (1868 – 1872) was baptised (see previous sibling) on 22 AUG 1869. Her date of birth has not been established, although it is likely to have been a matter of weeks earlier. She appears in the 1871 census return with her parents (where her age is shown as '2'), but she died a little over a year later⁷.

Albert Edward (1872 – 1930) was born on 13 DEC 1872⁸ and baptised 30 DEC 1872. In 1881⁹ he was living with his parents and two elder siblings at 51 Hill Street, Newington. Three years later, on 7 JUL 1884 (aged about 12), he was admitted to St Mary the Less school: the family's address at the time was 6 Chester Street. By the time of the 1891¹⁰ census he was boarding with his elder sister Clara and her husband Henry PARBERY (see above), and six years later, on 21 FEB 1897¹¹, 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 1901¹² shows Albert and Mary living in Newington with their 1-year-old son James (born 20 NOV 1899) and a 7-month-old William PARBERY, shown (somewhat strangely) as a niece. It does not show their first child, Albert Edward, who was born on 20 AUG 1898 and baptised at St Stephen, Walworth, on 16 OCT 1898¹³; he died before he reached his first birthday¹⁴. Their second son James entered Plough Road School (Wandsworth) on 11 JAN 1909, when the family was living at 109 St John's Hill¹⁵; two years later the 1911 census¹⁶ shows that they had moved to Mallinson Road in Battersea. Somewhat surprisingly the census form shows that six children had been born, but five had died and only one had survived; this does not accord with my research, which shows a total of seven children (five born before the date of the 1911 census), three of whom had died. Ten years later

¹ 1901 census return for 38 Pasley Street, Newington St Saviour, RG13/383 f24 p40

² 1911 census return for 1 Marsland Road, Surrey Gardens, Walworth, RG14/1848 ED30 SN254

³ Dorothy Rosina was born 04 NOV 1901 [1939 Register]

⁴ 1921 census return for 17 Pasley Road, Walworth, RG15/1878 Sch 461 ED 30

⁵ ONS death reference for Katherine L DELLA ROCCA aged 60, Q3/1923, Southwark, 1d 66

⁶ ONS death reference for Harry W D ROCCA aged 58, Q2/1924, Southwark, 1d 75

⁷ ONS death record for Alice Christine DELLAROCCA, 2/1872, Camberwell, 1d 363

⁸ school admission register for St Mary the Less

⁹ 1881 census return for 51 Hill Street, Newington, RG11/615 f154 p54

¹⁰ 1891 census return for 101 Penton Place, West Newington, RG12/365 f 111 p9

¹¹ marriage register for St Stephen, Walworth

¹² 1901 census return for 158 Manor Place, Newington, RG13/382 f158 p16

¹³ both these dates from St Stephen's parish register, page 182

¹⁴ ONS death reference for Albert E DELLA ROCCA aged 0, Q1/1899, St Saviour, 1d 84

¹⁵ details about James from the Admissions Register for Plough Road School

¹⁶ 1911 census return for 44 Mallinson Road, Battersea, RG13/2236 ED16 SN204

they had moved again, as the 1921 census¹ indicates, to 104 St John's Hill, Battersea. Albert was buried on 30 MAY 1930; Mary Ann survived him by some 24 years, as she died on 21 JAN 1953². Her address was given as 10 Chivalry Road, Battersea.

John Matthew (1836 – 1836)

039HE

John Matthew was baptised on 28 OCT 1836 and buried on 01 JAN 1837, both at St Mary's, Lambeth³. On that day, 1 January, there were 12 burials; four were of infants under the age of 1, one was of a 1-year-old and one was of a 2-year-old.

Frederick William (1837 – 1909)

039HF

Frederick was born on 12 NOV 1837⁴, and baptised 03 DEC 1837 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 Ann, although the ONS records show no marriage of a Frederick DELLA ROCCA between 1850 and 1882. Ann was about ten years older than Frederick and had been born in Taunton, although the 1871, 1881, and 1891 census returns show her age respectively as 40, 62, and 66. By 1871 he and Ann were living in Newington⁵; he is shown in the Voting List for St Mary, Newington in 1878, living at 19 Camden Street⁶. Frederick was following his father's trade as a painter. No children from the marriage have been found.

They appear in the 1881 census return⁷, 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 1891⁸, shows Frederick and Ann 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. They have not been found in the 1901 census, nor has Ann's death been found. Frederick died on 04 JAN 1909⁹ at 8 Tyrer Street, Vauxhall. Probate (£13 17s) was awarded to George SOUTH, clerk.

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 household¹⁰ of Joseph and Elizabeth TAYLOR, in Westminster.

She married her cousin William John (see later, page 26) on 17 JUN 1866, after his first wife Hannah had died, and they moved to Camden. They had at least two children, Charlotte Marianne (born 18 JUL 1868¹¹ at 17 Gresse Street, Camden) and Edith

¹ 1921 census return for 104 St John's Hill, Battersea, RG14/2265 Sch 237 ED2

² 1953 Probate register

³ both dates from church register

⁴ birth certificate

⁵ 1871 census return for 19 Camden Street, Newington, RG10/620 f45 p20

⁶ *op cit*

⁷ 1881 census return for 19 Camden Street, Newington, RG11/549 f79 p14

⁸ 1891 census return for 3 Granby Buildings, Lambeth, RG12/392 f119 p32

⁹ ONS death reference for Frederick W DELLA ROCCA, age 71, 1/1909, Lambeth, 1d 235; National Probate Calendar

¹⁰ 1861 census return for 12 South Street, Westminster, RG9/46 f85 p3

¹¹ Charlotte was baptised on 02 JUN 1869; both dates, and the address, are from the baptism register of St John the Evangelist, Charlotte Street, Camden

Eleanor (baptised 07 NOV 1869 at St Andrew, Stockwell¹), while living at 6 Chapel Street). Neither daughter survived, though: Charlotte died during the second quarter of 1870, and Edith died towards the end of 1871. Thus she appears in the 1871 census², and William is listed in the Voting List for 1879³, by which time they had moved to Lambeth.

The 1881 census return⁴ 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 age and place of birth indicate that this should have been Clara – no Charlotte DELLA ROCCA (with the exception of a deceased daughter⁵) 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); certainly she was the right age. 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 between the two Claras.

William died in SEP 1885⁶, 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 Newington⁷. By this time Clara was 48; Charles was almost ten years her junior, at 39. The address of them both was 60 Holyoak Row. Charles Layton had been one of the witnesses at the wedding of Clara Sarah Mary Ann to Thomas George GREEN the month before William died (see earlier, page 15). Three years later the 1891 census shows Charles and Clara back at 157/156 Princes Road. Charles was a ‘house painter’, but Clara was shown as ‘refreshment house keeper – coffee’.

Clara died at the age of 55 towards the end of 1895⁸. Charles married again about six months later, on 05 JUL 1896⁹, to Sarah Elizabeth CHILDERS, a widow. The address of both was 17 Springfield Place. His death has not been conclusively found, but a Charles T LAYTON of the right age died in Yeovil in 1911¹⁰; his second initial ‘F’ could conceivably have been mistaken for a ‘T’, but why Yeovil?

¹ these details from a transcription in *Ancestry*

² 1871 census return for 13 Chapel Street, Stockwell, RG10/678 f3 p5

³ *op cit*, at 157 Princes Road

⁴ 1881 census return for 157/156 Princes Road, Lambeth, RG11/596 f100 p10

⁵ see further details under William’s entry on page 27

⁶ ONS death reference for William John D ROCCA aged 46, Q3/1885, Lambeth 1d 246

⁷ marriage certificate, St Matthew’s Church, Newington

⁸ ONS death reference for Clara Ann LAYTON, age 55, Q4/1895, Lambeth, 1d 260

⁹ marriage register for All Saints, South Lambeth

¹⁰ ONS death reference for Charles T LAYTON aged 61, Q4/1911, Yeovil, 5c 479

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

William, the third 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. At this date the family was living in Jurston Street, Waterloo³.

He married Mary Ann HOSGOOD, four years his junior, on 28 JUL 1834⁴. 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, Lambeth⁵; William John (their second child – the first had died in infancy) was with Mary Ann's father, William OSGOOD, in Cheam⁶, together with John and Jane, presumably Mary's younger siblings.

By 1851⁷, ten years later, William, Mary Ann and son William John 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 1861⁸ 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 1865⁹. William survived her by a couple of years, dying in the first few months of 1867¹⁰ 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 1863¹¹. She had been born in Axbridge, Somerset, in 1842¹².

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

² baptism register of St Mary, Lambeth

³ Jurston Street no longer exists, but was roughly where Frazier Street now is – in the angle between Waterloo Road and Westminster Bridge Road

⁴ marriage register of St Mary, Lambeth, page 245

⁵ 1841 census return for 24 Albans Street

⁶ 1841 census return for Steven's Row, Cheam, HO107/1079/4, f29 p6

⁷ 1851 census return for 29 George Street, Lambeth, f428

⁸ 1861 census return for 9 Loughboro Street, Lambeth, f117 p9

⁹ ONS death record for Mary Ann DELLA ROCCA, Q2/1865, Lambeth, 1d 206

¹⁰ ONS death record for William DELLA ROCCA aged 55, Q1/1867, Lambeth, 1d 191

¹¹ marriage certificate

¹² ONS birth reference for Hannah MAIN, Q3/1842, Axbridge, 10 291

She died just over a year after the marriage on 12 OCT 1864¹ 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.

Twenty months after Hannah's death, on 17 JUN 1866, William married his cousin Clara Ann (the daughter of Michael and Charlotte – see page 24) in Kennington Parish Church². 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. Two children have been found from this marriage, both daughters. Charlotte Marianne was born on 18 JUL 1868 and baptised on 02 JUN 1869³ at St John the Evangelist, in Charlotte Street, Camden. No birth registration has been found for Charlotte; however, a Charlotte ROCCA birth was registered at the right time⁴ and the registration of a death⁵ just two years later is likely to refer to this child although this would mean that her birth was registered in Newington, she was baptised in Camden and her death was registered in Lambeth. The second daughter, Edith Eleanor, was born on 04 OCT 1869 and baptised on 07 NOV 1869 at St Andrew, Stockwell Green⁶; so between June and November 1869 the family moved from Camden to Stockwell. Edith died when she was two⁷.

Further details of this family will be found above on page 24.

William John died on 03 SEP 1885; the informant on the death certificate is 'C A Della Rocca, widow'. Three years later Clara married for the second time, to Charles LAYTON (see further information on page 25).

Sarah Mary Ann (1843 – 1843)

039JC

The second daughter and third child of William and Mary Ann survived for an even shorter time than her elder sister; born in 1843⁸ and baptised on 25 OCT 1843, she died⁹ and was buried before the end of the year.

¹ death certificate

² marriage certificate, Kennington Parish Church

³ both these dates from the baptism register of St John the Evangelist (Camden), via Ancestry

⁴ ONS birth registration for Charlotte Mary A ROCCA, Q3/1868, Newington, 1d 259

⁵ ONS death registration for Charlotte Mary A DELLAROCCHA, Q2/1870, Lambeth 1d 255

⁶ dates from the St Andrew baptism register

⁷ ONS death reference for Edith Eleanor DELLA-ROCCA aged 2, Q4/1869, Lambeth, 1d 428

⁸ ONS birth reference for Sarah Mary Ann DELLA ROCCA, Q4/1843, Lambeth, 4 258

⁹ 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 1824*². I have found no evidence of his date of birth, though if his age as stated in the various census returns is correct he must have born between 09 AUG 1823 and 03 APR 1824. The baptism entry shows the family abode as ‘Lambeth Walk’ and the profession of Michael, his father, as ‘artificial flower maker’.

His family has been found in each census return from 1841 to 1901, and his whole life was spent around Lambeth Walk – although he lived at no fewer than four different addresses within just this one street.

It seems that he lived for a time with his brother Michael at Bolwell Terrace, at least until 1848 (see page 18). On 30 JUN 1845³ he married Frances Elizabeth NEW. She had been baptised on *29 MAR 1826*⁴ 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’, although the 1841 census four years earlier shows him as a ‘plumber apprentice’. Frances and he had a total of 13 children⁵, of whom all but three survived beyond infancy.

Their first two children, Sarah Ann and Frances Teresa, were both baptised (at St Mary, Lambeth) on 27 AUG 1848; the address given was 1 Bolwell Terrace, so presumably they were still living with his brother at the time.

By 1851 Stephen was again a plumber (which was his career for the rest of his life) and the family 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 Frances’s younger brother – the 1841 census shows parents Richard and Sarah NEW with children Fanny (15), Sarah (13) and Richard (10)⁷. He later married an Elizabeth and in 1881 they were living, with seven children, at 2 Claydon Buildings in Lambeth⁸.

The census return for 1861⁹ shows that Stephen and Frances were still at the same address, 53 Lambeth Walk, with Stephen now a ‘plumber and glazier’; it also shows that James George HEPBURN, a ‘plumber and glazier’s apprentice’, was staying with them; this was daughter Sarah’s future husband.

The family was living at this address until at least 1863, as on *03 MAY 1863* five children were baptised at St Mary’s¹⁰: Ernest Henry, Kate Elizabeth, Louisa, Elizabeth Alexandra, and Stephen Edward. The register confirms the address as ‘Lambeth Walk’, and Stephen’s profession as ‘plumber’, but unfortunately doesn’t give a birthdate for any of the children, although from later census entries these are roughly 1857, 1859, 1861, 1863, 1863.

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

² baptism register for St Mary, Lambeth, page 108

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 1841 census return for Richmond Street, Lambeth St Mary, HO107/1058/10 f32 p17

⁸ 1881 census return for 2 Claydon Buildings, RG11/596

⁹ 1861 census return for 53 Lambeth Walk, RG9/351

¹⁰ baptism register for St Mary, Lambeth, page 137

The eldest two daughters, Sarah Ann and Frances Teresa, were both married at Newington (in 1863 and 1869 respectively). By 1868 the family had moved to Union Street, Kennington Road. Although the Post Office directory for 1868 shows the family at 58 Union Street, the 1871 census return¹ gives the address as number 57.

By 1877, and possibly for some years prior to that, Stephen was a Vestryman, or member of the parish council; he is shown as living at 123 Lambeth Walk. This is confirmed in the 1881 census. 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 census². As well as four children (Kate, Elizabeth, Clara and Frederick) Clara’s husband Thomas CARLILE (Clara and Thomas 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.

It is apparent that Stephen’s business ran into difficulties towards the end of the 1890s, when he was in his mid-70s. His name appeared as a debtor in the *London Gazette* dated 9th December 1898³. The notice gave his address as 69 Lambeth Walk and his profession as builder.

Frances died in 1899, aged 73⁴, indicating that she had been born in 1826; although on her wedding day (30 JUN 1845) she was shown as ‘of full age’ she would in reality have been no more than 20. The various census returns all indicate a 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 return⁵ shows Stephen, now a widower, living in Berkley Street, Lambeth, with Kate, Elizabeth and Frederick, all still single. 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 October 1906⁶, and was buried on 12 OCT 1906⁷ in Norwood Cemetery. The address given was 14 Berkley Street, Lambeth Walk.

Sarah Ann (1847 – 1918)

0390A

Sarah Ann was baptised on 27 AUG 1848⁸, although she had been born about eighteen months earlier⁹. She married James George HEPBURN, a plumber, on 02 DEC 1863¹⁰; this was the James George HEPBURN who had been staying with her and her parents in 1861¹¹.

¹ 1871 census return for 57 Union Street, RG10/665

² 1891 census return for 69 Lambeth Walk, RG12/394 f126 p21-22

³ London Gazette issue 27031, page 8032

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

⁵ 1901 census return for 14 Berkley Street, Lambeth, RG13/406 f 25 p42

⁶ ONS death reference for Stephen A DELLA-ROCCA, age 82, 4/1906, Lambeth, 1d 159

⁷ burial register for Norwood cemetery, page 3647

⁸ baptism register for St Mary, Lambeth

⁹ ONS birth reference for Sarah Ann DELLAROCCA, Q1/1847, Lambeth, 4/283

¹⁰ marriage register for St Peter, Walworth, page 137

¹¹ 1861 census return for 53 Lambeth Walk, RG9/351 f42

His birth, in 1842, had been registered in Clerkenwell¹. At the time of the marriage the address of both was given as Trafalgar Street: although the certificate states the age of each to be 21, Sarah wasn't yet 17 – a fact that apparently wasn't queried.

James and Sarah Ann produced just three children, the first of which, Arthur James², was born no more than six months after the wedding. Two daughters followed: Elizabeth C³ and Jane⁴. In 1871⁵, and for at least the next ten years⁶, the family was living at 17 White Hart Street, Lambeth. They moved from there to Brixton⁷, where they stayed for the next twenty years.

James died in 1900⁸ and by 1901⁹ Sarah Ann, still in the same house, had taken in a boarder. She has not been found in the 1911 census; according to Ivy¹⁰, she died in 1918 although no ONS record has been found.

Frances Theresa (1848 – 1941)

0390B

Frances was born on 03 AUG 1848¹¹ and baptised on the same day as her sister Sarah Ann, on 27 AUG 1848¹², a few weeks after her birth¹³.

On 13 APR 1869¹⁴, a few months before her 21st birthday, she married Joseph Croucher, an insurance clerk, who was living at 45 North Street. He had been born in 1848¹⁵; the birth was registered locally. A couple of years after their marriage they were living in Leyton¹⁶ although Joseph, their first son, had been born in Camberwell. The next child, Ernest, was born in Leytonstone but the next three were again born south of the river, in the Bermondsey/Peckham area¹⁷. In 1881, by which time Joseph was clerk to a cabinet-maker, they had moved further east to Deptford¹⁸ where the last three children were born, and they stayed there for some years¹⁹; 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 Wallington²⁰ and ten years later, in 1911²¹, they had moved a little further out to Epsom, where they were sharing an eight-room

¹ ONS birth reference for James George HEPBURN, Q3/1842, Clerkenwell, 3 83

² ONS birth reference for Arthur James HEPBURN, Q2/1864, Lambeth, 1d 295

³ ONS birth reference for Elizabeth C HEPBURN, Q2/1866, Lambeth, 1d 321

⁴ ONS birth reference for Jane HEPBURN, Q4/1868, Lambeth, 1d 399

⁵ 1871 census return for 17 White Hart Street, Lambeth, RG10/660

⁶ 1881 census return for 17 White Hart Street, RG11/600

⁷ 1891 census return for 34 Wynne Road, Brixton, RG12/407 f12 p18

⁸ ONS death reference for James George HEPBURN aged 58, Q3/1900, Lambeth, 1d 305

⁹ 1901 census return for 34 Wynne Road, Brixton, RG13/434 f64 p7

¹⁰ letter from Ivy DELLA ROCCA

¹¹ 1939 Register

¹² baptism register for St Mary, Lambeth

¹³ ONS birth reference for Frances Theresa DELLA ROCCA, Q3/1848, Lambeth, 4/287

¹⁴ marriage register for St Peter, Walworth, page 169

¹⁵ ONS birth reference for Joseph CROUCHER, Q2/1848, Newington, 4 389

¹⁶ 1871 census return for 3 Hadley Road, Leyton, RG10/1685, f19 p30

¹⁷ this information from the various listed census returns

¹⁸ 1881 census return for 51 Billington Street, Deptford, RG11/701f42 p32

¹⁹ 1891 census return for 60 Jermingham Road, Deptford, RG12/504 f47 p15

²⁰ 1901 census return for Brookridge, Onslow Gardens, Wallington, RG13/653 f87 p29

²¹ 1911 census return for Stamford Lodge, West Hill, Epsom. RG14/2960 ED13 SN43

house with Sidney and Kate STONE. Joseph was retired by this time and all the children had left home. The record shows that one of their eight children had died by this time.

Joseph died in 1925¹ and was buried in Epsom Cemetery. Some time after that Frances returned to Wallington, to live with her son Ernest and his wife²; she survived Joseph for 16 years and died in 1941³.

Mary Ann (1850 – 1939)

0390C

Mary Ann was born on 09 FEB 1850⁴ and baptised two years later on 15 FEB 1852⁵, the same day as her elder brother Charles. She first appears in the 1851 census return⁶, when the family was at 53 Lambeth Walk. At the time of the 1871 census⁷ she was still living with her parents, now in Union Street, but towards the end of that year on 05 DEC 1871⁸ she married Alexander COPLEY in Stepney⁹. Alexander had been born in Stepney towards the end of 1847¹⁰ and at the time of the 1871 census¹¹ was living in Limehouse with his parents, who had both been born in Sheffield in about 1806. He was an ‘edge tool maker’, and the address of both was Providence Place.

Alexander and Mary Ann’s first child, Ada Lingard¹², was born on 09 DEC 1873¹³, a little over two years after their marriage.

In 1881, by which time Mary Ann and Alexander had been married almost ten years, they were living in Poplar¹⁴. Alexander was a ‘saw maker’. Three years later, on JUL 1884¹⁵ a son, Alexander Frederick¹⁶, 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 return¹⁷ shows the family of four living in Commercial Road, Limehouse; ten years later¹⁸ they were at the same address and employing a servant.

Alexander (Mary Ann’s husband) died at the age of 55 on 11 NOV 1902¹⁹; their address at the time was 668 Commercial Road, Limehouse. Mary Ann lived a further 37 years and died in 1939; this information came from Ivy Della Rocca²⁰. No record of a death has been found, although it is likely that she died abroad (see below, in the information for Alexander

¹ ONS death reference for Joseph CROUCHER aged 77, Q2/1925, Epsom, 2a 59

² 1939 Register

³ Information from Ivy DELLA ROCCA

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

⁵ baptism register for St Mary, Lambeth

⁶ 1851 census return for 53 Lambeth Walk, Lambeth, HO107/1051 f271

⁷ 1871 census return for 57 Union Street, Lambeth, RG10/665 EN 15

⁸ information from Alejandro Copley, Argentina and marriage register for St Anne, page 115

⁹ ONS marriage reference for Alexander COPLEY and Mary Ann DELLA ROCCA, Q4/1871, Stepney, 1c 1067

¹⁰ ONS birth reference for Alexander COPLEY, Q4/1847, S Geo East, 2 879

¹¹ 1871 census return for 7 West India Road, St Anne Limehouse, RG10/552

¹² ONS birth reference, Ada Lingard COPLEY, Q1/1873, Mile End, 1c 588

¹³ information from Alejandro Copley, Argentina

¹⁴ 1881 census return for 74 Sussex Street, All Saints Poplar, RG11/507 p84

¹⁵ information from Alejandro Copley, Argentina

¹⁶ ONS birth reference for Alexander Frederick COPLEY, Q3/1884, Stepney, 1c 423

¹⁷ 1891 census return for 668 Commercial Road, Limehouse, RG12/297 f4 p2

¹⁸ 1901 census return for 668 Commercial Road, Limehouse, RG13/322 f112 p6

¹⁹ ONS death reference for Alexander COPLEY aged 55, Q4/1902, Stepney, 1c 70 and National Probate Calendar

²⁰ information from Ivy Della Rocca in her letter

Frederick). I have a note of a Douglas Copley, of 23 Lychway, Church Hill, Horsell, Woking¹.

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 married² Charles Edward A BALDWIN. The marriage was short-lived and her death was registered in Poplar the following year³.

Alexander Frederick COPLEY, born in 1884, was shown in the 1901 census⁴ 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 York⁵. 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 probable that she died abroad. Some time later Frederick moved to Buenos Aires, in Argentina, which is where he died in 1953⁶. 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 1852⁷ and buried on 04 APR 1852⁸.

Alice Ellen (1853 – 1855)

0390E

Alice Ellen shared the fate of her brother Charles; she was born towards the beginning of 1853⁹, baptised on 12 MAR 1854¹⁰, and buried less than twelve months later.

Stephen Charles (1855 – 1915)

0390F

Stephen Charles was born in 1855¹¹, but he appears not to have been baptised. His first wife was Caroline SMITH, born in Kingsland, Middlesex¹² in 1853; they were married in 1876¹³. 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). At the time of Charles Frederick's baptism¹⁴ (at St Mary's) they were living at 7 Laverton Road, but by the time of Frederick Alexander's baptism on 25 AUG 1880, which took place at St John the Divine in Kennington, their address was 1 Elliott Road¹⁵. They then lived in

¹ from Ivy Della Rocca's letter

² ONS marriage reference for Ada Lingard COPLEY and Charles Edward A BALDWIN, Q2/1894, Stepney, 1c 505

³ ONS death reference for Ada Lingard BALDWIN aged 22, Q2/1895, Poplar, 1c 410

⁴ 1901 census return for 668 Commercial Road, Limehouse, RG13/322 f112 p6

⁵ www.findmypast.com/passengerListShowImage.action?imageSet=PL&uvn=621000013&vsn=560&pageno=15

⁶ information on Frederick's family in Argentina is from Enrique Alejandro COPLEY, grandson of Frederick

⁷ record transcript for Charles James de la ROCCA from FindMyPast

⁸ dates from registers at St Mary, Lambeth

⁹ ONS birth reference for Alice Ellen ROCCA, Q1/1853, Lambeth, 1d 294

¹⁰ record transcript from FindMyPast

¹¹ ONS birth reference for Stephen Charles DELLA ROCCA, Q2/1855, Lambeth, 1d 263

¹² information from 1881 and 1891 census returns

¹³ ONS marriage reference for Stephen Charles DELLA-ROCCA and Caroline SMITH, Q2/1876, Lambeth, 1d 478

¹⁴ 12 AUG 1877, from St Mary's baptism register

¹⁵ baptism register for St John the Divine, Kennington, page 265

Railton Road, Brixton, for at least a decade, as shown by the census returns for 1881¹ and 1891². By 1898 they had moved to Mervan Road³, and they were there at the time of the 1901 census return⁴, at which time Caroline's mother Mary Ann was living with them. Caroline died a few months after the census was taken, on 18 JUL 1901⁵.

In November that year banns were read on 9, 16 and 23 November⁶ for Stephen's second marriage, this time to Rosa Louisa REED, although the marriage did not take place until over a year later, on 06 DEC 1902⁷. Rosa had been born in 1872⁸ and the birth registered in Stepney. At the time of the banns both Stephen and Louisa were living in Oriental Street, Poplar. This marriage produced Ivy (1906 – 1996) and Rosa Alexandra (1908 – 1989)⁹. By 1911¹⁰ the 'new' family – Stephen, Rosa, Ivy and Rosa, was living in Forest Gate.

Ivy, born in Folkestone, was the source of much useful information about the Della Rocca family used throughout this document. Her father, Stephen Charles, died in November 1915¹¹.

The same Register records that Rosa Louisa and Rosa Alexandra (widowed mother, shown as 'incapacitated (blind)' and the younger daughter, a 'grocer's assistant') were living together at 12 St Faiths Road, Winchester. Rosa Louisa died in 1950, aged 78¹².

The first son from the first marriage, **Charles Frederick**, was born in 1877¹³. At the age of 20 he married Fanny Selina POULTER¹⁴, and they had at least seven children¹⁵, although I have found only six. The 1901 census return shows the family living in two rooms in Clapham¹⁶ with children Maud (3) and Charles (1). A third child, Edward Alexander, was born on 06 JUN 1902 while the family was living at 19 Cornwall Road, Brixton, and baptised on 25 JUN 1902 at St Saviour, Brixton Hill¹⁷; he died very soon afterwards¹⁸. On 05 DEC 1904 the whole family (Charles, Fanny, Maud and Charles jun) was admitted to the Princes Road workhouse¹⁹, from an address of 25 Brandon Road. On the same day the two children were moved to the Renfrew Road workhouse. The following day, 06 DEC 1904, the parents were discharged (at their own request) while Charles (aged just 4) was sent to the Norwood School. Little Maud, two years older, was moved to the infirmary, but returned to the workhouse just four days later

¹ 1881 census return for 56 Railton Road, Lambeth, RG11/623 f12 p18

² 1891 census return for 56 Railton Road, Lambeth, RG12/413, f55 p41

³ Electoral register

⁴ 1901 census return for 67 Mervan Road, Brixton, RG13/430 f132 p22

⁵ ONS death reference for Caroline DELLA-ROCCA, age 48, 3/1901, Lambeth, 1d 267

⁶ banns register for All Saints, Poplar

⁷ marriage register for the Parish church, Poplar

⁸ ONS birth reference for Rosa Louisa REED, Q4/1872, Stepney, 1c 485

⁹ ONS birth reference for Rosa Alexandra DELLA-ROCCA, Q1/1909, Lambeth, 1d 299

¹⁰ 1911 census return for 3 Prestbury Road, Forest Gate, RG14/9561 ED5 SN304

¹¹ ONS death reference for Stephen C DELLARECCA aged 60, Q4/1915, W. Ham, 4a 270

¹² ONS death reference for Rosa L DELLAROCCA aged 78, Q4/1950, Winchester, 6b 734

¹³ ONS birth reference for Charles Frederick DELLA ROCCA, Q1/1877, Lambeth, 1d 459

¹⁴ ONS marriage reference for Charles Frederick DELLA-ROCCA and Fanny Selina POULTER, Q2/1897, Lambeth, 1d 906

¹⁵ 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

¹⁶ 1901 census return for 36 Lyham Road, Clapham, RG13/466, f7 p5

¹⁷ both these dates from St Saviour's baptism register, page 40

¹⁸ ONS death reference for Edward A DELLAROCCA, age 0, Q3/1902, Lambeth, 1d 260

¹⁹ workhouse admission and discharge records (LMA)

and was later sent to Norwood School to join her brother. Both children then were re-admitted to the workhouse on 06 JAN 1905 but discharged later on the same day¹.

Two more children – twin boys, James and Frederick – were born on 16 OCT 1905 and baptised four days later on 20 OCT 1905 at St Philip's, Kennington Road, though Frederick died soon afterwards². The address given in the register was 'Lambeth Workhouse'. Three years later their last child, George William, was born on 30 AUG 1908 (and baptised on 30 SEP 1908). The family's address was now 23 Mauleverer Road, Norwood.

The following census return, that of 1911³, shows the family living in Brixton, in the same road as seven years earlier, and Charles Frederick, at the age of 35, out of work. It is recorded that he fell under his horse at Vauxhall in 1915, and was killed⁴. On 15 JAN 1917 both James and George were admitted to the Renfrew Road workhouse, but the following day they were released to the Norwood School.

Fanny (Frances) married again five years after Charles' death, to William E NEAL⁵. She is shown in the 1939 Register living at 12 Bradley Street, Lambeth with her youngest child George, who was still single and a 'lorry driver's mate'.

Charles's brother, **Frederick Alexander**, was born in 1879⁶, and married Alice Maud WOOD in 1898⁷. They are shown in the 1901 census return⁸ living in Herne Hill with two children, Gladys and Frederick; father Frederick was a 'general labourer'. The following census, that of 1911⁹, shows them living in six rooms in Balham with their two children Gladys Lilian and Frederick Charles¹⁰. 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.

Frederick Alexander enlisted in the Army on 03 MAR 1917¹¹ at the Central London Recruiting Depot in Whitehall¹²; his address at the time was 98 Hydethorpe Road, Balham. He gave his age as 36y 11m, giving a birthdate of April 1880, understating his age by a few months. He was awarded the Victory medal on 20 MAY 1919. He died on 21 MAR 1954¹³ in hospital at Shoreham, leaving an estate of £174 9s 11d. His address at the time was Comphurst, Boundstone Lane, Lancing.

Daughter Gladys married Dennis O'Malley in 1919, just before her 21st birthday¹⁴. She died in 1967, aged 68¹⁵.

¹ Lambeth Workhouse records

² ONS birth and death references for Frederick DELLA-ROCCA, Q4/1905, Lambeth, 1d 328 and 1d 400

³ 1911 census return for 6 Brandon Road, Brixton, RG14/2104 ED5 SN402

⁴ information from Ivy's letter, *op cit*; ONS death reference for Charles F DELLAROCCA aged 39, Q2/1915, St George, Hanover Square, 1a 647

⁵ ONS marriage reference for William E NEAL and Frances S DELLAROCCA, Q3/1920, Lambeth, 1d 982

⁶ ONS birth reference for Frederick Alexander DELLAROCCA, Q4/1879, Lambeth, 1d 402

⁷ most of the information in this section is from Kenneth Della Rocca

⁸ 1901 census return for 20 Effra Parade, Herne Hill, RG13/430 f33 p2

⁹ 1911 census return for 98 Hydethorpe Road, Balham, RG14/2283 f33 p344

¹⁰ Gladys was born 14 JUN 1899, Frederick 20 OCT 1900, from Frederick's Army service record

¹¹ WW1 service record for Frederick Alexander

¹² conscription, first applying only to single men or widowers, was extended to married men on 25 MAY 1916

¹³ National Probate Calendar

¹⁴ ONS marriage reference for George D O'MALLEY and Gladys L Della-Rocca, Q3/1919, Lambeth, 1d 1309

¹⁵ ONS death reference for Gladys O'Malley aged 68, Q4/1967, Gloucester R, 7b 514

Her brother Frederick Charles married Elsie Gladys FRENCH on 01 SEP 1923; their only child was Kenneth John (born 21 JAN 1925). At the time of the 1939 Register Frederick and Gladys were living at 45 Wolsey Road, Kingston, with son Kenneth. They were also sharing the house with Frederick's parents, Frederick Alexander and Alice Maud, together with Alice's brother William H.

Kenneth 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. Kenneth is the only member of the Della Rocca family whom I have met face-to-face.

Maud, the only daughter from Stephen Charles' first marriage, was born in 1882 and married John MAXWELL in 1903¹. They had at least three children (May Isobel², Douglas Alexander³, Doris Maud⁴) as indicated by the 1911 census return which shows them living in Herne Hill⁵. John joined the Army and, as a Private in the Royal Army Service Corps, along with many other British soldiers sailed on SS Malwa from London on 13 SEP 1917; he was bound for Port Said, in Egypt. He died on 29 SEP 1950 at Bromley, in Kent, and Maud survived him for nine years, dying at age 76.

Ivy Frances was the elder of the two daughters from Stephen Charles' second marriage, to Rosa Louisa REED. She was born on 19 MAR 1906 at Folkestone. Although she gave me a considerable amount of information about her own family members, she was reticent about her own life; it came as quite a surprise to find that she had been adopted. The 1911 census⁶ shows her, aged 5, living with her parents (Stephen Charles and Rosa Louisa) and her 2-year-old sister Rosa in Forest Gate, in East London. Her father died four years later. The following census, that of 1921⁷, shows that Ivy was living with her aunt Kate Elizabeth in Southampton and 'studying for pianoforte teaching' – moreover, the census indicates that Ivy is an 'adopted child'.

No further record has been found until the 1939 Register, which shows that Ivy was still living in Southampton with her aunt Kate Elizabeth (see page 37). Ivy died on 16 JUL 1994 at Winchester, never having married.

Rosa Alexandra was Ivy's younger sister, and the youngest child born to Stephen Charles. She was born on 28 NOV 1908 and first appears in the 1911 census with her parents and elder sister Ivy. Like her elder sister, she never married and was recorded in the 1939 Register living at 12 St Faith's Road, Winchester, with her mother Rosa Louisa, who was registered as 'blind'. Rosa Alexandra was a 'Grocer's assistant'.

Ernest Henry (1857 – 1927)

0390G

Ernest was born in 1857⁸ and baptised on 03 MAY 1863⁹ at the age of six. In 1883¹ he married Elizabeth Louisa FORD, who had been born in Guernsey. From at least 1891 they were living

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

² ONS birth reference for May Isabel MAXWELL, Q2/1904, Lambeth, 1d 467

³ ONS birth reference for Douglas Alexander MAXWELL, Q3/1905, Lambeth, 1d 448

⁴ ONS birth reference for Doris Maud MAXWELL, Q2/1907, Lambeth, 1d 448

⁵ 1911 census return for 22 Chaucer Road, Herne Hill, RG14/2096, ED47 SN80

⁶ 1911 census return for 3 Prestbury Road, Forest Gate, RG14/9561 ED5 SN304

⁷ 1921 census return for 19 Princess Street, Southampton, RG15/5611 Sch 212 ED43

⁸ from census entries

⁹ baptism register for St Mary, Lambeth

in Brixton: the 1891 census² and the 1891-2 Voting List³ show the family (with children Ernest⁴, May⁵, Allen⁶ and Lillie⁷) at 24 Railton Road; and for the 1894-5 List Ernest was at 26 Barnwell Road. The family was still at this address in 1901⁸.

Ten years later, in 1911, they had moved house⁹ again; Ernest junior, from being a railway porter in 1901, had become a house painter like his father. The census return confirms that four children had been born, but one had died: May's death was registered towards the end of 1904¹⁰.

Elizabeth died on 13 NOV 1926 and Ernest survived her for only a few months, dying on 03 MAY 1927¹¹.

Ernest Arthur, the eldest son, married Ellen HASSALL in 1913; the marriage was registered at Lambeth¹². Some time later they moved to the Potteries area (it is likely that Ellen had been born near Nantwich) and Ellen died in 1931¹³. A little over a year later Ernest married Martha Ann WATTS¹⁴. She was six years older than Ernest. The 1939 Register shows them living at 64 Frederick Street, Stoke on Trent; Ernest was an 'omnibus cleaner' and Martha a 'warehouse basket emptier'. Martha and Ernest both died in 1959¹⁵, at Oldham. No children have been found from either marriage.

May, the first daughter and second child of Ernest and Elizabeth, died at the age of 18¹⁶.

Allen Stewart joined the Irish Fusiliers and became Acting Colour Sergeant. He appears in the 1928 Electoral Register living at 14 St Mary's Street, SE11 (Lambeth), apparently still single. The following year, on 16 FEB 1929, he embarked on SS Oronsay and emigrated to Fremantle, Australia. He took up residence in Canning, Swan, Western Australia, and married Sadie. He joined the Australian military for the duration of the Second World War, although he would have been over 50, and died in 1952; the death was registered at Perth.

Lillie married Henry Edward WESTWOOD at St Philip, Lambeth, on 06 SEP 1914. They had three daughters: May, Kathleen (who died as an infant) and Margaret. Henry died in 1936 and Lillie died almost 30 years later, at the age of 74.

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

² 1891 census return for 24 Railton Road, Brixton, RG12/413 f53 p37

³ *op cit*, in both instances

⁴ ONS birth reference for Ernest Arthur DELLA-ROCCA, Q4/1884, Lambeth, 1d 417

⁵ ONS birth reference for May DELLAROCCA, Q2/1886, Lambeth, 1d 415

⁶ ONS birth reference for Allen Stewart DELLA ROCCA, Q3/1888, Lambeth, 1d 386

⁷ ONS birth reference for Lillie DELLAROCCA, Q1/1891, Lambeth, 1d 503

⁸ 1901 census return for 26 Barnwell Road, Brixton, RG13/430 f91 p54

⁹ 1911 census return for 14 St Mary's Street, Lambeth, RG14/1976 ED2 SN243

¹⁰ ONS death reference for May Della ROCCA aged 18, Q4/1904, Pancras, 1b 63

¹¹ ONS death references for Elizabeth L DELLA-ROCCA aged 76, Q4/1926, Lambeth, 1d 239 and Ernest H DELLA ROCCA age 70, Q2/1927, Lambeth, 1d 200

¹² ONS marriage reference for Ernest A DELLA ROCCA and Ellen HASSALL, Q2/1913, Lambeth, 1d 653

¹³ ONS death reference for Ellen DELLA-ROCCA aged 44, Q3/1931, Stoke T., 6b 153

¹⁴ ONS marriage reference for Ernest A DELLAROCCA and Martha A WATTS, Q4/1932, Stoke T., 6b 283

¹⁵ ONS death reference for Ernest A DELLAROCCO aged 74, Q1/1959, Oldham, 10f 146; Martha A DELLAROCCA aged 81, Q1/1959, Oldham, 10f 55

¹⁶ ONS death reference for May DELLA-ROCCA age 18, Q4/1904, Pancras, 1b 63

Kate Elizabeth (1859 – 1944)

0390H

Kate Elizabeth, born two years after Ernest Henry, was baptised on the same day, 03 MAY 1863¹, along with three other siblings. She appears in each census return up to and including that of 1891 living with her parents, Stephen Anthony and Frances², 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, Lambeth³, 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 Lambeth⁴. 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 38 for more details).

Kate married William LEWIS in 1913⁵; the marriage was registered, surprisingly, at Southampton. This was, presumably, where they set up home. The 1921 census⁶ shows William and Kate at 19 Princess Street, Southampton. They have no children of their own but were providing a home for Ivy Frances, whom it seems they had adopted.

Kate appears in the 1939 Register, by which date she was a widow, and living at La Maisonette, Spring Road, Sholing, Southampton, with Ivy Frances, a niece. She died on 28 JAN 1944⁷. No children from the marriage have been found; probate was granted to Stanley Richard Payne CARLILE, commercial clerk (the son of Kate’s younger sister Clara Maria) and the value of the estate was an astonishing £28,593.

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 Walk⁸ with her parents Stephen and Frances.

Ten years later she had moved to Saville Place⁹. 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 address¹⁰ and both were shown as corsetmakers. Louisa hasn’t been found in the 1911 census and it is possible that she emigrated to America. She died, still a spinster, in 1931¹¹.

¹ baptism register for St Mary, Lambeth

² see references given in this section

³ 1901 census return for 14 Berkley Street, Lambeth, RG13/406 p42

⁴ 1911 census return for 54 Lower Marsh, Lambeth, RG14/1953 ED11 SN123

⁵ ONS marriage reference for William H LEWIS and Kate Elizabeth DELLA ROCCA, Q4/1913, Southampton, 2c62

⁶ 1921 census return for 19 Princess Street, Southampton, RG15/5611 schedule 221 ED43

⁷ National Probate Register

⁸ 1881 census return for 123 Lambeth Walk, RG11/595 f89 p42

⁹ 1891 census return for 17 Saville Place, Lambeth, RG13/405 f62 p16-17

¹⁰ 1901 census return for 17 Saville Place, Lambeth, RG13/405 f70 p16

¹¹ according to Ivy DELLA ROCCA; certainly no marriage has been found

Elizabeth Alexandra (1863 – 1944)

0390J

Elizabeth Alexandra was also baptised on 03 MAY 1863¹ and, like her sister Kate, was still living with her parents in 1901² (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 1917³, by which time she was 54; like her sister Kate Elizabeth’s, the marriage was registered in Southampton. Frederick was a railway clerk, and by 1939 they had moved to Lynton, Capel Street, Capel-Le-Ferne, Dover⁴. In her letter Ivy states that Elizabeth died in MAR 1944, and this has been confirmed⁵. It seems that Frederick later moved away from Kent, as two possibilities for his death are 1950 (in Portsmouth) or 1951 (in Winchester)⁶.

Stephen Edward (1863 – ?)

0390K

Apart from joining four of his siblings in being baptised on 03 MAY 1863⁷, nothing further is known of him. There is a possibility that the entry in the baptism register (see opposite) is incorrect and it was really Stephen Charles who was baptised on that day; if this is so then ‘Stephen Edward’ never existed. For further examination of this please see Appendix 0390K on page 41.

Clara Maria (1865 – 1908)

0390L

Clara Maria was baptised on 17 SEP 1865. On 19 JUL 1888⁸ she married Thomas Payne CARLILE, six years older than Clara; he was a ‘licensed victualler’s manager’. The address given for both was 69 Lambeth Walk.

The 1891 census return⁹ shows her as a ‘licenced victualler’ and Thomas as a ‘licenced manager’; they were living with her parents in Lambeth Walk. They already had their first child, Stanley.

Ten years later, in 1901, Thomas and Clara were living in Lower Marsh¹⁰ 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 44¹¹; rather surprisingly the death was registered in Hastings. Clara died on 12 JUL 1908¹²; her address was ‘The Carpenters Arms’, 54 Lower Marsh, Lambeth. Her age was 42, giving a birthdate between 13 JUL 1865 and 02 APR 1866.

¹ baptism register for St Mary, Lambeth

² 1901 census return for 14 Berkley Street, Lambeth, RG13/406 f25 p42

³ ONS marriage reference for Frederick HISCOCK and Elizabeth A DELLA ROCCA, Q2/1917, Southampton, 2c 63

⁴ 1939 Register

⁵ ONS death reference for Elizabeth A HISCOCK aged 80, Q1/1944, Sittingbourne, 2a 1901

⁶ ONS death references for Frederick HISCOCK, age 89: Q1/1950, Portsmouth, 6b 532 or Q4/1951, Winchester, 6b 658

⁷ baptism register for St Mary, Lambeth

⁸ marriage register for St Mary, Lambeth, p177

⁹ 1891 census return for 69 Lambeth Walk, Lambeth, RG12/394 f126 p21-22

¹⁰ 1901 census return for 54 Lower Marsh (?), Lambeth, RG13/402 f60 p18

¹¹ ONS death reference for Thomas Payne CARLILE aged 44, Q2/1901, Hastings, 2b 21

¹² National Probate Register

Probate was awarded to Elizabeth Alexandra and Kate, two of her elder sisters who were both spinsters at the time, although both married later.

Stanley was the elder son; he was registered as Stanley Richard P¹ – with the P standing for Payne (according to Ivy). He is shown in the 1891 census return², 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 1911³ 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. The following year, on 18 MAY 1912, he was the subject of a Court case at the Old Bailey in which the defendant, George Braithwaite, a labourer, was found guilty of ‘indecently assaulting . . . Joseph Spence Carlile, a male person; indecently assaulting Stanley Carlile, a male person; assaulting the said S. Carlile with intent to commit an abominable crime’. Braithwaite was sentenced to 18 months’ imprisonment. Three years later Stanley married a Miss Brown.

Frederick William (1868 – 1907)

0390M

Frederick William was the youngest child of Stephen Anthony and Frances Elizabeth. His birth was registered in early 1868 and he was baptised on 02 FEB 1868. He was living with his parents until 1901⁴, in which year he was described as a ‘sanitary engineer’ – perhaps a step up from a plumber! His age is shown as 38 (possibly 35), although it should have been 33.

The following year, on 01 MAR 1902, he married Caroline Sarah WADMAN⁵. She was a widow, born Caroline RIVETT in 1865⁶; in 1890 she married Charles WADMAN⁷ but he died only two years later⁸. A son Frederick Stephen was born to Frederick and Caroline the year of their marriage, on 30 DEC 1902⁹, and baptised on 01 FEB 1903. Frederick senior died on 14 JUN 1907¹⁰ aged only 39: he therefore does not appear in the 1911 census return¹¹, but his widow Caroline is shown living in Kennington with a 16-year-old son Robert WADMAN. His year of birth, 1895, is three years after the death of Charles WADMAN and seven years before Caroline remarried.

Caroline died in Epsom Hospital on 30 APR 1938, aged 73; her address was given as 9 Wincott Street, Kennington. Probate was awarded to Robert Charles WADMAN, electrician, and Frederick Stephen DELLA ROCCA, car polisher.

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

² 1891 census return for 69 Lambeth Walk, Lambeth, RG12/394 f126 p21-22

³ 1911 census return for 54 Lower Marsh, Lambeth, RG14/1953, ED11 SN123

⁴ 1901 census return for 14 Berkley Street, Lambeth, RG13/406 f25 p42

⁵ ONS marriage reference for Frederick W DELLAROCCA and Caroline Sarah WADMAN, Q1/1902, Lambeth, 1d 508

⁶ ONS birth reference for Caroline Sarah RIVETT, Q4/1865, Newington, 1d 205

⁷ ONS marriage reference for Charles WADMAN and Caroline Sarah RIVETT, Q4/1890, St Saviour, 1d 426

⁸ ONS death reference for Charles WADMAN aged 26, Q1/1892, St Saviour, 1d 92

⁹ ONS birth reference for Frederick S DELLA ROCCA, Q1/1903, Lambeth, 1d 364

¹⁰ ONS death reference for Frederick W DELLA ROCCA, aged 39, 2/1907, Lambeth, 1d 162

¹¹ 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 37 for further details. On 19 JUN 1927, at the age of 24, Frederick Stephen married Ellen Beatrice STRINGER at Christchurch, Streatham. She was 14 months younger than Frederick. They are recorded in the 1939 Register, without any children, at 38 Wellfield Road, Streatham, where Frederick's profession is confirmed as 'motor car polisher'. There was another family at the same address: Burton William and Kathleen Margaret WIGGINS and their son Francis, aged 22. Burton was a carpenter, Francis a jeweller. Frederick died in 1989, aged 86; his death was registered at Portsmouth.

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

Appendix 039OK – Stephen Edward

As outlined on page 38, there is some doubt whether Stephen Edward existed.

He certainly appears in the baptism register for St Mary, Lambeth, on *03 MAY 1863*, as shown opposite, but there is no further record of him. In particular, there is no

- birth registration (with ONS)
- death registration
- marriage registration
- entry in the 1871 census (by which time he would have been aged about 8)
- entry in any other census.

In addition, it is difficult to see when his birth might have happened. The following table shows births and baptisms for his siblings, and it is apparent that a child was born to Stephen Anthony and Frances Elizabeth at least every two years or so.

Ref	Name	Birth	Baptism
039OA	Sarah Ann	Q1/1847	27 AUG 1848
039OB	Frances Theresa	Q3/1848	27 AUG 1848
039OC	Mary Ann	09 FEB 1850	15 FEB 1852
039OD	Charles James	FEB 1852	15 FEB 1852
039OE	Alice Ellen	Q1/1853	12 MAR 1854
039OF	Stephen Charles	Q2/1855	
039OG	Ernest Henry	Q2/1857	03 MAY 1863
039OH	Kate Elizabeth	23 APR 1859	03 MAY 1863
039OI	Louisa	06 APR 1861	03 MAY 1863
039OJ	Stephen Edward		03 MAY 1863
039OK	Elizabeth Alexandra	27 MAR 1863	03 MAY 1863
039OL	Clara Maria	JUL65 – APR 66	17 SEP 1865
039OM	Frederick William	Q2/1868	02 FEB 1868

There are gaps, namely around February 1851 and April 1858, so the birth of Stephen Edward at either of these times cannot be ruled out, although a birth in 1851 would surely have been baptised on 15 FEB 1852, along with Mary Ann and Charles James. A birth around 1858, following the birth of Ernest Henry in 1857, would surely have been baptised in MAY 1863, so this remains a possibility.

It appears that Stephen Charles was not baptised. This seems unusual, as all the other siblings were baptised.

The baptism register (opposite) lists the five children baptised on *03 MAY 1863* (and highlighted in green above) in increasing order of age – that is, Elizabeth Alexandra was the youngest, followed by Louisa, and so on. If this was not accidental (that is, the children were indeed baptised in order of age) then it indicates that Stephen is next in line above Ernest – which is just where Stephen Charles appears.

My conclusion is that the entry in the baptism register should refer to Stephen Charles, not Stephen Edward. In short, there was never any such person as Stephen Edward.

Miscellaneous information

Sources

As mentioned in the text, much of the information has been obtained with the help of my (second) 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 (my fourth cousin once removed).

I have also, more recently, exchanged emails with another cousin, Alejandro COPLEY (also a fourth cousin once removed), whose family is in Argentina.

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

Information supplied by Ivy Frances

I wrote to Ivy in September 1991, and she replied in a letter dated 30 SEP 1991 from her home at 33 Hatherley Road, Winchester. Although she stated that she had passed on my letter to her cousin, who was also researching the family tree, she did not give the name of the cousin (other than she was a Della Rocca) and I did not hear from anyone else.

The information given in her letter was as follows (the right-hand column shows my own reference where appropriate):

My great-grandfather Michael [had] 21 children	[078]
My grandfather Stephen Anthony (21st child) died 1906; he had 13 children, 3 died in infancy	
Charles (died in infancy)	[039OD]
Mary Ann (COPLEY), 2 children: Ada and Frederick; died 1939	[039OC]
Sarah Ann (HEPBURN), 3 children: Elizabeth, Jane, Arthur; died 1918	[039OA]
Frances Theresa (CROUCHER), 6 children: Joseph, Stanley, Ernest, Edith, Kate, Harry; died 1941	[039OB]
Stephen Charles (my father), 5 children: Charles, Frederick, Maud (1 st wife); Ivy, Rosa (2 nd wife); died 1915	[039OF]
Ernest, 3 children: Ernest, Alan, Lilian; unable to remember when he died	[039OG]
Clara (PAYNE-CARLILE), 3 children: Stanley, Kate, Harold; died 1908	[039OL]
Frederick, 1 child: Frederick; died 1907	[039OM]
Louisa (spinster); died from burns 1931	[039OI]
Kate Elizabeth (LEWIS); died January 1944	[039OH]
Elizabeth Alexandra (HISCOCK); died March 1944	[039OJ]

She does not mention Stephen Edward (but see preceding page) or Alice Ellen [039OE], who died in infancy; possibly she was not aware of the name.

It is hard to believe that there were 21 children born to Michael and Sarah, Stephen's parents. Their marriage took place in 1803. A list of 'known' children is shown below.

Ref	Name	Birth	Baptism
039G	Mary Ann	31 JAN 1804	18 MAR 1804
039H	Michael	NOV 1805	08 DEC 1805
039I	John James	29 AUG 1807	01 OCT 1807

Further information

039J	William	16 SEP 1812	31 JUL 1814
039K	Francis	20 MAY 1814	31 JUL 1814
039L	Sarah		15 OCT 1815
039M	Angelina	1817	30 MAY 1819
039	Ellen	JUN – DEC 1818	30 MAY 1819
039N	Frances	1821	
039O	Stephen Anthony	MAR 1824	09 MAY 1824

It is possible that other children were born between 1807 and 1812, but no more than two at most (John James died early in JUN 1809). There is the possibility of another birth between Ellen and Frances, and also between Frances and Stephen, but no evidence has been found. 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.

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 – though hardly, 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 Manchester, although no other Della Rocca descendants have yet been found either in the IGI or elsewhere. However, the first son being named Michael is a possible indication that there were no earlier children – or at least any earlier boys.

When Stephen Anthony was baptised Sarah would have been about 44; while her age would not necessarily preclude any further children they must be considered unlikely and this, plus the fact that no further baptisms of children born to Michael James and Sarah have been found after 1824, gives validity to the conclusion that Stephen Anthony was the youngest child.

The eldest child, Mary Ann, had been born on 31 JAN 1804¹; her 21st birthday therefore fell on 31 JAN 1825. It cannot be true, then, that the youngest child, Stephen Anthony, was born on this date as he was baptised the previous year (09 MAY 1824). So Ivy was wrong in stating that he had been born on his eldest sister's 21st birthday; it is very likely that she was also wrong about 21 children born to Michael and Sarah; and it is entirely possible that she was wrong about Stephen and Frances having 13 children. She could not have spoken to her grandfather (he died the year she was born) and whatever information she passed on came presumably from her father, Stephen Charles – and *he* died when she was only nine. It seems that this was a (false) piece of family history that had been passed down through the generations.

¹ this date is given in the baptism register