Origins

This chapter looks briefly at the lives of the grandparents and parents of Samuel Hugh Jarvis and Angeler Elizabeth Jarvis, in the period before the latter were born.

Grandparents

Jarvis grandparents

Samuel Hugh's father probably originated in Leicester, and it seems likely that his paternal grandparents were William and Mary Jarvis. His maternal grandparents were George Bennett and his wife Ann, née Connell, who had married in Chatham on the 4th September 1777; they had six known children, of whom Samuel's mother, Ann, was the eldest, baptised in Chatham on the 19th July 1778. His grandmother, Ann (Connell) Bennett, had been born in about 1752.²

Tunbridge grandparents

Angeler Elizabeth's paternal grandparents were Daniel and Elizabeth Tunbridge, of whom all that's known is that Daniel was a labourer, and Elizabeth gave birth to three children, of whom the younger two (Angeler Elizabeth's aunt and uncle) were baptised at Chatham in 1797 and 1803 respectively.³

¹ TNA: HO 107/487/5 f7 p6; death certificate; baptism not found in 20 parishes in Chatham area; a Joseph, son of W^m and Mary Jarvis, was born on the 19th September 1781 and baptised on the 23rd September, at St Margaret, Leicester (parish register). There is a surviving letter from Ernest Edward Jarvis, describing his grandfather Samuel Hugh Jarvis as "a dairy farmer of Leicester stock" (letter from Ernest Edward Jarvis to Charles Joseph Jarvis, 1965, in the possession of Corrinne Noot). It's noteworthy that a Mary Helena Jarvis, daughter to Joseph and Ann was born on the 10th December 1811, daughter to a Joseph and Ann Jarvis, and baptised on the 18th December, at St Mary de Castro, Leicester, Leicestershire, while a Mary Eleanor Jarvis, also daughter to a Joseph and Ann Jarvis, was born on the exact same day, and baptised at St Mary's, Chatham, Kent on the 15th April 1814. I suspect that Mary Helena/Eleanor was baptised twice, and that this provides the long sought link to Leicester. If Joseph's parentage is accepted, I can add that William Jarvis married Mary Ashby on the 25th April 1779, at St Mary de Castro, Leicester, and that their known children were Samuel (born 1779, b. St Mary, Leicester), Joseph (1781, b. St Margaret's, Leicester), William (1784, b. St Mary's), Mary (1786, b. St Mary's), and Ann (1789, St Margaret's), all references from the relevant parish registers.

² "England Births and Christenings, 1538–1975," database, FamilySearch: 30 December 2014, Ann Bennett, 19 Jul 1778, citing Chatham, Kent, reference FHL microfilm 1,469,178; HO 107/487/5 f7; "England Marriages, 1538–1973," database, FamilySearch: 10 December 2014, George Bennett and Ann Connell, 05 Sep 1777, citing St Mary's, Chatham, Kent, reference 74, FHL microfilm 1,473,651; FamilySearch; GRO index; "England Deaths and Burials, 1538–1991," database, FamilySearch: 24 December 2014, Ann Bennett, burial 27 Feb 1836, citing Chatham, Kent, index based upon data collected by the Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City' FHL microfilm 1,473,66.

³ Chatham parish registers; William Tunbridge's second marriage certificate. Surrey Marriages, on Find My Past, records the marriage of a Daniel Tunbridge and Elizabeth Scaddock at St Mary's, Lambeth, Surrey, on the 21st May 1794; this is the likeliest identification yet found. If this is correct, it's possible that there was a further child, the Daniel Tunbridge born in September 1794 and baptised at St George the Martyr, Southwark, on the 21st December that year.

Parents

Joseph Jarvis

Samuel's father was born about 1780/1, and probably baptised at St Margaret's, Leicester, on the 19th September 1781. He married Ann Bennett at St Peter's church, Thanet, on the 23rd January 1804. The couple had six children, all of whom were born or baptised in Kent, although it's possible that the eldest three may have been born in Leicestershire. At the time of Samuel's birth Joseph was described as a labourer.¹

Ann (Bennett) Jarvis

Samuel's mother was born in Kent, around 1777/8, and baptised at Chatham on the 19th July 1778.²

Prior to Samuel, she had given birth to three children: Charlotte Eleanor (1807), William Bennett (1810), and Mary Eleanor (1811). Charlotte and William were baptised in Chatham, but it's not certain where any of them were born.³ William Bennett, Samuel's elder brother, was baptised at St Mary's, Nottingham, in February 1810.⁴ Mary Eleanor was baptised at Chatham at the age of 3 (jointly with Samuel).⁵

William Tunbridge

William Tunbridge was probably born around 1794/5, probably in Chatham.⁶

On the 17th April 1813 he was indentured as an apprentice shipwright at Chatham dockyard.⁷ One Darcy Dawson, of Chatham, described as William's guardian, was the initial recipient of his pay.⁸ William's apprenticeship expired on the 26th April 1820, and he carried on the trade of a shipwright

¹ HO 107 487/5 f7; death certificate; parish registers.

² "England Births and Christenings, 1538–1975," database, FamilySearch: 30 December 2014, Ann Bennett, 19 Jul 1778, citing Chatham, Kent, reference FHL microfilm 1,469,178; HO 107/487/5 f7.

³ Census information is inconsistent.

 $^{^4}$ Death certificate; HO 107/487/2 f30 suggests a birth year of 1812x1816, outside of Kent; Nottinghamshire Baptisms, on Find My Past.

⁵ Chatham parish register. As noted in footnote 1 on the previous page, Mary Eleanor may have first been baptised in Leicester.

⁶ Calculated birth years from a variety of sources give a range of dates from 1791 through 1804; the 1841 census states that he was not born in Kent, but other sources are consistent with his place of birth being Chatham. HO 107/487/2 f30; HO 107/1611 p35; TNA: RG 9/482; RG 10/911 f107 p29; RG 11/894 f83 p5; records of dockyard employees in TNA: ADM 42/275; death certificate.

⁷ Records of dockyard employees, ADM 42/263–83

⁸ Darcy Dawson's relationship to William Tunbridge is unclear, though a 'Darcey Dawson' is recorded as marrying an Angeler Tunbridge at St James Clerkenwell on the 3rd June 1779. William was to call his second son 'D'Arcey' or 'Darsey', and one of his grandchildren took the middle name 'De Arcy'. Possibly Darcy Dawson was William's uncle by marriage.

at the dockyard for the remainder of his working life.1

Of Frindsbury, Kent, he married Elizabeth Creed there on the 9th March 1821.² At the time of the birth of their daughter Angeler Elizabeth she had one older brother, William, born in about 1814.³

Elizabeth (Creed) Tunbridge

Elizabeth Creed was born around 1786, in Lynn, Norfolk, and was baptised at St Nicholas's chapel, Kings Lynn, on the 29th December 1786, the daughter of William and Susanna Creed.⁴

At the time of her marriage, she was living in Frindsbury, but the couple made the family home in Chatham.⁵

¹ Records of dockyard employees, ADM 42/263–83; censuses; children's marriage certificates; wife's death certificate.

² Parish register.

³ Chatham St Mary parish register; death certificate.

⁴ Parish register; archdeacon's transcript; death certificate; HO 107/1611 f35 p32 suggests birth around 1792; HO 107/487/2 f30 would give 1792–6, death certificate would give 1787–8.

⁵ Parish register; HO 107/487/2 f30; HO 107/1611 f35 p32.

Early life

Samuel Hugh Jarvis

Samuel Hugh Jarvis was born in Chatham around 1813, and baptised on the 15th April 1814, at St Mary's church, Chatham.¹ With his sister Mary Eleanor he was baptised at St Mary's, on 15th April 1814.²

Samuel's sister Elizabeth was born in 1818, and baptised at Chatham on the 2nd September. At that date Joseph Jarvis was described as a labourer. Elizabeth died in infancy, and was buried at St Mary's on the 16th June 1820.³ Infant mortality in Chatham was among the highest in the country in the early 19th century, with only one in seven children surviving the first year of life. For adults, life expectancy in the town was six years lower than in the surrounding countryside. Poor hygiene was to blame:

In Chatham open sewers ran through the streets in the centre of the town and these fed into the river, which was the main source of drinking water. The streets themselves were filthy. Although the wealthy areas were swept regularly, in poorer streets human and animal faeces and other rubbish accumulated. Smallpox and typhoid were endemic and there were two serious outbreaks of cholera in the area [1832 and 1848].⁴

What was referred to as 'the second great fire of Chatham' occurred on the 3rd March 1820, destroying 53 dwellings and 13 warehouses. Chatham's population rose from 12,652 in 1811 to 15.268 in 1821.⁵

In the first half of the 19th century, in addition to the traditional fairs, a grand annual event was the race meeting held on the Lines in August. A Robert Pocock recalled, of the event in 1822, that "It was windy... there were races for a plate of £50 when it is said, twenty thousand persons assembled and where a poor woman was killed by a horse and cart going over."

Samuel's brother Joseph Richard Jarvis was born in Kent on the 16th January 1825, and baptised at Chatham on the 23rd January 1828. His sister Mary Eleanor died in late March or early April 1828, aged just 16; she was buried at St Mary's, Chatham, on the 4th April.⁷

Samuel's sister Charlotte, of St Andrew Holborn, London, married Robert Tapp there, after banns, on the 18th September 1828. They were subsequently to have six children: a daughter followed by

¹ Parish register; census returns.

² Parish register.

³ Parish register.

⁴ Dunster: 112–3. Over 300 people died of cholera in Chatham in 1832. Remedial drainage measures and clean water were not come until after a Board of Health report in 1852.

⁵ James Presnail (1952) *Chatham. The Story of a Dockyard Town and the Birthplace of the British Navy.* Reprint by Medway Borough Council, 1976: 196; Dunster: 90.

⁶ Dunster: 121.

⁷ Parish register; HO 107/487/2 f30.

five sons.1

Apparently, during the time of Samuel's teenage years, in Chatham "Peace on the streets was frequently threatened by fighting between various branches of the militia, or between the militia and local people." On one notable occasion, after the races on the 21st August 1834, unbridled violence was unleashed on the Chatham Lines when soldiers from the 88th regiment launched an unprovoked bayonet attack on the crowds, "plunging them indiscriminately into every individual within their reach thereby wounding about 30 persons . . . The scene on the lines was terrific; men women and children were trampled and cut about in a most horrid manner."²

Angeler Elizabeth (Jarvis) Tunbridge

Angeler Elizabeth Tunbridge was probably born in October 1821, and was baptised at St Mary's, Chatham, on the 16th December that year.³ Her sister Amelia was born in 1823, in Chatham. She was baptised at St Mary's, on the 28th May that year.⁴ Their brother D'Arcey Daniel was born around early 1825, in Chatham, and was baptised there on the 6th May that year.⁵

The 1841 census found "Angelina" Tunbridge living with a family named Fowle, in Brougham Place; it seems likely that she was a domestic servant, but no occupation is shown.⁶ William and Elizabeth Tunbridge were living with their family at the Brook, Chatham; William was described as a shipwright.⁷ A shipwright all his life, he had worked at Chatham Dockyard till at least 1830, when records cease.⁸ Of William and Elizabeth's other children still at home D'Arcey was described as a shipwright apprentice; no occupation is shown for Amelia.⁹

¹ Parish registers; GRO index..

² Dunster: 111.

³ Parish register. Her year of birth can't be calculated from her age in census entries, as Angeler repeatedly understated this, more and more as her real age advanced. The most precise statement of her age was at the time of her marriage, where it was given as 20 years 9 months. This would mean she had been born around October 1822, which is evidently impossible, in view of the date of her baptism. A simple error of one year in counting would explain this.

⁴ Parish register.

⁵ Kent Baptisms, on Find My Past.

⁶ HO 107/487/5 f19 p2.

⁷ HO 107/487/2 f30; HO 107/1611 f35 p32. Though The Brook sounds pretty and rural, by 1800 the brook itself had become an open sewer. [Sandra Dunster (2013) *The Medway Towns river, docks and urban life*, London, Phillimore]

⁸ ADM 42/263-83.

⁹ HO 107/487/2 f30; 1841 census. Nothing further is known of Amelia—though it's certainly possible that errors have been made in my references to Angeler's sister-in-law Amelia Tunbridge, née Golding.

Samuel's first marriage

In his youth Samuel became a mariner; of Chatham, he saw service in January 1838 as a merchant seaman aboard the *Dido*. He married, first, Eleanor Brown (spinster, of Park Lane, Liverpool, daughter of Thomas Brown), at Liverpool parish church, on the 7th January 1838, by licence; a mariner, he was then living at Mersey Street, Liverpool; he signed, she marked her name. On that date he described his father, Joseph, as a labourer, but on 24th December 1838 Joseph's occupation was given as framework knitter.¹

By January 1839 he was in the Royal Navy, serving as an ordinary seaman on the *San Josef*, a gunnery training ship, from the 9th January 1839 to the 2nd September 1840 and on the *Rodney* from the 3rd September 1840 to the 31st December 1841. HMS *Rodney* was a two-deck 90-gun second-rate ship of the line, mostly serving in the Mediterranean. From New Year's Day 1842 to the 27th March 1843

he was an able seaman on the *Rodney*, and from the 29th May 1843 to the 12th August 1844 able seaman on the *San Josef* again, completing a total service of 5 years 5 months 27 days in the Royal Navy.²

According to a tradition in one line of the Jarvis family, while in the Navy an anchor had fallen on him which caused some disfigurement, leaving him to be invalided out of the navy with no pension; thanks to his support for the local Conservative MP



Parish church of St Nicholas, Liverpool



HMS San Josef, by Thomas Lyde Hornbrook; from artuk.org

¹ Merchant Seamen, on Find My Past; death certificate; marriage certificate; parish register; Liverpool Bishop's Transcripts; sons' marriage certificates.

² Email from Michael Jarvis, 31st December 2006, citing naval pensions records at TNA; https://en. wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS San Josef (1797); https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS Rodney (1833).

he was subsequently granted a pension.1

Samuel's brother William Bennett Jarvis, a labourer, of Gillingham, Kent, was married on Christmas Eve 1838, at Gillingham parish church, after banns. His bride was the 21 year-old Abigail Jemima McGregor, daughter of Angus McGregor, mess master and his wife Elizabeth, née McMullen. William signed the register, but his wife used a mark. The couple were to have six children.²

Samuel is not to be found in the 1841 census. Presumably he was at sea, and missed enumeration. The census found Joseph and Anne Jarvis living at Yew Tree Cottages, Chatham. Joseph was described as a knitter. Still living with them were William Bennett Jarvis and his wife and 1-year-old son, Samuel; William was described as a milkman. Joseph Richard Jarvis was also still at home. The household included Samuel's 7 year-old nephew, Robert Tapp.³

In 1842 property tax collected in the Medway towns shows that, of the four Medway towns, Chatham was the least prosperous, with tax per head averaging £2.3, contrasting with Rochester at £5.2.4

Joseph Jarvis died of consumption at Whittaker Street, Chatham, on the 3rd January 1843. Samuel, resident at Whittaker Street, was present at the death, and informed the registrar on the 12th. Joseph was buried at Chatham on the 15th. On Samuel's second marriage certificate that year Joseph was described as a weaver; when his widow died in 1851, he was described as a labourer. 6

¹ Grace Jarvis, 'The Jarvis Family'.

² Marriage certificate; parish register; GRO index; censuses.

³ HO 107 487/5 f7 p6; Ann's surname has a final 'e' here; HO 107/487/2 f30.

⁴ Dunster: 110.

⁵ Death certificate; parish register.

⁶ Son's second marriage certificate; widow's death certificate.

Middle years

Samuel's first marriage didn't last long, for he was described as a widower, a mariner of Frindsbury, son of Joseph Jarvis, weaver, at his second marriage, on the 4th July 1843, at Frindsbury parish church, in Kent, after banns. His new wife was Angeler Elizabeth Tunbridge, described as a spinster of Frindsbury, daughter of William Tonbridge, shipwright. Their witnesses were R. Gates and Ann Hunt, about whom nothing is known.¹

Samuel's 18 year-old brother Joseph Richard died at Chatham in the autumn of 1843.²

Samuel and Angeler's eldest child, William Hugh, was born at Whittakers Street, Chatham, on the 29th April 1844, and baptised at St Mary's, Chatham, on the 5th June. This was the family home. Samuel's is described as a cowkeeper, indicating the principal occupation he would follow for the remainder of his life.³

On the 14th July 1846 a daughter, Angelina Susanna, was born at Whittakers Street. Samuel, again a cowkeeper of Whittakers Street, informed the registrar on the 5th August, the same day as she had been baptised at St Mary's.⁴

From 1844 to 1848 Samuel kept some cows (reportedly five) and supplied milk to the local barracks. "When there was an influx of servicemen into the towns it was sometimes a job to obtain enough milk for their requirements, so he used to drive his horse and cart around the countryside trying to buy milk $[\ .\ .\ .\]$ I am told that when he was unsuccessful in getting the required quantity of milk G[reat] G[randfather] would make up the amount with water and would then slip a tip to the sergeant on duty".

On the 1st February 1847 Angeler's brother, whose name was given on this occasion as 'Darsey Daniel Tunbridge', was married at Frindsbury parish church, after banns, to Pamela Eliza Jessup, spinster of Frindsbury, and daughter of William Jessup, cordwainer. Darsey was described as a shipwright of Frindsbury. The couple were to have five children.⁶

On the 13th October that year Angeler's mother Elizabeth Tunbridge, of Whittakers Street, Chatham, informed the registrar of her granddaughter's birth.⁷

Around this time Angeler's brother William seems to have married Amelia Golding. They were to

¹ Second marriage certificate; parish register P150/1/14. Records of the death of his first wife have not yet been found.

² GRO index.

³ Son's birth certificate; parish register.

⁴ Daughter's birth certificate; parish register.

⁵ Grace Jarvis, 'The Jarvis Family'; in 1844 he had also been described as a grazier.

⁶ Marriage certificate; GRO index; censuses; parish register.

⁷ Birth certificate of Amelia Tunbridge.

have two children, Amelia (1847) and Ruth (1850).1

At Samuel and Angeler's son Samuel George's birth on the 13th March 1848 Samuel was still a cow keeper, but gave his residence, and the baby's birthplace, as High Street, Chatham.²



Samuel Hugh Jarvis; portrait in the possession of Daniel Beck

In 1848 he and his wife had their portraits painted.³

At this period military reviews formed a popular entertainment in the Medway towns. In 1848 the approach roads to the Lines were completely blocked by spectators, and in the summer of 1849 some 60–70,000 people arrived by road, rail and sea to watch the event.⁴

Joseph's mother, Ann Jarvis, died on the 16th May 1850, in Whittakers Street, Chatham, after 12 hours of "sanguineous apoplexy". Angeler Jarvis, now of Magpie Hall Lane, Chatham, was present at her death, and informed the registrar. Ann Jarvis was buried in Chatham on the 23rd May.⁵

Another daughter, Matilda, was born to the Jarvises, around the 23rd March 1851; she was baptised at St Mary's on the 23rd April. Matilda was to die of pneumonia, aged 30 months.⁶

In the 1851 census the family appear at Magpie Hall [Lane], Chatham. This road was a recent addition, not present in 1838. Samuel for the first time gave his occupation as dairyman and, in line with an apparent increase in affluence, the household employed a single house servant, aged 12. How long they were able to afford this luxury is doubtful, and certainly it was never again possible after the 1850s. Of their children, William Hugh, Angelina Susanna, and Samuel George were described

¹ Children's birth certificates; HO 107/1611 f35 p33; RG 9/482. A marriage registration has not been found, so either it took place before the start of civil registration in 1837, or the couple were not formally married.

² Son's birth certificate.

³ Angeler's portrait is dated; Samuel's is assumed to be of roughly the same date.

⁴ Dunster: 121–2.

⁵ Death certificate; parish register.

⁶ HO 107/1611 f219 p18; death certificate; parish register.

as scholars.1

In the 1851 census William and Elizabeth Tunbridge were living in Adelaide Street, Chatham, together with their daughter-in-law Amelia and two of their grandchildren; William was described as a shipwright pensioner.²

A daughter, Helena, was born to the Jarvises on the 4th September 1853, at Magpie Hall Lane, Chatham; she was baptised (as 'Eleanor') at St Mary's on the 2nd October. When he informed the

registrar on the 30th September, Samuel gave Magpie Hall Lane as his place of residence, but his occupation, for the first and last time, as gardener. It may be that he was already struggling to make a living, as this wasn't the first experiment with other modes of employment.³

On the 4th October 1854 Samuel was prosecuted at the County Petty Sessions:

Samuel Hugh Jarvis was charged with cruelty to a horse. Mr Stephenson appeared for the defendant.

David Watson, an officer of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 12, Pall Mall, said—On Wednesday last, about noon, I saw the defendant driving a pony and cart along High-street, Chatham. As the pony appeared to be in a poor miserable condition, and hardly able to get out of a walk, I followed it as far as Chatham-hill, on ascending



Angeler E. (Tunbridge) Jarvis, 1848; portrait in the possession of Daniel Beck

which defendant commenced beating it with a stick he had in his hand. I then stopped him and asked him if there was anything the matter with the horse's back? Defendant said he did not think there was. I then took off the saddle and having removed a sack from under it I found a wound three inches in length by two in width, and the sack quite wet with the discharge. On looking further I found another wound three inches by two and a half in width on the off side of the ribs, from which discharge was oozing. There was also a wound six inches long near the rump, and one of the fetlocks was wounded, caused by the shoe. In my opinion the horse was totally unfit to go out, and I told the defendant he ought to be ashamed of himself for working such a horse. He said he bought it of a gipsy and it was then in a worse condition than it was now. He hoped I should not summon him. I told him I must report it to my superintendent, and he would direct a prosecution.

¹ HO 107/1611 f219 p18; Presnail: 241.

² HO 107/1611 f35 p 33.

³ Daughter's birth certificate.

By Mr. Stephenson—I came over from Gravesend that day to see if there was anything doing. I am appointed by the society, but I do not know whether it is an incorporated society. I was sworn in by a metropolitan magistrate. I put my report in writing before the superintendent, according to the method of proceeding. I have not a copy of that report here.

Mr. Stephenson said as that was the case he must object in this witness's evidence being received, as it appeared the witness had reduced it to writing, and was therefore bound to produce it.

Mr. Furrell said he never remembered such to have been the case at that court.

The magistrates also were of opinion that there was no necessity for the officer's report to be produced, and consequently overruled the objection urged by Mr. Stephenson.

Cross-examination by Mr. Stephenson continued—The stick defendant was beating the pony with was a thin one, about the thickness of your finger. When I charged him with torturing the horse, I meant that it was torturing it to work it in that state. That was the first day I was at Chatham.

By Mr. Nichols.—The defendant's cart was empty.

The officer was about calling another witness in support of the charge, but Mr. Stephenson said there was no necessity for it, as he would at once admit that the horse was in a bad condition.

Mr. Stephenson, addressing the bench for the defendant, said his client had the misfortune to be a poor man, and if he had been in better circumstances would have been able to drive better cattle. As it was, he had lately sustained some very heavy losses by losing several of his horses, and under these circumstances he was compelled to use this pony to supply the milk for which he had taken a contract. A short time since he purchased this horse of a gipsy for a small sum. It was then in a dreadful condition, but since his client had owned it it had improved wonderfully, and he had witnesses who would prove this statement. He trusted the magistrates would pause before they convicted the defendant of having "tortured" the horse, but if they considered the evidence on that point to be conclusive, he hoped they would inflict a very small penalty under the circumstances. He then called Constables Clift and Howes, the former of whom stated that he had known defendant some years, and spoke to his general kind treatment of his horses. The latter, however, caused some merriment by informing the magistrates that only on the day the summons was taken out against defendant, he had intended speaking to him about the wretched appearance of his pony, and to advise him to "black over" the sores to make them "look better."

Watson, the society's officer, asked to be allowed to inform the bench that no part of the fine went to the informer.

The magistrates then fined the defendant 10s. and costs, which he paid.¹

Samuel's brother William Bennett Jarvis, a dairyman, died at 47 Briton Street, Gillingham, on the 15th March 1855, of abscess in neck 1 month, bronchitis 10 days certified; his wife informed the registrar.²

At the birth of their next daughter, Louisa, on the 7th August 1855, Samuel gave his occupation as pork butcher master, and his residence (and Louisa's place of birth) as 236 High Street, Chatham.³

¹ South Eastern Gazette, 10th October 1854.

² Death certificate.

³ Daughter's birth certificate.

Angeler's brother William, described as an almsman Greenwich pensioner, died in the Union Workhouse at Chatham on the 23rd August 1855, of pleuro-pneumonia 10 days certified.¹

In 1856 the old bridge between Rochester and Strood was demolished by the Royal Engineers. According to the *Illustrated Times*, the effect of the explosives "was very striking, the ground for some distance reverberating as if from the effects of an earthquake, while the pier crumbled in pieces and disappeared."²

By January 1858, when another son, Charles Wallace, was born (on New Year's Day), the Jarvises had experienced three years of relative stability, as Samuel was still a pork butcher at 236 High Street, where the baby was born (his mother being named as 'Angelina Elizabeth' Jarvis. Melville & Co's *Directory of Kent* for 1858 records Samuel H. Jarvis as a pork butcher in the High Street, Chatham.³

Angeler's mother, Elizabeth Tunbridge, died at Henry Street, Chatham, on the 28th March 1859, after a year's disease of the kidneys, followed by sudden death after an hour's syncope (a loss of blood supply to the brain).⁴

In 1861 all of the Jarvis family except for Samuel were living at Chatham Hill. Angeler was described as a milk woman. William Hugh was an apprentice baker; Angelina Susanna, Samuel George, and Eleanor were still scholars. The whereabouts of Samuel himself remained a mystery until a fully searchable index to the 1861 census became available on the Internet in 2005. There is little room for doubt that Samuel was the "S.J.", described as a dairyman and pork butcher, an inmate of the County Gaol at Maidstone, as a county court debtor. The circumstances of his imprisonment, and the duration of his sentence, can only be matters of speculation (and it's certainly notable that there is a substantial gap in the births of his children, between 1858 and 1867). What is clear, though, is that Angeler was having to look after six children as a single parent.

The 1861 census found the widowed William Tunbridge, described as a shipwright pensioner, living with his family in Chatham Hill, Chatham, next door but one to the Jarvis family. Angeler's brother Darcy, still a shipwright, was visiting his father's family on census night, but his wife and family of five children were all inmates in the Medway Union workhouse in Gillingham.⁷

The Jarvis home appears to have been the third beyond the White Horse, an old posting house, on

¹ Death certificate.

² Cited in Dunster: 118.

³ Son's birth certificate; Melville & Co's *Directory of Kent*, 1858.

⁴ Death certificate.

⁵ RG 9/482.

⁶ RG 9/503 f143 p5; age and place of birth are also compatible. The long gap in the succession of offspring, between 1858 and 1867, suggests that Samuel may have been absent for an extended period. On the other hand, Samuel's headstone apparently claimed that the Jarvises had had five sons and five daughters, whereas only three sons and five daughters are known. The gap might be explained by the birth of two sons who failed to survive, and whose births were perhaps not registered. Equally plausibly, two additional children might have been fabricated to account for the embarrassing gap.

⁷ RG 9/482, /483 f151 p18.

the south side of Chatham Hill, probably just west of the junction with Upper Luton Road. The Tunbridge home was two doors further east up the hill. Just down the road, at the junction with the New Road, the stocks still stood in 1864.¹

According to an oral tradition, during the childhood of Louisa Jarvis (later Beck) her home was often visited by a carriage and pair, with a crest on the doors. This rather romantic tale is not substantiated anywhere, and can't be explained in any way.²

In October 1862 Angeler's brother (D'Arcy) Daniel was sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour, for larceny simple, at the Quarter Sessions in Maidstone. He had been found guilty of stealing five sheaves of wheat.³

On the 6th August 1863 Angeler/Angelina was a witness at her sister-in-law Amelia's wedding, in Brompton parish church, Kent. The bridegroom was James Ashdown, a 35-year-old musician, of Brompton. Amelia herself was described as a widow, of Brompton.⁴

On New Year's Day 1867 Angelina gave birth to another daughter, Henrietta Maud, at Chatham Hill. Henrietta Maud was born nine years to the day after her nearest sibling, with whom she would always share a birthday. Samuel, now described as a general dealer, of Chatham Hill, informed the registrar on the 12th February.⁵

On the 14th June 1868 the Jarvises' eldest child was married to Elizabeth Jane Lampard, at Strood parish church, after banns. Elizabeth was a resident of Gun Lane, daughter of William Henry Lampard, a painter. William was described as a baker of Gun Lane; his father Samuel was described as a milkman.⁶

On the 24th October 1869 Samuel George Jarvis was married, after banns, at Gillingham parish church to Charlotte Rebecca Whitehead, daughter of Thomas Whitehead, labourer. He signed his name, but Charlotte marked hers. Samuel Hugh Jarvis, the groom's father, was described as a dairyman.⁷

On the 25th February 1870 Samuel George and Charlotte Jarvis had their first child, Lily Charlotte, born at Hards Town, Gillingham.⁸

On the 2nd July that year Angelina Susannah Jarvis was married at Gillingham parish church to Edward Rashbrook, a painter, of Gillingham. At this date Samuel was described as a cowkeeper.⁹

² Letter to me from Dorothy Carr.

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¹ Census; Presnail: 248.

³ Maidstone Journal and Kentish Advertiser, 21st October 1862.

⁴ Marriage certificate.

⁵ Daughter's birth certificate.

⁶ Son's marriage certificate.

⁷ Son's marriage certificate.

⁸ Granddaughter's birth certificate.

⁹ Daughter's marriage certificate.

On the 16th December 1870 the already elderly William Tunbridge became father to a daughter, Harriet, born at Rainham Road, Chatham. On the 7th March 1871 William Tunbridge married for a second time, at Brompton parish church, Kent. His young bride—Harriet's mother—was Susan Holthum, daughter of Daniel Holthum, carpenter.¹

In the 1871 census Samuel appeared as a dairyman, of Stevens Cottages, Chatham Hill, living with Angelina; Eleanor, now a sempstress; Henrietta Maud, a scholar; Louisa (no occupation); and one son, William Hugh, a baker, he and his wife still living with William's parents. William Tunbridge appeared as a shipwright pensioner, living at Beacon Hill, Chatham, with his new family. Angelina Rashbrook was a dressmaker and coal seller, living with her husband in Union Street, Chatham. Samuel George Jarvis was a carpenter (out of employ), living with his wife and daughter at 16 Middle Street, Gillingham.²

Angelina Rashbrook gave birth to her first child on the 15th May 1871: a boy, Edward, born at 2 Union Street, Chatham.³

By late March 1872 Samuel George was back in employment, as a carpenter (journeyman); the family was now living in the High Street, Chatham. His daughter Eleanor Elizabeth was born at 218 High Street.⁴ At the birth of his next child, in 1873, he was described as a joiner (journeyman). His son was born at 225 High Street, Chatham.⁵

On the 5th April 1873 Angelina Rashbrook had another baby, George, born at 8 King Street, Rochester.⁶

On the 12th August that year Samuel and Angelina's grandson Hugh Alfred Jarvis was born at Skinner's Cottages, Chatham Hill. He was soon followed by another, Samuel George Jarvis, born at 225 High Street, Chatham, on the 2nd September.⁷

On the 4th October 1874 Susan Tunbridge gave birth to William's youngest child, William George; at this date they were living at Chatham Hill; William was described as a dockyard pensioner.⁸

On the 9th August 1875 another son, William Henry James, was born into Samuel George's family, at 225 High Street, Chatham; the father was again described as a joiner (journeyman).⁹

Three weeks later Angelina Rashbrook's first daughter was born at 4 Gravel Walk, Rochester, and

¹ Daughter's birth certificate; RG 10/911 f107 p29; 1881 census; marriage certificate.

² RG 10/911 f68 p7, f107 p29, /910 f110 p35, /912 f52 p32.

³ Birth certificate.

⁴ Daughter's birth certificate.

⁵ Son's birth certificate.

⁶ Birth certificate.

⁷ Birth certificates.

⁸ Son's birth certificate.

⁹ Son's birth certificate.

given the name Angela Louisa.1

William Hugh's son Albert was born on the 22nd May 1876, Docking, Norfolk; he was baptised at Upwell St Peter, Norfolk, on the 11th June. The reason for his mother being away from Kent isn't known.²

According to an oral tradition remembered by one of his great-grandchildren, Dorothy Carr, the Jarvises "seem to have had a small farm Luton way"—Luton being in walking distance south-east of Chatham Hill. Dorothy remembered her grandmother Louisa often telling her "how she wore a milkmaid's yoke & delivered milk across the stepping stones at Luton Arches, & along the Brook, etc."³

Chatham in 1876 was described as "a very different style of place to Rochester . . . a dirty and unpleasant town devoted to the interest of soldiers, sailors and mariners." The town was said to contain "little of general interest unconnected with its dockyard or barracks." It was "a long dirty street, parallel with the Medway, swarming with soldiers and Jews, and powerfully odorous of shrimps and tobacco."

On the 16th September 1876 a very pregnant Louisa Jarvis, of 17 Regents Place, Chatham, married Reuben Beck, at St Paul's church, Chatham. At this date Samuel, Louisa's father, was described as a dairyman.⁵ Louisa gave birth to a son, Charles Ernest, on the 20th December 1876, at 17 Regents Place.⁶

Samuel George Jarvis's family saw a new addition on the 23rd September 1877: Albert Sidney, born at 225 High Street, Chatham.⁷

On the 11th January 1878 the Rashbrooks had their fourth child: William Hugh, born at 4 Gravel Walk, Rochester.⁸

On the 17th April that year the Becks had their first daughter, Angela Louisa, born at 5 Mount, Chatham. Their joy can only have been short-lived, for on the 27th May their 17-month-old son Charles Ernest died at 5 Upper Mount, Chatham, of hydrocephalus 5 months certified. The contract of the cont

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¹ Birth certificate.

² 1881 census.

³ Letter to the author from Dorothy Carr, who also felt that they "must have been quite well off for the times"—which perhaps more reflects how they wanted their circumstances to be remembered than their lived reality. The original has 'joke' for 'yoke'.

⁴ Dunster: 126.

⁵ Daughter's marriage certificate. St Paul's was a relatively new church, built 1853–1855; now demolished. (Dunster: 97]

⁶ Son's birth certificate.

⁷ Birth certificate.

⁸ Birth certificate.

⁹ Daughter's birth certificate; Beck family bible; Angeler Louisa on certificate of naming.

¹⁰ Son's death certificate.

At the time of his daughter's marriage in 1879 Samuel was described as a cow-keeper. However, according to his granddaughter Grace Jarvis he was a heavy drinker and gradually ran through his capital: his son was to say "He drank his cows one by one".

On the 14th September 1879 Samuel George Thomas's wife Charlotte gave birth to another son, Charles Thomas, born at 225 High Street. Samuel George was still a joiner at this date.²

On the 30th November that year "Helenior" Jarvis, giving her residence as Poole Street, Hoxton, married Henry James Yates at Christchurch parish church, Hoxton, Middlesex, after banns.³

The Becks had another daughter on the 19th January 1880, born at 3 Whittaker Place, Chatham. She was given the name Eleanor Matilda.⁴

The Rashbrooks had their fifth child, Frederick James, on the 14th April. He was born at 4 Gravel Walk, Rochester.⁵ William Hugh's son William was born at 2 Middle Street, Chatham, on the 1st December 1880.⁶

The 1881 census found the Jarvis family at 84 Regents Place, Chatham. Samuel was described as a dairyman. His wife's name was given as "Angelena E. Jarvis", a further variation on the spelling of her first name. Their son Charles was still at home, but now working as a wheelwright. Henrietta Maud was also still at home as a scholar. Living with them were William Tunbridge, shipwright pensioner, and his second family; as well as a lodger; Angeler's half-siblings were both described as scholars. William Hugh Jarvis, a baker, was living with his new family and a sister-in-law at 2 Middle Street, Gillingham. Angelina Rashbrook was a dress maker, of 3 Gravel Walk, Rochester St Margaret, living with her husband and five children (all described as scholars). Samuel George, by 1881, had become a wheelwright, and he and his family were now living at 224 High Street, Chatham (of whom Lily Charlotte, Eleanor Elizabeth, Samuel George, and William Henry James were scholars); the household included a boarder. Louisa Beck was a tailoress, living at 78 Regents Place, Chatham with her two daughters and a sister; her husband, who was a sergeant in the Royal Marines, was aboard the *Flora*, at sea or in a foreign port.⁷

On the 3rd July 1881 Louisa Beck gave birth to another daughter, Maud Emily, at her home at 78 New Road, Chatham. She informed the registrar on the 29th.8

On the 5th September Charles Wallace Jarvis, described as a coach builder, married Alice Frances Varrall at St John's parish church, Stratford, London. At this date Samuel was described,

¹ Daughter's marriage certificate; Grace Jarvis, 'The Jarvis Family'.

² Son's birth certificate.

³ Marriage certificate.

⁴ Daughter's birth certificate; Beck family bible.

⁵ Birth certificate.

⁶ 1881 census.

⁷ RG 11/894 f83 p5; census

⁸ Daughter's birth certificate; Beck family bible, in my possession.

phonetically, as a "dariman". On the 28th September, at 320 High Street, Chatham, was born Alfred John Jarvis, the seventh child of Samuel George and Charlotte.²

On the 11th December 1881 Eleanor Yates gave birth to a daughter, Maud Helena, at 98 Clifton Street, Holywell, Shoreditch, London.³

On the 10th April 1882 Charles Wallace Jarvis's daughter Daisy Alice was born at 99 New Road, Chatham; Charles was described as a wheelwright (master).⁴

On the 6th May that year the Rashbrooks had another daughter, given the name Nora Maud. She was born at 4 Gravel Walk, Rochester.⁵

By 1882 Samuel George Jarvis was clearly diversifying his occupation, as his entry in Kelly's *Directory* shows him as a carver and gilder, now of 320 High Street, Chatham.⁶

Elizabeth Emily Jarvis, daughter to William Hugh and Elizabeth, was born at 5 a.m. on the 26th March 1883, at 12 Middle Street, Brompton, Kent; the recording of the time of a birth often indicates a twin born on the same day, but either this was not the case or perhaps a twin was still-born and not registered. The father was described as a baker (master), resident at the address where his daughter was born.⁷

On the 25th October 1883 Charles Wallace's son Charles James was born at 170 New Road, Chatham; at this date Charles Wallace Jarvis was a coach builder (journeyman).⁸

Another daughter was born, at 320 High Street, to Samuel George Jarvis on the 20th March 1884, and given the name Violet Louisa.⁹

On the 5th January 1885 Angelina Rashbrook gave birth to another daughter, Ethel, born at 5 Dulce Place, Rose Street, Rochester. On the 20th of the same month Eleanor Yates—from now on always using the name 'Helena' Yates—had a baby son, Henry De Arcy Yates, at 98 Clifton Street, Shoreditch. Shoreditch.

On the 7th August 1885 Charles Wallace's daughter Mabel Elizabeth was born at 170 New Road,

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¹ Son's marriage certificate.

² Son's birth certificate.

³ Daughter's birth certificate.

⁴ Daughter's birth certificate.

⁵ Birth certificate.

⁶ Kelly's *Directory of Kent;* RG 12/663 f114 p3.

 $^{^{7}}$ Information from Grace Jarvis, 1986; birth certificate.

⁸ Son's birth certificate.

⁹ Daughter's birth certificate.

¹⁰ Birth certificate.

¹¹ Son's birth certificate.

Chatham, the baby's father described as a carpenter (journeyman), as he was at successive births through 1890.¹

At the birth of his daughter Minnie May on the 8th March 1886, Samuel George Jarvis was described as a builder (master), of 320 High Street, Chatham, the baby's birthplace.²

On the 26th January 1887 Helena Yates had another baby, Florence Beatrice, born at 98 Clifton Street, Shoreditch.³ On the 4th February Charles Wallace's daughter Lottie Maud was born at 170 New Road, Chatham.⁴ Six days later the Rashbrooks had another son, Victor Charles, born at 5 Rose Street, Delce, Rochester.⁵

On the 7th October that year Rosetta Maud, the fifth child of William Hugh and Elizabeth Jarvis, was born at 12 Middle Street, Brompton, Kent. Two days later, at the Marine Barracks in Chatham, Louisa Beck gave birth to a boy, Reuben Alexander.⁶

On the 23rd December 1887, when he registered the birth of his daughter Alice Victoria, who had been born on the 12th November, Samuel George Jarvis was described as a builder, of 320 High Street, Chatham.⁷

On the 7th November 1888 a son, Percy Varrall, was born to Charles Wallace Jarvis, at 170 New Road.⁸

On the 9th January 1889 the Becks' daughter Ethel Alice was born at A. House, North Barracks, Walmer, Kent.⁹

On the 20th March that year the Rashbrooks' last daughter, Olive, was born at 4 Rose Street, Rochester.¹⁰

William Tunbridge died on the 26th June 1889, at 78 New Road Chatham, probably aged 90 years and more. He was described as a dockyard pensioner (shipwright). The cause of death was given as "decay, paralysis". His body was buried at Luton, Kent, on the 30th. His great-grandson Ernest Jarvis (whose father will have known William Tunbridge well), later described him as ". . . the gent

¹ Children's birth certificates.

² Daughter's birth certificate.

³ Daughter's birth certificate.

⁴ Daughter's birth certificate

⁵ Birth certificate.

⁶ Grandson's birth certificate.

⁷ Daughter's birth certificate.

⁸ Son's birth certificate; RG 13/730 f9 p7.

⁹ Daughter's birth certificate; Beck family bible.

¹⁰ Birth certificate; information from Grace Jarvis, 1986.

¹¹ Death certificate; "England Deaths and Burials, 1538–1991", database, FamilySearch: 15 March 2020, William Tunbridge, 1889.

who lived till 97 and could do the cobbler's dance when over 90 and crack nuts with toothless jaws," adding that "He blew all the family estate."

On the 7th November 1889 Charles Wallace's son Percy was born at 170 New Road, Chatham.²

On the 16th March 1890 Louisa Beck gave birth to another son, Edgar Percival, at A. House, North Barracks, Walmer Depot.³

On the 17th June the same year Charles Wallace's daughter Marjorie Ethel was born at 170 New Road, Chatham.⁴

Kelly's Directory for the years 1890 to 1892 list Samuel Jarvis at 78 New Road, Chatham.⁵

Chatham was incorporated as a municipal borough on the 22nd November 1890.⁶

The 1891 census the Jarvis family were one of three households living at 78 New Road. The family consisted of Samuel, Angelina, Henrietta Maud (now employed as a school teacher), Angelina's half-siblings, and a boarder; Angelina's half-sister Harriet was employed as a general domestic servant; her half-brother William George was employed as a general labourer. Angelina Rashbrook (no occupation given) was living with her husband and nine children at 30 Rose Street, Rochester St Margaret; of these, Edward was employed as a boiler maker apprentice, George as a plumber assistant, Angelina as a domestic servant, and William Hugh as a grocer's assistant; Frederick James, Nora Maud, and Ethel were scholars. Samuel George Jarvis was a builder, and an employer, living with his wife and ten children at 320 High Street, Chatham; Kelly's Directory, though, still listed him as a carver and gilder at that address; of his children, Lily Charlotte was now employed as a dressmaker, Eleanor Elizabeth as a confectioner's assistant, and Samuel George as a carpenter; all the younger ones were scholars. Helena Yates was living with her husband and three children in four rooms at 98 Clifton Street, Shoreditch, along with two boarders. Louisa Beck was living at 4 Chatham Place, Walmer, with her husband and five children; of the latter, Eleanor Matilda, Maud Emily, and Reuben Alexander were scholars; Angela Louisa Beck was a kitchen maid in the household of Alexander Tod, a retired Egyptian merchant and JP, at Walmer Lodge, Walmer, Kent. Charles Wallace Jarvis was employed as a joiner, living with his family at 170 New Road, Chatham; of the children, Daisy Alice, Charles James, Mabel Elizabeth, and Lottie Maud were scholars.⁷

The census that year showed for the first time that the population of Chatham had been surpassed by that of Gillingham, home to most of the new dockyard workforce.⁸

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¹ Transcript of a letter written in 1965 by Ernest Jarvis to Charles Joseph Jarvis, now held by Corrine Noot.

² Son's birth certificate.

³ Daughter's birth certificate; Beck family bible.

⁴ Daughter's birth certificate; RG 13/730 f9 p7.

⁵ Kelly's *Directory*.

⁶ Census; Presnail: 264

⁷ RG 12/663 f131 p1, /657 f87, /663 f114 p3; Kelly's *Directory of Kent, Surrey & Sussex*; RG 12/242.

⁸ Dunster: 133.

Samuel Hugh Jarvis died at 78 New Road, Chatham, on the 25th May 1891, of chronic bronchitis and senile decay. He was described as a navy pensioner and dairyman (master). His body was buried in Chatham Old Cemetery on the 31st. ¹

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¹ Death certificate; letter from Freda Lord to Sidney Beck, reporting information on a headstone, since removed. Samuel Jarvis's pension records have not yet proved traceable in The National Archives (ADM 22/424, /432, /440, 73/64, WO 4/887, /891. In 1900, Angelina's death certificate described him as a master dairyman, and a daughter's marriage certificate as a dairyman.

Angelina's widowhood

The Becks had another daughter, Dorothy Catherine, on the 31st August 1891, born at 4 Chatham Place, Walmer. By the time the registrar was informed, on the 12th October, the family were back in the Marine Barracks in Chatham.¹

Angelina lived long enough to experience the death of a grandchild: Olive Rashbrook died of measles 7 days, bronchitis certified, just a month short of her third birthday, on the 23rd February 1892.²

Lily Charlotte Jarvis, Angelina's granddaughter, married Edward Thomas Horton at St Paul's, Chatham, on the 6th February 1893. Her husband was a shipwright, son of Edward Horton, brazier. Witnesses included Samuel G. Jarvis and Ellen E. Jarvis.³

Charles Wallace Jarvis's son Ernest Edward was born on the 15th April 1893, at 170 New Road, Chatham; the baby's father was described as a joiner (journeyman).⁴

Louisa Beck gave birth to another daughter, Hilda May, on the 5th July 1894, at 88 New Road, Chatham.⁵

Charles Wallace Jarvis had a son, Francis Hugh, born at 254 New Road, Chatham, on Christmas Day 1895.⁶

On the 21st March 1896 Angelina's grandson George Rashbrook, a plumber, of 32 Rose Street, Rochester, was married to Rebecca Woollett, daughter of James Woollett, iron founder. Edward Rashbrook was one of the witnesses. On 20th of the following month Louisa Beck gave birth to the couple's youngest child, Elsie Florence, at 88 New Road.⁸

Charles Wallace Jarvis had a daughter, Kate Elsie, born at 254 New Road on New Year's Day 1897.9

Kelly's *Directory* for 1897–98 shows Angelina continuing to live at 78 New Road, Chatham.¹⁰

From this period there survives the only direct memory of Angelina Jarvis, written in the 1930s by her granddaughter Mabel Essenhigh:

¹ Daughter's birth certificate; the Beck family bible records the birth as having been at 2 Cambell Road, Walmer.

² Granddaughter's death certificate.

³ Granddaughter's marriage certificate.

⁴ Son's birth certificate.

⁵ Daughter's birth certificate; the Beck family bible records the birth as having been at 24 Clover Street, Chatham.

 $^{^{6}}$ Son's birth certificate; RG 13/730 f9 p7.

⁷ Marriage certificate.

⁸ Daughter's birth certificate; Beck family bible.

⁹ RG 13/730 f9 p7.

¹⁰ Kelly's *Directory*.

I never told you the name of this field, did I. Well, it is called the "Canny Field" and at the end of it lived my Grandma, and the house faces a long road, called the New Road, but it was new over a hundred years ago. It has four bay windows and a flight of steps running straight up to the front door. Often I would go with my brother Charlie, to fly his kite, which Father would get made before we went to bed. [...]

Saturday morning—and no school. Off we would go with the new kite, up to the Canny Fields.

$[\ldots]$

On our way back, we called at our Grandma's house, she was always pleased to see me, but I don't think she was pleased to see Charlie. Do you know she had a tap in her yard with a wooden water butt underneath, and as soon as Charlie saw this tap he would turn it on and hold his thumb underneath, and squirt the water all over Grandma's windows, out she would come, and pack him off as soon as she could, and tell me that she's going to tell his mother.

Now I would often stay with my Grandma and do her shopping for her, as she was getting old. Do you know, that when I was a little girl, we had fireplaces but no ovens, so I had to take Grandma's meat pie just across the road to the first shop down the lane opposite on a Sunday morning because as he (the baker) wasn't making bread that day, he used to cook all the pies that people brought him. Everybody was very pleased to have a "baked" dinner for Sunday. I took ours over with a nice clean cloth folded over it, on a tray, and called again when it was cooked.

$[\ldots]$

Once I stayed with my Grandma for a few months. When it was bed time she would give me a lighted candle to take with me to bed. I had to go up two flights of stairs, all by myself, and she would say, "When you get in bed blow the candle out". I went to a school not far away. It was a Board school where lots of other little children went.

In our bedroom at Grandma's there's a large chest of drawers and a little lacquer chest of drawers stood on top of these. I often looked and admired them, but I never touched them, or anything else, they were so nice to me. Well, one day I came home from school and Grandma stood at the top of the steps, waiting for me. She put out her arm to help me up the steps, then she said, "You are the one that I've been waiting for". She was quite angry. "Now," she said, "Where's that ring that you took out of those drawers". I answered, "I haven't taken any ring out of the drawers". "Yes you have," she said, "I saw you looking at them, and you always said how pretty they were, and if you don't tell me where it is, I'm going to tell all the school girls you are a thief". I cried and cried, and told her that I hadn't touched or seen the ring. I suppose I was sent to bed and cried myself to sleep. I woke up early in the morning and crept out of the house and went home, and arrived before my Mother and Father were up.

They were surprised to see me so early, and said, "What's brought you home at this time?" I told them what Grandma had said about me, so I didn't go again for a long time afterwards, by then I had forgotten all about it.

Do you know Mother told me, a long time after this, that she and Dad went to all the shops where they sold old jewellery and the gentleman who owns the shop told Dad that a lady who lived at my Grandma's sold him the ring. I am glad I heard the end of it, it was quite by accident that I heard Mother and my eldest sister talking about it, but I knew it was meant for me to hear. ¹

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¹ 'Aunt May's reminiscences', photocopy in the possession of Margery O'Gorman.

This is the behaviour of a cantankerous old woman, of course, but there may also be an echo of the wife whose husband had had a brush with the law, perhaps inducing her to be more than usually severe with her grandchildren.

On the 5th March 1898 Angelina's grandson Edward Rashbrook, a boilermaker of St Margaret's, Rochester, married Mercy Isabell Wood, daughter of William Wood, bargeman.¹

Samuel George Jarvis, a builder (master), died at 320 High Street, Chatham, on Christmas Eve 1898. He was buried on New Year's Eve. William Hugh Jarvis, still a baker, acted as executor of his brother's will; his estate was valued at £823.²

Charles Wallace Jarvis's son Stanley William was born on the 8th March 1899, at 110 Castle Road, Chatham; Charles was now employed as a joiner in HM Dockyard.³

Angelina's grandson William Henry James Jarvis, of 320 High Street, Chatham, was married, at St Mary's, Chatham, on the 31st March 1900, to Maud Mary Francis, daughter of Frederick Francis, tailor; Eleanor 'Nellie' Elizabeth Jarvis was a witness.⁴

Henrietta Maud Jarvis was married, on the 21st May, to John Edgar Haynes, a photographer (son of Charles Henry Haynes, actor), at St Paul's parish church, Chatham, after banns. Charles Wallace Jarvis and Angela Louisa Beck were witnesses. The groom gave his address as 78 New Road, his new mother-in-law's home.⁵

In the second quarter of 1900 was born the only one of Angelina Jarvis's great-grandchildren born in her lifetime: Eleanor May Jarvis, daughter of Hugh and Eleanor. She was born in Teddington, Middlesex.⁶

Angeler Jarvis died on the 12th August 1900, at 78 New Road, Chatham. The cause of death was given as bronchitis 14 days, dilation of heart 2 days, dropsy. She was buried in Chatham Old Cemetery on the 15th.⁷

¹ Marriage certificate.

² Death certificate; information from Malcolm Jarvis, citing Probate registry.

³ Son's birth certificate.

⁴ Marriage certificate.

⁵ Marriage certificate.

⁶ GRO index; 1911 Census of Canada; US/Canadian border crossings; RG 13/673 f25 p41.

⁷ Death certificate; letter from Freda Lord to Sidney Beck, citing headstone since removed.

Afterlives

(Half-)Siblings

Harriet Tunbridge had worked as a servant in the 1890s. She had a son with an unknown father in 1891, but he only survived three years. After that no trace has yet been found.¹

In 1901 William George Tunbridge was working as a hammerman at HM Dockyard, Chatham; he was a lodger in the household of Edwin Tanton, blacksmith. He had previously worked as a stoker, serving on the *Wildfire*, the *Pembroke II*, and the *Empress of India*. He married Sarah Ann Edwards in 1903, with whom he had four children. In 1911 he was recorded as a waterman, mate of barge, coal & cement. By 1921 he was a general labourer at Chatham Dockyard. He died at the Minster Institution (the former workhouse) in Margate, Kent, in 1948.²

Children

In 1901 Angelina Rashbrook was living with her husband and three children at 3 Hooper's Place, Rochester St Margaret; of the latter, William Hugh was employed as a carpenter, and Frederick James as a carpenter apprentice. A son and two daughters were living next door.³

Helena Yates was back in Chatham, living with her husband and three children at her parents' old home, 78 New Road; of her children, Maud Helena was employed as a tailoress, and Henry as a van boy.⁴

Louisa Beck was living at 59 Salisbury Road, Chatham, with her husband and eight children. She died of acute bronchitis and myocardial degeneration on the 25th February 1929, at 68 Watling Street, Gillingham. Her body was interred in Chatham cemetery the following Saturday. She was remembered by her grandson Sidney Beck as a very kind lady, very interested in her children's families; she liked to entertain her grandchildren, and make a fuss at Christmas.⁵

Eleanor Matilda Beck was working as a draper's assistant, in the household of Charles Agburn at 124 Upper Tooting Road, Streatham, London. She married Charles Willis, a plumber, on the 7th April 1902. They had two children, the second of whom was born in Canada, to which they'd emigrated in around 1905. She died in Toronto on the 3rd October 1954.⁶

In 1901 Charles Wallace was living with his family at 110 Castle Road, employed as a joiner (wood); of the next generation Daisy was a machinist (tailoring), Charles James was a photographer,

¹ RG 12/663 f131 p1; Medway Poor Law Union records, admission and discharge.

² Censuses; Royal Navy registers of seamen's services; GRO index; Kent burials, on Find My Past.

³ RG 13/724 f35 p28.

⁴ RG 13/727 f103 p1.

⁵ RG 13/728; photo of headstone, in my possession; letter and enclosures to Sidney Beck, from his uncle Harry Harding; taped oral history interview with Sidney Beck.

⁶ RG 13/471 f43 p21; information from Sidney Beck; GRO index; 1911 Census of Canada; 1921 Census of Canada; Ontario; Canada Marriages, 1801–1928; Borsk family tree; Speer MacGregor Family Tree.

and Mabel was a presser (tailor's). Charles Wallace was remembered by his daughter Mabel as a progressive and loving father, fond of singing—he sang tenor at the Unitarian Church, and in local choral societies. He worked until he was 70, and died at his home, 116 Glencoe-road, Chatham, on the 26th January 1936.¹

In 1901 Maud Haynes was working as shop assistant in her husband's sweetshop (from photographer he had turned confectioner) at 342 High Street, Rochester St Margaret. Their only child was born and died in 1902, having lived just 37 days. She was widowed in 1905, and died in Chatham on the 12th January 1942.²

Grandchildren

Samuel and Angelina had no less than fifty grandchildren. To include them all here would be to invite unreadability, so I'm opting to exclude them altogether.

Living descendants

At the time of writing there are believed to be at least 380 living descendants of Samuel Hugh and Angelina Jarvis.

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¹ Census; information from Malcolm Jarvis; Mabel Essenhigh, 'Aunt May's Reminiscences', photocopy from Margery O'Gorman; GRO index; Kent Burials, at Find My Past.

² RG 13/724 f105 p28; GRO index; Kent Burials, at Find My Past.