

Percy Brownfield

7. V. PERCY BROWNFIELD was born on December 5, 1865 at Dock House in Rotherhithe, southeast London.¹ He was christened on the same day as his elder brother Sidney, May 11, 1866 at St. Alphege's Church, Greenwich.² He entered the service of the Surrey Commercial Docks Company as a Canal Clerk on May 19th 1894 aged 29. His salary on appointment was £120pa. The following year he was appointed Chief Canal Clerk, his salary rising to £300pa by April 1st 1909 in annual increments.³ The Grand Surrey Canal was owned by the Surrey Commercial Docks and ran down to Camberwell in South London. It was lined by grain wharves, timber mills and joinery works, and their raw materials were transported via the canal, from ships coming into the Surrey Docks.



Canal Department about 1908

In the 1901 census, Percy was recorded as single aged 35 and living as a boarder at 26 Breakspears Road, Deptford in the house of a family called Verrall. John Verrall aged 60 was a turf accountant. He had 2 unmarried daughters aged 28 and 25 and there were also two young unmarried single female boarders in the house.⁴ However on July 25th 1901, Percy married MAUD ISABEL EVELYN-JONES who was aged 21, at Greenwich Registry Office. Maud had been a witness at the wedding of her elder sister Ethel to Percy's brother Sidney the previous year. Maud was a cousin of Percy's as her grandmother was Mary Ann, Samuel's sister. Maud's address was The Lawns, St Johns, Sevenoaks, Kent. No one from either family signed the marriage register.⁵ In 1915 Mr and Mrs P. Brownfield gave a table cloth to Nancy Brownfield, their niece, when she married Harry McCausland. In 1919 they were living at 'Halesworth', Clinbrook Road, Grove Park.



Maud Isabel Evelyn-Jones

'Halesworth', Clinbrook Road, Grove Park.

In October 1929, Percy Brownfield described as an artist, aged 63 of Upper Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, was in court in Guildford charged with stealing £7

belonging to Messrs Virtue and Co, publishers, 19-21 Thaves Inn, Holborn. He was employed by the publishers to canvass for orders, with no salary but a commission of 20%. He was found not guilty, but subsequently pleaded guilty to pawning the property of the prosecutors and fined 40 shillings.⁶

Percy died aged 79 in the 3rd quarter of 1945 in Battersea.⁷
Percy and Maud had two children:



(i) JOHN HALL BROWNFIELD known as 'Jack' was born at 46, Halesworth Road, Lewisham on Apr 30, 1903⁸. Jack was not married and worked as a producer for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). Jack had very poor eyesight following complications of measles as a child. He died of multiple myelomatosis (a form of cancer) on Dec 7, 1967 at 3 Westbourne Park Road, Paddington. R Baillie was present at the death and was the informant to the registrar.⁹

**Jack at Joan's wedding (1944)
where he 'gave away' the bride**



(ii) ENA BEATRICE BROWNFIELD known as 'Jill', was born in Lewisham between April and June 1909¹⁰. She was working as a supervisor in a wireless company when she died at the age of 22 on January 4, 1932, from 'influenzal brocho-pneumonia'.¹¹

**Jill at Sidmouth in
1920 aged 11**

Sources

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1. Docklands Library and Archive. Letter dated July 19, 2001 from R.R.Aspinall, Librarian.
2. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, International Genealogical Index ®, Copyright © 1980, 1997, data as of February 1997.
3. Docklands Library and Archive. Letter dated July 19, 2001 from R.R.Aspinall, Librarian.
4. 1901 census PRO on line, RG13 piece 535 folio 92 page 2.
5. Marriage certificate, Greenwich Register Office. July 25, 1901 No 150.
6. Times Archive on-line Oct 29 and Nov 20, 1929.
7. GROI deaths 1945.1 Vol 1d Page 206, Percy Brownfield.
8. Birth certificate April 13, 1903. No 474 Lewisham District.
9. Death certificate December 7, 1967. No 457 Paddington first District
10. GROI births 1909.2 Vol 1d page 101 Ena Beatrice Brownfield
11. Death certificate, Lee, sub district of Lewisham Registration District, January 4, 1932. Ena Beatrice Brownfield