

George Brownfield

6. II. GEORGE BROWNFIELD was born October 23, 1819 at Ballast Quay and christened on November 21, 1819 at St. Alphege's Church in Greenwich.¹ He was the eldest child of William and Mary Ann who survived into adulthood, William Arbuthnot having died at the age of seven.² He kept up the family tradition and was apprenticed as a waterman to his Father William on 10th April 1834. He completed his apprenticeship on 13th March 1845.³

On 24th of July 1849, at the age of twenty-nine, George was granted a pilot's warrant by the Corporation of Trinity House.⁴

Licence Number: 750
Residence: Hughes's (sic) Field, Deptford
Qualification: "From London Bridge to Gravesend and back again to London Bridge".
Description: "5 feet 10 inches high, dark complexion, black hair"

On the 26th of October 1852 he was examined again and certified for:
"Vessels above 14 feet Draft of Water."

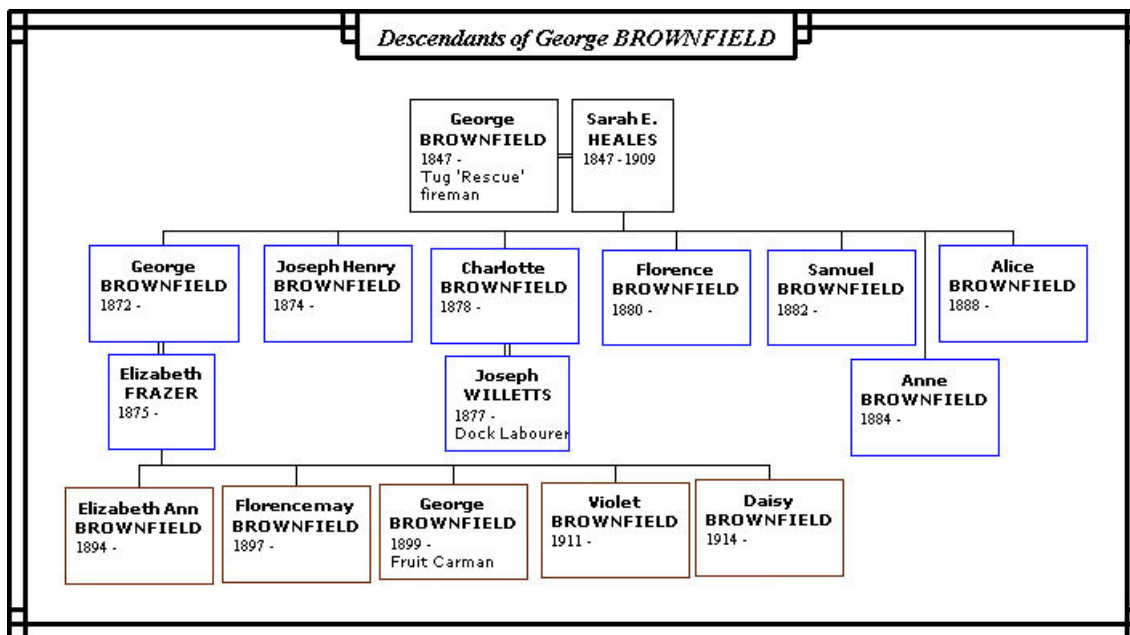
George married ANN PINDER HEAD, the daughter of a mariner, in Deptford in 1843.⁵ She was two years younger than George. She had been born in Yorkshire in 1821 and christened at Holy Trinity Church, Kingston upon Hull on November 29th the same year. Her parents were Joseph HEAD and Ann PINDER who had been married on February 21, 1819 at Lythe in Yorkshire.

In 1844 George and Ann were living in Willow Cottage, Upper Road, Deptford;⁶ but by 1851 they had moved to Gravesend with their four surviving children and were living at 31 Wellington Street next door to George's younger brother Robert and his family.⁷ In July 1852 they were at 8 Whitehall Place.⁸ By March 1858 they had moved to 32 Parrock Street.⁹ Ann died in 1861 when the family were still at Parrock Street and was buried on 17 October 1861¹⁰ in Gravesend and Milton Cemetery. George died at Augustine Road, Milton by Gravesend, during November 1865, at the age of 46 and was buried on 22 November in Gravesend and Milton Cemetery (St George's).¹¹

George and Ann had seven children:

(i). MARY ANN BROWNFIELD who was born on June 18, 1844 at Willow Cottage and christened at St Paul, Deptford on June 26th.¹²

(ii). SARAH JANE BROWNFIELD who was christened on October 5, 1845 at Saint Nicholas Church in Deptford, London.¹³ she died between July 1st and September 30th 1846 in Greenwich.¹⁴



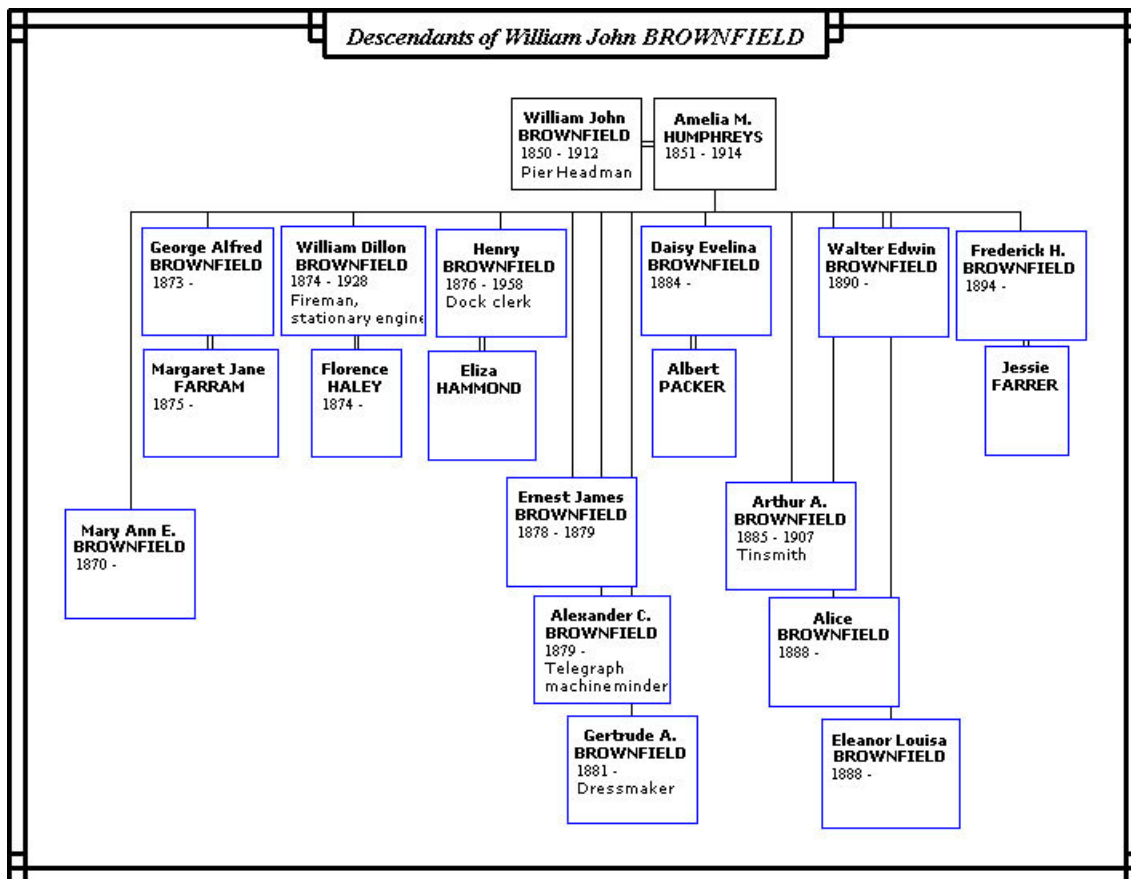
(iii). GEORGE BROWNFIELD who was born at Hughes Field, Deptford on April 24, 1847 and christened on May 14, 1847 at Saint Nicholas Church in Deptford, London.¹⁵ George married Sarah Heelas (or HEALES)¹⁶ in October 1871. They lived in Stepney, Poplar, Canning Town and by 1881 they had moved to West Ham. In the 1881 census George was described as a mariner but the baptismal records of two of the children enlarge on this and describe him as a 'fireman of Rescue tug' - Should this be 'fireman on tug "Rescue"?' (see Mathew Brownfield p 96). George and Sarah's four children recorded in 1881 were called George, Joseph Henry, Charlotte and Florence. They were born between 1872 and 1880¹⁷

George Brownfield the first child of George Brownfield and Sarah Elizabeth Heelas/Heales, was born in 1872 in Whitechapel, Stepney, London,¹⁸ and baptised on 28 July at St Mary Whitechapel, Stepney, London.¹⁹ He married Elizabeth Frazer in 1894 in West Ham, Essex.²⁰ Elizabeth was born in 1875 in Stepney, London.²¹

In 1901 they were living at 19 Pitt Street, West Ham, Essex.²² George's occupation was a fruit carman. They had five children Elizabeth Ann (1894), Florence May (1897), George (1899), Violet (1911) and Daisy (1914). They could have had other children between 1899 and 1911 as records show several Brownfield children being born in West Ham in that period.

Joseph Henry Brownfield the second child of George Brownfield and Sarah Elizabeth Heelas/Heales, was born in 1874 in Mile End, Stepney, London²³ and baptised on 20 December 1874 at Saint Dunstan, Stepney, London.²⁴

Charlotte Brownfield the third child of George Brownfield and Sarah Elizabeth Heelas/Heales, was born in 1878 in Poplar, London.²⁵ She married Joseph Willetts in 1897 in West Ham.²⁶ Joseph was born in Canning Town in 1877.²⁷ In 1901 they were living with Charlotte's mother at 86 Vincent Street, Canning Town. Joseph was a dock labourer.

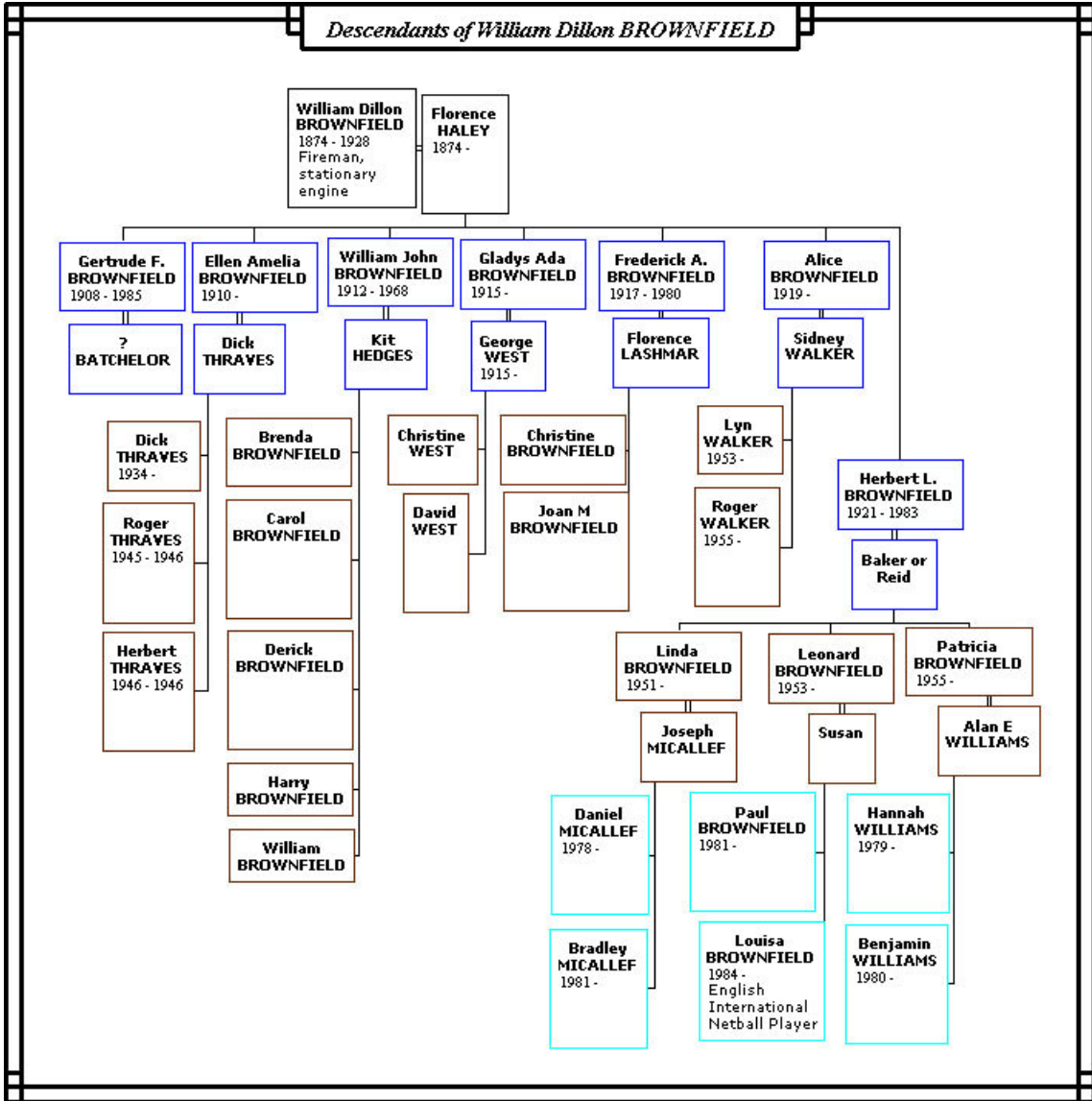


(v). WILLIAM JOHN BROWNFIELD the fifth child of George Brownfield and Ann Pinder Head, was born in 1850 in Gravesend, Kent and baptised on 1 January 1851 in Holy Trinity Church, Milton by Gravesend.²⁸ He married Amelia Margaret Humphreys in 1871²⁹ at St Thomas Church, Stepney, London. Amelia was born about 1851 in Greenwich, Kent,³⁰ daughter of a pilot. William was a mariner in 1871, living in Stepney when he married Amelia. Soon afterwards, they appear to have moved to Gravesend.

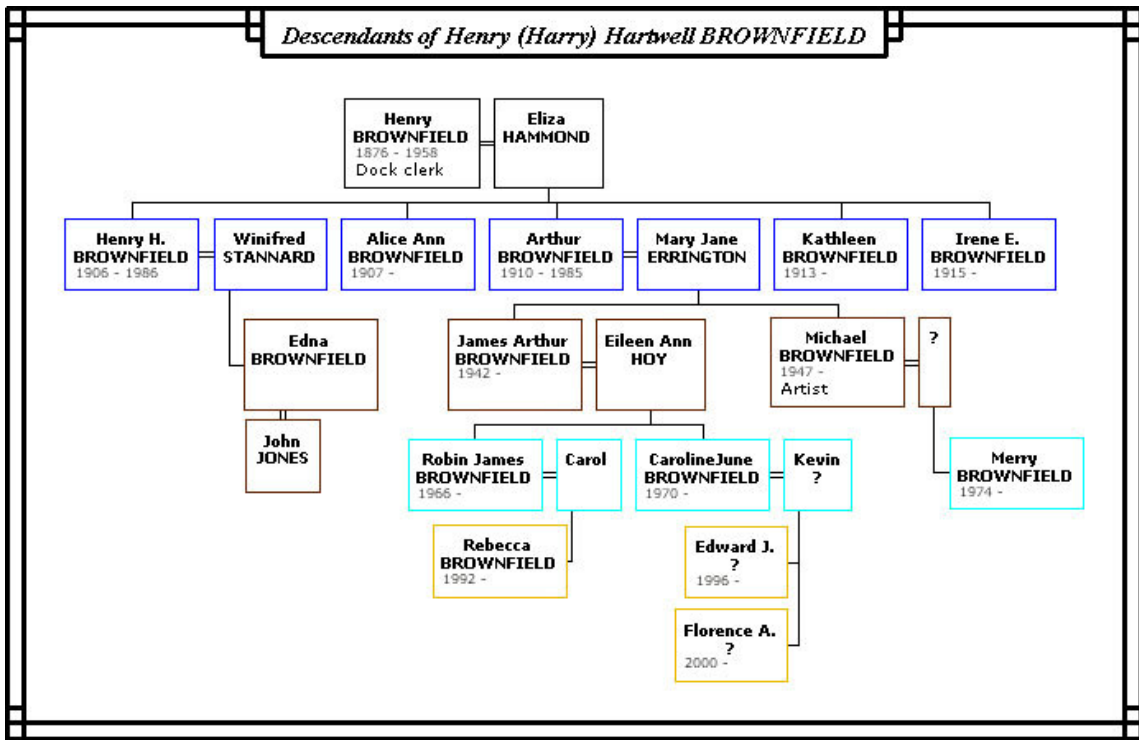
In 1881 they were living at 29 Queens Road, West Ham, Essex with their five children Mary Ann, George Alfred, William Dillon, Harry Hartwell, Alexander Charles and two mariner boarders. Amelia's 64 year old mother Margaret Humphreys, born Dublin, Ireland was also living with them. William's occupation was given as "pier head man".

By 1891 they have moved across the river and was residing at Ashton House, Woolwich, Kent. William was 40 year old and his occupation was given as Bridgeman (Docks Harbour). In 1901 the family had moved back across the river and were residing at 8 Norman Road, East Ham. They had eleven children, Mary Ann, George Alfred, William Dillon, Harry Hartwell, Alexander Charles or sometimes known as Charles, Gertrude, Daisy Evelina, Arthur Augustus, Helen/Ellen or Nellie, Walter Edwin and Frederick Humphrey. Amelia died in West Ham in 1914.³¹

George Alfred Brownfield the second child of William John Brownfield and Amelia Margaret Humphreys, was born in 1873 in Gravesend, Kent.³² He married Margaret Jane Farram in 1897 at West Ham, Essex.³³ Margaret had been born in 1875 in Boston, Lincolnshire.³⁴ In 1901 they were living at 32 Newland Street, West Ham.³⁵ George was a metal fitter and turner. George and Margaret had five children. Their first three children Florence Margaret (1897), George (1898) and Alfred (1900) died in infancy. They had two further children born in West Ham, Ethel Margaret born 1901³⁶ and Walter Herbert born 1904.³⁷

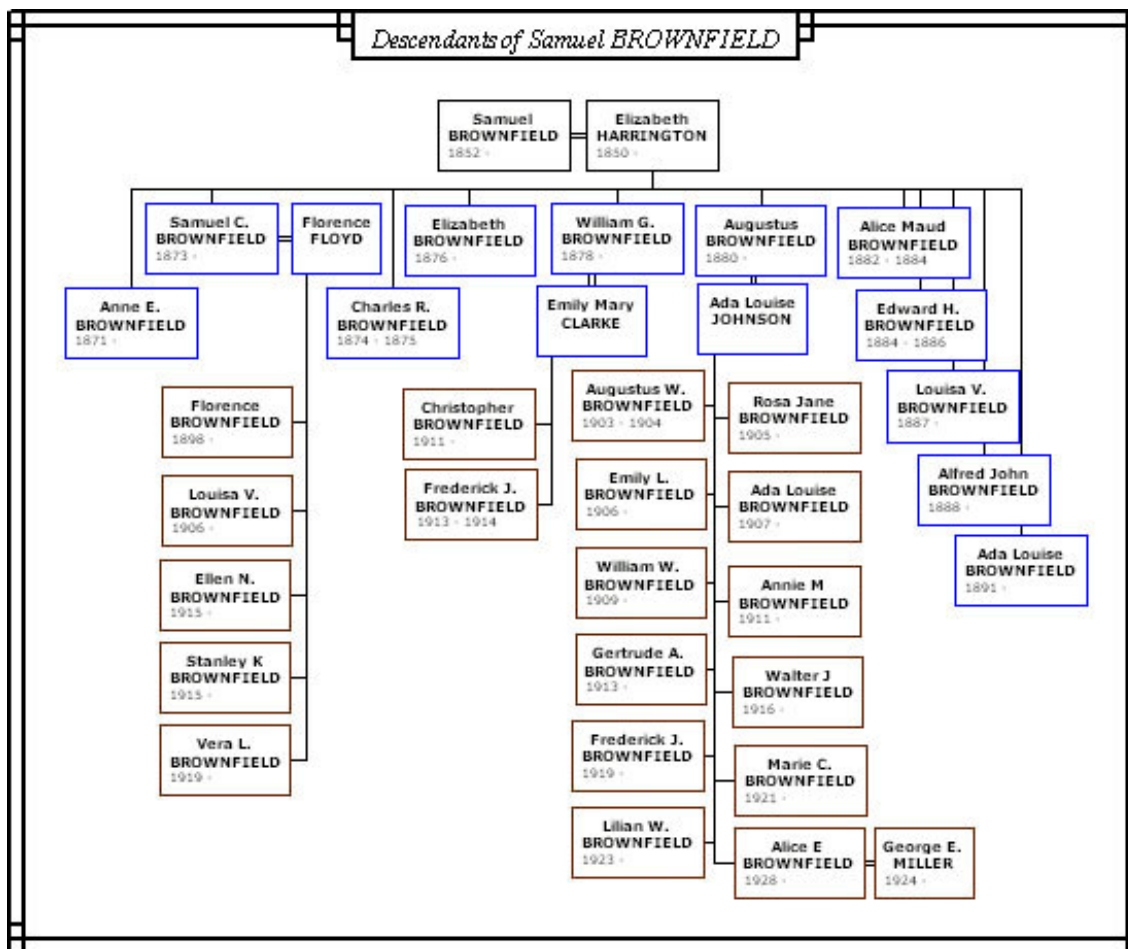


William Dillon Brownfield, the third child of William John Brownfield and Amelia Margaret Humphreys, was born on 18 September 1875 in Gravesend, Kent.³⁹ In the 1901 census he was living with his parents at 8 Norman Road, East Ham, and he was a “fireman on stationary engine”. He married Florence Haley in 1906 at West Ham, Essex,⁴⁰ and they had seven children. William died on 22 December 1928.⁴¹



Harry Hartwell Brownfield, the fourth child of William John Brownfield and Amelia Margaret Humphreys, was born in 1876 Gravesend, Kent.⁴² In 1901 he was living with his parents at 8 Norman Road, East Ham, and he was a dock clerk. He married Eliza Hammond in 1906 at West Ham, Essex⁴³ and they had five children, Henry Hartwell born 1905⁴⁴ at West Ham, James, Alice, Kathleen and Irene E.

Frederick Humphrey Brownfield, the eleventh child of William John Brownfield and Amelia Margaret Humphreys, was born in 1894 in Woolwich, Kent.⁴⁵ He married Jessie Farrer in 1917 at West Ham, Essex⁴⁶ and they had a daughter Margaret J “Peggy”.⁴⁷



(vi). SAMUEL BROWNFIELD the sixth child of George and Ann, who was christened on July 14, 1852 in Holy Trinity Church, Milton By Gravesend, Kent.⁴⁸ Samuel although the youngest of the three brothers was the first to marry when he married Elizabeth Harrington, the daughter of a commercial traveller in August 1870⁴⁹ They had six children by 1881, of whom Anne Elizabeth Brownfield was born on January 24, 1871 and christened on July 28, 1872 at St. Mary Whitechapel, Stepney,⁵⁰ and Samuel Brownfield who was christened on January 5, 1873 at the church of Saint Philip The Apostle, Stepney.⁵¹ Like George and William John, Samuel moved to East London sometime in the 1860's. Like George, he was also a fireman on a steamboat. The fortunes of the children of William and Mary Ann appear to have differed widely. While several of the daughters seem to have married well and Samuel in particular was making a name for himself and a considerable fortune; despite George's profession as a pilot, his sons do not seem to have prospered and two became fireman, probably the most menial task on a steamship. In the tug service, it was normal for men to start as deckhands or firemen and work their way up to become mates, sometimes captains and even occasionally tug owners. There is no information about George's later career but Samuel was still working as "Donkey-man on ship" in 1901.

George and Ann had two further children Charlotte who died in the autumn of 1850⁵² aged about 1 and Joseph Frederick Head who died aged about 4 in the spring of 1858.⁵³

Sources

George Brownfield

1. St Alphege Baptismal register entry for George Brownfield 21 Nov.1819. Transcript in Greenwich Local History Library.
2. St Alphege Burial register, Transcript at Greenwich Local History Library.
3. Waterman and Lighterman's Company , Apprentice bindings. London Guildhall Library.
4. Trinity House Pilots Records, Letter from Stephen Freeth, Keeper of Manuscripts Guildhall Library dated 5/9/2000.
5. The Brownfields of Greenwich and the lower Thames, a preliminary study to 1881. N.Spence SOG.
6. Parish Register St Paul Deptford p68 no 540 LMA m/f X015/063
7. 1851 Census Gravesend, transcript from Irene Absalom. Personal papers.
8. Baptismal register Holy Trinity Milton LMA m/f 218 p9 entry 66.
9. Gravesend St George Burial register, consecrated part of Gravesend and Milton Cemetery LMA m/f 212 p82 entry no 654.
10. Gravesend St George Burial register, consecrated part of Gravesend and Milton Cemetery LMA m/f 212 p 27 entry no 209
11. Gravesend St George Burial register, consecrated part of Gravesend and Milton Cemetery LMA m/f 226 p182 entry no 1453.
12. Parish Register St Paul Deptford p68 no 540 LMA m/f X015/063
13. Parish Register St Nicholas Deptford p73 no 577 LMA X086/131 p73 entry no 577
14. Burial register St Nicholas Deptford LMA P78/NIC/43 p134 entry no 1069
15. Parish Register St Nicholas Deptford p73 no 577 LMA X086/131 p96 entry no 764.
16. GRO1 marriages 1871.4 vol 1c p1236
17. GRO1 births
18. GRO 2/1872 Whitechapel 1c393
19. IGI
20. GRO 1/1894 W.Ham 4a 145
21. 1901 Census
22. 1901 Census
23. GRO1 4/1874 Mile End 1c550
24. IGI
25. GRO1 2/1878 Poplar 1c731
26. GRO1 2/1897 W Ham 4a9
27. 1901 Census
28. Baptismal Register Holy Trinity Milton LMA m/f 218 p81 entry 641
29. GRO1 3/1871 Mile End 1c1135
30. 1881 Census
31. 1871 Census
32. GRO1 births 1873.3 Gravesend 2a 394
33. GRO1 1897.4 W Ham 4a 309
34. 1901 Census
35. 1901 Census
36. GRO1 births1901.4 W Ham 4a 63
37. GRO1 births 1904..4 W Ham 4a 124
38. Information from Patricia Williams
39. GRO1 births 1874.4 Gravesend 2a409
40. GRO1 marriages 1906.4 W Ham 4a41
41. Information from Patricia Williams
42. GRO1 births 1876.1 Gravesend 2a 454
43. GRO1 Marriages 1906.2 W Ham 4a622
44. GRO1 births 1906.3 W Ham 4a 295

45. GROI births 1894.3 Woolwich 1d1199
46. GROI marriages 1917.4 W Ham 4a77
47. GROI marriages 1917.4 W Ham 4a77
48. Baptismal register Holy Trinity Milton July 14 1852 L MA m/f 218 p9 entry 66
49. GROI Marriages 1870.3 vol 1c p 793 St Georges E.
50. Baptismal register St Mary Whitechapel July 28 1872 LMA XO24/097 252.
51. Baptismal register St Philip the Apostle, Stepney Jan 5 1873 LMA XO24/086
252 entry 2012.
52. GROI Burials 1850.3 vol 5 p105
53. GROI Burials 1858.1 vol 2a p194