An Adamthwaite tale of Tragedy, Bigamy & Intrigue

by Sue Mastel, 2008 - updated 2009, 2016, 2020

INTRODUCTION

Some of the most interesting Adamthwaites I have come across are to be found amongst the members of the **ORANGE Adamthwaite/Vipond** line. Sadly, until recently, we have only been aware of a very small number of direct living descendants of this line – most of whom live in the United States. But we have now made contact with a descendant of John Alexander Adamthwaite who has been able to throw more light on some of the mysteries around this family. (If, dear reader, you are also descended from a member of the ORANGE line and can provide any more letters, documents or photos, please contact me!) Just from the public records, it is clear that this line includes some fascinating characters.

Since discovering the many wills of the Sedbergh Adamthwaites, we have learned that in fact the ORANGE line is linked directly to the VIOLET line (see the family tree for the Sedbergh Adamthwaites).

Read more about some of the individuals in this line, and the things they got up to! And perhaps you can come up with some evidence to prove or disprove some of the theories or answer the many questions set out on the following pages:



Section 1: William Adamthwaite of Branthwaite and his descendants

On 22 October 1744 in Sedbergh in the West Riding of Yorkshire, **William Adamthwaite of Branthwaite** (1718-1776) married **Deborah Allen** (1724-1803) and they had three children: **John** (1745-1819), **Thomas** (1748-1816) and **Jane** (1751-?) all of whom were christened in Sedbergh. Following William's death, there was a lengthy dispute between his two sons John and Thomas against their sister Jane who had by then married **Reverend John Turner**. This family dispute was continued even after the death of the Reverend John Adamthwaite in 1819 – *I am still deciphering some of the Chancery records about this case, but hope to have a summary published on this site in the future*. **William and Deborah Adamthwaite's children:**

John Adamthwaite (1745 - 1819)

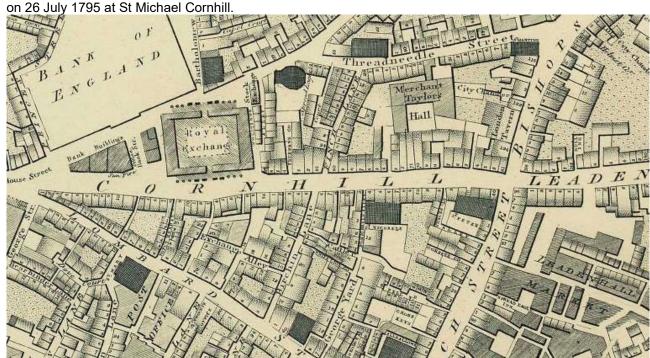
William's elder son **Reverend John Adamthwaite**, **DD** attended Sedbergh School and Queen's College Oxford, becoming an eminent churchman and theologian – who nevertheless managed to become involved in several controversies! (see <u>Shackerston documents</u>, the story of <u>the elopement</u> and the article the <u>Seven Reverends</u> Adamthwaite). Reverend John was Vicar of Shackerstone in the county of Warwickshire and also of Baddesley Ensor. He had a protégée, another **Reverend John Adamthwaite DD**, who was born in Ravenstonedale 1783 and was the son of **Thomas Adamthwaite and Mary (Pearson)** – they appear not to be closely related – this second Rev John was involved in the notorious Academies in Bowes and Winton, the former of which provided the inspiration for Dickens' 'Dotheboys Hall'. Reverend John senior appears on numerous lists as a subscriber to a variety of publications, from volumes of poetry, to collections of sermons, scientific papers, maps and even a book about genealogy! We have found one of his poetic compositions in an issue of *The Gentleman's Magazine* ... and a very turgid epic it was too. William's daughter **Jane**

Adamthwaite (1751-?) married a **Reverend John Turner** and while they were living in Yorkshire, they had two children, the elder of whom **Ann** seems to have married a **David Cooper or Cowper** and subsequently became housekeeper to her uncle, the Reverend John. Yet another lengthy family dispute, this time between Rev Turner and his wife Jane and Thomas's two sons, took place following Rev John Adamthwaite's death (*this too will be written up in time*).

Thomas Adamthwaite (1748 - 1816)

William's younger son **Thomas Adamthwaite** left Sedbergh and travelled to London where he was a Notary Public, with offices at 4 St Michael's Alley, Cornhill. In 1790, he married **Lucy Vipond** (1755-1817) at St Botolph without Aldersgate in the City of London – according to the marriage licence, issued on 17 May 1790 – Thomas was a Batchelor upwards of 41 years and of St Michael Cornhill and Lucy was a Spinster upwards of 26 years, of St Boltolph Aldersgate.

Thomas Adamthwaite was admitted as a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Scriveners on 2 July 1810; a position he held until his death in 1816. Thomas and Lucy had two sons: **William Vipond Adamthwaite** (1793-1872) and **John Allen Adamthwaite** (1795-1850). The two sons were both christened



The above map shows the location of **St Michael's Church** (just below the 'L' of Cornhill) and **St Michael's Alley**, where Thomas Adamthwaite had his Notary's office, in 1799 (reproduced with kind permission of Motco Enterprises Limited www.motco.com)

Despite much searching, we have never found Wills or burial records for either **Thomas Adamthwaite** or his wife **Lucy**, but their Death Duty Records reveal the following details:

- **Thomas Adamthwaite**, of Birchin Lane, London Probate granted on 19 June 1816. His Estate was valued at £1500. The administrator was his widow Lucy Adamthwaite of Dalston
- Lucy Adamthwaite, of Dalston, parish of St John Hackney, Probate granted on 9 June 1817. Her Estate was valued at £3000. Administrators were William Vipond Adamthwaite and John Allen Adamthwaite, gentlemen of Dalston, sons.

It seems that the estate was not settled until 20 Dec 1824, when a further grant was recorded. We are fairly certain that amongst the bequests would have been two properties near Sedbergh passed down by Thomas's parents William and Deborah, as the 1843 Tithe Schedules show Wm Vipond Adamthwaite as the owner of house and land at Low Branthwaites and John Allen Adamthwaite as the owner of land at Toad Puddle.

Jane Adamthwaite (1751 - ?1838)

As previously stated, Jane married the **Reverend John Turner** in 1782 in Sedbergh. We know that they had a daughter **Ann Turner** whilst they were living in Yorkshire *[she was christened in Pontefract in*

December 1782]. Ann married a David Cowper, and subsequently became the housekeeper of her uncle the Rev John Adamthwaite ... you can read more about her in another of the stories in this section <u>'Thomas Garrett's Elopement'</u>.

However, according to the Clergy Database, there were two Rev John Turners, a father and son, who were Curates at Shackerstone, during the forty years that Rev John Adamthwaite was Vicar there (from 1779 until his death in 1819). The first of these was Rev John Turner, who was ordained as Deacon in Buckden, Huntingdonshire on 22 September 1782, and appointed Curate at Shackerston the following day.

IGI has the following children of John and Jane Turner, all christened in Little Wenlock, Shropshire:

- **John Turner**, chr 1 jun 1783
- Agnes Turner, chr 1 feb 1785
- Jane Turner, chr 3 jan 1787
- Mary Turner, chr 21 may 1789

John and Jane Turner's son, **John Turner**, was also ordained - according to the Clergy Database, he was admitted sizar at St John's in 1801, and was **the son of the Reverend John Turner** of Little Wenlock, Shropshire. He was ordained as a priest in 1808 and the same year he too became <u>Curate at Shackerstone</u>. According to VENN, from 1826 until his death in 1846 he was Vicar of Hennock in Devon, however this is almost certainly incorrect (the John Turner who was Vicar of Hennock was living in Hennock in the 1841 census with what appears to be a wife and six children, whilst we have found John Turner junior in the same census living with his two sisters and his aged father in New Dale, Wellington, Shropshire - see below).

Jane (Adamthwaite) Turner died on 5 June 1838 at New Dale, Wellington, Shropshire. She was aged 88 years and was the 'wife of a Clergyman of the Established Church' - the cause of death was 'decay of nature' and the death was reported by **John Turner**, husband, of New Dale (source Death Certificate) She was buried on 10 June 1838 at Wrockwardine.

In the 1841 census, **John Turner**, age 58, **Agnes Turner**, age 56 and **Jane Turner**, age 54, together with their father **John Turner**, age 81 were all living in New Dale Hamlet, Wellington (the next parish to Wenlock). The occupation of all of them is given as 'independent'.

Reverend John Turner, formerly Curate of Little Wenlock, or New Dale in the Parish of Wellington, was buried on 6 Nov 1846 in the Parish of Wrockwardine, Shropshire. He was aged 87 years.

<u>In the 1851 census</u> **Agnes and Jane** were still living at the same address, both annuitants, and both born Wenlock.

Section 2: William Vipond Adamthwaite (1793-1872)

The elder son of **Thomas Adamthwaite and Lucy (Vipond)** was born in 1793. We have not managed to find him in the 1841 census, although he appeared on the Dent Electoral Roll for 1841 with an address of 'Kings Arms Inn, Wigtown' – this could be either Wigton in Cumberland or Wigtown in Dumfries and Galloway. We also know from Tithe Schedules that in 1843 he was recorded as owning Low Branthwaites in Frostrow, Sedbergh, but the farm was occupied by a tenant.

By the time of the 1851 census William was aged 56 and living at 28 Polygon Court in St Pancras with his 'wife' **Isabella**, age 32 and born in Burgh Cumberland (not too far from Wigton). William's occupation is given as 'annuitant'. We have not found a marriage record for William and Isabella, though it could have taken place just before the start of general registration in 1837 (when Isabella would have been aged about 18). However, from the information on their daughter Mary Isabella's birth record we do not think they were married.

The Polygon looks a very interesting place, perhaps some sort of Victorian experiment in social housing? It was a ring shaped building in the middle of Clarendon Square – between the current sites of King's Cross



and Euston Stations. It seems to have had a school in one small section and the rest was divided up into 32 terraced buildings. In the 1841 census there were school teachers, artists, musicians, jewellers and lots of single independent people living on their own – but sadly no William Vipond Adamthwaite! It seems that Mary Wolstencraft lived there whilst married to the author William Godwin, and their daughter Mary Shelley was born there. Charles Dickens also lived there in the 1820s. The engraving left shows it in its heyday, the map below is from 1830.

But the following extract gives an idea of what the area must have been like when William and Isabella were living there in 1851: By the middle of the century, the area was largely slums. In 1857, 'Illustrated Times' published a picture of a homeless shelter here showing how the homeless were housed, in stables without bedding or even straw. Some of the slums were demolished a few years later during the construction of St Pancras station. The Polygon came down in the 1890s, but it wasn't until after World War One that many of the remaining slums were cleared to build blocks of flats, such as Levita House. The Polygon in 1830 - map reproduced with kind permission from Motco **Enterprises** Limited www.motco.com)



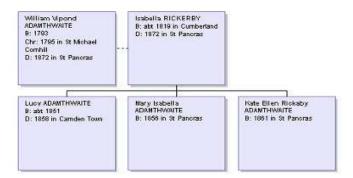
Londoners may be interested

to know that 'Seymour Street' is now 'Eversholt Street'. Euston Station now occupies the empty space on the left of the map, and although the Polygon itself has been replaced with blocks of flats, there is now a 'Polygon Road' off Eversholt Street, approximately where the north side of 'Clarendon Square' is shown on the map.

Shortly after the 1851 census, William and Isabella had the first of three daughters:

- Lucy Adamthwaite was born about 1851 (but we have not managed to find a record of her birth) –
 she died aged 7 years on 8 oct 1858 of Scarlatina Anginposa at 34 College Place, Camden
 Town. On her death her father's occupation was given as 'Land Proprietor'
- Mary Isabella Adamthwaite was born 28 Jan 1856 at 36 College Place, Camden Town, father William Adamthwaite, proprietor of land, mother Isabella Rickarby.
- Kate Ellen Rickaby Adamthwaite was born 25 jul 1861 at 35 College Place, Camden Town, father William Adamthwaite, freeholder, mother Isabella Adamthwaite (formerly Rickarby). [note: did someone have a problem with remembering their address - the house number of College Place seems to fluctuate somewhat!)

ORANGE line of Adamthwaites - chart 2



In the 1861 census, we have found the family living at 36 College Place, St Pancras:

- W Adam Thwaite, age 63, occupation Landed Proprietor, born City Middlesex
- Isabella Adam Thwaite, age 41, born Bowstead Hill, Cumberland
- Mary Adam Thwaite, age 5, born St Pancras, Middlesex
- Emily Carpenter, age 43, servant, born Hackney, Middlesex

(Lucy had died by the time of the census and Kate was born shortly afterwards)

In the 1871 census, the family has moved to 2 Edward Street, St Pancras:

- William V Adamthwaite, age 75, Fund Holder, born St Pancras, Middlesex
- Isabella Adamthwaite, age 50, born Cumberland
- Mary I Adamthwaite, age 15, scholar, born Middlesex
- Kate E Adamthwaite, age 9, scholar, born Middlesex

But the following year, things start to get confusing!

On 13 March 1872, Isabella died at 74 Euston Street – but on the death certificate she was not named as Isabella Adamthwaite, wife of William Vipond Adamthwaite as expected, but as **Isabella Rickerby**, age 52 years, domestic servant. The cause of death was 'fatty degeneration of the heart accelerated by habits of intoxication' according to the Post Mortem, as reported by Edwin Lankester, Coroner for Middlesex following the Inquest held on 15 march 1872. (STILL TO DO: check coroners reports at London Metropolitan Archives)

And less than two weeks later, on 25 March 1872, **William Vipond Adamthwaite** gentleman died, also at 74 Euston Street. The cause of his death was 'Serious Apoplexy, 4 days' and the death was reported by **M I Rickerby**, present at death. Though this must have been William's daughter Mary Isabella, note that she signed herself Rickerby, not Adamthwaite.

THE LONDON GAZETTE November 1872

Pursuant to an Order of the High Court of Chancery, made in the matter of the estate of William Vipond Adamthwaite, and in a cause Mary Isabella Rickerby and Katie Ellen Rickerby, infants, by Henry Theophilus Carr, their next friend, against Mary Keatley, the wife of John Reeves Keatley (1872, A., 581), the creditors of William Vipond Adamthwaite, late of No. 2, Edward-street, Hampstead-road, in the county of Middlesex, who died in or about the month of March, 1872, are, on or before the 9th day of December, 1872, to send by post, prepaid, to Mr. Charles Gammon, of No. 13, Bargeyard-chambers, Bucklersbury, in the city of London, the Solicitor of the defendant, Mary Keatley, their Christian and surnames, addresses and descriptions, the full particulars of their claims, a statement of their accounts, and the nature of the securities (if any) held by them, or in default thereof they will be peremptorily excluded from the benefit of the said Order. Every creditor holding any security is to produce the same before the Vice-Chancellor Sir Richard Malins, at his chambers, situated No. 3, Stone-buildings, Lincoln's-inn, Middlesex, on Wednesday, the 18th day of December 1872, at twelve o'clock at noon, being the time appointed for adjudicating on the claims. - Dated this 14th day of November, 1872.

When we examined **William Vipond Adamthwaite**'s <u>will</u>, matters became a little clearer. The will was written on 13 September 1871 and he left 5 shillings a week to **Isabella Rickerby** 'as long as the money lasts' (perhaps he anticipated this would not be long!) and he directed that following her death the residue

should be divided between her two children **Mary Isabella and Kate Ellen Rickerby**. He named the sole Executrix as **Mary Keatley**, wife of John Reeves Keatley, cabinet maker. And shortly after his death, in November 1872, an announcement appeared in the London Gazette (see above).

In the <u>1881 census</u> Kate E Rickerby, age 19, scholar, was a boarder in the household of John R Keatley and Mary Keatley at 7 Oxford Terrace, Marylebone. However, I have been unable to find her sister Mary Isabella Rickerby in the 1881 census, and there is no trace of either of them after this time in later censuses, nor have we found death or marriage certificates for either of them.

It seems as though this was the end of this particular line of the ORANGE Adamthwaites, but a number of questions remain:

What happened to Mary Isabella and Kate Ellen Adamthwaite/Rickerby? Apart from the entry in the 1881 census for Kate, no further sightings have been found in later censuses or marriage or death indexes under either surname. On the Death Duty records there is a handwritten note stating 'this will is nearly incomprehensible but it is proved that the duty will be paid', it seems that there was some correspondence relating to the legacies which continued until 1875, including a note referring to a case in Chancery in august 1873; final entry gives the value of annuities and bequests as £283.13s 6d and the duty on the bequests (at 10%) was finally paid in September 1875. But there were no clues as to the whereabouts of either Mary Isabella or Kate Ellen.

Was Mary Keatley related to Isabella Rickerby? Both of them gave their place of birth as Cumberland in the censuses. When Mary married John Reeves Keatley in August 1851 her maiden name was Mary Wood, daughter of Nathan Wood, farmer and one of the witnesses was recorded as Isabella Rockhill (I now have a copy of Isabella Wood's marriage to William Woods Rockhill in 1844, so we know that this was Mary's sister - but was she the same person who was later known as Isabella Rickerby?).

Shortly before the marriage, in the <u>1851 census</u> there was a Mary Wood age 27 working as an assistant in a drapers in Regent Street who gave her place of birth as Westward Cumberland and in the 1841 census there was a Nathan Wood, farmer, living in Westward Cumberland with his family. Although there was no Mary living there, in the same census there was a Mary Wood age 20 living nearby in the household of Edmond Wilson, farmer, at High Hall Westward.

In the censuses, Isabella Rickerby gives her place of birth as either Burgh or Boustead Hill, Cumberland. In both 1841 and 1851 censuses there are Rickerby families living in Burgh (Boustead Hill is a hamlet just outside Burgh by Sands), Westward and Wigton, but no Isabella of the right age. Of course there is also the possibility that Rickerby was not actually Isabella's maiden name: she could have been married before she met William Vipond Adamthwaite. In the absence of a marriage record, this is unlikely to be resolved.

And in the case against Mary Keatley mentioned in the article reprinted above, **who was Henry Theophilus Carr**, the 'next friend' of Isabella Rickerby's two young daughters? It seems a 'next friend' was a person appointed by or admitted to a court to act on behalf of a minor, but who would have appointed him, given their parents were both dead? In the 1871 census a Henry T Carr, a widower age 30 born in Oxford, was a Solicitor Managing Clerk living as a boarder in Guildford St, St Pancras.

Section 3: John Allen Adamthwaite (1795-1850)

Like his father Thomas, John Allen Adamthwaite was a Notary Public. He attended the Merchant Taylor School from 1805 until 1808, and we know that by 1823 he was living in Dalston as his name appears on a subscription list of that date.

John Allen Adamthwaite was admitted as a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Scriveners on 11 Mar 1818, by Redemption. By 1836 he had become of member of the Livery of that Company, and on 1 August 1838 he was sworn into the Court of Assistants where he continued to keep a room until his death in 1850. At the foot of this page, you can see a copy of the record of his Admission to the Company of Scriveners.

In 1834, at the time of the birth of John Allen Adamthwaite's son Joseph Gibson, the family were living at Woodberry Lake, Stoke Newington (source The Court Magazine and Belle Assemble). There is an entry in Piggots Directory of 1839 for 'Adamthwaite and Friend, Notary, of 6 St Michael's Alley Cornhill'. In evidence given at the Central Criminal Court in 1839. a John Sly, clerk to Mr Adamthwaite, notary to the house of Williams, Deacon and Labouchere, Bankers stated that Mr Friend, Adamthwaite's partner had 'gone away and could not be found'. By 1841 the Post Office entry just reads 'John Allen Adamthwaite, Notary', with an office address still in St Michael's Alley and a private address at 10 Queens Square. Bloomsbury. Between 1828 and 1840, John Allen was a Gentleman Pensioner of the Royal Household, and entries in 'The Times' record his attendance at a number of official functions at Buckingham Palace.



Many thanks to Mary for providing an image of the above portrait of **John Allen Adamthwaite**, which is owned by a member of her family



John Allen Adamthwaite also appears in the records of the Supreme Grand Charter of Royal Arch Masons of England in 1845, as a Grand Officer. (See his obituary below). The address of his office may be significant, because in the early 19th C, St Michael's Alley was the location of the Jamaica Coffee House and the Africa and Senegal Coffee House. The Jamaica Coffee House (now the Jamaica Wine House – see left), was built on the site of the first coffee house in London and was known to be the meeting place for West Indies Merchants and the captains of the slave ships –

is this the link between John Allen and **Susan Anglin BRYAN**, whose family had owned plantations in Jamaica? *The image on the right shows the Church of St Michael Cornhill which was adjacent to John Allen Adamthwaite's office.*



On 4th June 1829, at St George, Everton, Lancashire, John Allen Adamthwaite married Susan Anglin BRYAN. Susan was born about 1804 (estimated from age at death) in Montego Bay, Jamaica - the daughterof Susannah Anglin MOORE and John BRYAN who married in Jamaica in 1793. Susannah was a cousin of James SCARLETT, 1st Baron Abinger. The Bryan family are known to have owned plantations in Jamaica and had links with the ANGLIN, APPLETON, LAWRENCE, SCARLETT and DICKSON families who were all plantation families - they seem to have returned to Liverpool in the early 1800s, presumably at around the time of the abolition of slavery; Susan's sister Mary Sophia Lawrence Appleton (nee Bryan) is also buried in the Adamthwaite family grave at Nunhead Cemetery and Mary's daughter Fanny Dickson Appleton was living with John Allen and Susan in the 1841 census. Mary Sophia was married to Raynes Waite Appleton, the son of William Appleton a West Indies merchant. Two members of the Appleton family were witnesses at John Allen and Susan's marriage, along with Geo. Wainwright (another East and West Indies Merchant, who was married to Mary Appleton) and John Allen's brother William Vipond Adamthwaite. The record states that John Allen Adamthwaite was of the parish of St John, Middlesex (source Parish Records and Liverpool Mercury, from PY). Slave records reveal that Susan and her sister Mary jointly inherited slaves from their mother's estate - in 1817, a total of seventeen slaves owned by Susan and Mary were leased to William Stanford Grignon - by 1829 the five remaining slaves were purchased by William Gordon, attorney to William Appleton.

John Allen Adamthwaite's wife Susan died on 13 Jan 1848 at Nun Head Passage, Peckham from disease of the liver (upward of 2 years) and dropsy, aged 44 years. Her death was reported by Martha Dimmock. Susan was the first family member to be buried on 20 Jan 1848 at Nunhead Cemetery. Their three last born children had all died in infancy, and though we have copies of their death certificates, we have to date not discovered their burial records.

John Allen Adamthwaite died on 24 Aug 1850 age 56 at Nunhead Passage, Peckham Rye from disease of the liver (two years) (his death was reported by Martha Dimmock) and he was also buried at Nunhead Cemetery, Camberwell, Surrey. The following Obituary appeared in the Freemason's Quarterly Magazine and Review of 1850:

Bro. JOHN A. ADAMTHWAITE, Died August 24th. He was initiated in the Tuscan Lodge, No. 14, 20th November, 1820, in which he served all the offices. He was a G. Steward for 1833, and in 1843 was appointed J. G. Deacon. In Arch Masonry, he was exalted in the British Chapter, 10th Feb., 1849, and served all the offices; and was appointed Assistant-Sojourner of the G. Chapter in 1843. the deceased was also a Governor of the Boys' and Girls' Schools, and served the office of Steward to those charities, and was a Governor of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows.

A copy of his Will is published on the Adamthwaite Archive website. We have recently learned that there

was a family dispute about the Will, which was still going on more than 25 years after his death - we shall of course be trying to find out more about this!

The photo right shows the location of the Adamthwaite family grave at **Nunhead Cemetery**. We originally believed that all the masonry was removed some years ago when there was large scale demolition at the Cemetery, but recently donated letters from Nunhead Cemetery to Lucy Mawson (see 'Leeanna's story') dated 1948 and 1949 state that there never was a memorial erected on the family grave. However, the burial record book survives and this records the family members in the order in which they were buried there and the depth in feet at which each individual was buried:



Number and Description of Grave.			CONTENTS,	Y	:	1
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The burials read as follows:

- S. Adamthwaite, 16 ft this is Susan Anglin Adamthwaite, who died in Jan 1848 age 44
- J. Adamthwaite, 15 ft this is John & Susan's son Joseph Gibson Adamthwaite, who died Jan 1849 age 14
- L. Adamthwaite, 14 ft this is their daughter Lucy Adamthwaite, who died Jan 1849 age 11
- J. Adamthwaite, 13 ft this is John Allen Adamthwaite senior, who died Aug 1850 age 57
- T. Adamthwaite, 12 ft this is their son Thomas Bryan Adamthwaite, who died Oct 1851 age 20
- Willm V. Adamthwaite, 11 ft this is their son William Vipond Adamthwaite who died jul 1859 age 22
- Jas. Adamthwaite, 10 ft this is their son James Adamthwaite, who was reported to have died Sep 1859 age 20
- Mary S.L.Appleton, 9 ft this is Mary Sophia Lawrence Appleton (sister of Susan Adamthwaite), who died in 1862
- Anne Adamthwaite, 8 ft this is Anne (Fisher) Adamthwaite (2nd 'wife' of son John Allen Adamthwaite junior, who died Sep 1868 age 21
- Emily N. Adamthwaite, 7 ft this is Anne (Fisher)'s daughter, who died Oct 1868 age 4 months

... presumably there was room for just one more burial in the grave.

Below is a copy of the record of John Allen Adamthwaite's Admission to the Worshipful Company of Scriveners dated 11 March 1818



Transcription: John Allen Adamthwaite Son of Thomas Adamthwaite of Dalston in the County of Middlesex Gentleman deceased was admitted into the Freedom of the Company of Scriveners London by Redemption and Sworn in the Mastership of Mr John Hayward Spenceley Mr John William Nelson and Mr George Braine being Wardens and is Entered in the Book signed with the letter B relating to the Admission of Freemen of the said Company [to wit] the Eleventh day of March in the fifty eighth year of the Reign of King George the third and in the year of our Lord 1818 In Witness whereof the Clerk of the said Company by order of the said Master and Wardens hath Subscribed his Name hereunto Dated the day and year aforesaid. The above named John Allen Adamthwaite has been admitted into the said Freedom in order tohis obtaining a Faculty to practice as a Notary Public.

Geo

Nelson

The next page of this story reveals the tragic details of the family of John Allen and Susan Anglin Adamthwaite

Section 4: The children (and grandchildren) of John Allen Adamthwaite (sr) and Susan Anglin (Bryan):

Unfortunately, John Allen Adamthwaite and Susan Anglin (Bryan) only appear to have registered the births of two of their nine children (though five of them were born after the introduction of registration in 1837) and we have not yet found baptism records for all of them, but from census and death information, the following appears to be the complete list. Six of the nine children died in childhood – many of the deaths being reported by the Adamthwaite's servant Martha Dimmock. (to date, I have found christening records for Thomas Bryan, John Allen, Joseph Gibson, William Vipond and Lucy ADAMTHWAITE at St Mary's Stoke Newington, these records also recorded the dates of birth; and christening records for James and Robert at St George the Martyr, Queen Square Holborn – these all confirm that they were the children of John Allen and Susan Anglin ADAMTHWAITE, Notary Public)

Thomas Bryan Adamthwaite

born 29 Mar 1831, christened at Stoke Newington 8 Jun 1831, died 1 Oct 1851 at 1 Grosvenor Park North Walworth, age 20, occupation notary's clerk, cause of death Phthisis (reported by Martha Dimmock), buried at Nunhead Cemetery on 8 oct 1851.

John Allen Adamthwaite junior

born 11 Jun 1832; christened at Stoke Newington 3 Dec 1832; married in 1853 (Mar qtr) at Newington, Surrey to Eliza SAYNOR (1831-1886); John Allen has not been found in the UK 1861 census, though his wife is recorded as 'married' in censuses 1861 through to 1881, even though John Allen remarried in 1867.

Children of John Allen Adamthwaite and Eliza (Saynor)

- Florence Eliza Adamthwaite born 1853 Newington, died 1869 age 16 at 8 David St in Camberwell. The cause of death was 'ramollissement of brain' and the death was reported by a Wm Hy Jewell jnr of 23 Lion Street, New Kent Road who was present at the death. We do not know how he fits in to the family. Nor do we understand why Florence Eliza should have died at the same address where her half-sister Emily had been born a year earlier, even though her father's new family seem to have moved to nearby Gloucester Rd shortly after Emily's birth.
- Alexander (aka John Alexander Ridgeway Adamthwaite) born 1855 Camberwell, married 1885 to Leeanna Fairey, his occupation was variously: musician, dispenser of medicine, then publican. This

- couple had four children: Lucy Vipond (1886 ?), John Allen (1887-1907), Florence Eva (1891-1891) and Lionel Willie (1894-1979). John Alexander Adamthwaite died in 1912 in Barnet, cause Phthisis exhaustion from 1907 until the time of his death he is known to have run the Royal Oak Inn in Litlington, near Royston, Herts. You can read more about this family in 'Leeanna's story'
- Thomas Bryan Adamthwaite born 1857, Newington, married 1876 to Alice Turnpenny; occupation: seaman, barman, waiter, conman! The couple are known to have had three children: Thomas Walter (1877-1894), Bertie Alexander (1879-1969, and Alice Annie (1883-?). Thomas Bryan Adamthwaite died in 1924 in Water Lane, Norwood, Lambeth of nephritis, bronchitis and dropsy at the time of his death his occupation was given as Commission agent (repository). The Police Gazette 23 April 1875 reported that Thomas Adamthwaite, boy 2nd class, age 16, deserted from the HMS Implacable. In 1899 Thomas Adamthwaite was convicted at the Old Bailey of fraud (the case concerned a confidence trick involving the sale of a horse) and he was sentenced to 18 months hard labour you can read about the case at the Old Bailey on-line site
- Mark Adamthwaite born 1859, Mile End, 1st married ~1887 to Mary Glyn, emigrated to USA. Occupation: engraver, labourer, nurse like his father before him, Mark seems to have been a bigamist ... see more about him and his other marriages on a later page!
- Annie Margaret Adamthwaite born 1860, Hackney, married 2 mar 1884 at parish church of St Mary Newington to Thomas Lovejoy, letter carrier. Annie was dau of John Allen Adamthwaite, stockbroker (no mention that he was deceased). In the 1891 census, Annie was a patient in St Thomas' Hospital and her husband Thomas was a visitor in the Elkin household at 56 Belvedere Road, Lambeth. Annie died on 22 Aug 1891 at 4 Leppoc Road Clapham, aged 29 years of cardiac disease.

John Allen Adamthwaite BIGAMOUSLY married his second wife Anne Fisher on 1 May 1867at Milton Gravesend, Kent. According to the certificate, he claimed to be a bachelor of full age, occupation gentleman, of Milton, the son of John Adamthwaite, Notary. Anne was a spinster of full age, of Milton, the daughter of Frances Fisher, Merchant. The witnesses were Edward Martin and Frances Fisher (source Marriage Certificate)

Child of John Allen Adamthwaite and Anne (Fisher):

• Emily Adamthwaite, born 31 May 1868 at 8 David St, Crab Tree Shot Rd, Peckham, father John Allen Adamthwaite, commercial clerk and Annie Adamthwaite, formerly Fisher. The birth was reported by the father John Allen Adamthwaite. Emily Adamthwaite died on 6 october 1868 aged 4 months (she died a month after her mother) at 20 Gloucester Road, Peckham, the cause of death was 'tubercle cerebral disease 7 days, certified' and the death was reported by her father Jno Adamthwaite, commercial clerk.

John Allen Adamthwaite jr's second 'wife' Annie ADAMTHWAITE died 7 Sep 1868 at 20 Gloucester Road, Peckham Grove, age 21 years, cause of death Phthisis Pulmonalis 3 months (observed) and Jno Adamthwaite (commercial clerk) reported her death. **John Allen Adamthwaite** died in 1881 (see following page).

continuing with the children of John Allen Adamthwaite senr and Lucy ADAMTHWAITE:

Joseph Gibson ADAMTHWAITE

born 3 Dec 1834; christened in Stoke Newington 9 Jun 1835; died at Nun Head Passage, Peckham Rye on 2 Jan 1849 age 14 years from Scarlatini Maligna. The death was reported by Susannah Dimmock (Martha's sister?). Joseph was buried at Nunhead Cemetery on 9 Jan 1849. Was Joseph Gibson named for a relative of his mother (there was a Bryan/Gibson marriage recorded in the West Indies in 1800) or was he named for Robert Gibson, one of the executors of his father's will?

William Vipond ADAMTHWAITE

born 19 Apr 1836; christened Stoke Newington 11 Jan 1838; married on 3 Oct 1854 to Elizabeth JOHNSON at Southwark (St George?); died at St Thomas Hospital on 1 jul 1859 age 22, from Mercurial Salivation and Phthisis – his occupation recorded as 'on the Stock Exchange'. William was buried on 8 Jul 1859 at Nunhead Cemetery. After his death, his wife Elizabeth moved to Nottingham where she (and later also her daughter Lucy) was a schoolmistress. Elizabeth died in 1915 age 82.

Children of William Vipond Adamthwaite and Elizabeth (Johnson):

Lucy Anglin Adamthwaite (1856 - ?), m. 1881 to Phillip STEVENSON) The couple are known to have had three children: Arthur (?-1888), Winifred L (1884 - after 1863) and Gertrude A (1885-?)

• Frank Vipond Adamthwaite (1859 - ?) Frank was an artist and he emigrated to New York in 1880 where he married Sarah E Scott. The couple's known children were Lucy G, Sarah E and Frank Vipond junior. Frank Vipond Adamthwaite senior died (probably in New York) after 1920. Frank also had a grandson (born ~1928) and a great grandson (born ~1960) who carried the name of Frank Vipond Adamthwaite. You can see a copy of a page from the bible that was passed through the family on a later page

Lucy ADAMTHWAITE

born 3 Jul 1837, dau of John Allen Adamthwaite, notary of Green Lanes, Stoke Newington and Susan Anglin Adamthwaite (formerly Bryan), birth reported by John Allen Adamthwaite, father [birth certificate]; christened Stoke Newington 11 Jan 1838, died 13 Jan 1849 at Nunhead Passage, Peckham Rye, age 11 yrs from Scarlatina 11 days (reported by Martha Dimmock), buried at Nunhead on 20 Jan 1849, less than two weeks after her brother Joseph

James ADAMTHWAITE

born 14 Feb 1839 and christened at St George the Martyr, Queen Square on 29 mar 1841, but birth not found on GRO index; died 20 Sep 1859 age 20, occupation Notary's clerk, at 40 Leicester Square, London – the cause of death was Phthisis Pulmonalis, (death reported by Chas Holloway of same address) buried at Nunhead Cemetery on 26 Sep 1859. Letters of Administration were granted to his <u>sole surviving brother</u> John Allen Adamthwaite on 29 November 1859. **But there is more about him on a later page!**

Robert ADAMTHWAITE

born 10 mar 1840 and christened 29 mar 1841 at St George the Martyr, Queen Square, but birth not found on GRO index; died 20 Sep 1841 at 10 Queen Square, from water on the brain, age 18 m (death reported by Martha Dimmock)

Mary ADAMTHWAITE

born 4 sep 1841, dau of John Allen Adamthwaite, Notary General, of 10 Queen Square and Susan Anglin (formerly Turner(?)) [birth certificate] This is puzzling - the birth was reported by the mother, Susan, why did she state that her maiden name was Turner?; Mary died 10 jun 1842 at 10 Queen Square aged 9 months from Whooping Cough (death reported by Martha Dimmock).

Mary Catherine ADAMTHWAITE

born about december 1843 but birth not found on GRO index, nor have we found a christening record; died 18 feb 1845 at 10 Queen Square aged 14 months, from Influenza (death reported by Martha Dimmock).

You can see chart of this family group on the accompanying pdf

it is a very wide image - you will need to scroll to the right to view it all!

Section 5: more about John Allen ADAMTHWAITE junior

John Allen ADAMTHWAITE junior (1832 - 1881)

The following gives details of the events (in chronological order) of this family, with particular attention being paid to the dastardly John Allen Adamthwaite junior:

In the 1841 census, John Allen ADAMTHWAITE senior, his wife Susan and Joseph Gibson, William Vipond, Lucy, James and Robert were living at 10 Queen Square, St George the Martyr, Middlesex. Also living with them was a niece Fanny D APPLETON age 10 and five servants (one of whom was Martha DIMMOCK). The two oldest boys John Allen junior and Thomas Bryan were pupils at George WALLACE's boarding school at 6 Paradise Row in Stoke Newington, Finsbury. The father, John Allen ADAMTHWAITE appears in several London Post Office Directories as a Notary Public – in 1839, 1841 and 1846 his office address of 6 St Michael's Alley, Cornhill is listed; in 1841 his home address at Queen Square Bloomsbury is also given.

<u>In 1843</u>, on the Tithe Schedule for Sedbergh (in Westmorland), Thomas's two sons John Allen Adamthwaite senior and William Vipond Adamthwaite are recorded as owning property in the Sedbergh area – presumably these had been passed down from William of Branthwaites, through Thomas to his two sons – it is not known when these properties ceased to belong to the Adamthwaite brothers. (Despite much searching, we have never found a Will for Thomas Adamthwaite, though we know that there were two grants of administration following his death in 1816 and that of his widow Lucy in 1817, the latest in 1824)





the image <u>above left</u> shows 'Toadpuddle' which was owned by John Allen Adamthwaite senior in 1843; the image <u>above right</u> shows 'Low Branthwaites' in the foreground and 'High Branthwaites' in the trees behind. This property was owned by Wm Vipond Adamthwaite in 1843 [source Tithe Schedules] There followed a tragic decade for the family:

By the time of the <u>1851 census</u>, both parents and five of their children had died, from a variety of causes. The four remaining sons (Thomas, John Allen jr, William Vipond and James) were living as wards of Martha Dimmock at 1 Grosvenor Park North, Newington, Surrey – according to this census, all four boys had been born in Stoke Newington.

Martha Dimmock had appeared on the <u>1841 census</u> when the family were living in Queen Square, Holborn, as a servant. She had also been a signatory of John Allen ADAMTHWAITE senior's will and reported the deaths of both parents and all the younger children. *Does this sound suspicious to you??* We have not found her after the 1851 census, though a Martha Dimmock aged 63, occupation charwoman, died in Islington Workhouse in August 1862 from 'malignant disease of the rectum and bladder and asthemia').

Living two doors away from the Adamthwaites in the <u>1851 census</u> was the **Saynor family** from Yorkshire; father Samuel was an iron merchant, two years later John Allen Adamthwaite jr married their eldest daughter Eliza Saynor.

To be sold by Auction, in lots, puruant to an Order of the High Court of Chancery, made in a cause of Gibson v. Adamthwaite, with the approbation of Nassau William Senior, Esq., one of the Masters of the said Court, at the White Horse Hotel, Hadleigh, in the county of Suffolk, some time in the month of April, of which due notice will be given:

notice will be given;
Certain freehold and copyhold estates, situate in the parish of Polstead near Hadleigh aforesaid, late the property of John Allen Adamthwaite, of Peckham, in the county of Surrey, Gentleman, deceased.

Surrey, Gentleman, deceased.

Particulars whereof may, in a short time, he had (gratis) at the said Master's chambers, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London; of Messrs. Walker and Harrison, Solicitors, 5, Southampton-street, Bloomsbury; Mr. J. B. Whitfield, Solicitor, 3, Lincoln's-inn-fields; at the place of sale, and of the Auctioneer's, Hadleigh, Suffolk.

Following the death of John Allen Adamthwaite senior, in 1853 the *London Gazette* printed an item regarding the sale of property in Suffolk. We have a copy of the record of the case in Chancery of **Gibson v Adamthwaite**, and it appears that John Allen's two Executors, **Robert Gibson and Alexander Ridgeway**, took the four sons to court claiming that they were being obstructed in their responsibility of selling all the testator's properties and investing the income for the benefit of the four surviving sons – however they brought the case against the four sons claiming that they are withholding information about some of their father's properties (presumably including the one mentioned in the article – *see left*).

By the time of the <u>1861 census</u> the entire family had died, with the exception of John Allen Adamthwaite junior, who cannot be found, although his wife Eliza and their five children were living in Devon – next door to the property owned by Alexander Ridgeway who was the son of one of John Allen Adamthwaite senior's executors, also Alexander Ridgeway.

And, is this another significant coincidence? In the <u>1841 census</u> **Alexander Ridgeway senior** and family were living at 42 Leicester Square – next door to the address where **James Adamthwaite** had (supposedly) died in 1859.

In 1867, despite the fact that he already had a wife and five children (there was no divorce recorded), **John Allen ADAMTHWAITE Junior married Annie FISHER** (1846-1868) a daughter of **Francis Fisher**, at Milton next Gravesend, Kent and the following year they had a daughter - **Emily**, born in May 1868 at 8 David St, Crab Tree Shot Rd, Peckham who died 6 oct 1868 at 20 Gloucester Rd, Peckham Grove. His 'wife' **Annie ADAMTHWAITE** died 7 Sep 1868 at 20 Gloucester Road, Peckham Grove, age 21 years and Jno

Adamthwaite reported her death. Both Annie and Emily are buried in the Adamthwaite family grave at Nunhead Cemetery.

In <u>March 1870</u>, **J A Adamthwaite** was a witness at the marriage of **Jules Riviere**, a musician, to **Amy Frances Fisher** (another daughter of Francis Fisher) - see below for more about this marriage.

In 1871 There is no one with the name of **John Allen Adamthwaite** in the census, but his first wife **Eliza** (still described as 'married' and an annuitant) and two of the children have returned to London and are living at 18 Chapter Terrace, Newington in Surrey. There is however a strong possibility that the **John Allen**, widower, age 37, commercial clerk and born Stoke Newington who appears in the 1871 census as a visitor in the household of **Henry and Eleanor Tuggey** (Henry Tuggey was a retired commercial clerk) and their two married daughters in Camera Villas in Chelsea could actually be **John Allen Adamthwaite** - he is the right age, has the right place of birth, the right occupation and we have not found a John Allen born in Stoke Newington around 1833 in earlier censuses. Furthermore, this address is very close to West Brompton where we have the next sighting for John Allen Adamthwaite:

<u>In 1874</u> a **J A Adamthwaite**, gentleman of 7 Rose Villas, West Brompton, is listed in the London Gazette as a partner in the London Bank of Commerce. There are no other Adamthwaite's alive at this time with these initials, so we must assume that this is **John Allen Adamthwaite**. And, could he be linked in any way to the unidentified **Constance Adamthwaite**, dressmaker aged 26, who is a boarder in nearby Hollywood Road, West Brompton in the 1881 census? We have not found any other record for a Constance Adamthwaite in this period.

Auddersfield 9 Sept 100 0

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In answer to your Wife's letter we beg to say that for the part fewdays we have been in communication with Buss Hove Y tell, Schuitere 19 Survey Sheet, Victoria Embaulement who are acting for mr. I a adamthwaite of Mr. 2 Bramber Road, Mirth End Hulham, who represents himself to be the only surviving two of the late John Allin adamthwaite
There must be some mintake come where the for you let your Wife if you are not well enough) to altend on Messer Have of tell to support history we shall be glad to hear from you at your early conservince
Jour touly

John Albu avanthwaite of Robbin Man Home Humangh for parts touchen Se.

In 1878 an intriguing letter was written to John Allen Adamthwaite of 25 Princes Square, Kennington Park, London SE by Messrs Fenton Owen and Hall, solicitors, of Huddersfield. The letter was in response to an enquiry by John Allen Adamthwaite's wife (presumably Eliza Saynor, who had explained that she was writing due to her husband's ill health) concerning his late father John Allen Adamthwaite and reads as follows:

In answer to your Wife's letter we beg to say that for the past few days we have been in communication with Messrs Hare & Fell, Solicitors, 19 Surrey St, Victoria Embankment, who are acting for Mr J A Adamthwaite of No 2 Bramber Rd, North End, Fulham, who represents himself to be the only surviving son of the late John Allen Adamthwaite.

There must be some mistake somewhere and we think that your best plan will be for you (or your wife if you are not well enough) to attend on Messrs Hare & Fell to compare notes. We shall be glad to hear from you at your early convenience – yours truly Fenton Owen & Hall

However, the solicitor replied that he was

already in communication with another firm of solicitors, Messrs Hare and Fell of Victoria who were representing **another J A Adamthwaite** of 2, Bramber Road, Fulham, who also claimed to be 'the only surviving son of the late John Allen Adamthwaite.

Could it be that both John Allen Adamthwaite and his first wife were writing independently, given that they had been separated since 1861 - and if so, what had triggered their interest in the late John Allen Adamthwaite's affairs? He had after all died more than twenty five years earlier. John Allen and Eliza's granddaughter Lucy attempted to follow this up in 1948 but discovered that no records survived from the

solicitors Fenton Owen and Hall. I may be being cynical, but a possible explanation of their sudden interest could be related to the publication in 1872 of a list of 'Unclaimed Estates' which named **Rev. John Adamthwaite** ... uncle to **John Allen Adamthwaite senior!** (source Index to Heirs at Law, Next of Kin, Legatees, by Robt Chambers, Edwd Preston)

In 1880, John Allen Adamthwaite was involved in a high profile libel case at the Old Bailey. Jules Riviere, a musical director, claimed that a Mrs Weldon had libelled him - amongst other allegations made by Mrs Weldon was a statement that M. Riviere had bigamously married his second wife - Amy Frances FISHER in 1870. John Allen ADAMTHWAITE was called as a witness as he had prepared the papers for M. Riviere's marriage to Miss Fisher which stated that M. Riviere was a bachelor. John Allen Adamthwaite confirmed that he lived in Fulham and that he knew M. Riviere because he, John Allen Adamthwaite, had been married to Miss Fisher's sister (Anne FISHER) but stated that he believed M. Riviere to be widowed. The case came back to the Old Bailey in 1885, at which stage it was mentioned that Mr Adamthwaite had since died. Mrs Weldon was found guilty of libel. Ironically, we now know that John Allen Adamthwaite had himself bigamously married Anne Fisher in 1867 so was in a good position to advise M. Riviere on how to go about it! You can click on the links below to read the trial record at the Old Bailey on-line site [search for Adamthwaite to read his Witness statement in the 1st document; he is also mentioned several times in the 2nd document]

1. GEORGINA WELDON, Breaking Peace > libel, 1st March 1880.

272. GEORGINA WELDON (42) was indicted for a libel on Jules Prudence Riviere, to which she pleaded NOT GUILTY and a justification. The alleged libels were:—"Jules Riviere condemned between the years 55 and 57 to 10 years travaux forces for either for...

2. M GEORGINA WELDON, Breaking Peace > libel, 23rd March 1885.

438. GEORGINA WELDON was indicted for unlawfully publishing a false and defamatory libel on Jules Prudence Riviere, to which she pleaded NOT GUILTY. She also put in a demurrer to the indictment and a plea of justification. The Prosecution responded by a g...

<u>In 1881</u>, his first wife **Eliza Adamthwaite** (still 'married' and living on 'income from dividends') and her daughter **Annie** were living in Camberwell. Meanwhile, John Allen Adamthwaite appears in the <u>1881</u> <u>census</u> as a patient in St George's Hospital, age 48, occupation clerk in the Stock Exchange.

John Adam THWAITE died on 25 May 1881 at The Atkinson Morley Hospital in Wimbledon. His age was 48 years and occupation Mercantile Clerk and this Hospital was used as a convalescent home for St George's Hospital, where he had been a patient just a month earlier. The cause of death was Locomotor Ataxy (a complication resulting from syphillus), and apoplexy. To date we have not found a Will or Letters of Administration for John Allen Adamthwaite. He was buried in a common grave at Brompton Cemetery on 31 May 1881 (in section O plot BR 106244, but we have been informed that this section of the cemetery was badly bombed during WWII so it is unlikely that there is any remaining masonry). The entry on the burial register is given as John Adam THWARLE, so it seems likely that there was no family member present at either his death or his burial, or presumably the spelling would have been correct on these records.

(<u>In 1885</u>, when John Allen and Eliza's son **John Alexander Adamthwaite married Leeanna Fairey** in Newington, his occupation was given as musician and his father was named as John Allen Adamthwaite, gentleman, deceased.)

John Allen's first wife **Eliza Adamthwaite** died on 26 Aug 1886 at 1 Irving Grove, Stockwell Road, Kennington in Lambeth, aged 55 years from natural disease of the heart; she was described as the widow of John Allen Adamthwaite, stockbroker – she did not make it into the family grave at Nunhead Cemetery, even though John Allen's second 'wife' and daughter did!

According to a letter written in 1950 by one of her grandsons, **Bertie Alexander Adamthwaite** (son of Thomas Bryan Adamthwaite and Alice (Turnpenny), to his cousin **Lucy** (daughter of John Alexander Adamthwaite) Eliza left bequests to her four surviving children and this money came from <u>her</u> side of the family who, Bertie said, were 'quite wealthy'. He also said that his father **Thomas Bryan Adamthwaite** took his brother **Mark**'s share of the estate out to him in either Canada or America. However, we have been unable to find any record of a Will or an entry in the Death Duty Registers for Eliza Adamthwaite, neither have we found a passenger record for Thomas Bryan Adamthwaite's trip to America. Bertie's letter mentions the situation with the two wives and remarks that 'it was up to the first wife to have done something about the

situation'. He also refers to John Allen Adamthwaite as 'the Perfect Gentleman' - presumably he was being sarcastic!

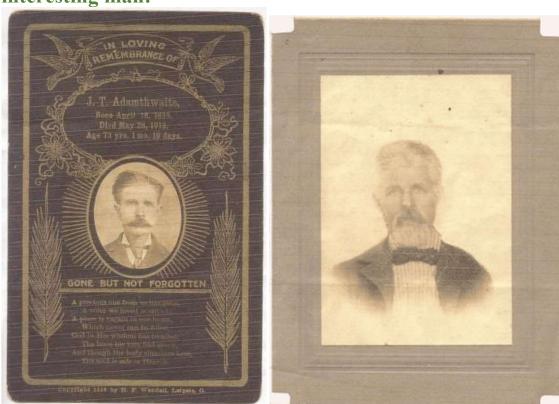
The terms of **John Allen ADAMTHWAITE senior**'s will were that the bequests should not be paid until **all his surviving sons had reached the age of 21 years** (at the time he wrote it there were still four sons alive). Thomas Bryan had died in 1851, so with the deaths of two further brothers, William Vipond who died in July 1859 and James in September 1859 (when James died he was still only 20 years old, so there would have been another year before the bequests were due for payment), the only surviving brother **John Allen ADAMTHWAITE jr**, although already 26 years of age, became **the sole beneficiary of a substantial estate**.

READ this bit very carefully ... it could be relevant to later events!!

We possess a copy of the death certificate of **James ADAMTHWAITE**, his burial record and also a copy of the **Letters of Administration**, which named his brother **John Allen ADAMTHWAITE** as his executor and only next of kin. John Allen Adamthwaite duly swore and was granted administration on 29 November 1859, so one would assume it was safe to say that following the death of James in 1859, John Allen Adamthwaite became the only survivor of this large and ill-fated family.

This should be the end of a sad story of the untimely demise of a large and successful family, BUT ...

Section 6: Introducing James Theopilus Adamthwaite – a VERY interesting man!



James Theopilus ADAMTHWAITE's memorial card (above left) gives his date of birth as 18 April 1839 (in London) and his date of death as 28 May 1912 – age 73 years 1mo 10 days. We know for certain that he died in Burleson, Texas (you can see a photo of his memorial and read his obituary on the Find a Grave website) ... but where was he born? Coincidentally, John Allen Adamthwaite and Susan (Anglin)'s son James Adamthwaite was also born in London in 1839.

The photo above right was taken and developed by James T Adamthwaite himself and his descendant tells us:

"James Theopilus ADAMTHWAITE, was born Apr. 18, 1839 in London. He received his education in England, then he went to Calais, France where he completed his education. He returned to the Isle of Wight where he served to a chemist for 5 years where he acquired a great proficiency to that science. (His neighbors here in Texas called him Doc.) He went to Italy where he served under the banner of General

Guiseppe Garabaldi. I have some medals from that time, dated around 1860. After that war was over, he returned to England for several years, then he made 2 trips around the world. He spent 2 years working for the East India trading Co. on the Western shores of Africa. He also spent some time in the West Indies. He landed in New York 1875 (can't find those records either) and found his way to Burleson County Texas where he bought a farm which I live on now. He died here May 28th 1912." (with thanks to PM)

From his year and place of birth in London in 1839, he appears to be the same **James Adamthwaite** the son of **John Allen ADAMTHWAITE** and **Susan Anglin (BRYAN)** that we have found in the 1841 and 1851 censuses in London, though there is a discrepancy in the exact date of birth with that given on the first James's christening record. And indeed his descendant possesses letters written to James from the family of his sister-in-law **Elizabeth Johnson ADAMTHWAITE** (the widow of **William Vipond ADAMTHWAITE**), as well as a Vipond Adamthwaite family bible. So clearly, if he was the brother of William Vipond ADAMTHWAITE this confirms his parentage.

He first appears in United States records in Texas, in the **census of 1880**, as **James ADAMTHWAITE**, living with his wife **Maggie E ADAMTHWAITE** (nee BAINS and formerly married to a Mr Billingsley), a step son **Henry** (*this should read Harvey*) **BILLINGSLEY** and son **Pleasant ADAMTHWAITE** (b. in US in ~1879). Census data for the state of Texas for 1890 is sadly missing, but he appears in the 1900 and 1910 census, again with his wife Maggie and three more sons, **Cecil A, Arthur and Charlie** (all born between 1884 and 1889). According to US census data, James Theophilus was born in England as was his father – his mother was born either in England or Scotland (info varies between censuses). In 1900 Maggie said she had had been married for 22 years and had had 7 children, four of whom were still living. The naturalisation papers for James Adamthwaite (no mention of the middle name Theophilus) completed on 31 October 1892 in Milam County, Texas, state that he had resided in the United States of America for five years since making his application for naturalisation on 26 May 1886 and that he arrived in the port of New York on or about the 16th day of November 1876 from England. Shortly after his naturalisation, in July 1893, J T Adamthwaite purchased 75 acres of land in Burleson, Texas (he added a further 200 acres between 1904/05) - *source Land Registry deeds, with thanks to Linda*

It is hard to find an explanation for this as a **James ADAMTHWAITE**, **son of John Allen ADAMTHWAITE** the public notary certainly appeared to have died in London in 1859 - we hold a death certificate, a burial record and Letters of Administration for him. Our first suspicion was that his brother **John Allen ADAMTHWAITE**, when he disappeared from records in England in about 1860, assumed the identity of his dead brother James and left the country, eventually turning up in America in around 1875/76 where he married his third wife. But we then discovered John Allen Adamthwaite in London in the <u>1881 census</u> as well as a number of other sightings including Court Cases, and found the death certificate for John Adam Thwaite in May 1881. So, unless he managed to fake his own death, this seems to rule out this possibility. It is also highly possible that the John Allen, a widower born in Stoke Newington aged 37 who was a commercial clerk, who was visiting the Tuggey household in the 1871 census is actually our John Allen Adamthwaite.

It seems unlikely that anyone else assumed James' identity and became James Theophilus, because how would an unrelated person have been in correspondence with James's sister-in-law Elizabeth (Johnson) Adamthwaite?

So it now appears that James was not dead at all! It is possible that he and his brother John Allen colluded in some way to obtain a death certificate in order to obtain their inheritance a year before it was due to be paid out. But it seems much more likely that John Allen Adamthwaite was solely responsible for obtaining a death certificate in James's name (perhaps after James had set off on his travels) in order to claim the whole of his father's legacy. This raises a number of questions:

- Was John Allen's first wife Eliza's income arranged by John Allen Adamthwaite senior's executors?
- If so, were they aware of the mysterious reappearance of James? And more importantly, WHO is buried in that family grave in Nunhead Cemetery?
- Why was William Vipond's widow Elizabeth not puzzled by the existence of James in Texas when she must have been aware that there was a James buried in the same grave as her husband? Though now we have learned that there was no memorial stone on the family grave, perhaps she would not have known about James burial, as by March of 1859 she was in Manchester (where her son Frank Vipond Adamthwaite was born) and by the time of the 1861 census she had settled in Nottingham with her children.

We know from the recollections reprinted above that James Theophilus was a great traveller – perhaps John Allen was too, which could explain his absence from the 1861 UK census. But we have not managed to find

records of either of them on passenger lists to America or elsewhere. If James fought for Garibaldi, was this in the volunteer army of 1860 when Garibaldi invaded Sicily and Naples? Was John Allen fighting too?

Perhaps a clue can be found in the record for James ADAMTHWAITE's death in 1859 at 40 Leicester Square, which was reported by **a Chas HOLLOWAY**, also of 40 Leicester Square.

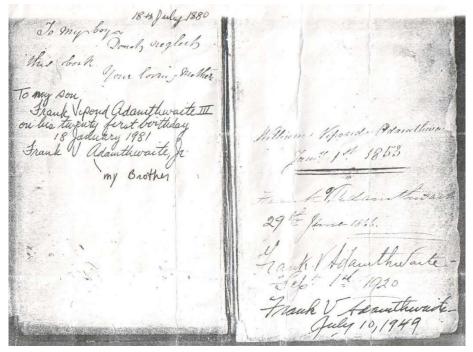
In the <u>1861 census</u>, the HOLLOWAY family (but no Charles) were still living at the above address:

- William HOLLOWAY, head, 48, messenger and Chelsea Pensioner, b Hants Monxton
- Charlotte, wife, 42, b. Berks Reading
- Charlotte Esther, dau, 18, dressmaker, b. Middx Westminster
- Elizabeth Matilda, dau, 15, dressmaker apprentice, b. Middx Westminster
- Mary Jane PEROVER, cousin, 11, scholar, b. Kent Woolwich (believe this is Mary Jane PECKOVER
 – d of William HOLLOWAY's married sister Jane)

In 1851 this family had been living at New St, Salisbury, where William was a Sergeant in the Army. However there was still no Charles in the family – so **who was the person who reported James ADAMTHWAITE's death?**

[the release of searchable GRO Birth indexes reveal that the two daughter Charlotte Esther and Elizabeth Matilda Holloway in the above census entries were born in 1843 and 1845 with a mother's maiden name of Cowderoy. William Holloway had married Charlotte Cowderoy in Whitechapel in 1842. But there was no Charles Holloway born at any date before 1861 with a mother's maiden name of Cowderoy!

And surely it is no coincidence that John Allen Adamthwaite senior's executor Alexander Ridgeway had lived at 42 Leicester Square in the 1841 census? So many questions, and to date, no satisfactory answers!



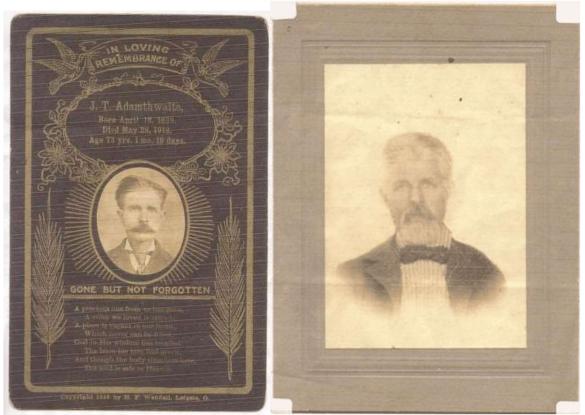
There was clearly a link with the Vipond Adamthwaites in America: the son of William Vipond jr and his wife Elizabeth (Johnson), Frank Vipond Adamthwaite, emigrated to New York in 1880 where he raised a family. We have been told that James Theophilus Adamthwaite's son visited his aunt Elizabeth on a trip to England and brought back a Johnson family bible.

On the left is a copy of the flyleaf of another Vipond family bible – this is the one which accompanied Frank Vipond Adamthwaite when he emigrated to America.

Inscriptions on the Vipond Family

Some images of **James Theophilus ADAMTHWAITE:**

Bible (with thanks to WA)



James Theopilus ADAMTHWAITE's memorial card (*left*) gives his date of birth as 18 April 1839 and his date of death as 28 May 1912 – age 73 years 1mo 10 days. We know for certain that he died in Burleson, Texas (*you can see a photo of his memorial at Porters Chapel Cemetery, Caldwell, Burleson County, Texas USA and read his obituary on the Find a Grave website) ... The Obituary states:*

J.T. Adamthwaite

Apr 18, 1839 - May 28, 1912

Second husband of Margaret Bain. Father of Cecil, Arthur, Charles, Henry, Pleasant. 1880 census shows sons Henry and Pleasant. Stepfather to Harvey Billingsley. Came to America about 1874.

The Caldwell News (a weekly paper) published the following in the week of May 31, 1912: "James Theopilus Adamthwait died suddenly at his home in Gus, (TX) Tuesday afternoon from heart failure and was buried at Porter's Chapel (cemetery). He was born in London, England April 18, 1839, died May 28, 1912 at the age of 73y 1m 10d. He spent early life in that metropolis and he then went to Calais, France where he completed his education and learned the French language. He went to Italy where he enlisted under the banner of General Guiseppe Garabaldi to help dethrone Charles Albert, King of Sardina. Thiry-five years of his life were in Texas, eighteen in Burleson County. He leaves a wife and 3 children, Charlie Adamthwait. Cecil Adamthwait and Arthur Adamthwait."

The photo above left was taken and developed by James T Adamthwaite himself and his descendant tells us that, in addition to the information published above " *James Theopilus ADAMTHWAITE* received his education in England, then he went to Calais, France where he completed his education. He returned to the Isle of Wight where he served to a chemist for 5 years where he acquired a great proficiency to that science. (His neighbors here in Texas called him Doc.)" She also confirmed that she has "some medals from that time, dated around 1860. After that war was over, he returned to England for several years, then he made 2 trips around the world. He spent 2 years working for the East India trading Co. on the Western shores of Africa. He also spent some time in the West Indies. He landed in New York 1875 (can't find those records either) and found his way to Burleson County Texas where he bought a farm which I live on now. He died here May 28th 1912.* (with thanks to PM)

From his year and place of birth in London in 1839, he appears to be the same **James Adamthwaite** the son of **John Allen ADAMTHWAITE** and **Susan Anglin (BRYAN)** that we have found in the 1841 and 1851 censuses in London, though there is a discrepancy in the exact date of birth with that given on the first James's christening record. And indeed his descendant possesses letters written to James from the family

of his sister-in-law **Elizabeth Johnson ADAMTHWAITE** (the widow of **William Vipond ADAMTHWAITE**), as well as a Vipond Adamthwaite family bible. So clearly, if he was the brother of William Vipond ADAMTHWAITE this confirms his parentage.

He first appears in United States records in Texas, in the **census of 1880**, as **James ADAMTHWAITE**, living with his wife **Maggie E ADAMTHWAITE** (nee BAINS and formerly married to a Mr Billingsley), a step son **Henry** (*this should read Harvey*) **BILLINGSLEY** and son **Pleasant ADAMTHWAITE** (b. in US in ~1879). Census data for the state of Texas for 1890 is sadly missing, but he appears in the 1900 and 1910 census, again with his wife Maggie and three more sons, **Cecil A, Arthur and Charlie** (all born between 1884 and 1889). According to US census data, James Theophilus was born in England as was his father – his mother was born either in England or Scotland (info varies between censuses). In 1900 Maggie said she had had been married for 22 years and had had 7 children, four of whom were still living. The naturalisation papers for James Adamthwaite (no mention of the middle name Theophilus) completed on 31 October 1892 in Milam County, Texas, state that he had resided in the United States of America for five years since making his application for naturalisation on 26 May 1886 and that he arrived in the port of New York on or about the 16th day of November 1876 from England. Shortly after his naturalisaiton, in July 1893, J T Adamthwaite purchased 75 acres of land in Burleson, Texas (he added a further 200 acres between 1904/05) - *source Land Registry deeds, with thanks to Linda*

It is hard to find an explanation for this as a James ADAMTHWAITE, son of John Allen ADAMTHWAITE the public notary certainly appeared to have died in London in 1859 - we hold a death certificate, a burial record and Letters of Administration for him. Our first suspicion was that his brother John Allen ADAMTHWAITE, when he disappeared from records in England in about 1860, assumed the identity of his dead brother James and left the country, eventually turning up in America in around 1875/76 where he married his third wife. But we then discovered John Allen Adamthwaite in London in the 1881 census as well as a number of other sightings including Court Cases, and found the death certificate for John Adam Thwaite in May 1881. So, unless he managed to fake his own death, this seems to rule out this possibility. It is also highly possible that the John Allen, a widower born in Stoke Newington aged 37 who was a commercial clerk, who was visiting the Tuggey household in the 1871 census is actually our John Allen Adamthwaite.

It seems unlikely that anyone else assumed James' identity and became James Theophilus, because how would an unrelated person have been in correspondence with James's sister-in-law Elizabeth (Johnson) Adamthwaite?

So it now appears that James was not dead at all! It is possible that he and his brother John Allen colluded in some way to obtain a death certificate in order to obtain their inheritance a year before it was due to be paid out. But it seems much more likely that John Allen Adamthwaite was solely responsible for obtaining a death certificate in James's name (perhaps after James had set off on his travels) in order to claim the whole of his father's legacy. This raises a number of questions:

- Was John Allen's first wife Eliza's income arranged by John Allen Adamthwaite senior's executors?
- If so, were they aware of the mysterious reappearance of James? And more importantly, WHO is buried in that family grave in Nunhead Cemetery?
- Why was William Vipond's widow Elizabeth not puzzled by the existence of James in Texas when she must have been aware that there was a James buried in the same grave as her husband? Though now we have learned that there was no memorial stone on the family grave, perhaps she would not have known about James burial, as by March of 1859 she was in Manchester (where her son Frank Vipond Adamthwaite was born) and by the time of the 1861 census she had settled in Nottingham with her children.

We know from the recollections reprinted above that James Theophilus was a great traveller – perhaps John Allen was too, which could explain his absence from the 1861 UK census. But we have not managed to find records of either of them on passenger lists to America or elsewhere. If James fought for Garibaldi, was this in the volunteer army of 1860 when Garibaldi invaded Sicily and Naples? And was John Allen fighting too?

Perhaps a clue can be found in the record for James ADAMTHWAITE's death in 1859 at 40 Leicester Square, which was reported by a Chas HOLLOWAY, also of 40 Leicester Square.

In the 1861 census, the HOLLOWAY family (but no Charles) were still living at this address:

- William HOLLOWAY, head, 48, messenger and Chelsea Pensioner, b Hants Monxton
- Charlotte, wife, 42, b. Berks Reading
- Charlotte Esther, dau, 18, dressmaker, b. Middx Westminster

- Elizabeth Matilda, dau, 15, dressmaker apprentice, b. Middx Westminster
- Mary Jane PEROVER, cousin, 11, scholar, b. Kent Woolwich (believe this is Mary Jane PECKOVER
 – d of William HOLLOWAY's married sister Jane)

<u>In 1851</u> this family had been living at New St, Salisbury, where William was a Sergeant in the Army. However there was still no Charles in the family – so who was the person who reported James ADAMTHWAITE's death?

And surely it is no coincidence that John Allen Adamthwaite senior's executor Alexander Ridgeway had lived at 42 Leicester Square in the 1841 census? So many questions, and to date, no satisfactory answers!

There was clearly a link with the Vipond Adamthwaites in America: the son of William Vipond jr and his wife Elizabeth (Johnson), **Frank Vipond Adamthwaite**, emigrated to New York in 1880 where he raised a family. We have been told that James Theophilus Adamthwaite's son visited his aunt Elizabeth on a trip to England and brought back a Johnson family bible.

We also have a copy of the flyleaf of another Vipond family bible - that which accompanied Frank Vipond Adamthwaite when he emigrated to America. **Inscriptions on the Vipond Family Bible** (with thanks to WA):

left hand page

'to my boy' from mother on 18 jul 1880

Frank Vipond Adamthwaite was born 22 dec 1858 – s of Wm Vipond A and Elizth Johnson. He arr in NY on 30 jul 1880. So this could have been a parting gift from his mother Elizabeth Adamthwaite back in England

To my son Frank Vipond Adamthwaite III on his 21 birthday on 18 jan 1981, Frank V Adamthwaite Jr (Will's brother) This Frank (and his brother Will) must be the sons of the Frank born in 1928 right hand page

William Vipond Adamthwaite 1 jan 1853

Wm Vipond Adamthwaite was born in abt 1837, s. of John Allen Adamthwaite and Susan (Anglin). He married Elizabeth Johnson in 1854 and died in 1859. He would have been 16 in 1853 – however his father had died in 1850 and his mother in 1848, so who would have presented it to him in 1853? Could it have been a gift from his uncle - also William Vipond Adamthwaite?

Frank Vipond Adamthwaite 29 jun 1866 this is a puzzling entry – as far as I can tell, the only Frank around at this time is the one born in 1858 and I don't think he was given the bible until 1880 (see above left). Could this have been written in by his mother on a significant date (his first communion or something?) when he would have been about 8 yrs old.

Frank V Adamthwaite 1 sep 1920 (grandfather of Will and Frank) according to his entry in the 1930 US census, this Frank would have been born about 1900, so could well have been 21 in 1920.

Frank V Adamthwaite jr 10 jul 1949 (father of Will and Frank) the 1930 US census has Frank V Adamthwaite jr, born about 1928, son of Frank V Adamthwaite and Anita. So he would have been 21 in 1949 And interestingly – John Allen ADAMTHWAITE jr and Eliza's son **Mark** appears to have also emigrated to the US and continued his father's tradition of bigamy! He also possessed amazing powers of everlasting youth, as can be seen from his story

Section 7: Another interesting man – Mark ADAMTHWAITE: who possessed powers of everlasting youth!

When I first came across this young man, I spent some time puzzling about how his age jumped about and it was some time before I was satisfied that I was indeed dealing with just one individual. So the following events are listed in chronological order and each gives the stated age of Mark Adamthwaite, together with n approximate year of birth... keep an eye on these!

<u>2 aug 1859</u> – birth of 'male' Adamthwaite, son of John Allen Adamthwaite, railway clerk and Eliza (Saynor) b. at 9 Taymouth Terrace, Mile End, London (source Birth Certificate) This turns out to be **Mark** – and he was the fourth of five children born to John Allen Adamthwaite and Eliza (Saynor) between 1853 and 1860.

<u>1871 UK census</u> given age 10 years - *(approx year of birth 1861)* - living with mother Eliza and brother Thomas in Newington – still no sign of father but mother is still 'married' – but note the family have moved back to the Newington area, where his father was living with his new wife Annie in 1868.

<u>1877 - Record from Surrey Quarter Sessions</u> dated 4 jun 1877 - "Mark Adamthwaite convicted of Larceny after a previous conviction for Felony. Sentence - 12 calendar months of hard labour". Further research is required to discover the nature of his crime and if he served his sentence.

1881 UK census – we have not found Mark, but his mother Eliza (still described as 'wife, married' but no husband evident) and his sister Annie are living in Camberwell. Eliza is living on 'income from dividends'

<u>in 1884</u> Mark arrived in NY from Antwerp on SS Nederland, occ. Engraver age 24 (approx year of birth 1860).

<u>in 1887</u> on 5 Jun 1887, a son of 'Alin' Adamthwaite and Lizzie Sainer was baptised as a 27 year old adult at St Bernard's RC Church in New York - he was born on 2nd August 1860 - however he was named NOT Mark, but **William Joseph Adamthwaite**. Three weeks later, **William J Adamthwaite** was married to **Mary Glynn** on 27 June at the Church of St Stephen in New York City - according to a later census entry, Mary (who was born in Ireland) first arrived in New York in 1884. Now I wonder why Mark needed to marry under a different name? For the Banns?

It looks as if the couple then returned to the UK where their first four children were born, before returning to NY where they had three more children - and in all these records Mark appears to have dropped the name 'William Joseph' –

1891 UK census living in Handsworth, Staffs:

- Mark Adamshwaste, 30, labourer, b. Brixton (approx year of birth 1861)
- Mary Adamshwaste, wife, 22, born Ireland
- Mary Adamshwaste, dau, 3, b. Kennington
- Kate Adamshwaste, dau, 2, b, Birmingham
- Elizabeth Adamshwaste, dau, 4m, b. Handsworth

1893 – birth of son Mark on 21 dec 1893 at 12 Eden Grove Islington. Father Mark Adamthwaite, ironmoulder, mother Mary Adamthwaite, formerly Glynn. (*source Birth Certificate*)

Although we have not managed to find details for a Mark Adamthwaite and his family's arrival in New York – it would have been between son Mark's birth in London in December 1893 and the birth of daughter Rosa in New York in December 1898 – the following family bears an uncanny resemblance to our Mark's family!!

1894 arrival in New York on SS Maasdam, 27 August from Rotterdam

- Mark Glyn, 30, male, labourer, country of birth England, destination New York (approx year of birth 1864)
- Mary Glyn, 26, female, England to New York
- Mary Glyn, 6
- Kate Glyn, 5
- Mark Glyn, 9m

1900 census (USA) - living in Queens, NY with wife Mary and four children - all born in UK except youngest child. unfortunately his occupation is illegible and much of the detail is very hard to read. It looks as if the given ages do not always correspond with the given years of birth (someone couldn't subtract, but don't know if it was the enumerator or the informant!)

- (Mark) Adamthunite (his name and his wife's were transcribed as Mary!), head, 35, b Jun 1864, mar 13 yrs, b. England
- Mary Adamthunite, wife, 32, b May 1878, mar 13 yrs mother of 4 children all living, b. Ireland
- Mary Adamthunite, dau, 6 b. 1894, b. England (her age looks very wrong she should be 11and her entry comes before those for Kate and Mark)
- Kate Adamthunite, dau, 10, b1888, at school, b. England
- Mark Adamthunite, son, 7, b 1892, at school, b. England (transcribed as 'Bark')
- Rosa Adamthunite, dau, 1, b 1898, b New York

The page is very difficult to read, but it looks as if they have all lived in New York for 6 years

1905 Census of New York (taken on 1st June) - Mark Adamthwaite, age 44 (approx year of birth 1861) occupation 'nurse', born in England, lived in the USA 22 years, Alien, usual address Long Island, appeared as a Prisoner in the notorious Sing Sing Prison at Ossining, New York. We are still looking for a record of his conviction which hopefully explain what he was doing there!

<u>1905 census of New York</u> - I am still hunting for any sighting of Mark's wife Mary, their eldest daughter Mary Ann or their son Mark Junior, however I have found their three other children in this census:

- Kate was living in a convent
- Rose and Thomas seem to be in some sort of orphanage

1906 - an intriguing little item appeared in the New Zealand 'Colonist' on 19 Jan 1906 amongst a round-up of news snippets from around the world. I have not managed to find the original article in the New York Press, so I don't know whether the actual event took place before or after the 1905 census entries above!

Mary Adamthwaite. a New York girl, 15 years old, has sued her father for assault. The assault consisted in cutting off her curls to prevent her going cut. The father was bound over in £200.

this can only be Mary Ann Adamthwaite, eldest daughter of Mark and Mary Adamthwaite. However she would have been 17 if the event had taken place in 1906 the year it was reported in New Zealand, so perhaps it was 'old news' and the event may well have been the trigger for Mark's little sojourn in Sing Sing! It could also explain why we have not found Mark living with his wife Mary after the 1900 census

1910 census (USA) (approx year of birth 1861) - living in Rockland, New York - Mark Adamthwaite is an inmate at Hope Hall House, occ nurse. He is aged 49, married for 24 years and in US since 1883 – a US national. No sign of wife Mary or son Mark, but their daughter Rose Adamthwaite is aged 12 years and a pupil at the St Rose Industrial School. Their other daughter Kate Adamthwaite is a novice at the Convent Order of St Dominic in Babylon, Suffolk, NY – she is now aged 20.

There are also two Adamthwaites living at the Nazareth Trade School who could actually be son Mark and another brother, but why would they have different names?:

- Adam Adamthwaite, age 15, b 1895, helper in school, b.England, parents b. Ireland
- Theodore Adamthwaite, age 7, b.1903, pupil, born NY, parents born England

KNOWN CHILDREN OF MARK AND MARY ADAMTHWAITE:

- Mary Ann Adamthwaite, b. 1888 in Kennington (GRO ref 1888 dec qtr, St Saviour Southwark 1d, 125) Mary Ann married George Koenig (who later changed his name to King) - they had two children John and Madeleine.
- Kate Adamthwaite, b. 14 aug 1889 in Birmingham (GRO ref 1889 sep qtr Birmingham 6d 198) Kate became a nun at the age of 29 and was known as Sister Marion. She worked at the Rockville Center in New York, teaching kindergarten. She played the violin, mandolin and piano. Sister Marion died in Suffolk, New York on 29 sep 1983 at the age of 94

- Elizabeth Adamthwaite, b. 1891 in Handsworth (GRO ref 1891 mar qtr West Bromwich 6b 800) we know that Elizabeth died in infancy, and she does not appear on the passenger list in 1894, but there is no record on the GRO death index.
- Mark Adamthwaite, b. 21 dec 1893 in Islington. He served in the army in WW1 and died on 21 aug 1957 and is buried at Long Island National Cemetery he is not known to have married.
- Alice Adamthwaite, b. 27 may 1896 in New York Alice died in infancy, but have not yet located a
 death record
- Rose Adamthwaite, b. 11 jul 1898 in Queens, New York we have been told that Rose died at the age of 21, but have not yet found details of her death.
- Thomas Michael Adamthwaite b. 29 jun 1901 in Queens, New York (was named Theodore in 1910 census). He also signed up in the army in WW1 we have not found any further record of him after 1918.

1912 Marriage number two: on 12 June in Westchester, New York, Mark Adamthwaite was married to Lucy Toghill POPPE, she was 45 - his given age was 41 years and his occupation nurse - (approx year of birth 1871) The record states it was his first marriage. His place of residence was Mount Vernon Hospital, Westchester NY. He was born in London, England. His parents were John and Lizzie (that would be John Allen Adamthwaite and Eliza Saynor). Lucy was said to be aged 45 years of 429 Denham Ave, NY, born London England. Father Thomas Toghill, second marriage, former husband: dead. Maiden name of mother Rebecca Gray, England. Witnesses Anna and Ella Johnson) [source marriage certificate] Note: I have found Lucy Toghill living with her parents Thomas and Rebecca in the 1861, 71, 81 and 91 census – she was actually born in 1861 in Sopwith, Wiltshire – not 1867 in London as stated on the marriage certificate. The Ellis Island website shows that Lucy arrived in New York on 23rd June 1894 on the SS Paris ex Southampton. Two of Lucy's brothers also emigrated to the States: Frederick and George Toghill both arrived on the SS Teutonic from Southampton in 1908 – they were both bound for Cleveland, Ohio. And her nephew Herbert Rice arrived in 1905 on the New York, also from Southampton (information from Bob Lawrence) A Lucy Poppe (born about 1865) appears in the 1900 and 1910 US censuses living in Westchester, New York, married to a C J Henry Poppe (b ~ 1841, possibly German)

The final piece of this story (for now!)

ATTESTATION PAPER.	Description of clerk Add	unthwatte on Enlistment.
CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.	Apparent Age 49 years months. To be determined according to the instruction given in the Regulations for Army Medical Society	Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenita peculiarities or previous disease.
QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.		(Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit has serve before, he will, unless the man asknowledges to any proving service, attach a slip to that effect, for the information of the Approving Officer).
1. What is the address of your next-of-kin? 2. What (Canada year) year (North) 4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? 5. What is the address of your next-of-kin? 6. What is the dated your britch 6. What is not be dated your britch 7. Are you married? 8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or revaccinated? 9. De you now boong to the Active Military 10. Have you ever served in any Military Forces. 11. De you understand the nature and serms of your engagement? 12. Are you willing to be active Military 13. Are you willing to be active Military 14. Are you willing to be active Military 15. Are you willing to be active Military 16. Are you willing to be active Military 17. Are you willing to be active Military 18. Are you willing to be active Military 19. Are you willing to be active Military 19. Are you willing to be active do serve in the location of the marker of Military 19. Are you willing to be actived to serve in the location of the marker of Military 19. Are you willing to be active to the control of the marker of Military 19. Are you willing to be active to the world of the marker of Military 19. Are you willing to be active to the world of the world of the marker of Military 19. Are you willing to be active to the world of the wo	Height S. R. 2. Inn. Second	3 Vac Mark
The Company of the Co	He can see at the required distance with atther free use of his joints and limbs, and he declares that he is not be declared that I consider him a transfer to the consideration of the consi	eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the is not subject to fits of any description.
CENTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE. The Recruit above-samed was enuitoed by ne that it he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be inside to be pumbed as provided in the Army Act. "See above questions were their sead to the Recruit in my pressors. "See above questions were their sead to the Recruit in my pressors. It have it is provided in the mydenserriff used question, sayf that his sanger to seak question has been duly entered as registed by a sand filly said thought he middle as signed the debugsion and glossen the outly before me, at the same of the sam	CERTIFICATE OF OFFICE **Const.** Advantation ingested by me thin day, and his Name, Agy, Date of a bom recorded, I certify that I am satisfied with the core	

above is shown a copy of Mark's 1915 application for the Canadian Exp Force Service number 418285.

Mark made the above application on 5th March 1915, but some of his answers on the form were not entirely correct!

- He stated he was born on 2 August 1872 in fact, he was born on 2 Aug 1859
- He stated he was a **Widower** I am not sure about this: I have not yet located a second marriage for his first wife Mary and neither have I found a death for her.

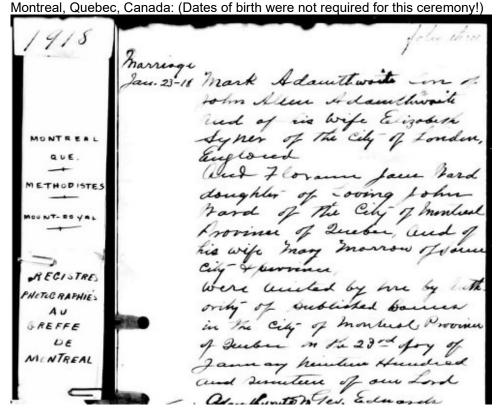
Mark's application was turned down. The stated reason was not that they suspected he had lied about his age, but because of 'Insufficiency of Height' ... he was 5' 2"

BUT, in typical Mark Adamthwaite fashion, he appears to overcome the small matter of being turned down for the army, because somehow he managed to overturn the rejection which is clearly shown in the document above left, and ended up in the **1st Quebec Regiment** serving in France.

I have obtained Mark's (very lengthy) Canadian service records, which reveal that he managed to conceal his true age for over two years, claiming to be aged 42yrs when in fact he was 55! Mark sailed to Europe on the SS Hesperian in June 1915, transferring to Boulogne in October, where he seems to have served in the 42nd battalion as a cook in the 3rd Wesr (??) Gas School and later was a stretcher bearer, until August 1917, when he was transferred back to England as unfit for service in France. During his period in France, Mark's battalion served in Ypres, the Somme, Thiepval and Arras.... so he certainly did his bit! In November 1917 he was formally assessed as unfit for service due to 'overage' and sent back to Montreal.

1917 passenger lists Amongst a list of Canadian soldiers returning from Liverpool on board the Grampian and arriving back in Quebec on 28 October 1917, was one Pte N Adamwaite, service number 418285 of the 1st Quebec Regiment Depot. His discharge papers were signed on Nov 15th 1917, and these give his date of birth as 2nd august 1860 ... only one year out this time!

1918 Mark's marriage number three: on 23 january 1918 Mark Adamthwaite, son of John Allen Adamthwaite and his wife Elizabeth Syner (sic) married Florence Jane WARD, daughter of Loving John Ward and his wife Mary Morrow. The couple were married at the Methodist Church at Mount-Royal in



<u>1918 Passenger lists</u> in August 1918, Mark and his third wife Florence arrived in New York from the Port of Montreal. Mark is aged 45 (*approx year of birth 1873*) and a munitions worker, Florence is 38 – both state they are English and give their last address as 1171 Berth St, Montreal – they are residents of Canada. We do know however from her entries in the <u>1901 and 1911 Canadian census</u>, that Florence was born in Canada - though her father was English.

1918 WW1 draft registration cards we have found cards for Mark's son Mark Adamthwaite, b. 21 dec 1894 in London now of 384 Pulaski St, Kings, NY and also for a Thomas Michael Adamthwaite, b. 29 jun 1900 of the same address. Thomas Michael gives Mary Adamthwaite of the same address as his next of kin. I believe he must be another son of Mark and Mary (Glynn) and is possibly the child named Theodore in the 1910 census. [It has now been confirmed that Mark and Mary did have a son Thomas Michael]

1920 census (USA) living at 34 West 52nd St, Manhattan with spouse Florence

- Mark Adamthwaite, head, 46, occ hospital orderly, born England and both parents born England, arr US in 1918, alien (approx year of birth 1874)
- Florence Adamthwaite, wife, 38, born England and both parents born England, arr US in 1918, alien

<u>1921 Birth of son</u> John Thomas Adamthwaite - either in USA or Canada Although no record of the birth of this child has been found, we have a record of the death on 23 August 1928 of John Thomas Adamthwaite, son of Mark Adamthwaite and his wife Florence Ward of Ste Anne de Bellvue in Montreal, the child was aged seven years and was found drowned.

<u>1925 Birth of daughter Florence</u> - either in USA or Canada again, no record of the birth of this child has been found, and we only know of her existence from the entry on the passenger list in August 1929 when she was aged 4 1/2 years.

<u>1929 passenger lists</u> In a very short space of time, Mark made TWO trips across the Atlantic back to England - the first time he was accompanied by wife Florence and their daughter, the second trip he made alone:

TRIP ONE :10 jun 1929 - Mark (69), Florence (47) and dau Florence (5) arrived at Liverpool from Montreal on SS Regina - Mark said he was a <u>Printer</u> and they would be staying at 21 Walton St, St Mary St, Southampton (I cannot locate a Walton St in Southampton, but there is a Walton Rd in Gosport and a St Mary District in Southampton) The family departed Liverpool for Montreal on **12 jul 1929** on SS Regina - Mark (69), Florence (46) and dau Florence (4 1/2) - Mark said he was a <u>Doctor's assistant</u> and that their last address in the UK was 46 Cooks Row, London SE17. The arrival record for this trip on 20 jul 1929 said that Mark was a Canadian national and his permanent address was 4 St Charles St, St Annes Bellevue.

TRIP TWO:17 aug 1929 - Mark (**now 57!**) arrived Greenock (in Scotland) from Montreal on SS Montrose - Mark said he was <u>retired</u> and that his proposed address in UK was 66 Water Lane, Brixton, London. He left England two weeks later on **30 aug 1929** - Mark **(69)** departed Glasgow for Montreal on SS Melita - Mark

said he was a <u>Banker</u> and his last address in UK was 3 Cunningham St, Glasgow. He was travelling alone. The arrival record said Mark was born in London but was Canadian citizen and had lived in Canada between Dec 1917 and 14 jun 1929 at St Anne de Belleville. He gave his nearest relative in UK as Mrs Alice Adamthwaite, sister in law, of 66 Water Lane, Brixton (this is his brother Thomas Bryan Adamthwaite's widow). Occupation given as Retired.

1930 census (USA) - no sign of Mark or Florence (though they would probably be living in Canada at this time), but his son Mark (age 35) is living with Mark's first wife Mary (age 62) at 18 Park St, Brooklyn in Kings NY – Mark is a shipping clerk filing cabinets, he is single, born England, father born England, mother born



This is probably the last photo of Mark Adamthwaite, looking relaxed in Coney Island. He was also known as William Joseph Adamthwaite and William Adams, - Mark died in 1949

Ireland. He arrived in US 1896 and is a US national and a veteran of WW1. His mother Mary is 62, <u>widowed</u>, first married at 18 and arrived in US 1884 she is a US national – she was born in Ireland as were both her parents.

However in the <u>1930 census</u> - there is a **William Adamthwaite**, single **age 48**!! and a hospital porter in New Haven Connecticut ... could this be Mark, with a final outrageous claim to be 23 years younger than his true age? We know from his descendant that he was sometimes known as **William Joseph Adamthwaite**. Is he up there laughing at us trying to puzzle out his life story??

<u>1948</u> - Mark died. He would have been aged 89 (but I would love to see what his death certificate says about that!) I certainly have not been able to locate a Death Record

<u>1949</u> - Mark's first wife Mary (Glynn) died on 1 feb 1949. Did she outlive his second and third 'wives' I wonder?



A MYSTERY THAT YOU CAN HELP US SOLVE ...

The photo on the left was amongst Donna's collection of photos inherited from Sister Marion (Mark's daughter Kate). It was labelled 'William Adamthwaite and sister' - and we have also discovered that on occasions Mark was known as William Adamthwaite (and possibly used the surname Adams too).

If this photo is actually of Mark, and he does bear a strong resemblance to the man in the previous photo), I have tried to work out who the other people could be and the best hypothesis I have come up with is that the woman seated on the left is Mark's brother Thomas Bryan's wife Alice (Turnpenny). On the passenger records relating to Mark's trips to England in 1929 he gave Alice's address as his address in the UK. But I am sure the photo on the left was taken well before this date, perhaps towards the end of WW1, when he was about to be sent back home to America!

We know that Thomas and Alice had a daughter Alice Annie, who was born in 1883 and married in 1905 to George Clements - certainly the younger woman standing on the left does bear a strong resemblance to the seated woman (and she is wearing a wedding ring). Could this be Alice Annie?

Mark himself also had two sisters, but Florence died in 1869 aged 16, and Annie Margaret died in 1891 aged 29, so the woman standing on the right couldn't

be either of them. And it can't be his third wife Florence, as they didn't marry till 1918, a year after Mark had been discharged from the Army ... so he would hardly have been wearing his uniform

However, Thomas Bryan and Alice also had a son Bertie - who was married in 1911 to Helena Bonney - could this be Helena?

Having discovered that Mark DID serve in the 1st Quebec Regiment in England during WW1, this explains the uniform and so probably dates the photo to between 1915 and 1917.

All comments will be gratefully received! (Especially if there are any experts reading this who can advise on dating photographs or identifying military uniforms).

I did hear from one of his descendants who explained that she was sure he could easily get away with claiming to be years younger than his real age because he was very fit and exercised regularly. So that's good to know!

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