

## Thomas Brownfield

Following William, Thomas and James were the two next children in the family of William and Sarah Halfpenny. The three boys were close. William and Thomas married two sisters, Mary Ann and Sarah Munyard, while James married the sisters' cousin, Jane Munyard. They all lived near to each other at Ballast Quay on the bank of the River Thames at Greenwich. They all worked as Pilots and William and James moved to Gravesend in the late 1840s. (Thomas and his wife Sarah had died)

5. II. THOMAS BROWNFIELD was born on January 23, 1796 and christened at St Alphege's Church on February 21, 1796.<sup>1</sup>

Thomas seems to have lived in the shadow of his brothers. On 17<sup>th</sup> May 1810 at the age of fourteen, he was apprenticed as a waterman, to John Kimbell (his brothers William and James were both apprenticed to their father). He completed his apprenticeship on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1818 and was awarded his freedom on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1823, a few months after his younger brother James.<sup>2</sup> He gave his occupation as pilot but there is no record of his having gained a Trinity House Warrant.<sup>3</sup> In November 1821 what appears to have been a test case was heard in the court of Common Pleas when a Mr Pearson claimed the pilot's fee from a Mr Brownfield (was this Thomas' father or one of the brothers, none of whom had gained their warrant by then?). Mr Brownfield was accused of having piloted the brig 'Paris' down the river Thames being a waterman but not a licensed pilot and when a regularly licensed pilot had come on board and produced his papers, the master had refused to give the ship up to him. The case was dismissed under a section of the Pilot Act which exempts from its operation, colliers and all vessels sailing for Norway, the Baltic or the Cattegat. The Paris did not come under the act as she was trading to St Petersburg where she was bound from the river. Thomas could therefore have worked as a pilot without a warrant.<sup>4</sup>

Thomas married SARAH MUNYARD on November 16, 1818 in St Alphege's Church.<sup>5</sup> She was a younger sister of William's wife Mary Ann, the daughter of GEORGE MUNYARD a "currier and leather cutter" and MARY GANNER. Sarah had been christened on November 25<sup>th</sup> 1798 in St Paul's Church, Deptford.<sup>6</sup> Thomas and Sarah started their married life in Bennett Street, Greenwich (now called Hoskins Street) but by 1826 they too had moved to Ballast Quay.

Sarah died of hepatitis<sup>7</sup> at the age of 41, on February 17, 1840 at Ballast Quay. She was buried on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at St Alphege's Church.<sup>8</sup> The informant, present at the death of Sarah was Tabitha Bales of London Street, Greenwich, who made her mark.<sup>9</sup> George, Sarah's father, had his business in London Street.<sup>10</sup>

Thomas' first child was born in Bennet Street; there were then six more children born at Ballast Quay between 1823 and 1835, with the last, Elizabeth born at Crowley's Wharf in 1837. Sarah, Thomas' wife died in February 1840 in Ballast Quay, but the 1841 census has the family back in Crowley's Wharf, where Thomas himself died in 1847. Crowley's Wharf is continuous with Ballast Quay, and it is difficult to know whether the family was playing 'musical houses' or whether it was just a vague use of address information.

In the 1841 Census,<sup>11</sup> the year after Sarah's death, Thomas was shown living at Crowley's Wharf next door to his brother William. Six of his children were present on census day and also in the house were Charlotte Munyard his unmarried sister in law (aged 39) and a female servant Ann Smith. The children were:

Sarah Sophia	aged 20	Thomas	aged 18
Eliza	aged 15	Ellen	aged 9
Walter	aged 6	Elizabeth	aged 4

Thomas Brownfield died, aged 51 on September 18, 1847 at 2, Crowley's Wharf<sup>12</sup>. He was buried with his wife and daughters Sarah Sophia and Eliza, in a family grave at St Alphege's Church.<sup>13</sup> He left £1500 to his children and his executors were George Munyard of Terry Ash Lodge, Ash and Augustus Munyard of Meopham, who were both farmers.

THOMAS BROWNFIELD and SARAH MUNYARD had nine children:

(i). SARAH SOPHIA BROWNFIELD was born on June 16<sup>th</sup> 1821 in Bennett Street, Greenwich, and was christened at St Alphege's church on July 22, 1821.<sup>14</sup> She died on July 10, 1841, aged 21, just over a year after her mother. She was buried on July 16<sup>th</sup> in the family grave at St Alphege's.<sup>15</sup>

(ii). THOMAS BROWNFIELD was born on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1823 and christened at St Alphege's on July 7, 1823.<sup>16</sup> He was apprenticed to his father as a waterman on May 10, 1837, completed his apprenticeship on February 13, 1845,<sup>17</sup> and became a pilot. He married SARAH ELIZABETH ROSS in 1848. In 1851 he was living with his wife Sarah, who was two years older than him, and their daughter Ellen aged two, at 54 Brunk Road, Gravesend.<sup>18</sup> They had two sons Thomas Joseph, born in 1852 and Walter Charles, born in 1854. In 1861 Thomas and Sarah with their three children were living at 5 Walnut Tree Road in East Greenwich. Walter Charles Brownfield married Mary Ann Edwards and many of the Brownfields living around Gravesend today, are descended from them. (See descendant tree of Walter Charles Brownfield). Thomas died at 15, Norfolk Road, Milton, Gravesend on April 13, 1873.<sup>19</sup> The informant was Sarah Sweeting of 18 Chapel Street, Woolwich, who made her mark. Sarah Sweeting was Thomas' cousin (née Munyard) the cause of his death was certified as 'Hypertrophy of the heart of longstanding; and general dropsy, several weeks.' In the 1881 census, Sarah is recorded as a widow and the head of the family at 18 Prospect Place, Milton in Gravesend. Also there, were her daughter Ellen now aged 29 and a son Thomas, two years younger, a "Trinity Pilot". Ellen and Thomas were both unmarried.<sup>20</sup> Sarah died on July 27, 1893 at 23 Augustine Road, Milton at the age of 80<sup>21</sup>. The cause of her death was certified by I. Astley Phillips M.D. as due to 'Hemiplegia (a stroke), which she had had for 5 years.' The death was reported by 'E. Brownfield, daughter'.

Thomas and Sarah had three children:

Ellen Brownfield	1849 –
Thomas Joseph Brownfield	1852 – 1909
Walter Charles Brownfield	1854 – 1901

**Walter Charles** was the third child of Thomas Brownfield and Sarah Elizabeth Ross. He was born in 1854 at Greenwich.<sup>22</sup> He married Mary Ann Edwards in 1878,<sup>23</sup> and by 1881 they were living at 36 Wellington Street, Gravesend, with their first child Alfred Henry aged one year.<sup>24</sup> In the 1881 census Walter was recorded as the mate onboard the tug "Cruiser".<sup>25</sup> Between 1880 and 1894, Walter and Sarah had eight children. The 1901 census states that they were living at 98 Peacock Street, Milton, Gravesend although Walter was not at home that night, and was recorded as being master, aboard the tug "Falcon". His wife Mary Ann aged 49, was at home with her five younger children. In the December of that same year he died at home.

Alfred Henry was the first child of Walter Charles Brownfield and Mary Ann Edwards. He was born on 11 March 1880 at Gravesend,<sup>26</sup> and baptised on the 9 May 1880 at Holy Trinity Church, Milton. Alfred was bound to his father as a waterman on 13 July 1897, but his father died during his apprenticeship. Records state he was a mate on the tug "Rescue" between 1910 and 1911. He married Alice Mary Ann Webster on 26 February 1905 at Holy Trinity Church, Milton.<sup>27</sup>

Alfred Henry Brownfield & Alice Mary Ann Webster had three children:

**Alfred Walter** was the first child of Alfred Henry Brownfield and Alice Mary Ann Webster. He was born on the 22 April 1907<sup>28</sup> at Gravesend and baptised on 10 May 1907 at Holy Trinity Church, Milton. He married Amy Gertrude Higgins on 11 March 1933 at St George Church, Gravesend.<sup>29</sup> Alfred was a partner in a Painting and Decorating firm. He died on 2 May 1998 at Gravesend. They had two sons, David and Michael.

*Frederick George* was the second child of Alfred Henry Brownfield and Alice Mary Ann Webster. He was born on 1 January 1909 at Gravesend<sup>30</sup> and baptised on 22 January 1909 at Holy Trinity Church, Milton, Gravesend. He married Ivy Abbott on 2 March 1935 at Orsett, Essex. They had two children, Pamela and Ronald. Ivy died on 19 August 1969. Frederick married for the second time, Kathleen Ellen Clark in 1970. He died on 6 August 1982.

*Winifred Alice* was the third child of Alfred Henry Brownfield and Alice Mary Ann Webster. She was born on 18 July 1911 at Gravesend.<sup>31</sup> On 3 January 1931 at Gravesend, she married Leonard Tufnail.<sup>32</sup> They had three children, Leonard, Pauline and Patricia.

Albert 'Bertie' was the eighth child of Walter Charles Brownfield and Mary Ann Edwards. He was born on 30 January 1894 at Gravesend.<sup>33</sup> He married Kathleen James at Stone, in 1921<sup>34</sup> and they had five children. During the Second World War Bertie served in the Merchant Navy and was awarded the Atlantic, African and War Medals.<sup>35</sup>

(iii). ELIZA BROWNFIELD was born on February 16, 1826 at Ballast Quay and christened at St Alphege's on March 12, 1826.<sup>36</sup> She died on April 10, 1844, aged 19, and was buried in the family grave at St Alphege's on April 17th.<sup>37</sup>

(iv). FREDERICK BROWNFIELD was born on September 20, 1827 at Ballast Quay and christened at St Alphege's on October 27, 1827.<sup>38</sup> He died when he was one year old and was buried at St. Alphege's on January 22, 1829.<sup>39</sup>

(v). CHARLES BROWNFIELD was born on May 28, 1830 and christened at St Alphege's on June 28, 1830.<sup>40</sup> In the 1841 census Charles aged 12 was at a boarding school in East Dulwich run by a Mr Samuel Howe and his wife, both aged 40. The Howes had two sons in the house William aged 13 and Ferdinand 11. There was an assistant William Tuiddell, aged 25 and 10 male pupils aged between 9 and 15. There were also 2 female servants.

Charles was apprenticed to Thomas Brownfield on October 9, 1845 and completed his apprenticeship on May 12, 1853. Presumably this was his elder brother who had completed his apprenticeship in February 1845, as his father died in 1847 and there is no record of him being assigned to a new master. He was awarded his freedom as a waterman on August 1, 1853.<sup>41</sup> In the 1851 census he is recorded aged 21, staying with his cousin George a river pilot, at 31 Wellington Street. Charles became a Trinity House pilot (Warrant No. 952) but no other details have survived in the records.<sup>42</sup> He married in 1867, at the age of 36, MARTHA MARY CONSTANT who had been born on March 21, 1841. She was the second of the 20 children of Amos Constant and Mary Martha Martin. Amos was a pilot and lived all his life in Gravesend. In 1881 Charles and Martha were living at 26 Harmer Street, Milton in Gravesend, Kent, with Martha's sister, confusingly called Mary Martha, also in the house.<sup>43</sup>

Charles died on January 11, 1891 at Melliker Farm, Meopham and is buried in Meopham churchyard in Kent.<sup>44</sup> The 1891 census records state that Martha, a widow aged 50 was staying with her sister Emily Conley and husband Charles, at 7 & 8 Marine Crescent, Folkstone.<sup>45</sup> Martha died in 1916 at Thanet,<sup>46</sup> and is buried with her husband in Meopham Churchyard.<sup>47</sup>

(vi). ELLEN BROWNFIELD was born on July 16, 1832 and christened on 16<sup>th</sup> July at St Alpheges.<sup>48</sup> She is recorded at home at Crowley's Wharf aged 9, in the 1841 census. By the 1861 census, she was at 120 Wellington Street, Gravesend, the house of her sister Elizabeth, now Mrs Fothergill. Ellen was herself married and recorded as 'married sister', Ellen Baynes, aged 28.

(vii). WALTER BROWNFIELD who was born on December 18, 1834 at Ballast Quay and was christened at St. Alphege's on April 15, 1835.<sup>49</sup> He worked for some time as a butcher. He married twice. Walter and his first wife Ann Maria Nash were married in Camberwell in 1854. Walter was working as a butcher in 1856 when their first child Walter Charles Brownfield was born. Ann Maria was the daughter of Edward Charles Carpenter NASH and Millicent Carter. Edward and Millicent had two other children, Harriet who married Charles Mathew MUNYARD and William Carpenter NASH who married Jenny

MUNYARD; so the families were closely bound together, given that Walter's mother was Sarah MUNYARD. In the 1861 census Walter is recorded with his wife Ann living at 35 Duke Street in Lambeth. He was a driver. Walter aged 4 and Millicent aged 2 were with them. Walter and Ann Maria had 4 children, but Ann Maria died in 1866 shortly after the birth of their daughter Ada. Walter married again. His second wife was a widow named Caroline Elizabeth Turner, At the time of his second marriage Walter was living in Plumstead, Kent, and was described as a cab proprietor.<sup>50</sup> In 1871, Walter and Caroline were living at 12 Chapel Street, Woolwich not far from a cousin John Matthew Munyard in No.18.<sup>51</sup> Walter Brownfield and John Matthew Munyard were both Fly Proprietors.

Walter and Caroline had two children, Beatrice and Thomas Yeatherd. Caroline died in 1891 at Epsom<sup>52</sup> and Walter died in at Woolwich in 1912.<sup>53</sup>

(viii). ELIZABETH BROWNFIELD who was born on December 16, 1836 at Crowley's Wharf, Greenwich.<sup>54</sup> and baptised on 13 January 1837 at St Alphege Church, Greenwich.<sup>55</sup> Her parents were both deceased by the time she was 10 years of age. She may have been taken into the care of her uncle and aunt, George and Mary Munyard, as she is shown in the 1851 census with them at their farm, Terry Lodge, Ash.<sup>56</sup>

On 18 December 1858, she married William Thomas Fothergill at St Mary the Virgin's Church, Chalk.<sup>57</sup> In 1861 they were residing at 120 Wellington Street, Gravesend<sup>58</sup> and by 1871 had moved to 23 Albion Road,<sup>59</sup> where they raised a large family. Their final move was to Cumberland Avenue, Gravesend, very close to Milton Place.

William Fothergill had followed in his father and grandfather's footsteps, and was a river pilot, obtaining his licence from Trinity House. He died on 15 June 1899 at his home, 3 Cumberland Avenue, Gravesend. Elizabeth survived him by 15 years and died on 27 December 1914, at her daughter, Ellen's home in Southend, Essex.

## The Fothergill Connection

A chapter written for 'MEET THE MUNYARDS' By Jo Newbury (nee Fothergill).

*“William Thomas Fothergill, my Great-Grandfather, married Elizabeth Brownfield on 18 December 1858 at St Mary the Virgin's Church, Chalk, near Gravesend. The village of Chalk, between Gravesend and Rochester, is renowned for its association with Charles Dickens. It was where he spent his honeymoon and whilst at Chalk he is understood to have begun writing his novel Pickwick Papers. Another of his novels, Great Expectations is said to have been based on Chalk Forge and the blacksmith who was there at the time. During the period 1857 to 1870, Charles Dickens lived at Higham, between Chalk and Rochester and apparently made frequent visits to Chalk Church. However, the reason for William Thomas and Elizabeth choosing this church for their marriage is unclear. Even today, there is still an amazing view across the fields and marshes to a long stretch of the winding River Thames, so it would have been most appropriate that this vista provided the backdrop for their marriage, bringing together as it did, the riverside families of the Fothergills and the Brownfields.*

*The Fothergills are an old Gravesend family with a proved line back to the 1740s. Gravesend fronts the River Thames about 26 miles downstream from London. Ships from all over the World used to pass by on their way to the Capital. Today, the river traffic has declined and London's famous docks have closed. However, ships still enter and leave Tilbury Docks opposite Gravesend, as well as visiting the numerous wharves upstream of the town. Tugs, pilot cutters, the ferry to Tilbury, Essex and other locally based craft can be seen operating off this historic waterfront. London's River has always featured strongly in the history of the family, as it was where many of the male fraternity earned their livings as watermen, tug men, dock and river pilots. In order to do this they had to serve a seven-year apprenticeship with the Company of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames. William Thomas Fothergill his Father and Grandfather all became river pilots, having obtained licences from Trinity House. Although it was a tough life, it was a lucrative one and pilots were well respected in the hierarchy of the town. An apt description comes from the book. The Royal River: The Thames From Source To Sea, published in 1885: - “The pilot goes out with his smart cutter. He is a comfortable man, with a healthy air of authority, and there is something in the very roll of his voice that speaks of his riches and monopoly.”*

*The Brownfields also had strong working ties with the River Thames and the family moved from Greenwich to the Gravesend area in the mid-nineteenth century. Elizabeth Brownfield's Parents however, died when she was quite young. Her Mother Sarah died on 17 February 1840 at Ballast Quay, Greenwich and her Father died on 18 September 1847 at 2 Crowley's Wharf, Greenwich. Elizabeth was then only 10 years old and was their youngest child. It is possible that she was taken into the care of her Uncle and Aunt, George and Mary Munyard, as she is shown in the 1851 Census with them at their farm, Terry's Lodge Farm, Ash, which is deep in the Kent countryside about 8 miles South-West of Gravesend. This farm is now in the Parish of West Kingsdown but was included in Ash until the 1930s.*

*Elizabeth Brownfield may have met William Thomas Fothergill through another Uncle and Aunt, William Brownfield, river pilot, and his Wife Mary Ann (nee*

Munyard). According to the 1851 Census, they resided at 5 Milton Place, Gravesend and number 11 in the same road was the family home of William Thomas Fothergill. Milton Place was a very desirable road in which to live and the tall terraced houses commanded fine views over the Thames. The progress of ships coming up river from the estuary could be observed, making it a most appropriate place for river pilots to reside, especially in the days before radio communications. Also in Milton Place was Fort House, the home of General Gordon from 1866 - 1871. He was the Commanding Officer of the nearby detachment of Royal Engineers who were in charge of refurbishing the defences of the River Thames. Whilst in Gravesend, he did much to help the poor and needy. General Gordon was killed at Khartoum in 1885 and, in his honour, the Gordon Promenade and Gordon Gardens were given to the town. A statue to the great man was erected in Gordon Gardens where it can still be seen today.

It was therefore with this waterside background that William Thomas and Elizabeth Fothergill began their married life. They stayed in Gravesend and had a large family, namely: - William, Augustus, Bessie, Herbert, Florence, Harry, Charles, Ellen, Ernest Thomas (my Grandfather) and Lillian. In the 1861 Census they are shown as living at 120 Wellington Street, Gravesend but by 1871 they had moved to 23 Albion Road, Gravesend, which remained the family home for a number of years before they moved finally to Cumberland Avenue, Gravesend, very close to Milton Place.

William, their first child, was born on 19 November 1859. His occupations ranged from coal merchant, to waterman, to hotel proprietor. He left England for South Africa in the mid-1890s with a Eugenie Austin, landlady of The Globe, public house (situated on the corner of Milton Place and Milton Road, Gravesend). They had six children namely: - Hilda, John William Noel, Emmie, Harry, George and Marion. The first three named survived to adulthood but Emmie was the only one to marry and have children. William owned hotels in South Africa but eventually returned to England about 1912 and managed The Green Man Hotel in Harlow, Essex, eventually buying a house and shop at Exning, Suffolk, where he died on 23 March 1936.

William Thomas and Elizabeth's second child, Augustus was born on 20 August 1861. He did not follow family tradition, and instead, became a saddler with his own shop in Stone Street, Gravesend. He married a Clara Barrowby on 11 July 1886 at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Milton, Gravesend. They had three children: - Florence Elizabeth, born 24 November 1886, Cyril Augustus, born 29 December 1888 and Sidney, born 2 November 1890. Augustus remained a saddler in Stone Street, Gravesend for over 50 years, eventually retiring in 1932. His Wife Clara died on 30 April 1947 and a few years later Augustus went to live with his Daughter Florence Elizabeth at her Grimsby home, where he died at the grand old age of 91 on 1 January 1953. Florence Elizabeth had married a Herbert G L Lawrence on 9 February 1916 and their four children are named in Augustus' will as: - Stella, Joyce, John and Eric. Cyril Augustus went to Australia, where he married a Nellie Brown on 24 February 1914 at Adelaide. In his will, Augustus (the saddler) refers to his Grandsons, Gus and Howard Fothergill and his Granddaughter Clara Fothergill. These must be the children of Cyril Augustus and Nellie because Augustus and Clara's other Son, Sidney, died in 1892. There may well be Australian descendants yet to be discovered!

Bessie, William Thomas and Elizabeth's eldest daughter was born on 11 December 1863 and married an Alfred Mackey at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Milton, Gravesend on 12 May 1897. It is thought that they moved to Herne Bay, Kent.

*Herbert, the third Son, was born on 14 October 1865 and had the unusual occupation of river postman. My Father remembered him delivering ship's mail, which, according to the Port of London Authority Monthly of May 1948, was a job he did for some 60 years. The article goes on to say:*

*"Coming from a well-known family of Thames pilots he began work in a Gravesend pilot cutter at the age of 15, later entering the service of the London and India Dock Company. In his youthful days on the river, watermen wore top hats, and steam vessels were only beginning to supplant sailing ships. He was later employed by the Post Office to deliver mail and telegrams in his skiff to vessels anchored in the stream off Gravesend and during the First World War, he ferried some thousands of letters to troops in outward-bound transport. He was a colourful survivor of a past age and featured as a tideway celebrity in one of the early British television programmes"*

*He married an Alice Emma Hooker on 11 December 1888 at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Milton, Gravesend and they had a large family. He died on 9 March 1948. Sadly, one Son, Herbert, who worked on the River Thames, was killed by enemy action in his 41st year in 1941.*

*William Thomas and Elizabeth's Daughter Florence was baptised on 28 July 1868 at Holy Trinity Church, Milton Place, Gravesend. In the 1881 Census, she is recorded as living with her Parents and was shown as a scholar, aged 13 years. I have not found her in the 1891 Census, nor have I found a marriage for her, so, at the moment, the rest of her life remains a mystery.*

*As has been shown, not all the Sons worked on the River Thames and Harry, the fourth Son, who was born on 17 June 1868, also did not follow the family tradition. He married a Julia Miller on 11 September 1894 at the Parish Church, Peterborough and by 1896 he is listed in Kelly's Hornsey, Wood Green...Finsbury Park (Buff Book) Directory 1896-1897 as a butcher in Stroud Green, Middlesex (now part of London). As far as I know, Julia and Harry had four Daughters. Dora, Jessie and Maud all remained spinsters but Betty, the fourth Daughter, was married late in life to a William Alan Broadbent, at Holy Trinity Temporary Church, Stroud Green, Middlesex on 17 November 1951. Harry died on 2 February 1954 and Julia, his Wife, died on 16 January 1958.*

*Charles, the fifth Son of William Thomas and Elizabeth, was born circa 1871. He was also a waterman and was married to a widow, Jane Jones Curtis on 14 April 1902 at St Andrew's Church, Plaistow (London). He died on 25 November 1922 at 27 Havelock Road, Gravesend, the death being registered by his Step-Son E H Curtis of the same address. Charles was buried in Gravesend Cemetery in the same grave as his Parents.*

*Ellen, the eighth child of William Thomas and Elizabeth, was born circa 1873 and married Ernest Ashenden on 21 November 1894 at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Milton, Gravesend. The Ashenden family had a long-established business as Nurserymen, Seedsmen, Florists and Landscape Gardeners, as listed in an advertisement in Hall's Gravesend, Milton and Northfleet Directory, and Advertiser 1861. On Ernest's marriage certificate both he and his Father, who was deceased, are shown as Florists.*

*My Grandfather, Ernest Thomas, born on 1 December 1875 at 23 Albion Road, Milton, Gravesend, was the youngest Son of William Thomas and Elizabeth. He followed the well-established route and went to work on the river, eventually becoming a dock pilot. He was known amongst his waterside colleagues as Joe. He married Edith Jane Leeks at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Milton, Gravesend on 20*

*December 1902. They had eight children, namely: - William George, Ernest Thomas (my Father), Beatrice, Gilbert Charles, Edith May, Mabel, Violet and Douglas Haig. All married and all had families, with the exception of Edith May. William George went into business but Ernest Thomas, Gilbert Charles and Douglas Haig all went on the river. My Father, Ernest Thomas (known as Joe, like his Father before him) was born on 27 August 1905 and worked for the firm of W H J Alexander Ltd on their famous Sun Tugs. He started as cook and, eventually, became the skipper of various tugs, including the Sun IV and the new Sun II. He married Isabel Emma Grace Reader on 19 August 1933 at St Mark's Church, Rosherville, Kent. They had two children, Brian Albert and myself, Josephine Isabel. Gilbert Charles and Douglas Haig both became dock pilots and one or other of them would often be in charge of a ship that my Father's tug was towing. Apparently, much friendly banter ensued! My Father survived his two younger Brothers and died on 25 July 1988 thereby ending this branch of the Fothergill family's long association with the River Thames.*

*Lillian, the last child of William Thomas and Elizabeth, was born circa 1882. She married a Richard James Tadman on 28 April 1903 at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Milton, Gravesend. There is an interesting account of the wedding in the Gravesend Reporter for 2 May 1903, which stated that Richard J Tadman was from Durban, South Africa and was Grandson of Mrs Barnard, late of Denton Court, which was rather an impressive house on the outskirts of Gravesend. It is known that Lillian and Richard's first child was a Daughter called Lillian, who was born in 1904 and there was possibly another Daughter, May Evelyn born in 1907. The trail then goes cold until a memorial notice appears in the Gravesend Reporter of 8 January 1916, which says...."In memory of our dear Mother who passed away December 27th 1914 - from Lill and Dick (Toronto)". It therefore seems likely that Lillian and Richard James Tadman immigrated to Canada, as no further evidence has been found of their lives in the UK.*

*William Thomas Fothergill died on 15 June 1899 at his home, 3 Cumberland Avenue, Gravesend. His obituary in the Gravesend and Northfleet Standard of 24 June 1899 said that he had been ailing for some time, and owing to this he was forced to retire from the piloting service. Lately, he had been local agent for the London Steam Towing Company and was held in the highest esteem by all connected with the water. Elizabeth survived him by 15 years and died at her Daughter, Ellen's home in Southend, Essex on 27 December 1914."*

Little Elizabeth had a very sad childhood. Her mother died when she was only four. Her eldest sister Sarah Sophia died the following year, followed by another sister Eliza when she was still only 8. Her Father died when she was 10 and if indeed George and Mary Munyard brought her up after her parents' early deaths, more sadness was to come. George and Mary had only married in 1845 and were themselves childless. Elizabeth was still only aged 16 when George died in 1853. She had, however, certainly remained close to her Brownfield cousins, for in 1857, she was a witness at the wedding of Caroline to George Tolhurst and she married one of their neighbour's in Milton Place.

## SOURCES

### *Thomas Brownfield*

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33. GRO1 Births 1894.1 Gravesend 2a539
34. GRO1 Mariages 1921.3 Stone 5a1023
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53. GRO I Deaths 1912.1 Woolwich 1d 1196
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56. 1851 Census
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