

ROMANY ROUTES

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Eva Franklin (née Robinson, 1860-1957), seated, with unknown relative, probably in the 1920s. Eva was a fortune-teller and a member of the long-standing Gypsy community that lived on the sands at South Shore, Blackpool, Lancashire.



Pamela Sillers (née Mullenger, 1861-1937), the daughter of Lementeni Smith and Tom 'The Barber' Mullenger, possibly photographed outside her mother's fortune-telling booth at South Shore, Blackpool, soon after her 1890 marriage. Eva Franklin (shown on the previous page) was her mother's half-sister.

Bohemia Cottage, Farnham, Dorset

Vivienne Halton

An article in the last issue of *Romany Routes*, 'My Stanley line' by Paul Kimber, mentions a family named **Mills** to whom his family is connected. He may be interested to know that Matthew Mills is the son of Thomas Mills and Ann Ayres. He was baptised on 8 March 1812 in Shalbourne, Wiltshire, son of 'Thos & Ann, Travellers'.

Thomas and Ann were married in Crondall, Hampshire, on 7 August 1808. In addition to Matthew, a son Thomas is baptised on 29 August 1813 in Etchilhampton, also in Wiltshire, to Thomas and Anne, Travellers. Thomas may also be the father of a daughter Athalia **Ayres** who was baptised on 7 March 1802 in Hannington, Hampshire, to Ann, a Gypsy vagrant of Ibworth. In 1816 a daughter Elizabeth is baptised on 13 May in Bramdean, Hampshire, with the following added information - 'Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Lawrence & Ann Mills, sojourners on Bramdean Common, razor grinder. The above Thomas Mills was married to Ann Eyres [*sic*] when Sojourners in the Parish of Crondall, 11th Sept 1808, by Geo. Sherrer Vicar of that Parish. Thomas L. Mills declared his Proper Parish to be that of Little Kimbell Bucks near Aylesbury'. Elizabeth later became the wife of Christopher **Hearn**, son of Thomas Hearn and Frances **Smith**. Another possible son is Francis who, now himself widowed, is with his widowed mother Ann and a son Francis in tents with other travellers, among whom is Athalia and her two children, in Long Sutton, Hampshire, in 1851. He is also near his sister Elizabeth in a large encampment of travellers in Hammersmith, Middlesex, in the 1861 census.

Matthew married Vashti **Sherlock** in 1842 in Chattle, Dorset. Vashti is described as 'of the race of people called Gypsies', though she does not name her father. Both she and Matthew put Bohemia Cottage, Farnham as their place of residence, and David **Stanley** is one of the witnesses.

Matthew and Vashti must have been happy with their cottage and the attached land provided by the Rector John West. Unlike the rest of his family, who appear to have continued travelling for most of their lives, Matthew and his family remained in Farnham. According to the 1881 census Matthew, by now a widower, is still living in Bohemia Cottage. Vashti is buried in Farnham in 1880, aged 63, and Matthew in 1885 at the age of 73.



Get Carter!

Anne Ford

In 1887 Sarah **Stanley**, daughter of Vandalo, himself the son of Vandelo Stanley and his wife Sarah, married Horace **Ayers**. On the register she made her mark beneath the name Sarah **Carter**, but this was corrected and the name changed to Sarah Stanley. Her confusion was justified, since her father, Vandalo, had indeed been baptised as Vandalo Stanley, although census records show he styled himself, as an adult, as Vandalo Carter. It was the name he chose, too, to use when he married Agnes Emma **Gardner** on 15 September 1861 (son of Vandalo Carter, horse dealer), baptising Sarah as a Carter, daughter of Vandloo and Agnes, on 25 November 1866. Other children, Vandloo George, Blanche and Marian Agnes were all baptised as Carters, and when Vandalo married his second wife, Mary Ann **Whale**, following Agnes' death, in the December quarter of 1875, he was Vandlo Carter. The family can be found in the 1881 census at a brickyard at Westbourne, in Sussex, where Vandelo is described as a dealer.

Vandalo's sisters, Emily and Sarah, also used the surname Carter when appearing in both police and census records; Emily eventually marrying Francis **Light** in the registration district of Chichester in the December quarter of 1872. For some time I assumed that both of the elder Vandalo's daughters had married, or formed relationships with, Carters, but this hardly seems likely, in view of the fact that their brother also chose to use the surname Carter. Since the elder Vandalo's wife was a Smith prior to her marriage, it is possible to argue that they are tracing the name back through the maternal line to the elder Vandalo's mother, Margaret.

What complicates this thesis is the 1841 census record in which two elderly women identify themselves as members of this family group. Rosa **Proudley** and Mary Carter claim to be sisters. Rosa, we know, was formerly a Stanley, baptised in Medstead, Hampshire, on 16 August 1778 as Rose, the daughter of William and Rose Stanley, Gypsies, and she married William Proudley in 1801. It is possible that her sister Mary had married or formed a union with a Carter, or is may even be a sister-in-law or a half-sister, but it is more likely that she, too, is using it as an alternate name. In addition, the two old people they are living with seem, too, to be related. Stephen **Newman**'s wife was a Carter before their marriage. Is she the Lucy Stanley who married Richard Carter, and was then widowed, as she does not marry Stephen until she is about 40 years of age? Or is this a maiden name, suggesting she is Mary's sister?

Of course, this indicates that the elder Vandalo's father, James, is descended from the same family group as Rosa and Mary, using the same alternate name. In addition to this, Vandalo was baptised in Fawley, where another Stanley, Mahala,

the daughter of William and Repentance, was baptised the previous year. It is certain that this William is the son of William and Rose, and so travelling the same territory as his (probable) brother or half-brother.

The last will and testament of a hawker called Francis Proudley, who had formed a union with another daughter of William and Rose, Collony Stanley (who also used the name Pearce), referred to a William **Pearce** (who was also a witness at Proudley's second wedding, following his first wife's death, using the name William Stanley) as his brother-in-law, this further confirms William as the son of William and Rose Stanley. Can the name, therefore, be traced back as far as the Rose who was the wife of the elder William Stanley? None of these strands form themselves into a formalised pattern.

One possible explanation is that the elder William formed two unions, and his family divided into children who used the name Stanley, but also Carter, as it was their mother's name, and then, by his second partner, Rose/Rhoda, children who used the name Stanley, but also Pearce, as this was their mother's name – and there appear to be no records of legal marriages in either case. We know that the William Stanley who married Repentance, and who was the son of the elder William, used the alternate name of Pearce, as did Francis Proudley's first wife, Collony/Callony and also the Reuben Stanley *alias* Pearce, who married Lydia Stanley, in all probability his first cousin, the daughter of John and Susannah Stanley.

In addition, there is also a Lydia Carter, another possible sister of Mary Carter's, and therefore a likely half-sister of Reuben and William Stanley/Pearce, who married a Charles **Barnes**, who was himself charged with horse-stealing at Winchester Assizes where Reuben Stanley and Francis Proudley appeared, in March 1827. Barnes' crime took place at Eling, Hampshire, and Proudley and Stanley were charged with horse-stealing in Dorset, but their appearances at Winchester is an interesting connection, nonetheless. Both Proudley and Barnes were sentenced to death for horse-stealing, and Reuben acquitted, although he died whilst still in prison as a result of a 'visitation by God' according to the inquest.

I would be interested to hear from anyone who has material that could throw light on this Stanley/Carter/Pearce triangle!

William Stanley & ? Carter:

? **Lucy Carter** b c1770

? **Mary Stanley/Carter** b 1771 - claims to be a sister to Rose Proudley, d/o William & Rose Stanley.

? **Lydia Stanley/Carter** m Charles Barnes: Harriet Barnes Carter

? **James Stanley/Carter** : Vandelow; Elizabeth; Henry; Emily; Sarah; (several members of this family continued to use Carter)

? **Samuel Carter/Stanley**: Samuel; Solomon; David:

William Stanley & Rose (?Pearce):

William Stanley/Pearce m Repentance Ware: Ann; Mahala; Thurza; Josiah

Rose Stanley/Pearce m William Proudley: William;

Callony Stanley/Pearce m Francis Proudley (who later married Ann Parker): Henry; Harriet;
William; Sarah; James

George James Stanley s/o William (died young)

John Stanley & Susannah:

Diaphene

Lydia m Rueben Stanley: Harriet; Patience; Thomas; Stephen; John;

Charles m Mary Ayres: Diaphene; Emily; John; James; Charles

**Special Collections Department of Sheffield University Library, Russell
Wortley MSS., 97-022/1/9/14/1, typescript of contents of field notebook 7.**

1959 (probably June), Newent, Gloucestershire.

Nephew of Leonard Ryles (or Lock) of Newent - seen at Plough and at the Crown (?) [*sic*] Newent...He spoke freely of his family, saying the Locks and the Baldwins were related - of gypsy stock - Baldwins & Forty, Lock & Ryles - some took one surname & some the other. They didn't get married in those days, & the children took the name of whichever parent they liked best.

***The Daily News*, 12 November 1856, page 3.**

The Body of Josiah Stanley, the "King of the Gipsies" of the West, was found on the 29th ult. in the river Dart, near Totnes, South Devon, and was buried on Monday, the 3rd inst., at Highweek, being followed to the grave by crowds of spectators. Various rumours as to the appearance of deceased when found having got abroad, the coroner held an inquest, which was from time to time adjourned. The medical men asked for a post-mortem examination, giving it as their opinion that the man had been strangled before being thrown into the water. The police are already possessed of some important information, and the inquest stands again adjourned until Friday, the 14th inst. The tribe to which deceased belonged have offered a reward of 50*l.* for the apprehension of the murderer, and it is believed by many that some of the tribe who are next in succession to the kingship have had a hand in the old king's death.



Two splendid vintage images courtesy of John Mackenzie Buckley. Does anyone have any information about them?



What do you know about...?

Today we start a new feature in *Romany Routes*. Do you have a burning question about a person, an event or a place that you've come across by chance in your research? Perhaps someone or something that's unconnected to your own family history but that fascinates you.

If so, why not share it with fellow-members here to see what they know about it? And whether you'd like to ask or answer a question, please contact the Editor (details on the final page).

To get the ball rolling, here are a couple of things from Sharon Heppell :

'What do you know about John Sweetlove?'

John Sweetlove's name crops up a few times in English newspapers during the period 1850-1900. He claims forty years' experience as a showman in 1877. And in 1897, the entertainment world's newspaper *The Era* publishes an appeal when 'poor old Sweetlove' falls on hard times. Many famous fairground and circus people contribute to his fund. It sounds as though John ought to be better known. Has anyone ever heard of him?

WANTED, by the old Original John Sweetlove
(of nearly Forty Years' experience), for his Great Easter Fetes and Carnivals, TALENT (Comic), Ballets, &c. ; Shows, Stalls, Roundabouts, Fireworks, Balloon Ascents. Also Good Brass Bands Required. Money sure. Insure 20,000 people and no puff. See future bills. Applications to Mr JOHN SWEETLOVE, 51, Harman-street, Kingsland-road. Those wishing for Engagements write at once.

'What do you know about the Anne Boleyn Estate, Rochford?'

Lots of people have heard of the Bohemia Estate in Eastwood, near Southend, Essex: a home to several Essex Romany families from the early 1900s onwards. But has anyone ever heard of the 'Anne Boleyn Estate'? I've picked up some newspaper references by chance during the 1920s and 1930s: an inquest for a child in a caravan; a family who lived in a hut made from packing cases; and one about van-dweller named Elijah Stone, killed by a car. So was it another Bohemia Estate?

EASTWOOD TRAGEDY

MAN KILLED BY CAR.

An inquest was held at Rochford on Tuesday on Elijah Stone, 47; van-
tweller, living on the Anne Boleyn
Estate, Eastwood, who was knocked
down and killed on Saturday by a car
driven by Frederick J. Sanders, 18, son

And here is a contribution of my own :

'What do you know about Charlindy Smith?'

During many years of research into Romany musicians the following census enumeration has both intrigued and frustrated me. It dates from 1851 and forms an entry for King's Walden, Hertfordshire (HO107 1719 424v-425). Given the directive to the enumerators to record the total number but not the names of any persons not living in a house we are fortunate that this particular scribe either ignored instructions, or made the entry in error. The latter seems most likely, given that the entire entry is crossed through, though thankfully remaining legible.

Of the fiddlers named, Samuel Draper is well-known, appearing in two contemporary photographs (one of which is featured on the cover of the 3rd edition of *My Ancestors Were Gypsies*, by Sharon Sillers-Floate), a dozen sketches and paintings, and in books and articles galore. His son Ambrose is likewise reasonably well-documented, including a photograph taken in 1865, during one of his several spells in prison. Although the Shaw family numbered among its ranks a good many musicians, this James (as well as his supposed wife Salena) remains unidentified. Similarly, I have drawn a biographical blank with the brothers Charles and William Smith. Despite the original attribution of 'Tinman' (crossed through and altered to 'Net Maker'), Charlindy is female, a widow, and the mother of the two fiddle players. According to the FamilySearch website there is a William Smith baptised in Clothall in 1837, a son of William and Elizabeth, but he died a short time later, so Charlindy doesn't appear to be this Elizabeth.

I would be delighted if fresh eyes could sort any of this out.

Henry WILLIAMS	Head	M	26	Ag Laborer	Pirton, HRT
Elizabeth WILLIAMS	Wife	M	24	Wife	Langley, HRT
Mary Ann WILLIAMS	Dau		2		Palswalden, HRT
Emma WILLIAMS	Do		9month		Do Do

[Tents in lane, Company of Gipsies]

James SHAW	Head	M	19	Fiddler	England, Parish un none
Salena SHAW	Wife	M	22	Net Maker	Brikil, BKM

[Do]

Charlindy SMITH	Head	W	50	Tinman Net Maker	B. Stortford, ESS
Charles SMITH	Son	U	18	Fiddler	Lulton, BDF
William SMITH	Son	U	14	Do	Clohall, HRT

[Do]

Samuel DRAPER	Head	M	60	Fiddler	Shitlington, BDF
Margrate DRAPER	Wife	M	40	Net Maker	Wardon, BDF
Margrate DRAPER	Dau	U	17	Do Do	Codicot, HRT
Ambros DRAPER	Son	U	13	Fiddler	Wymondly, HRT
Hanah DRAPER	Dau	U	10		Wethamstead, HRT
Edward DRAPER	Son	U	8		Do Do
Famebridge DRAPER	Dau	U	1		Kingswalden, HRT

[-]

Richard DAVIS	Head	M	57	Tinman and Grinder	Ireland un known
Jane DAVIS	Wife	M	40	Farmer	Hertford
Edward SMITH	Ldg		8		CAM

[Tent in Lane, Gipsies]



Samuel Draper, sketched by Jacob Thompson

Tales my family told me

Vivien Cooper

VANSLOW COOPER : IN LOVING MEMORY

While we were attending the funeral in the early 1990s in Hounslow Cemetery, Middlesex, of one of my father's first cousins, he introduced me to Jane White, another of his first cousins. He asked her to show me the grave of their grandparents, Vanslow (son of the famous Matty Cooper) and Amy, and the graves of other members of the family who were buried there. Like my father, Jane was very proud of old Vanslow and the fact that he'd lived to be a hundred.

As she walked me round, showing me different graves, Jane told me how, when she was a child, all her family, including Vanslow and Amy, had lived together in Vine Place, Hounslow, and went on to tell how Vanslow had showed her how to catch bangtails, or rats, as other people would call them (we never spoke the word 'rats', it was always considered unlucky).

Jane showed me many graves, but the one I was most interested in was that of my great-grandparents. As we made our way back there, many relations started to arrive for the funeral, and I noticed many going over to Vanslow and Amy's grave. I stood back with Jane and my father, and could see, as some bowed their heads, how loved and respected Vanslow had been and still was. Every story I'd ever heard about him had shown this love, and it was the same today. I also heard again how proud his descendants were that he'd lived to be a hundred. It said on his headstone that he had 'DIED 9th FEB 1947 AGED 100 YEARS.'

It was Jane's sister, Rhoda Hunt, who said Amy had died twenty years before Vanslow and, during the week leading up to her funeral, had been laid out in their room in Vine Place, with Vanslow and all the family taking it in turn to sit with her; and that, when Vanslow died, all his children and grandchildren had done the same thing for him.

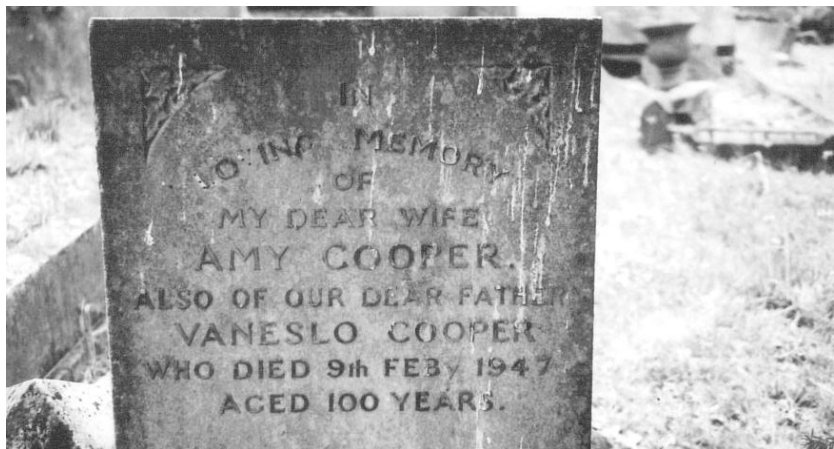
I asked my father how Vanslow and Amy had met. He said Amy's father was George Smith (also known by the name Stockings), who was a horse dealer like Vanslow and Matty. They all went to Ireland to get some horses, and on the journey Vanslow got to know Amy. Amy, my father said, was a wild young thing. She could have a row with a stone in the road, and her character never changed. But she was the right filly for Vanslow, and when they got back they were married in Kent.

Years later I obtained their wedding certificate. It said they were married in 1873, in Kent as my father said, and that their fathers were both horse dealers, as my father also said. I then obtained Vanslow's death certificate. It said he died 9

February 1947, as his headstone said and my father believed, but that he died aged 92 (which, given his baptism in 1854, was clearly correct). His descendants were clearly right to be proud of him, but to this day I've not had the heart to pass on the death certificate's details to his last remaining grandchildren, for they truly believe he died two months after his hundredth birthday.



From left to right, daughter Amy Herne, Vanslow Cooper, son of Harry, daughter Rhoda Goodman.



Web Window

Free guide to Romany archives/artefacts in UK collections

<http://www.romaroutes.eu/countries/uk/>

There's a free guide to the Gypsy and Traveller records and artefacts held in archives and museum collections throughout the UK, available to view or download from this site. It's been compiled by the team at the Surrey Heritage Centre as part of a Europe-wide initiative to celebrate the culture and heritage of the Romany people.

Songs sung by Hampshire Gypsies

www.forest-tracks.co.uk/hampshirevoices/pages/alicegillington.html

Did Gysiologist Alice Gillington collect a song sung by your ancestors? This article describes her pioneering work in Hampshire in the early 20th century where she met singers such as Betsy **Holland** and Tom **Pateman**.

Bedfordshire marriages index

<http://www.sgibbs1.freemove.co.uk/ParishRegistersPage.htm>

If your people travelled through Bedfordshire, check this free index for possible marriages in the county.

Miscellany

Ann Harding has kindly sent in two items of interest which appeared in her local paper, *The Gloucestershire Echo*. Both refer to recently published books. The first of these, by Steve Perry and called *Danters Travels 1952-2012*, consists of 260 photos of the Danter family's 'transport and fun fair rides over the last six decades.' The family are members of the Showman's Guild of Great Britain, who are instrumental in organising the Mop fair in Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire. It can be had for £14.99 and details on how to order a copy may be found at http://www.joylandbooks.com/books_new/danters-travels.htm. The second volume is *Big Louie and Me: Caravans, curses and cockfights*, by former traveller George Locke, a member of the famous Midland family, many of whom were noted fiddle players. The price is £8.99, and details may be found on the website of the publisher, The University of Hertfordshire Press, at <http://www.herts.ac.uk/about-us/our-structure/subsidiary-companies/uh-press/romani-studies/big-louie.cfm>.

Have any of our members read either of these, and if so would they be willing to send me a short review for publication?

I have received news that a book fair held at the Village Hall in Wing, Buckinghamshire (LU7 0NN - on the A418 between Leighton Buzzard and Aylesbury), on every first Sunday of the month throughout the year (except January), always has a selection of books and other items relating to Gypsies on offer. Worth checking out if you live nearby.

Was your ancestor's location recorded by a 20th century folk-tale collector?

Sharon Heppell

Searching for ancestors in the early to mid 20th century can be tricky. Yes: you have plentiful birth, marriage and death certificates available. But with no census returns to consult after 1911 (at least not yet) and few online indexes to local newspapers covering these years (again, not yet), it can be hard to pinpoint where your people were and what they were doing between the landmark events in their lives. But if your ancestor was a storyteller, you could be in luck.

That's because between 1908 and 1924, the Gypsologist T. W. Thompson took on a special project to record as many folk-tales as he could from his Romany friends, the **Grays, Smiths and Boswells**. He was keen to preserve what he felt was a dying art and - fortunately for us - as well as noting down each tale in a notebook, he annotated it with the name of the storyteller, the place and the date.

Author Katherine Mary Briggs subsequently used Thompson's notes to help create her *Dictionary of British Folk-Tales in the English Language: Part 1* (Taylor & Francis, 1991). Here are some references from the book to show its potential as a family history source :

- Lily Boswell, daughter of O'Connor Boswell, at Renton, 24 July 1922
- Taimi Boswell, Oswaldtwistle, 9 January 1915
- Reuben Gray, Old Radford, Nottinghamshire, 21 December 1914
- Phoenix Boswell, Windy Harbour, Siddington, Cheshire, 6 August 1923
- Gus Gray, Cleethorpes, 7 October 1914 and Old Radford, Nottinghamshire, 22 December 1914
- Matthew Wood, Bala, 28 August 1922
- Eva Gray, Grimsby, 31 October 1914
- Noah Lock, Anglesey, 1914
- Pat Smith, Reuben Smith, Shanny Smith, Tommy Smith and Johnny Smith, Oswaldtwistle, 11 Jan 1915
- Traienti Lovell, wife of Ephraim Heron, Blackburn, 13 September 1914
- Manivel Smith, Burton-on-Trent, 20 January 1922; and Crewe's Pond, Repton, 28 April 1924
- Eb Smith, Robin's Cross, Repton, 29 April 1921
- John Lock, Clun Forest, Shropshire, August 1923
- Shony Gray, Grimsby, 8 November 1914
- Durham Lees and Terence Lee, Oxenholme, Kendal, September 1914