

An impressionist painting of a river scene. The foreground shows several figures, possibly a family, gathered near the water's edge. The middle ground features a wide river reflecting the sky and surrounding foliage. The background is filled with dense, green trees and foliage. The overall style is characterized by visible brushstrokes and a soft, atmospheric quality.

YET MORE EVIDENCE

**CONTINUING THE EXTENDED SMITH
AND AYRES FAMILY OF
WILLIAM AYRES, GYPSY
1806 - 1872**

Tony Dixon

March 2022

**For
Maxwell Anthony**

Latest in a long line

The following pages are meant as a supplement to my book **'BUT FOR FURTHER EVIDENCE'** first published in 2013, revised and extended in 2019.

References back to this later publication will, for the most part, be made using the shortened version **BFFE**.

In 2011 a prequel to this book was published entitled **'BUT FOR A LITTLE MORE EVIDENCE'**, and charted my research which began in a serious way in around 2007.

It was, with hindsight, very much the beginning of the journey into finding my Gypsy and Traveller ancestors.

References back to this publication will abbreviated to **BFLME**.

These publications form a trilogy covering research into my distant Traveller ancestors from the early 1700s, until fairly modern times. From the South Midlands, to the City of London.

VOLUME ONE	BUT FOR A LITTLE MORE EVIDENCE
VOLUME TWO	BUT FOR FURTHER EVIDENCE
VOLUME THREE	YET MORE EVIDENCE

Tony Dixon (Smith)

Cover picture from an original painting by the author

My father's side of the family, including the **Ayres** Travelling people, were reasonably straightforward to investigate as the records were relatively easy to access, no pun intended, and agreed with each other as a rule, until it came to my 4 x great grandfather **William Ayres**. His wife **Mary Gray** had a sister **Elizabeth** who married **Anthony Smith** (**Vantino, Nymphany**, etc) and then the fun began.

The particular web I will try and untangle initially begins with an assertion that a **Delitha Smith** is a relative to **Anthony Smith**, his parents being **William Anscombe** and **Aquilla Smith**.

Delitha (Deleafey and other variants) had a daughter, also named **Delitha**, and it is her that is featured in the first instance as mother of **Clementina**.

Next it has to be remembered that **William Ayres** had a son, also a **William**, my 3 x GGF, who partnered a **Caroline Smith**, for whom I have not found any identifying records, and I still have no idea who her family was, or what happened to their children after **Caroline's** untimely death aged in her early 40s. With the exception of one!

One of their offspring, their daughter **Caroline Ayres**, partnered **James**, son of **Anthony Smith**, and so the two families were joined together once again.

Add to that my father was told by his grandfather that our family name was **Smith** and not **Dixon**, and I knew I was in for an interesting time!

Happily, that has been resolved through DNA test results and the expertise of those with more knowledge on the subject than yours truly.

But first.....

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CHAPTER 1

I have taken the following extract from my book, '**But For Further Evidence**' Chapter 5, as a place to begin this update. Here then is a bit of a recap.

Clementina Loveridge was Baptised at Beckley, Oxon.

December 9th 1838, Lemantina daughter of Cornelius and DALITHA Loveridge, (SMITH) of Stoke Lyne near Bicester, Travelling People.

In the fullness of time she married in the Parish Church at Headington Quarry, January 31st 1859

Thomas Smith, 23, Bach. Lab. Of Headington Quarry, father Thomas Smith (2), Labourer.

Clementina Loveridge, 21, Spr. Of Headington Quarry, father, Cornelius Loveridge, Brazier.

Witnesses were George Loveridge, and Georgina Loveridge (brother and sister I assume).

(**Dalitha**, the bride's mother is investigated in Chapter 5, page 40 BFFE).

On the opposite page of the Marriage Record Book reg. On Jan. 9th 1860 is **Thomas'** brother;

Wisdom Smith, 31, Bach. Lab. Of Headington Quarry, father Thomas Smith (2), Lab. Priscilla Bagley, 36, Spr. Of Headington Quarry, father, Robert Bagley, Lab.

Witnesses were, Thomas Smith, and Ellen Tolley.

It seems to be accepted that **Priscilla Bagley, Wisdom's** bride, is the daughter of **Robert Bagley** and **Sybilina Smith**, she a sister of **Nymphany (Anthony Smith)**, and **Bethuna Smith**.

I also believe that **DALITHA**, mother of **CLEMENTINA LOVERAGE** shown above to be yet another relative of **ANTHONY SMITH**, explaining the hereditary use of the name **QUEENATION** in his female descendants. (chapter 5, page 39 BFFE).

There is much on the internet concerning the Bagley and wider extended family, and this record was included because of its links to the main characters.

There now follow three generations in the family of **Thomas Smith**, so they have been assigned the numbers 1, 2 and 3.

The father of both of the above grooms, **Thomas(3)** and **Wisdom**, is another **THOMAS Smith(2)**, He was the son of **JASPER** Smith, baptised in 1759 at North Marston, Bucks. Add HIS father another **THOMAS (1) Smith**, baptised like his son at North Marston, Bucks. In 1727, and you have enough of the dynasty for our purposes here!

Thomas (2) was brother to the famous **Hercules Smith**, (1779-1871) a sometime 'Drover' who's family included various sons and grandsons also described as 'Gypsy Drivers' and

the subject of my previous attempt to find a link to this family. Perhaps the answer is a mixture of all these threads.

This family of **Thomas Smith** have been looked at through the prism of possible connections in the mid to late 18th century, but now I have realised that this **Smith** family in the persons of perhaps one of his grandchildren, may be connected also as the biological father of another of my ancestors.

This would mean that both of my dad's paternal grandparents originate from the same **Smith** dynasty. More later...

I have recently broken through a brick wall of several years standing, it has to be inserted somewhere in these notes, but as it covers so many 'bases', here is as good a place as any. It is a birth certificate, and doubtless will need to be referred back to!

It concerns **James**, (son of **Anthony Smith**), and wife/partner **Caroline** (daughter of **William Ayres**) and their son **Goliath**. He is I think their first born and the only birth registration I have found for the entire family to date.

Buckingham, 9th April 1844

GOLIATH, boy, Father **JAMES SMITH**, Mother **CAROLINE** formerly **AYRES**.

Father's occupation **Drover**.

Caroline made her mark registering the birth on the 20th April.

Apart from the 1871 census when the family (minus **Goliath**) were encamped at Alperton in Middx. I only had the baptisms of both **James** and **Caroline** as indication to their identities as a couple, as they seem to have evaded all other records.

James being the son of **ANTHONY SMITH** and **ELIZABETH (Gray/Grey)**, whose sister **MARY** was wife/partner to my 4 x gt Grandfather **WILLIAM AYRES**. His son **WILLIAM** was father to **CAROLINE**, making the couple cousins of course. An Appendix showing the 1871 census, and updates on information shown is to be found at the end of this publication.

Drover, and '**Gypsy Drover**' was the occupation of several of the menfolk in both families, but never before recorded to **James**, as it was to his father and at least one brother, **HENRY** for example (he married **CAROLINE's** aunt **HANNAH AYRES**).

They baptised a daughter **Placenta** (yes, really!) at Aston Abbots, Bucks. On 29th October 1843, father '**Drover to London**', In other of their children's baptisms, he is recorded as 'Gypsy' etc.

Caroline's brother **BENJAMIN AYRES**, and her Grandfather **WILLIAM AYRES**, were both '**Gypsy Drovers**'.

CHAPTER 2

GYPSY DROVERS

The following chapter is an article formerly published in '*Romany Routes*'.

It was a long, and in the mid-19th century, hazardous journey from Wales to London with herds of livestock. Typically on foot, the journey took weeks until the railways took over the job, and being a Drover soon became a redundant occupation.

I don't suppose it stopped abruptly, and there appear to be many routes through Buckinghamshire, avoiding Tolls and built up areas for example. Names like 'Cattleford Bridge' over the Grand Junction Canal south of Leckhampstead can be considered as evidence of these routes. This example sounds like a bridge was added to an original ford, perhaps once the canal had been built.

This story is contained geographically on what is today the Ordnance Survey Landranger Map165 of Aylesbury and Leighton Buzzard. It is the area in which my distant Traveller family baptised a lot of their children, being described as Travellers, Gypsies, Gypsy Drover and Drover.

Modern maps are useful for an overview of the area, but it is the old 'one inch to the mile' of the 1880's and 1890's which erase modern topographical 'clutter', and then a world our ancestors might recognise is revealed. Modern towns revert back to the villages they grew from before absorbing the countryside around them. Names found in the censuses suddenly appear as distinct places.

A good example of this is the town of Bletchley in Bucks.

The O/S map of 1893 shows all the reasons the town was to grow and prosper. Watling Street, the old Roman Road, passes through NE/SW diagonally at Fenny Stratford, as does the Grand Junction (Union) Canal.

Nearby, Bletchley hosts a railway station at what would have been a busy junction of the main line, London and North Western Railway (L&NWR) running roughly north/south, and two others, heading west from Bletchley, the L&NWR Oxford and Bletchley Branch, and to the east the L&NWR Cambridge and Bletchley Branch. From here it is easy to imagine not only cattle, but the Brickfields and Brickworks of the locality could transport their products to a much wider market, more cheaply and quicker.

But it is the evidence of Droving activity on the ground and place names which are of interest to this story, with its close proximity to the railways, which probably arrived much later, eventually causing Droving to be non profitable.

Modern maps show Water Eaton as part of the suburbs of Bletchley, but the older map has it as a separate and distinct village to the south west, roughly the same size as the surrounding villages of Fenny Stratford, Simpson, Little Brickhill, and Newton Longville.

My family are baptised in all these places, with the exception of the latter. Perhaps because the area became a terminus for the Drovers, who once would have pushed on to London's Smithfield Market for example, before the railways arrival in 1838.

In 1843, on 29th October **Henry Smith** (see following list) Baptised his daughter '**Placenta**' at Aston Abbott, Bucks. 'A Drover to London', the railway had yet to have too much effect seemingly!

Immediately to the west of Water Eaton is an area called 'Cowcommon', bisected on the map by the L&NWR running north/south, but connected still by two bridges under the railway.

This looks very much like a 'Stand', or holding area for cattle. Access to it from the NW is maintained by bridges both over and under the Oxford/Bletchley line to the north.

Further to the west is 'Cowpasture Farm', near Newton Longville, perhaps a holding area to allow the beasts to recover condition and weight after the journey from Wales, to make better prices at market in London and elsewhere.

Picking up the Drovers' route from Wales at Towcester, Northamptonshire, travelling south east, towards Leighton Buzzard, Bletchley lies on this route, and there would appear to be another coming from the direction of Buckingham, via the Welsh Lane, scene of the death of Caroline Smith, William Ayres partner.

More information on the Drovers and their routes are described by K.J. Bonser, in his book, 'The Drovers'.

More context has been given to my distant and extended families involvement with Droving in the second edition of my book BFFE.

There is also an excellent website www.localdroveroads.co.uk, well worth a visit.

The notes that follow, fit family names and baptisms to the general area just described.

Here, then, is a list of selected members of the **Smith** and **Ayres** families, known to have a connection to Droving, or a Baptism in the vicinity of Bletchley or other place known for its links. What their actual involvement was, and over what distances, can only be guessed at. I have read that extra security was required as the herds approached London, and onward to Smithfield Market in the city centre, near St. Pauls.

The earliest census dates found referring to Droving, with regards to my family, are in 1841, near Silverstone, (Cattle End), Northants. Here three members of the family of **William Ayres Snr**, born 1769, give Drover as occupation.

On his death certificate in nearby Whittlebury Forest, 1843, he is noted as Drover. (The burial record says he was 'A Gypsy found dead in his tent'. His is the first name on the following list.

WILLIAM AYRES (4x gt gf) born 1769, Gypsy/Drover, wife

MARY AYRES (Nee **GRAY**). Married Bletchley, Bp. Water Eaton. Drovers Wife on Death Cert. (Daughter of **John** and **Mary Gray**).

BENJAMIN AYRES, Son of **William** and **Mary**, Bp. Bletchley. Drover 1841 census, Silverstone, Northants.

HANNAH, daughter of **William** and **Mary**, Bp Banbury, wife of,

HENRY SMITH, Gypsy Drover, son of **ANTHONY** and **ELIZABETH** (Nee **GRAY**). **Henry** noted as Drover in 1841, 1851, 1861 census.

SUSANNA, daughter of **Henry** and **Hannah Smith**, Bp. Radclive. Father Gypsy Drover.

PLACENTA (aka **Lavinia**) daughter of **Henry** and **Hannah Smith** Bp. Aston Abbott, Father Drover to London.

ANTHONY (VANTONE) and **ELIZABETH SMITH** (Nee **GRAY**, sister of **Mary Ayres**) Drover in 1851 census. parents of

HENRY (above). On **Elizabeth's** death Cert. 'Drovers Wife'. She was Bp. At Fenny

Stratford .

ANTHONY, son of **Anthony** and **Elizabeth**. Bp. Bletchley. Father 'Drover' on his marriage Cert..

EMILY, daughter of **Anthony** (junior) Bp. Bletchley.

RICHARD, son of **Anthony** and **Mary** Bp. Water Eaton.

MARY ANN, daughter of **Richard Smith**, wife of **William Capel**, Drover. Married at Leighton Buzzard.

LOUISA, daughter of **William** and **Mary Ann**, Bp. Brackley.

FREDERICK, son of **William** and **Mary Ann**, Bp. Leighton Buzzard.

A further Droving link between the Ayres/Smith families occurs between,

JAMES SMITH, son of **Anthony** and **Elizabeth (Gray)**, and his wife,

CAROLINE AYRES, daughter of **William** and **Mary (Gray)**

The 1871 census has them on the outskirts of London at Alperton, Middx. Where two of their children are shown as being born in the Bletchley area. (see appendix 1).

ANN, daughter of **James** and **Caroline**, born Simpson, Bucks. And

QUEENATION, daughter of **James** and **Caroline**, born Simpson, Bucks.

Finally, a child birth registration which places **James** into this context as a Drover.

GOLIATH, son of **James** and **Caroline Smith** (nee **Ayres**) born Buckingham, Fathers occupation, Drover.

CHAPTER 3

It is now Spring in the year 2021, two years after my book *'But For Further Evidence'* was re-published, and with the wonder of DNA testing and new discoveries much can be added to this story and my place in it. Before sharing this new information, it will probably be a good idea to recap where all this started.

My father, now passed away, was told as a teenager (about 1935 he thought) by his grandfather **John James Dixon** that our surname was actually **Smith**. He first passed this information on to me as a teenager which, with the ignorance of youth, held little or no interest to me as I recall. Luckily it was something he repeated to me at the beginning of this research which, as you might imagine, was now extremely relevant and important to me. It was a stand-alone piece of information with no detail attached, and since then I have until now, been down many blind alleyways.

John James Read was born in 1863, illegitimate, to **Maria Read** in Beedon, Berkshire, no father appeared on his birth certificate. His mother later married a **John Dixon**, but she died soon after a child Thomas was born to them a couple of years later.

Fast forward to 1919, and **John James** was living in Fulham and now married to **Matilda Ayres** (granddaughter of **William**). He must have got news that his 'father' was gravely ill, and made the journey to Berkshire, where, after the death, he was shown as 'Informant, present at the death' giving his name as **John James READ Dixon**, son, on the death certificate.

For some reason he felt the need to 'flag up' his illegitimacy by including his mother's name of **Read**. If **John Dixon** was his natural father, I don't understand his reason for doing this, unless he was aware by this time that his biological father was a person named **Smith**, as he later told his grandson, my father.

I had begun to form a suspicion of a possible scenario as to the identity of who this **SMITH** might be as my book *'But For Further Evidence'* was being written, in 'Chapter 2'. All this without the least proof, just circumstantial evidence and a DNA match which made no sense to me at that time, seemingly completely unconnected.

This DNA match was to a person of Traveller descent named **Smith** himself, he being a direct descendant of **Jasper Smith**, whose dynasty was 'Gypsy Drover' who I had eluded to as being the possible family of the **SMITH** biological father of **John James** in Chapter 2 of my book.

Since then, I have found many 'cousins' as DNA matches connected to **Jasper Smith**. I have chosen **HERCULES** Smith, as my ancestor (grandson of **Jasper**) purely as a possible candidate and starting point for a connection to my '**SMITH**' because of his family's 'Droving' occupation (in common with my **Ayres/Smith** family), and that might still be the case. However, I soon found direct line DNA connections to me from other offspring of **Jasper**.

Hercules and partner **Esther** baptised a daughter, **Susanna**, at **Southrop**, on **26 Dec 1864** (born 1862). His given occupation, **Cattle Driver** (a **Gypsy**). **John James** was born in 1863, so **Hercules** would be a strong contender.

Unfortunately, I do not suppose I will ever establish which one of **Jasper's** offspring is my ancestor, I strongly suspect activity on the 'wrong side of the blanket', and unless someone with an understanding of proper interpretation of the DNA results can assist, it will probably never be resolved.

The following are the children of **Jasper Smith**, who have direct descendants I am connected to.

COMFORT bp 1775 Byfield, Northants.

LUCRETIA bp 1778 Shennington, Warks.

HERCULES bp 1779 Bletchington, Oxon.

THOMAS b 1794 Tysoe, Warks. bp 1817 Brailes.

HARRIET bp 1791 Hook Norton, Oxon.

KEZIAH bp 1796 Epwell, Oxon.

Also DNA matched to a direct descendant of **JASPER's** brother **ABSLOM**.bp 1768 also at North Marston, Bucks.

Using the Gedmatch website, and with a lot of help, I have been able to identify numerous matches to my DNA who share a common link to the family of **Jasper Smith**, 16, I am assured by just one of my 'cousins'.

Through the Ancestry website, I also have a match to a person who is a direct descendant of Jasper's brother (or perhaps son) **ABSLOM** (1768), which suggests our common ancestor to be their father **THOMAS SMITH** bp. 19 April 1727 at North Marsten, Bucks. Potentially he would become my 6th Great Grandfather. (See chapter 1)

All this would strongly suggest a connection to the descendants of **THOMAS SMITH**, shown on the wedding document at the beginning of chapter 1, one of whom being the biological father of **JOHN JAMES READ/DIXON** my great grandfather.

What gives further confidence to this being the case, is the fact that the families were apparently known to one another as the beginning of this account shows, dealt with more fully in my book BFFE in Chapter 5.

As I stated in the book, I had better get used to the idea that my name is really **Smith**, only now I can say it with a bit more conviction and with it, the satisfaction of having a long standing 'hunch' confirmed, and a sense of 'coming home'.

My father also maintained that he met and remembers his grandfather **CHARLES AYRES'** sister **REBECCA** (both children of **William Ayres**) as a small boy. He remembered her speech as "having a barely understandable and very rural dialect", his words!

After having several children, she eventually married her partner **HENRY LOVERIDGE SMITH** while working in the market gardens at Ashford, Middx.

He remembered her as being a bit intimidating, and she teased my dad's father Albert (her nephew) that he ought to have the snip (not the language she actually used!) after having had such a large family herself, a bit ironic, dad thought, even as a youngster, as she had an even bigger family!



Photo of Rebecca Smith nee Ayres.

This photograph was sent to me by a cousin named Gary Farnes a descendant of Rebecca, also found through DNA matching.



Rebecca Ayres, sister of Charles, my 2 x great grandfather, son of William Ayres and Fanny Horton. Rebecca married Henry Loveridge Smith.



Albert Dixon, my grandfather, biological descendant of Jasper Smith. His mother was Matilda Ayres, granddaughter of William Ayres and Fanny Horton. The scar between his eyes the result of being kicked by a horse!

CHAPTER 4

Chapter 4 of **BFFE** can be added to considerably with the benefit of an extra couple of years' research, and DNA information.

We can revisit Donovan's Yard on Cabul Road, Battersea at the time of the **1911** census, and the Travellers found living there. (**BFFE**)

It consisted of 21 'vans' stopping in the yard, and I have found that all but one or two, it seems, are members of one extended family, namely **Gurney, Smith, Penfold, Williams** and **Harvey**. The matriarch and patriarch on site were **AMY (Queenation, daughter of Caroline (nee Ayres) and James Smith son of Anthony)**, and her husband/partner **JOHN GURNEY**.

Caroline, you will remember, was the daughter of **William Ayres** and **Caroline Smith**, they were **QUEENATION's** grandparents.

Queenation uses the name **AMY** in later life, and a possible reason for this is offered in **BFFE, chapter 4, page 34**.

Firstly a little on Donovan's Yard. Mr Donovan lived on site, and it would appear he rented space for Travellers to pull onto during the winter months and perhaps longer. The yard was situated by railway lines on rough ground near Clapham Junction Station.

It would appear that in earlier censuses there was another yard adjacent to 'Donovan's', (Manley's Yard) which I don't think was there in 1911, perhaps acquired by Mr Donovan as the number of wagons in the yard increases somewhat by 1911. Gurling's Yard was another in Battersea used by some of the extended family.

Here is a part extract from ROMANY HERITAGE found on Facebook concerning these yards, the original source given as, 'The Victorian City, Images and Realities, Vol I' by H. J. Dyos. Published by Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1973.

"The domesticity was less extraordinary than Wilkinson implies. However far they travelled, the Gypsies, like others of the wandering tribes, eventually retained a base to which they regularly returned".

Also presumably from the same source,

"The Battersea Gypsies camped in Donovan's Yard, a plot of ground near the South West Railway, commanding an unpicturesque prospect of palings, walls and arches. The encampment in 1900 was occupied for about six months of the year, from October til the start of the flat racing season.

It was made up of two lines of wagons broken here and there by a firewood dealers hut. The horses had been sold off to save the cost of keeping them in idleness during the cold months.

T. W. Wilkinson writing about the camp, remarked on "The curious air of domesticity", women, most of them stamped with their tribal characteristics, sit on the steps of the wagons, some at needlework, some merely gossiping. Other housewives are engaged in the family wash. Bent over the tubs and buckets in close proximity to the fire, on which clothes are boiling briskly, they are rubbing and rinsing with a will, now and again going off for more water to a tap at one end of the ground".



2 photos of Donovan's yard I'm told.

I have no idea how these came into my possession so cannot credit the owner as is proper.

They were supposedly taken within a couple of years of the 1911 census, and could well show Williams, Gurney, Smith and Penfold family members.

Returning to the **1911** census and the 21 'vans' listed there, here are the details, beginning in reverse order with 'vans 20 and 21 belonging to **Queenation/Amy** and **John Gurney**, showing family connections I have found to date. A detailed look at their entry is made in **'But For Further Evidence'**, so an edited version is shown here. Family of **John** and **Amy** are shown in bold.

VANS 21 - 20

JOHN GURNEY and wife AMY(QUEENATION) with sons, ANTHONY, MANUEL, and PLATO.

VAN 19

Thomas and Jane **PENFOLD** (Nee Harvey, perhaps connected to van 9?), with sons Thomas and Belcher.

VAN 18

WILLIAM and FANNY SMITH. (William, aka **PLATO SMITH** also known as **BRINKLEY** Fanny's maiden name)
With sons PLATO and ALBERT. (more information later).

VAN 17

EDWARD and KATE GURNEY with son EDWARD, and daughter QUEENIE.

VAN 16

JOHN and LUCY GURNEY, with daughter CONDOLIA.

VAN 15 - 14

WILLIAM and LILY PENFOLD (Nee GURNEY, aka MARY JANE) with family, JOHNNY, EDWARD, ARTHUR and daughters LILLY and MARY.

VAN 13 – 12 – 11

Robert and Mary Hayford

VAN 10

ANTHONY and PHOEBE TURNER with family, ANTHONY, NELSON, MABEL, PHOEBE, EDWARD, ALFRED, WILLIAM.

Much of importance has been discovered on this family, PHOEBE's maiden name being WILLIAMS, who also are listed here. A separate chapter will be devoted to ANTHONY and PHOEBE.

VAN 9

Frederick Harvey, with sons Stephen and Thomas (see van 19, Jane **PENFOLD** nee Harvey).

VAN 8

HENRY and ANNIE WILLIAMS with family, HENRY, FREDERICK, WILLIAM, EOLER(?) and CHARLES.

VAN 7

ROBERT and CHARITY PENFOLD with son ALBERT. **PHEOBE WILLIAMS (TURNER)** witness at their wedding.

VAN 6 (see vans 1 and 2)

VAN 5

ELIZABETH COOPER (nee WILLIAMS) with daughter PATIENCE.

VAN 4

SAMUEL and CRENDRELLA WILLIAMS with sons LEONARD and HENRY.

VAN 3

CHILES and BEATRICE SMITH with daughter BEATRICE. (more information later).

VANS 1 -2 and 6

ROBERT and MARY ANN (nee WILLIAMS) PENFOLD with family POLLIE, WILLY, FREDDIE, HENRY and MOSES.

It would appear that all the WILLIAMS family shown above belong to the family of CHARLES and MARY ANN WILLIAMS.

Not in the yard, but in a '3 room flat' nearby in Battersea.

JAMES and ADA (nee GURNEY) PENFOLD with family RICHARD, ADA and SHARLOTTE.

ADDENDUM TO CHAPTER 4, DONOVAN'S YARD, 1911 CENSUS.

August, 2021

This is a later addition by some months to the update published on the RTFHS website, and the yard at Battersea has been the subject of much interesting research. Understandably, possible name changes have caused some information to be frustratingly sparse, and with that comes what could be coincidental information. It is a work in progress.

This entry in the 1911 census at Donovan's yard, accidentally gives details of the whole family, of which most of them are married and living elsewhere, this was also the case with 'Vans 20 and 21', John and Amy Gurney. The entry is as follows;

VAN 5.

ELIZABETH COOPER, Head, 54, Married 22 years, 8 children born living, 7 still living 1 having died. Pedlar (miscellaneous), born Norwood, Surrey.

PERRON COOPER, Husband, 60, Lunatic Asylum, Hanwell, (crossed through by enumerator)

PATIENCE COOPER, Daughter, 15, Single, Hawker, assists mother, born Wandsworth.

The following entries are also crossed through, the enumerator stating 2 females only on the entry.

LOUISA WILLIAMS, 36, Married, Pedlar Flowers, born Wandsworth.

SAMUEL WILLIAMS, 35, Married, Pedlar, Flowers?, born Barnett.

POLLY WILLIAMS, 28, Married, Pedlar, Flowers?, born Pinner.

LEONARD WILLIAMS, 31, Married, Pedlar, Flowers?, born Kilburn.

CAROLINE WILLIAMS, 29, Married, Pedlar, Flowers?, born Wilesden.

QUEEN WILLIAMS, 27, Married, Pedlar, Flowers?, born Wilesden.

And finally, the child which had sadly died, also crossed through.

GEORGINA WILLIAMS, 5mnths, born Hanwell, died Wandsworth.

From this we can see that only the child that is with her (**Patience**) bears the name **Cooper**, that of her husband **Perron (Perrin)**.

He being absent due to his committal in what we would call a hospital today. He died there in 1913, two years later.

Perrin and **Elizabeth** had married on 27 October 1890, at St. Lukes, West Norwood.

PERRIN COOPER, 34, Bachelor, Hawker, son of **Mathias (Matty) Cooper**, Dealer

ELIZABETH WILLIAMS, 33, Spinster, Hawker, Daughter of **Charles Williams**, Dealer.

Apart from **Patience** and possibly **Leonard**, all the other offspring on this census were born before the marriage, which would not be unusual or have any stigma attached to it, and was certainly not uncommon.

Added to that, **Elizabeth** is using her own surname for these children, including the child **Georgina** who died at 5mnths but are not told which year.

However, it is possible that they had a different father, and here are my findings.

Emmanuel Smith, potentially the father of those named **Williams**, had died in 1889. He was the brother of **Queenation/ Amy Gurney** shown in 'Vans 20 and 21.

Emmanuel had a partner named **Elizabeth**, who I have not found a marriage record for, but they did Baptise several children together.

Elizabeth Cooper/ Williams would seem to be the eldest daughter of **Charles** and **Mary Ann Williams**, whose other offspring are also listed in the 1911 census at Donovan's Yard.

Pheobe for instance, who was their youngest, married to **Anthony Turner (Smith)** in 'Van 10'.

Now for either fact or coincidence!

Emmanuel Smith and **Elizabeth** Baptised children whose names, ages and places, are a good match for some of the above 'Williamses'!

ELIZABETH, daughter of **Emmanuel and Elizabeth Smith**, 'No settled abode', Travelling Hawker. Bp. 5 August 1873, at Ealing.

QUEENIE, daughter of **Emmanuel and Elizabeth Smith**, Cobbed Row, Labourer (Gipsey) Bp 19 April 1886, at Willesden

LOUISA SMITH, on her marriage to **Henry Buckland** on 21 July 1915 at Barnet.

HENRY BUCKLAND, 49, Bachelor, Horse Dealer, son of **Shipton Buckland Dcd**, Horse Dealer.

LOUISA SMITH, 40, Spinster, Daughter of **Emanuel Smith**, Dcd. General Dealer.

And finally, of the found siblings;

SAMUEL, shown in 'Van 4' in 1911. **Samuel Williams** with wife **Crendrella**, and perhaps son of **Elizabeth Williams** in 'Van 5'.

SAMUEL WILLIAMS, Head, 35, married, 11 years, 4 children living, 1 having died, Pedlar, born Barnet.

CRENDRELLA WILLIAMS, Wife, 28, Pedlar, born Wood Green.

SAMUEL WILLIAMS, Son, 10, born Acton.

EDWARD WILLIAMS, son, 8, Dead. Born Tottenham. (crossed through)

LEONARD WILLIAMS, son, 5, born Tottenham.

HENRY WILLIAMS, son, 12mnths. Born Battersea.

This last entry is the most problematic to my theory. The **Samuel** I have as son of **Emmanuel Smith** married a **Caroline Sheen** on 17th July 1893 at Ashford, Middlesex, the son of **Manuel Smith**. **Samuel** a Hawker and father a Labourer.

Witnesses were **Oliver** and **Alice Cooper**, could this be **Oliver** the brother of **Perrin Cooper** who became his step father in 1890?

Could this be **Samuel's** second marriage 7 years later in 1900 to **Crendrella**?

Returning to the top of the previous page we find **Leonard Williams** on the 1911 census, aged 31, as one of **Elizabeth's** crossed out children, and theoretically a child of **Emmanuel Smith** also.

He is shown as married, a Pedlar, born in Kilburn.

Here is his marriage, on 25 December 1900 at St. Saviours, Battersea.

LEONARD WILLIAMS, 19, Bachelor, Hawker, Mills Yard, no Fathers name recorded.

SARAH ANN MILLER, 18, Spinster, Mills Yard, Father Christopher Millar, Hawker.

Witnesses were **Walter Dighton**, and **Pheobe Miller**.

Here was an opportunity for Leonard to clear up the mystery, but for whatever reason he does not acknowledge his father.

Two years later, **Leonard** and **Sarah Ann** return the compliment by witnessing the marriage of **Pheobe Millar**, **Sarah Ann's** sister. Again, at St. Saviours, Battersea, on December 26 1902.

JOSEPH SHEPPARD, 21, Bachelor, Hawker, Culvert Road, Father **John Shppard**, Dustman.

PHEOBE MILLER, 23, Spinster, Culvert Road, Father **Christopher Miller**, Hawker.

'VANS 1, 2 and 6'

This entry shows the family of **Robert** and **Mary Penfold**, he the son of **Moses**, and **Mary (Ann, also known as Polly)** the daughter of **Charles Williams**, father of the other **Williams** family members featured previously.

ROBERT PENFOLD, 47, 11 children born, 9 still living, 2 having died, Licensed Hawker, Flowers or floor cloth, born Kilburn.

MARY ANN PENFOLD, Wife, 43, born Winchester.

POLLIE PENFOLD, daughter, 3, born Tottenham.

WILLIE PENFOLD, son, 7, born Battersea.

FREDIE PENFOLD, son, 5, born Battersea.

HENRY PENFOLD, son, 15, born Battersea.

MOSES PENFOLD, son 14, born Battersea.

PHEOBE PENFOLD, Daughter, single, 24, Pedlar, born Battersea. Away. (line drawn through).

ADA PENFOLD, Daughter, single, 20, Pedlar, born Battersea. Away. (line drawn through).

ROBERT PENFOLD, son, Married, 22, no occupation shown, born Wandsworth. Away. (line drawn through)

CHARLIE PENFOLD, son, single, 17, Pedlar, born Battersea. Away. (line drawn through).

Mary Ann Penfold (nee **Williams**) was named as Informant at the death of **Anthony Turner (Smith)** husband of her sister **Pheobe** in 1925, and also at that of her father **Charles**, as follows.

Tonbridge, Kent, 15 September 1904, In caravan, Hildenborough Road.

CHARLES WILLIAMS, Male, 67 years, Horse Dealer. Apoplexy & Paralysis, 3 years, Diarrhoea and sickness 20 days, Exhaustion.

Informant, **M. A. Penfold**, Daughter, present at the death. Of 36, York Road, Battersea.

Footnote regarding 'VAN 10'.

WILLIAM TURNER, shown as 3 months old in the 1911 census, son of **ANTHONY TURNER/SMITH** and **PHEOBE** (nee **Williams**) Caravan 10, Donovans Yard, Battersea.

William married **Esther Williams**, daughter of **Frederick (Joss) Williams** 1897-1964, and **Alice Storer** 1900-1980.

CHAPTER 5

Many of these families can be found at the same place in the earlier 1901 census, but it is one in particular which is of personal interest to me, that of **ANTHONY** and **PHOEBE TURNER**, (VAN 10 in 1911). This time they are shown in Gurlings Yard, Battersea.

Firstly, some background. **ANTHONY TURNER** has been chosen firstly to map forward the Christian name of **Anthony**, so popular within the wider family, and also because I am DNA matched with a direct descendant of his. This is a good example of how complicated Traveller families can be to the researcher! He is, I believe, son of **EDWARD SMITH**, himself the son of **JAMES** and **CAROLINE SMITH**, and brother of **QUEENATION** later to become the wife of **JOHN GURNEY**.

In the **1871** census referred to earlier, where the family of **JAMES** and **CAROLINE SMITH** were encamped at Alperton, Middx, at the bottom of the listing is son **EDWARD SMITH** with partner **SARAH ANN**. (See Appendix 1)

EDWARD SMITH, father, married, 19, Chair Mender, born Bucks. Long Stooley
SARAH A. SMITH, mother, married, 20, Hawker, born Sussex, Brighton
ANTHONY SMITH, son, 4mths, born Middlesex, Notting Hill

Now to explore perhaps why **ANTHONY** uses the name **TURNER** in later life. I had a suspicion that **TURNER** was likely to be his mother's maiden name. This is not uncommon amongst Travellers for a variety of reasons as we well know.

We have seen that he uses **Turner** in the **1911** census in Donovan's Yard alongside his aunt **AMY (Queenation) Gurney**, with his family as follows. Married 16yrs, 1 child had died.

ANTHONY TURNER, head, 39, married, Licensed Hawker, born, Notting Hill
PHOEBE TURNER, wife, 32, married assists in business, born, Harnsworth, Middx.
ANTHONY TURNER, son, 14, assists parents, born Holloway
NELSON TURNER, son, 13, born Shoreham, Sussex
MABEL TURNER, dau 12, born Battersea
PHOEBE TURNER, dau 6, born Battersea
EDWARD TURNER son 4, born Battersea
ALFRED TURNER son, 2, born Battersea
WILLIAM TURNER son, 3mths, born Battersea

Now we need to look back in time to the **1901** census, this time at Gurling's Yard, Battersea.

ANTHONY TURNER, head, married, 28, Hawker, born Notting Hill
FIBSEY (sic) TURNER, wife, married, 23, born Hannot (sic) Middx.
MABEL TURNER, dau, 2, born Battersea

Six wagons distance in the yard separates them from 2 other children in the care of;

THOMAS DEARLOVE, head, married, 21, Bricklayers lab. Born Putney
ANGELINA DEARLOVE, wife, married, 20, born Notting Hill
NELSON TURNER, nephew, 4, born Shoreham, Brighton
ANTONY TURNER, nephew, 5, born Holloway

This is possibly due to the **Dearlove's** having a larger wagon, who can say!
Thomas does not appear to come from a Traveller background according to my research, but **Angelina** certainly does. She is the daughter of **Line (John) Anonion**, Hawker, according to their marriage certificate, and was witness to her brother **John's** marriage to **Elizabeth Penfold**, daughter of **Alfred Penfold**, all Hawkers.

Angelina is more likely to be the boys' aunt here, but the connection eludes me at present. Both she and her brother John, give Notting Hill as their birthplace which might be a clue to their connection.

All of the children of **Anthony** and **Phoeby Turner** were baptised showing they were living in either Gurling's Yard, or Donovan's Yard, with the exception of two of them.

CHARLES ANTHONY TURNER Bp. 1896, Islington, **Charles Anthony** and **Phoebe** (note the name Charles used as a first name in both cases, also see Appendix 2).

and

NELSON TURNER Bp. 1897, Shoreham, Brighton. **Anthony** and **Phoebe**, Hawker. Collins Yard.

As all but one of the baptisms occurred within Greater London, at all times of the year, it seems likely that **Anthony** and **Phoebe** did not venture very far from the Battersea yards, with the one noticeable exception of their son **Nelson**.

If we look back to the **1871** census, we see that **Anthony's (Jnr)** mother **SARAH ANN** gives her place of birth as Brighton, Sussex. Perhaps they were visiting his mother or her family in the September of 1897 for **NELSON** to be born, Registered and Baptised so far from their home patch? (see footnote).

PHOEBE was **Anthony's** second wife of three. His first wife was;

Mary Ann Janway. Married 2 August 1891. dau of **John William Janway**, Cab Driver

PHOEBE WILLIAMS. Married 24 December 1894, dau of **Charles Williams**, Hawker.

And third wife;

LUCY WILLIAMS. Married 25 November 1917, withd by **Robert** and **ADA(GURNEY) PENFOLD**

Following the sad loss of his first wife **Mary Ann**, and 20 plus years of marriage to **PHOEBE**, **Anthony** finally marries what appears, on the face of it, to be a relation of his late wife, at the age of 46. Neither **Lucy** nor **Anthony** give details of their fathers on the marriage certificate

Common to all three marriages, is the fact that **Anthony** uses **Turner** as his surname, and does not disclose his father's name, leaving the name and profession blank (as does **Lucy** on the same cert), except that on the certificate with **Lucy**, where **Anthony's** fathers name should be written, you can read a crossed out **SARAH ANN TURNER**. Significant surely?

According to the **1871** census which shows **Anthony** as a child of 4mths, to parents

Edward and **Sarah A. Smith**, what could have caused him not to adopt or use the name **Smith**?

Whatever happened in his life, it was significant enough to not recognise **Edward** as his father, but not serious enough to involve his father's sister **AMY/QUEENATION**, who he stopped alongside of in Donovan's Yard in 1911.

Turner was very probably his mother's maiden name, (see marriage cert. details To **Lucy Williams**) and it is this, seemingly, that he has reverted to.

A clue might be in the following marriage certificate.

A couple of pages back I gave the birth details of **GOLIATH SMITH**, son of **JAMES** and **CAROLINE**. He would be older brother to **Anthony's** father **Edward**.

Banbury, Oxon. March 2, 1874. Between;

GOLIATH SMITH, 33, Bach. Lab. Father **James Smith**, Lab.

SARAH ANN TURNER, 23, Sp. Father **Charles Turner**, Saw Sharpener.

The likelihood of two brothers partnering different women named **Sarah Ann Turner** of the same age (1851) must be fairly remote to be coincidence I would have thought!

Anthony would have been 3-4 years old at the time of the wedding.

Goliath and **Sarah Ann** seem to vanish from the records thereafter, perhaps after changing their names. Doubtless there is a story there alright!

ANTHONY TURNER died on 5th Jan 1925, in Balham, SW Battersea. The address given was 46 Ouseley Road, Balham, which was the St James' Infirmary (it was expanded and became known as a Hospital in 1946, with the formation of the NHS) and was associated with Garrett Lane Workhouse at that time.

Incidentally, his aunt **Queenation's** husband **John Gurney** also died there in 1913. His address was given as Donovan's Yard at that time.

However, **ANTHONY's** address at the time of his death is given as 50 Brougham St. Battersea, a General Dealer. The 'Informant' was **M. A. Penfold**, Niece, of 90 Mills Yard, Battersea.

Amy (Queenation) Gurney, his aunt, was also living at 50 Brougham St. at the time of her death on 14 September 1921, 4 years earlier, and a widow by this time.

26 years after the death of **Anthony Turner**, I was born a little over half a mile away in Weir Maternity Hospital, Balham, another Anthony!

- As a footnote, regarding the Christian name '**Charles**' used for both father and son, in addition to their name of '**Anthony Turner**'.

A DNA match to the **Pannell** family of Shoreham, Sussex, appears to answer some questions.

Amongst their ancestors is a **Charles Turner** who matches the details of **Charles**, father of **Sarah Ann Turner**. The family also own a yard in Shoreham, likely to be the birthplace of **Nelson Turner**, and the possible reason his mother was there. (She being from Brighton herself).

CHAPTER 6

50 BROUGHAM STREET, BATTERSEA

In the previous chapter and elsewhere, the address 50, Brougham Street has featured several times, and on two further occasions in the 1921 Census. The home of **Anthony Turner** and family, also that of his Uncle **Anthony Gurney** and family and that of Grandmother **Queenie (Queenation/Amy) Gurney**. She passed away at this address a few months later on 14th September 1921 (BFFE, but repeated here for a final time).

Wandsworth, East Battersea. 50, Brougham St.

AMY GURNEY, 64, Widow of John Gurney a Licenced General Hawker. 1) Bronchitis, 2) Dropsy. Informant was Mary Jane Penfold, Daughter, present at the death, of 11 Orville Road, Battersea.

Here then is the household of **Anthony Gurney** at the same address in the 1921 Census.

50, Brougham St. Battersea.

ANTHONY GURNEY, Head, 31, married, a Traveller, Flower Seller no fixed place

EVA GURNEY, Wife, 30, married, Flower Seller no fixed place

BOBBY GURNEY, Son, 8.

CARRY GURNEY, Daughter, 8.

QUEENIE GURNEY, Grandmother, 58, Widow, Home Duties.

ANNIE SMITH, VISITOR, 21, Single, Flower Seller no fixed place.

ALBERT GURNEY, Son, 5.

Also at 50, Brougham St. Battersea.

ANTHONY TURNER, Head, 51, married, Flower Seller no fixed place.

LUCY TURNER, Wife, 47, married, Flower Seller no fixed place.

PHOEBE TURNER, Daughter, 19, Single, Home Duties.

EDWARD TURNER, Son, 15, Single.

WILLIAM TURNER, Son, 9.

RITA TURNER, Daughter, 5.

Anthony Turner is shown with his third wife **Lucy** (nee **Williams**). The children shown are those with his previous wife **Phoebe**, (also nee **Williams**) who died in 1913. Child **Rita** would be born to **Lucy**.

CHAPTER 7

1939 Register (census) taken at Lea Farm, Battle R.D.C. East Sussex

This census was undertaken by the Government on 29th September 1939, and the address of interest is 'Hoppers Huts' at Lea Farm, during the hop harvest. Lea Farm looks to be approximately 5 miles inland from the village of Rye, on the road between Rye and Peasmarsh, East Sussex.

Several Gypsy Traveller families from the Battersea Yards are to be found in the 'Huts', they include **HILDEN, GUMBLE, BRINKLEY**, PENFOLD, RIDGELEY, POWELL, SMITH, COOPER, WILLIAMS, LEE, and HUGHES amongst others. The families of interest here are shown in bold type.

My strongest DNA matches within these families have come from several members of the **Hilden/Mosely, Gumble** and **Turner** families. My **Turner** family can be traced directly back through my **Smith** and **Ayres** family so no mystery there, several **Hilden/Moseley** connections also appear to stem from a common ancestor in **Jasper Smith** (1759-1838), but the connection with the other families still needs establishing other than by DNA.

Looking through this 1939 census at Lea Farm, the first thing I noticed was that the surname of **PHOEBE BRINKLEY** had been crossed through, and **TURNER** had been written in its place. 'Single' at this time, she was shown with her parents **PLATO** and **FANNY BRINKLEY** (Hawkers). This denotes a later update in the record, and that her married name had since become **TURNER**.

On receiving a copy of the marriage certificate, it confirmed it as a marriage to my cousin.

31st August 1941, Christ Church, Battersea.

EDWARD TURNER, 33, Bachelor, Labourer, 20 Lavender Road, Father **ANTHONY TURNER** (decd.) Street Trader.

PHOEBE BRINKLEY, 31, Spinster, 20 Lavender Road, Father **PLATO BRINKLEY**, Labourer.

Witnesses were **L. Brinkley**, and **J. Brinkley**.

(Her father **Plato** had previously used the name **William Smith** on the 1911 census at Donovan's Yard, Battersea, Van 18, and described elsewhere. He Baptised several of his children as **Plato Smith. Brinkley** would seem to come from his wife Fanny **Brinkley's** maiden name).

The birth Certificate of **Edward Turner** shows;

3rd August 1906, North West Battersea.

Caravan, Gurlings Yard, High St.

EDWARD, Boy, Father **Anthony Turner**, Mother **Phoebe Turner** formerly **Williams**.
Fathers Occupation, Licenced Hawker. Informant, the mark of **Phoebe Turner**, Mother,
Caravan, Gurlings Yard, High St. Battersea. Reg. 12th September 1906.

Here then was my known family introduced into the families of interest to me.

Returning to **PLATO** and **FANNY BRINKLEY**. Although **Plato** uses the name **William Smith** in the 1911 census, 'VAN 18, Donovan's Yard, Battersea, I believe **Plato** to be his real name, and **Smith** his surname. He had a son and grandson named, after him as **Plato**, unlikely if it was **William** perhaps, and remains **Plato** throughout the rest of his life. His surname however has been adopted as **BRINKLEY** in the 1939 census and at daughter **Phoeby**'s wedding in 1941, which was his wife **Fanny**'s surname. It looks like the name change happened between the Baptisms of two of their children, **Albert Smith** in 1905, and **Phoebe Brinkley** (future wife of **Edward Turner**) in 1909.

Of relevance here though, is a DNA match to a great granddaughter of **Plato** and **Fanny Smith/ Brinkley** through their son **Plato Brinkley** (1901-1958), (and wife Lily Deakins) and then their son **Alfred Plato Brinkley** (1925-1992) (and wife Ellen Jones). I have an unproven theory that **Plato** senior may have been a sibling of **Edward Turners** grandfather **Edward Smith** (brother of **Queenation/Amy**).

By the time of the 1921 census, **PLATO, FANNY** and family have reverted back to using the name **SMITH**. At that time the family were 'Fruit Pickers' on a farm at Fairfield Crofton, Orpington, Kent. As follows.

PLATO SMITH, 47, (1874) Head, Married.

FANNY SMITH, 45, (1876) Wife, Married.

PLATO SMITH, 18, (1902) Son, Single.

ALBERT SMITH, 15. (1906)

PHOEBE SMITH, 12. (1909)

RODNEY SMITH, 10. (1911)

RILEY SMITH, 7. (1914)

BILLY SMITH, 4. (1917)

JAMES SMITH, 1. (1920)

Throughout his life **PLATO** senior leaves tantalising clues as to his identity, without giving too much away!

For instance;

On 28th Nov 1897, at St. Matthews Mission Church, Willesden, he and **Fanny** baptised their daughter **FANNY** as **SMITH**.

FANNY SMITH, of **PLATO** and **FANNY SMITH**, Gypsy Caravan, Basket Maker.

On the same day, the previous entry was;

QUEENIE SMITH of **JOHN GURNEY** and **LUCY SMITH**, Gypsy Caravan, Basket Maker.

(**John Gurney** being the son of **John** and **Queenation/Amy**). As previously mentioned a theory I am investigating is that the many unidentified **Smiths** that are arising in this generation could be the offspring of **Queenations** siblings, born to **James Smith** and **Caroline Ayres**, perhaps **LUCY** is the connection in this double baptism. Another instance of this could be the following double baptism;

7th May 1905.

ALBERT SMITH, son of **PLATO** and **FANNY SMITH**, of Percys Yard, Basket Maker. (born 24 Apr 1905)

And;

BEATRICE SMITH daughter of **CHARLES** and **ANNIE KITTY SMITH**, Percys Yard, Basket Maker. (**Beatrice** had been born the previous year Apr 26 1904).

There may be a link between this **Charles Smith** and the **Chiles (Charles)** and **Beatrice Smith** in 'Van 3', Donovans Yard, Battersea, 1911 census, given that the vast majority out of the total of 21 'vans' in the yard on that day were all connected to the wider family of **John** and **Queenation (Amy) Gurney**. To recap;

CHILES SMITH, head, 26, single, Hawker, born, Potters Bar, Herts.

BEATRICE SMITH, Intended Wife, 23, born Sydenham, Kent.

BEATRICE SMITH, Daughter, 10mths, born Edmonton.

Alternatively, his 'intended' **Beatrice Smith** may be the link, as the Birth Registration of Daughter **Beatrice** shows;

9th May 1910, 145 Brettenham Road, Edmonton.

BEATRICE BRINKLEY, *Girl, no Father shown, Mother **BEATRICE SMITH**, Licenced Hawker, Reg'd by the Mother, 21 June 1910.*

Referring back to the census, **CHILES/CHARLES** would appear to be naturally named **BRINKLEY**, and mother **BEATRICE** sharing her name of **SMITH** on this occasion. There are obvious similarities to the baptism of **BEATRICE** in 1905 (born 1904), perhaps coincidence! All would have been known to each other through being neighbours in Donovan's Yard.

The entry listed next to the **Brinkley/Smith** family in the 1939 census at Lea Farm, was that of **MARK** and **ALICE HILDEN** and family, so I sent for their marriage certificate as a long shot, just to see what information it might produce. As stated, I have several DNA matches to the **HILDEN/MOSELEY** family in modern times.

14th June 1916, The Register Office, Wandsworth.

MARK HILDEN, 46, Bachelor, Flower Dealer, 60, Wardley St. Wandsworth, Father **THOMAS HILDEN**, formerly a Flower Dealer.

ALICE GUMBLE, 39, Spinster, Flower Dealer, 3 Caravan, The Yard, Wardley St. Wandsworth. Father **JOHN GUMBLE**, Flower Dealer.

All made their mark including witnesses, **William Hughes** and **Ellen Smith**.

Here, then, was a **Hilden/Gumble** connection I was looking for. Not that this couple were directly connected to me, they could not be, I already knew who my grandparents were. It just meant that possibly there was a potential historical connection between the two families and mine.

Amongst the Battersea community I have connections to, the **Gurneys**, **Penfolds**, **Turners** and **Williams** families frequently chose partners from within this group.

Given the ages of this happy couple, you might jump to the conclusion that this marriage has occurred after years of being together, however, the separate addresses might suggest otherwise.

They had in fact been together since about 1896 according to them in the 1911 census living at 60, Wardley Street, Caravan, Wandsworth, (same as at their marriage) and had a family as shown below;

MARK HILDEN, father, 35, Married 15yrs. 5 children all living, Flower Hawker, born Croydon.

ALICE HILDEN, Mother, 34, Flower Hawker, born Croydon.

THOMAS HILDEN, Son, 14, School, born ? Kent

JOHN HILDEN, Son, 12, School, born Wandsworth.

ROSE HILDEN, Dau. 6, School, born Wandsworth.

LILY HILDEN, Dau. 4, School, born Wandsworth.

ALICE HILDEN, Dau. 1yr. born Wandsworth.

Of note here is the information that Mark's address matches that at their wedding, and that it was a Caravan. Perhaps the address Alice gives at that time is just worded differently for appearance sake as it is also in Wardley Street!

Next is the Baptism of their daughter **ALICE HILDEN**, shown underlined above, whose marriage details are to follow.

11th Aug 1909, St. Andrews, Wandsworth.

ALICE, daughter of **Mark** and **Alice Hilddin**, of 60, Wardley St. Hawker.

The piece of information that keeps me looking for this **Hilden/Gumble** connection stems from an intriguing DNA match. Without divulging her name, I have a match to the above families whose parentage helps somewhat in my research. Her father is of distinct foreign origin making it highly unlikely if not impossible for the need for him to be taken into account here, which only leaves her mother's family that I could be related to. This person also has several strong **HILDEN** matches.

The mother of this one particular match was the daughter of **LEONARD BROOKER** and **ALICE HILDEN**, (shown above), daughter of **Mark** and **Alice Hilden**. Their marriage certificate is as follows;

28th March 1927, at the Parish Church, Mitcham, Surrey.

LEONARD BROOKER, 26, Bachelor, Hawker, 17 Bath Road, father Charles Brooker (Decd.) Hawker.

ALICE HILDEN, 21, Spinster, Stephen's Yard, Church Road, Father **MICHAEL HILDEN**, Hawker.

Witnesses were **Frederick Brooker** and **Phoebe Wallis**.

Alice's father **Michael Hilden** is reputed to be **MARK HILDEN**, husband of **ALICE GUMBLE** shown above. It is reasonable to accept this, as the information comes from relatives, but without documentary proof as yet.

Leonard's father shown on the certificate, **Charles Brooker**, is the husband of **Brittania Lee**. (These families need to be looked at separately, although there are no obvious connections to me from either of **Leonards** parents).

As a footnote, it needs to be stated that where occupations are given other than the term Hawker, or Dealer, 'Flower Seller' seems to be one most often given by the whole extended family.

CHAPTER 8

At the beginning of this update I referred to **Delitha Smith** as possible family of **Aquilla Smith**. She was born somewhere between 1781 and 1796, at Finmere, Oxfordshire, according to her census entries, with much variation on her age.

Her burial record at Bicester on 3 June 1879 records her aged 98, giving a birth date of 1781. I think this a bit suspect!

She Baptised a daughter, also named **Delitha**, without mention of a father on 12 October 1809, at Oddington, Oxfordshire.

'**DELITHA**, natural daughter of **DELITHA SMITH**, a Gypsy woman'.

More background can be found on page 21, chapter 2, '**But For Further Evidence**'.

Another researcher has an alternative family for **DELITHA** senior. They give her as **DELIPHIS**, born 1791 (but agrees with) Finmere, Oxfordshire.

Her father is given as **JAMES 'Gemmy the Gypsy' SMITH**, who died at Launton, Oxon. and was buried there on 16 January 1830.

Perhaps the truth lies between the two of us, if **James** was a brother or other relation of **AQUILLA?**

He died at Launton, Oxon. a place of some significance for the family of **Anthony Smith** at that time and in future years.

This alternative information is significant for me also, as this **JAMES SMITH**, is a direct ancestor of two DNA matches to me, one being a researcher whose pedigree looks to be close to unquestionable Romany Gypsy Traveller lineage.

None of his other named historical family has any connection to me as far as can be seen.

The first thing to strike me with this **James Smith** is his nickname of '**Gemmy the Gypsy**'. There was nothing given to qualify this, and possibly it was a common name for any Gypsy named James!

I'm thinking of the **James 'Jemmy the Gypsy' Ayres** I have written about previously, caught sheep stealing with **Tankerfield Hearn**. Both were convicted at Aylesbury on 7 March 1795.

'**Jemmy the Gypsy' Ayres** was born in 1727 (giving an age of 67 at the time of his trial).

'**Gemmy the Gypsy' Smith** was born in 1767 at Newbold on Avon, Warwickshire, so there is not any cause to think they could be the same person, however, he had a father also called James born around the right time!

The Baptism of this **DELEPHIS SMITH** took place at Finmere, Oxon. On 26 February 1791.

DELEPHIS, daughter of **James** and **Ann Smith**.

Talking to a new-found cousin some time ago, after coming together through DNA, she told me I would soon discover I was related to 'half the Traveller world'!

How true that statement was to prove itself, and I'm looking forward to the task of trying to make sense of how some of these DNA results fit into my world.

Happily, a greater number make absolute sense, enabling me to say with confidence that I now know where and who I come from, meeting with cousins from the Travelling community who have literally changed the way I perceive myself, and my place within that world.

On page 98, of my first book, ***'But For a Little More Evidence'***, the opening words of the chapter are, "I am not a Gypsy". Despite knowing that a part of my ancestry definitely was Gypsy/Traveller, I thought it fraudulent to describe myself so. I was not raised that way and had not experienced the lifestyle nor endured the hardship and discrimination, and of course a sense of belonging that I felt moulded people into who and what they are.

I had heard all about 'them and us' though, from my Irish grandmother, who experienced the 'no dogs, no Irish' era, and more indelible to my young mind the stories she told of the family living in Mary's Lane, Dublin, at the time of 'The Easter Rising' in 1916.

Their tenement apartment lay on the short route between The General Post Office and The Four Courts, where a lot of the worst violence took place. British soldiers burst in and violently beat senseless my great grandfather with their rifle butts in front of the whole family for no reason, she said, and they were terrified. She was 8 years old.

As you might imagine, I grew up with a sense of shame, anger and confusion at the actions of the country of my birth. I did not understand the politics of course, simply on a personal level, and a hatred of injustice in the wider world was born.

I could not call myself Irish, I thought, although I was connected to that country, and here now was another example of connection without belonging, within the Travelling community.

That was then, this is now. As an adult I can fix the Irish issue with citizenship, which I am entitled to, in the same moment I know I do not have to, although I can, it's an attitude, that's all.

Similarly, this journey has given me a degree of what I hope is (although others may disagree) 'honorary Gypsy Citizenship' from the people I have met along the way. 'A Gypsy is someone related to another Gypsy', is something I have heard many times. My South and West Asian DNA sits happily alongside my Irish/Scottish DNA, and of course my Englishness.

CHAPTER 9

Back in 2012, I think I must have just had an article published in the Romany and Traveller Family History Society magazine '*Romany Routes*', because soon afterwards I was contacted by Charlie and Kathleen Harris, settled Travellers from South Devon. Settled only in the physical sense, but living as close to their culture as it is possible to be.

I was due to play with a band at the upcoming Clovelly Folk Festival in North Devon at that time and coincidentally Charlie and Kathleen were coming up to North Devon themselves for the event, so we arranged to meet up.

I was standing on the quay down at the harbour when they walked through the archway at the Red Lion, and came straight up to me amongst the people mingling there. We had never met before, but Kathleen said she felt an immediate connection right then, and it has proved that way ever since.

Charlie is an accomplished singer and musician, and Kathleen a fine step-dancer. Underscoring all that, is their willingness to share all the aspects of their Romany lives with me. They have shown me so much of where I have come from just by being themselves, and you cannot get that from books or the internet.

From time to time I would share some of my DNA matched new found 'cousins' with them in case the names meant anything to them. On one occasion, about seven years after meeting for the first time, I was asking about a particular Hampshire family. Imagine our surprise to learn this person was also Charlie's cousin too from his fathers side!

In that moment we went from cushti pals, to 'my old cousin'.

A couple of years previously, Charlie and Kathleen had attended my dad's funeral as my good friends, there to show their respect and support which meant the world to me, not knowing until much later that they actually came as proper family to my dad. Priceless.



Kathleen and Charlie Harris

Kathleen Harris, nee Packman.

To find I had a connection with my friend Charlie Harris was an unexpected blessing, but to then discover a connection to his wife and friend also, is to be doubly blessed.

The connection between Kathleen and myself was discovered while researching the inhabitants of Donovans Yard, Battersea, in the 1911 census, so we must return there and introduce the family occupying '**VANS 14 and 15**'.

WILLIAM and LILY PENFOLD (nee GURNEY).

Bp. As **MARY JANE**, but known as **Lily**, she was the daughter of **JOHN** and **QUEENATION (AMY) GURNEY (nee SMITH)** (Vans 20 and 21, granddaughter of my ggtgt grandfather **William Ayres**).

Their marriage certificate reads,
23rd May 1892, Christchurch, Battersea.

WILLIAM PENFOLD, 22, Bachelor, General Dealer, Travelling Van, Cabul Road, son of **William Penfold**, General Dealer. And,
MARY JANE GURNEY, 19, Spinster, Travelling Van, Cabul Road, daughter of **John Gurney**, General Dealer.

Witnessed by **William Frederick Webb*** and James Spice.

*(possible relation of **Mary Ann Webb**, also in this story!)

In a now familiar 'helpful error' on the part of the enumerator or whoever filled out the census form, we learn of the entire family, although most are crossed through afterwards denoting they are elsewhere on that day. Only the two youngest escape the pencil!

They being Arthur aged 2, and Mary aged 2 months.

That said, given that the family had 2 wagons on site, it's possible the remainder of the family are in the other wagon in the care of the oldest daughter **LOUIE** (Louisa) aged 18 and unmarried.

It is she who is of interest here.

LOUISA was Bp. In Christ Church, Battersea, 23 July 1893, daughter of **William James Penfold**, and **Mary Jane Penfold**, of Girling's Yard, Hawker.

In the fullness of time, **Louisa** married on 3rd July 1916, Christ Church, Battersea.

ERNEST HAROLD PACKMAN, 24, Bachelor, Labourer, 71, Stainforth Road, son of **William Packman**, Fern Picker.

LOUISA PENFOLD, 24, Spinster, 71, Stainforth Road, daughter of **William Penfold**, Hawker.

Witnessed by Henry Williams and Mary Ann Penfold.

ERNEST HAROLD PACKMAN was born on 23rd February 1892, in Royal Oak Lane, Bexley Heath, Kent. Father **WILLIAM PACKMAN**, Wood Dealer, Mother, **CHARLOTTE PACKMAN** formerly **COOPER**.

(Bp. On 20th March, Bexley)

Here, then, is the connection to Kathleen whose maiden name was **PACKMAN** and descended from **WILLIAM**, Ernest's father.

What follows is a brief history of the Packman and Cooper families and how William Packman left Bexley, Kent, and established his family in South Devon.

Beginning with CHARLOTTE COOPER, wife of WILLIAM PACKMAN.

Charlotte was born in 1870 to parents **Thomas** and **Mary Ann Cooper**.

Her mother's maiden name was **WEBB**, and a possible School Admissions and Discharge record for her at St Pauls School, Westminster for August 5th 1844 shows; Elizabeth and **MARY WEBB** age 7, father **Richard Edward**, a Traveller, 25 Montpelier Place, Brompton. Discharged the school.

Previously **MARY ANN** had been married to a **THOMAS LOVE**. (I have a DNA connection to this family also).

February 12th 1854, Bexley, Kent.

THOMAS LOVE, 24, Bachelor, Labourer, Bexley, father **William Love**, Labourer.

MARY ANN WEBB, 19, Spinster, Bexley, father, **Richard Webb**, Labourer.

Witnessed by Margaret Barry and Thomas ...att? All made their mark.

Between 1852 and 1862 they appear to have had five children, Mary Ann, Reuben, Celia, George and THOMAS b. 1862.

The Baptism of her first child Mary Ann, took place on February 25th 1852, the illegitimate child of **MARY ANN LOVE**. Her abode the Workhouse at Newington, Surrey.

Her husband Thomas Love died in Dartford in 1864.

Within a few weeks Mary Ann marries **THOMAS COOPER** on 18th July 1864 at Wilmington, Kent.

Although everyone gives the impression they are settled folk, with fixed addresses, and occupations such as Greengrocer, I believe all the characters are semi-settled Travelling people.

This area of North Kent south of the Thames, has a long history of being home, seasonal and otherwise to many Travelling people. Within this area are places where forced clearances took place. Belvedere Marshes and Darenth Woods for instance, are close neighbours of Bexley Heath and Dartford.

The view from the railway line from Dartford through Woolwich was a "huge motley gathering of caravans, old tradesmens vans, and shacks".

These words were spoken by the newly elected Labour MP for Erith and Crayford (Dartford), Norman N Dodds, who so valiantly tried to defend the Travellers of the area in the early 1960's, and became their champion and voice from his election in 1945, until his sudden death in 1965.

His book '*Gypsies, Didikois, and other Travellers*', published posthumously in 1966 by Johnson Publications, paints a bleak picture of the 'unchristian mistreatment' of the Gypsies and Travellers.

It makes for hard reading to hear his accounts of the clearances and evictions from sites which had become traditional stopping places, some for generations, made illegal by Acts of Parliament. A 'must read' to understand the truth behind what became known as the 'Gypsy problem' by the establishment.

When I first bought this book, perhaps 15 years ago, I never dreamt I would re-read it with a personal connection, and with it a heightened sense of the injustice I felt initially.

THOMAS and **MARY ANN COOPER** remain a couple until Thomas' death in 1901, Mary Ann has 12 children according to the 1911 census, 10 living, 2 having died.
But first the;

1871 CENSUS Marshalls Lane, Bexley, Kent.

THOMAS COOPER, Head, Married, 34, Chimney Sweep, born St Pauls Cray, Kent.
MARY A. COOPER, Wife, Married, 33, born Hampshire.
ROUBEN LOVE, Son, 14, born Dartford, Kent.
THOMAS LOVE, Son, 9, born Dartford, Kent.
PHEOBE COOPER, Dau. 5, born Dartford, Kent
THOMAS COOPER Son. 3, born Bexley Heath, Kent.
CHARLOTTE COOPER, Dau. 9Mths, born Bexley Heath, Kent.

1881 CENSUS, Royal Oak Lane, Blexley, Kent.

THOMAS COOPER, Head, Married, 45, Greengrocer, born St Pauls Cray, Kent.
MARY A. COOPER, Wife, Married, 43, born Hampshire.
PHEOBE COOPER, Dau. 16, born Fawkham, Kent.
THOMAS COOPER, Son, 13, born Bexley Heath, Kent.
CHARLOTTE COOPER, Dau. 11, born Bexley Heath, Kent.
SELINA COOPER, Dau. 8, born Bexley Heath, Kent.
RICHARD COOPER, Son, 6, Born Bexley Heath, Kent.
WILLIE COOPER, Son, 5, born Bexley Heath, Kent.
SAMUEL COOPER, Son, 1, born Bexley Heath, Kent.

By the time of the 1891 census, much has happened within the family where **CHARLOTTE** is concerned. For a start she has married.

February 21st 1887, St Mary's Church, Stone (Dartford) Kent.

WILLIAM PACKMAN, 21, Bachelor, Labourer, Stone, father **WILLIAM PACKMAN**, Labourer.
CHARLOTTE COOPER, 18, Spinster, Stone, father **THOMAS COOPER**, Greengrocer.
Witnesses were John Raynar and Alice Woods. (only the Woods made their mark).

1891 CENSUS, Albert Road, Bexley, Kent.

The first entry shows **CHARLOTTE** in the household of her sister **Pheobe** and husband **Alfred Evans** (Fishmonger) and their 2 children, plus Boarder Henry Colegate 19, Labourer. Also;

CHARLOTTE PACKMAN, Visitor, Married, 21, Hawker, born Bexley Heath, Kent.

Two doors away is;

THOMAS COOPER, (her father), Head, Married, 60, Sweep, born Paul's Cray, Kent.
WILLIAM PACKMAN, (her husband), Lodger, Married, 26, Labourer, born Dartford, Kent.

The last entry does not show Thomas' wife Mary Ann for some reason.

1901 CENSUS, Royal Oak Lane, Bexley, Kent.

Thomas Cooper, (Mary's husband) had died earlier that year. In the household is the son of daughter **CHARLOTTE** and **WILLIAM PACKMAN**, - **ERNEST HENRY PACKMAN**.

MARY COOPER, Head, Widow, 67, Green Grocer, born Dartford, Kent.

RICHARD COOPER, son, 27, Single, Bricklayers Labourer, born Bexley Heath, Kent.

VANZELOW COOPER, Son, Single, 19, Bricklayers Labourer, born Bexley Heath, Kent.

ERNEST PACKMAN, Adopted Son, 9, born Bexley Heath, Kent.

Ernest was Mary's Grandson of course, '**Adopted Son**' is a more permanent description of the circumstances you might assume, and will be looked at later.

1911 CENSUS, Royal Oak Lane, Bexley, Kent.

MARY ANN COOPER, Head, 76, Married 58 years, 12 children born alive, 10 living, 2 having died. Old Age Pensioner, born Hampshire, (place not known).

ERNEST PACKMAN, Grandson, 19, Single, Jobbing Gardener, born Bexley Heath, Kent.

MARK LOVE, Grandson, 22, Single, Labourer Ironworks, born Crayford, Kent.

We have now come full circle, as we know that in 1916 on the 3rd July, **ERNEST HENRY PACKMAN** marries **LOUISA (LOUIE) PENFOLD**, and produced a large family in Battersea.

From the early Baptisms it shows that Ernest pursued a Traveller lifestyle of Hawker, etc. The last document, before a brief look at the life of his father **WILLIAM PACKMAN**, is the Wartime Census of 1939. Ernest and Louie still have a Traveller lifestyle although settled.

1939 CENSUS, 152 Meyrick Road, Battersea.

PACKMAN, ERNEST H. 53, Street Trader, Coals, Heavy worker.

PACKMAN, LOUISA, (nee Penfold) 53, Street Trader, Flowers.

PACKMAN, LOUISA, 21, Unpaid Domestic Duties.

Lastly, to conclude my side of the connection to my friend Kathleen Harris (nee **PACKMAN**), here is the birth certificate details of her grandfather who was also the father of **ERNEST HENRY PACKMAN**.

27th October 1864, High St. Dartford, Kent.

WILLIAM, Boy, father **WILLIAM PACKMAN**, Mother, **MARY ANN PACKMAN**, formerly **KING**. Fathers Profession, Licensed Victualler, Registered 19th November 1864.

WILLIAM jr. left Bexley, Kent, and travelled to the Westcountry somewhere between 1891 and 1895, where he met **LOUISA ORCHARD** and so began another dynasty,

In 1921 their son **WILLIAM** was born, one of a large family. Kathleen's father.

One of Kathleen's family has written up a comprehensive family history of the Packman's and wider family. In it is described how **WILLIAM** remained friends with his brothers-in-law, **THOMAS** and **VANSLOW COOPER**, and also with their half-brother **TOM LOVE**.

They went by train together to Devon and picked fern which was sent back to London by train, and used in the fish markets for display purposes.

APPENDIX 1

Caroline (Ayres) and partner James Smith, son of Anthony. (update 9 Jan 2022)

The 1871 census is the only one found which shows the family, in 'caravan and tents' at Alperton, Middlesex. It has formed the basis of much of the research concerning their children, with the exception of **MARIA** born 1858, at Alperton, and **HENRY** born 1860, Hampton, Surrey. (Other of their children have been equally elusive, but these two have a paper trail which is interesting), this information is according to the Census and Baptisms.

1871 CENSUS, VILLAGE OF ALPERTON, IN THE PARISH OF HARROW, MIDDLESEX. GREEN LANE, GIPSY CARAVAN AND TENTS. (R.G. 10 1325)

JAMES SMITH, Father, Married, 52, Labourer, born Oxfordshire, Lauton (sic).
CAROLINE SMITH, Mother, Married, 40, Hawker, born Oxfordshire, Brill.
ELIAS SMITH, Son, Married, 24, Labourer, born Buckingham, Bucks.
ANN SMITH, Dau. Unmarried, 22, Hawker, born Sipson, Bucks.
EMMANUEL SMITH, Son, Unmarried, 17, Chair Mender, born Drayton, Bucks.
QUANATION SMITH, Dau. Unmarried, 15, Born Sipson, Bucks.
MARIA SMITH, Dau. Unmarried, 13, born Alperton, Middx.
HENRY SMITH, Son, 11, born Hampton, Surrey.
SAMUEL SMITH, Son, 9, born Hampton, Middx.
ELIZABETH SMITH, Dau. 4, born Hampton, Middx.
ELIZABETH SMITH, Niece, 10mths. Born Ascot, Berks.
HOBES SMITH, Grandson, 1, born Hampstead, Middx.
CORNELIUS SMITH, Grandson, 2, born Windsor, Berks.
EDWARD SMITH, Father, Married, 19, Chair Mender, born Long Stooley, Bucks.
SARAH A. SMITH, Mother, Married, 20, Hawker, born Brighton, Sussex.
ANTHONY SMITH, Son, 4mths. Born Notting Hill, Middx.

It would appear that **Caroline** uses the name **ELIZA** at the Baptisms of the above children.
March 29 1858, St. Margarets, Edgware, Middx.

MARIA, of **JAMES** and **ELIZA SMITH**, No abode, Travelling Man.

And;

October 14 1862, St. John the Evangelist, Harrow, Gt. Stanmore, Middx.

HENRY, of **JAMES** and **ELIZA SMITH**, Laughton, Brazier.

As place of residence at **HENRY'S** baptism, Laughton has not been found so far in Middlesex, however, Launton, in Oxfordshire is given by **JAMES** as place of his birth on the 1871 census.

Another child Baptism found;

May 11 1869, Willesden, Middx.

CORNELIUS, of **JAMES** and **ELIZA SMITH**, 'At present in Willesden', Wandering Labourer.

This child throws up another scenario. Perhaps this child is a son of another **JAMES**, perhaps a son of **James** and **Caroline** not shown on the census. The reason for this theory is that on this 1871 census, a child named **CORNELIUS** is shown as grandson of **JAMES** and **CAROLINE**, born 1869 at Windsor, Berks, with no indication of the parents. At odds with this theory is the fact that **MARIA** and **HENRY**, shown as children of **JAMES** and **CAROLINE** on the census, are a good match with baptism details shown to **JAMES** and **ELIZA**'s children. Listing **CORNELIUS** as 'Grandson' could be an error on the part of the Enumerator.

Further to this, a record of the 'London, England, School Admissions and Discharges, 1840-1911' for Notting Hill, Middx. Has this information.

CORNELIUS SMITH b. 6 Apr 1870, admitted 27 Sept 1880, to St. Clements Road School, Father **JAMES SMITH**, Gypsies, of 5 Bangor St.

ANTHONY SMITH b. 3 Aug 1872, admitted 29 Sept. 1880, St. Clements Road School, Father **JAMES SMITH**, Gypsies, of 5 Bangor St.

(**ANTHONY** would have been born the year following the 1871 census.)

APPENDIX 2

CHARLES ANTHONY TURNER (Otherwise known as) ANTHONY TURNER

1896 – 1915

Charles Anthony Turner, son of **Anthony** and **Phoebe Turner** died at the young age of 19, just days after signing up with the 22nd Middlesex Regiment at Battersea, for The Great War. The certificate reads;

*19th Sept 1915, 22 Orville Road, **CHARLES ANTHONY TURNER**, Male, aged 19 yrs, a Labourer, cause of Death, Syncope, Pneumonia Lymphatism, Natural. There was a Post Mortem, Certificate received from S. Ingleby Oddie, Coroner for London, Inquest held 21st Sept 1915, Registered same day.*

In plain language, Syncope I understand is passing out and collapse due to sudden drop in blood pressure and heart rate. Pneumonia Lymphatism, is a lung issue, both causing a death by natural causes according to the Coroner.

18 days earlier, on the 1st September, **Charles Anthony** had enlisted at Battersea with the 22nd Middlesex Regiment. Details as follows;

CHARLES ANTHONY TURNER of 22 Orville Road, Battersea. A British Subject, aged 19yrs and 128 days. Occupation; Flower Seller, unmarried. Height 5ft 1in. Weight 95lbs.

*Next of Kin, **Anthony Turner**, Father, of 22 Orville Road, Battersea.*

He was admitted into the Army on the 4th Sept. and Posted on 6th as a Private. His official Discharge from the Army did not occur until 24th March 1916. Total Service 206 days(?)

His Medical History goes on to say his Physical Development was 'Good'

The final page of his War Records (Table's 3 and 4), contain some anomalies, the dates of which do not tally with his Death Certificate, would that suggest he became ill while undergoing his Basic Training, was his condition pre-existing? The Death Certificate states he died at home however.

TABLE 3

26/7/1915 to 10/8/1915 'T.V/2' (?), (and before enlistment date!)

14/3/16, 'Temporarily unfit for general service, 12 months' (6 months after Death date!).

2/2/16, Vaccinated(? After Death date!)

TABLE 4 (Service Table, Postings)

***** Hill, 4/9/15

Aldershot, 13th Sept 1915.

Bordon, 9th October 1915. (after Death date!)

Pirbright, 4th December 1915. (after Death date)

Of the last three dates, the only one possible is his posting to Aldershot on 13th September 1915, six days before his death. Presumably this is where **Charles Anthony Turner** began his Basic Training. His family would not have had access to his Military Records of course as we have today.

As the address of 22 Orville Road, Battersea, is consistent with his at the time of enlistment, on the Army form, that of his father at that time, and also that given on the Death Certificate, we can be confident that there is little likelihood of confusion with another person, and that he was able to pass away at home and not in an Army hospital.

APPENDIX 3

MORE ON THE NAME 'QUEENATION'

The female Christian name of **Queenation** and its variants, as a hereditary name amongst the **Smith** family has been looked at in BFFE, chapter 5, page 37.

The earliest possibly relevant example I had found to my family was a Baptism at Ardley, Oxfordshire, on the 18th November 1781.

QUEEN=ASIA, Daughter of **Timothy Smith** a Vagrant & **Anne** his wife.

Ardley is a village less than 2 miles from the given birthplace of my ancestor **William Ayres** at Fritwell, and about 3 miles to the north west of Bicester, where **Queen Asiony** was recorded in the 1841 census at Bicester daughter of **Cornelius Loveridge** and **D'leafy (Smith)**.

She had been Baptised approximately 8 miles south of Bicester at Beckley, on 16th February 1834.

QUEENESIA, Father **Cornelius Loveridge**, mother **Dalitha (Smith)**.

Both Baptisms fall within my area of interest, and might suggest a connection to each other. Theoretically, **Timothy** could be a brother to **Aquilla Smith**, partner of **William Anscomb**, who were parents of **Bellutha Ancorn Smith** (1785), **Nymphony (Anthony) Anscombe Smith** (1787), **Johnny Ancorn** (1783) and my proposed **Delathey** (1781).

Their son **Anthony's** lineage, through his son **Henry Smith** and his partnership with **Caroline Ayres**, a union which produced daughter **Queenation Smith**.

Queenation partnered **John Gurney**, and finally settled in Battersea, London, initially in the Yards, still living in a wagon, and finally 'In bricks' in Brougham Street. Several of their Granddaughters were Baptised as '**Queenie**', and one as '**Queen Elizabeth**' But I have only found one relevant reference to a '**Queenation**', and I have doubts about her being a relation, however let's start with a Baptism;

28 December 1913, Christ Church, Battersea. (born October 23 1913)

QUEENATION, Mother **Ellen Hughes**, of Donovans Yard.

Followed by a marriage;

9 November 1914, The Parish Church, Battersea.

FRANK PENFOLD, 22, Bachelor, Flower Seller, 14, Orville Road, father **James Penfold**, Cutlery Grinder.

ELLEN ADA HUGHES, 20, Spinster, 14, Orville Road, father **Nelson Hughes**, Pedlar.

Witnessed by **Ann Maria Hughes** and **Thomas Phillips (Verger)**.

The baptism would appear relevant, Donovans Yard being the home of **Queenation/Amy Gurney** and family in the 1911 Census, but although the mother **Ellen Hughes** was unknown to me, the absence of a father could still mean a family 'influence'!

A year later comes the wedding to **Frank Penfold**, who may not be the child's father of course, however he does acknowledge her as such, on his enlistment to the Army a short while later on the 31 December 1914. On his enlistment report he cites **Ellen Penfold** as his wife, and **Queeny** his daughter, all dates and addresses match the records closely.

With regards the wedding, the only family witness was **Ann Maria Hughes**, the Brides Mother. Enlisting for the Great War may have prompted the wedding, their parting was imminent and **Ellen** would have been provided for as a widow, but not out of wedlock. He does appear to have survived though, thankfully.

There are several instances of **Gurneys** and **Penfolds** inter-marrying in Battersea, but so far cannot identify a **Frank**, son of **James Penfold**. This would probably be the most likely way the name **Queenation** would pass down the family I feel.

Or Perhaps **Queenation/Amy** was known to **Ellen Hughes**, which is highly likely, both living in Donovans Yard around 1913, honouring her with naming the child after her.

Ellen Ada Hughes and family can be identified from their 1911 census entry. She is shown as **Ada**, aged 15, meaning she was about 17 at the birth of her child **Queenation**, and about 18 at the time of her wedding.

Caravan, 60, Wardley Street, Battersea.

NELSON HUGHES, Father, 40, Married. Pattern (?) Hawker, born Kingston on Thames.

ANNIE HUGHES, Mother, 39, Married 20 years, 6 children all living, born High Wickham, Bucks.

RHODA HUGHES, Daughter, 17, Married, born Kingston.

NELSON HUGHES, Son, 18, Hawker, born Kingston.

ADA HUGHES, Daughter, 15, born Chiswick.

HENRY HUGHES, Son, 11,

ELIZABETH HUGHES, Daughter, 7, born Wandsworth.

WILLIAM HUGHES, Son, 4, born Wandsworth.

ELLEN ADA'S parents wedding as follows;

February 13 1893, St. Peters Church, Norbiton, Surrey.

NELSON HUGHES, 22, Bachelor, Hawker, Norbiton, Father **James Hughes**, Hawker.

ANN MARIE CAREY, 20, Spinster, Norbiton, Father **Joseph Carey**, Tinman.

Witnesses were **James Hughes** and **Ann Maria Hughes**.

AND FINALLY...

At the outset of this journey I was certain I would find my **Ayres** family roots in the Home Counties, from Hampshire to Kent, and up into South London. Geographically this was the place of origin of most of my English ancestors, including me, and as a result I was surprised to learn the early records showed my Traveller ancestors came from the Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire area.

Despite this, outside of my own ancestors, the surname of **Ayres** does not seem to be a common Traveller name in this area during the 1800's compared with Hampshire for example. This has been reinforced in recent times by DNA connections to Home Counties Traveller families I cannot explain, which leads me to wonder if this is where my family originated.

Certainly my **Ayres** and **Smith** family were involved in 'Droving to London', an occupation which, even if it only involving the final leg of the journey from Wales, would have brought them through Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire and on into London routinely if not regularly in season. Perhaps my **Ayres** family decided to relocate on route away from their original home area of Hampshire to Kent.

Churchill in Oxfordshire was given in two instances as birth place for **Louisa**, daughter of **Henry/ Joseph** and **Olive**, of the Hampshire/Sussex **Ayres**. Firstly on her baptism on 13 April 1838 at East Grinstead, Sussex, also it is given as her place of birth in the 1881 census, and her father gives Churchill, Oxon. as his place of birth in the 1861 census. So at least the place held some significance for them, possibly travelling West on occasion to be with my branch of the family. (BFFE, p145)

This separating from the Hampshire **Ayres** would have had to happen before 1806, as that is when my great x 3 Grandfather **William Ayres** was Baptised at Banbury, Oxon. to **William** and **Mary Ayres**. **William** senior was described at that time as a Gypsy, and a Drover in the 1841 census, so it is possible Droving took him West into the South Midlands, and marriage to a local girl of the **Gray/Grey** family meant he relocated there.

Another focus for me has been to look at my father's assertion that his grandfather had told him our name was **Smith** and not **Dixon**. He had been born illegitimate, his mother marrying a **John Dixon** after the event. He went on to marry **Matilda Ayres** of Traveller descent, so this meant both my father's grandparents were from Traveller families as it turned out. This elusive **Smith** still has no name but DNA has established that he was very likely a descendant of **Jasper Smith**, baptised 30 November 1759 at North Marston, Bucks. of **Thomas** and **Sarah**, Vagrants.

The search for evidence continues.

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