

## Caroline Brownfield

6. XI. CAROLINE BROWNFIELD was born on June 10, 1838 at Ballast Quay and christened on July 15, 1838, at St. Alphege's Church<sup>1</sup>

In the 1851 Census, Caroline aged 12 is the only Brownfield shown still living in Greenwich, the rest of the family having moved to Gravesend. She is recorded as living at 1 Earlswood House, Hamilton Terrace as a scholar and boarder, with a Suzannah Nugent aged 35 (?), a widow and the mistress of the house.<sup>2</sup> Suzannah was the widow of Francis Armstrong Nugent a wine merchant in Park Row just around the corner from Caroline's grandfather William's house in Crane Street.<sup>3</sup>

Also present were:

Susannah Francis Nugent	aged 5	Daughter of the Mistress
Priscilla Jones	aged 21	(Visitor) a teacher from Merthyr Tydfil,
Maria Chattel	aged 5	Scholar
Harriet Kirk	aged 18	House servant

Susannah Hall had been born in Deptford and christened at St Paul's on February 12 1809. Francis Armstrong Nugent had first married Susannah's sister Emily Ann Hall, they had one son Francis Hall Nugent (b. May 7, 1839) who went to Australia at about the same time as Caroline. Emily died in 1839. Francis then married Susannah and they had three children James (b. April 13, 1842), Arthur George (b. January 18, 1844) and Susannah Francis (b. January 4, 1846)<sup>4</sup>

Caroline Brownfield married GEORGE EDMEADES TOLHURST at Holy Trinity Church, Milton by Gravesend on November 18, 1857 at the age of 19.<sup>5</sup> George's profession was described as a 'druggist' (presumably we would now call him a chemist). His father was John a butcher and his mother Hannah Edmeades. George had been born in 1825 at Gravesend.<sup>6</sup> Both partners gave their addresses as 'Milton'. Family witnesses at the wedding were her Father William and Elizabeth Brownfield her cousin, which suggests that the families of William and Thomas remained close after the move to Gravesend. Richard Joynes once again conducted the service.

Soon after their marriage the couple travelled to Australia arriving in Victoria in 1858. Their first child Clara was born in Sandhurst, Victoria in 1859 and in 1860 their first son Brownfield Tolhurst was born at Bendigo, Victoria<sup>7</sup>. By 1862 when their daughter Edith was born, they were back in England at Caversham in Oxfordshire. In 1871 they were living at 38 Elgin Crescent, Kensington, London with Clara (12) Edith (8) Amy (6) Gertrude (4) and Florence (1). Brownfield (11) and Alfred (8) were boarders at 126 High Street, Uxbridge. In 1881 they were living at Sidcup Hill, Chislehurst, Kent with their children Brownfield, Edith, Alfred, Amy, Walter and George. George snr. was a jeweller and his son Brownfield was an assistant jeweller. Clara had married John Bartlett and was also living in Chislehurst.

By 1901 George, now a retired diamond merchant, and Caroline were living at 1 Highbury, Aston House, Islington, London. Also residing in the house were their son Brownfield, a diamond merchant, and cousin Alexander Molesworth Tolhurst, a medical student, who had been born in Wellington, New Zealand in 1882 (His father was also called George Edmeades Tolhurst, his mother was Elizabeth Molesworth). Caroline died in 1905<sup>8</sup> and George died in 1907<sup>9</sup> in Kent.

(ii) BROWNFIELD TOLHURST was born in Bendigo, Victoria in 1860.<sup>10</sup> In 1871 he was attending a boarding school in at 126 High Street, Uxbridge, Middlesex with his brother Alfred. In 1881 he was living with his parents in Sidcup Hill, Chislehurst, Kent and was an assistant jeweller. In the 1891 census it he is recorded as living with the Boyce family at Foots Cray, Kent and was a diamond merchant. He must have travelled out to America, as in 1894 he was involved in the discovery of Sapphires in Montana, where he set up the New Sapphire Mine company that mined the Yogo gulch from 1894 until 1924 when a rain storm wrecked the mine and equipment. In 1901 he was residing with his parents at The Grange, Chislehurst.

He died on 23 April 1909 at Hurst Cottage, Reigate.<sup>11</sup> His funeral took place at the Parish Church, Sidcup on 28 April 1909.

(iv) ALFRED TOLHURST was born in 1863 in Hackney, London.<sup>12</sup> He was attending a boarding school, with his brother Brownfield, in 1871 at Uxbridge, Middlesex.<sup>13</sup> and in 1881 he was living with his parents at Chislehurst, Kent, and was a clerk.<sup>14</sup>

Records show that he went to Australia and married Emily Harriet Masters in 1890 in Melbourne, Victoria.<sup>15</sup> Emily had been born in New Zealand,<sup>16</sup> the daughter of Edward Masters and Harriet Jane McCalla.<sup>17</sup> Alfred died in 1917<sup>18</sup> and Emily died at Mornington in 1957.<sup>19</sup>

*Edward Keith Tolhurst* was the third child of Alfred Tolhurst and Harriet Masters, born on 29 October 1895 in Elsternwick, Victoria.<sup>20</sup> He was a cricketer and played as a batsman for Victoria between 1921 and 1931.<sup>21</sup> Edward married Meriedie Janet Winter-Irving in 1930 in Victoria.<sup>22</sup> Meriedie had been born in 1904 at Richmond, Victoria,<sup>23</sup> daughter of William Winter-Irving and Eleanor Mary Chapman. They had a daughter Angela Janet. Edward died on 24 May 1982<sup>24</sup> and Meriedie died on 13 July 2003.<sup>25</sup> They were both cremated at Springvale Crematorium.

(v) AMY TOLHURST was born in 1865 at Hackney, London.<sup>26</sup> She married Alexander Boyce Stewart on 5 July 1892 at St Augustine's Church, Highbury, Newpark, London.<sup>27</sup> Alexander had been born on 15 June 1861 at Bangor, North Wales.<sup>28</sup> He was the son of the late Robert Stewart and Sophia Anne Boyce of Port Elizabeth, South Africa and of Beckenham.<sup>29</sup>

In 1901 Alexander, a stock exchange dealer, and Amy were living at 45 Wilbury Place, Hove, Sussex with their twin sons Robert Ross and Gordon Duncan and daughter Barbara Lilian.<sup>30</sup>

Amy died on 5 March 1940 at Warren Farm, Chalfont, St Giles, and was cremated on 7 March 1940 at Golders Green Crematorium.<sup>31</sup> Alexander died on 18 March 1930 in Funchal, Madeira, Portugal.<sup>32</sup> Alexander Boyce Stewart & Amy Tolhurst had three children:

*Robert Ross Stewart* was born on 25 October 1893 at Bromley, Kent.<sup>33</sup> He married Aileen Elizabeth Hastings on 3 April 1923.<sup>34</sup> Aileen was born on 1 January 1886.<sup>35</sup> Robert died on 27 February 1988, and Aileen died on 30 December 1994.<sup>36</sup>

*George Duncan Stewart* was born on 25 October 1893 at Bromley, Kent.<sup>37</sup> A marriage notice in *The Times* of 22 January 1926, announced that on 18 January 1926 at High's Weigh House Church, London, Captain George Duncan Stewart married

Lillian Joan Pyman. Lillian was the daughter of F H Pyman of 102 Fitzjohn's Avenue, N.W.3. George died on 29 January 1959 and Lillian died in 1994.

*Barbara Lillian Stewart* was born on 4 April 1896 at Kensington, London.<sup>38</sup> A notice in *The Times* announced a marriage is arranged, and will shortly take place in Karachi, India between Hugh Francis, son of Mr and Mrs D H Francis of Whitchurch, near Cardiff and Barbara, daughter of Mrs and Mrs A B Stewart of Denham, Bucks. The marriage took place on the 5 April 1930.<sup>39</sup> Barbara and Hugh had a son John born in 1931.<sup>40</sup>

An earthquake devastated the town of Quetta and the adjoining areas at 2.30am on the morning of 31 May 1935. Nearly 35,000 people were believed to have been killed<sup>41</sup> and among the fatalities were Barbara, Hugh and their son John.<sup>42</sup>

A notice in *The Times*<sup>43</sup> read:-

*THE DEAD BRITISH OFFICIALS*

*Mr Hugh Lawrence Francis, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E. was born on March 14, 1893, and joined the Indian Service of Engineers in October 1919. He was posted to the Bombay Presidency and reached the grade of Executive Engineer in 1925.*

## Sources

Caroline Brownfield

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34. Times Tues Jan 21, 1930 p17 Issue 45416 Col D Marriages
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