

Origins

This chapter looks briefly at the lives of the grandparents and parents of Richard Ferry and Ann Trevett, in the period before the latter were born.

Grandparents

Ferry grandparents

John Ferry's paternal grandparents were John Ferry and Sarah, née Bonnel, who had married at Winterborne Abbas, Dorset, in 1770. At that date John was a shepherd, but he is generally described as a labourer thereafter. The couple had twelve children, the first three being baptised at Compton Valence, Dorset, the remainder at Burton Bradstock, Dorset.¹

His maternal grandparents are still not known, as no conclusive evidence has been found, of his mother's birth, baptism, or parentage.

Trevett grandparents

Ann's paternal grandparents were Edward Trevet and Mary, née Sprake, who had married at Abbotsbury, Dorset, in 1768. Edward and Mary had five children, of whom the eldest, Grace, was baptised at Puncknowle, Dorset, and the four remaining children were all baptised at Long Bredy, Dorset; the penultimate child died in infancy.²

Her maternal grandparents were Thomas Buller and Ann, née Sprake, who had married at Hawkchurch, Dorset, in 1784. They're only known to have had two children, both daughters, baptised in Hawkchurch.³

Parents

John Ferry

Richard's father, John Ferry, was born in 1771 and baptised at Compton Valence on the 22nd August that year.⁴

His first wife was Elizabeth Bridle, whom he married at Burton Bradstock, Dorset, after banns, on the 28th August 1797; a resident of Burton Bradstock, he used a mark for a signature in the parish register. With his first wife he had three children: Ann (1798), Joseph (1800–1805), and George (1802–1802), all born at Burton Bradstock. Elizabeth died in 1802, and was buried at Burton

¹ Parish registers.

² Parish registers.

³ Parish register.

⁴ "England, Dorset, Parish Registers, 1538–2001", database with images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QJD4-JBPB> : 2 June 2020), John Ferry, 1771.

Bradstock on the 12th December that year.¹

John Ferry married again, on the 26th February 1805, also at Burton Bradstock, where he still lived. His second wife was Elizabeth Trevett.²

Elizabeth Trevett

Elizabeth Trevett was probably born in Dorset, around 1783, though her baptism has not been found.³

Prior to Richard's birth, John and Elizabeth had seven children: William (1806), James (1808), Jane Trevett (1810), Joseph (1812), Robert (1815), Samuel (1816), and Charles (1818); all were baptised at Burton Bradstock.⁴



Long Bredy church, from <http://homepages.tesco.net/~franbar/walk8.htm>

John Trevett

John Trevett was baptised at Long Bredy on the 16th March 1789.⁵

He married Mary Buller at Long Bredy parish church, after banns, on the 26th April 1815; he signed the register. Their eldest child, Edward, was baptised at Long Bredy on the 11th August 1816, at which date John was

¹ Burton Bradstock parish register.

² Bothenhampton and Burton Bradstock parish registers.

³ TNA: HO 107/180/16 f22 p5 (calculated birth year from 1782 to 1786); death certificate (calculated birth year 1783); letters to me from Maurice Ferry, who gave the place of birth as Bothenhampton, and a calculated birth year of 1773; her baptism is not found in the Bothenhampton parish register, however, and Maurice seems to have inferred her birthplace from her description, at her marriage in Bothenhampton, as "of this parish". I now believe Maurice's birth year is based on an incorrect identification with a burial entry in 1823. The 1849 death certificate, identifying the deceased as widow of John Ferry, labourer, gives a calculated birth year of 1783. There is a possible baptism of an Elizabeth Trevett, daughter of Francis and Jane, at Puncknowle on the 11th February 1787, but it isn't currently possible to identify this Elizabeth as the one who married in 1805 in Bothenhampton; there is at least one other Elizabeth Trevett marrying within a year of 1805, who could also have been the Elizabeth baptised at Puncknowle. There is perhaps a stronger possibility in the baptism of Elizabeth Trivett, daughter of Robert and Jane Trivett, at Dorchester St Peter on the 5th January 1781.

⁴ Parish register.

⁵ Email to the author from Phil Trevett

described as a labourer.¹

Mary Buller

Mary Buller was born in Dorset, around 1786—probably in Hawkchurch, where she was baptised on the 23rd July 1786.²

¹ Parish register.

² "England Births and Christenings, 1538–1975", database, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:N28K-VJD> : 5 February 2023), Mary Buller, 1786.

Early life

Richard Ferry

Richard Ferry was born at Burton Bradstock, probably in 1821, and was baptised there on the 6th December that year.¹

His sister Sarah, the youngest of his siblings, was born around the New Year 1824/5, and baptised at St Mary's, Burton Bradstock, on the 2nd January 1825.²

Richard's eldest sister Ann gave birth to a son, George Caines Ferry, on the 3rd August 1826: presumably born in Dorset, but not baptised until 4th May 1828, at Burton Bradstock, where he's described as her "bastard son".³

Richard's sister Jane Trevett Ferry died in 1830, aged just 20, and was buried at Burton Bradstock on the 23rd February that year.⁴

His brother James was married to Sarah Weakley at Melcombe Regis, Weymouth, on the 24th November 1833. They were to have eleven children, at least eight of whom reached adulthood.⁵

Richard's father, John Ferry, died in March 1836, and his body was buried in the churchyard at Burton Bradstock, on the 1st April.⁶

His brother Joseph was married to Eliza Wells on the 8th November 1836, at Burton Bradstock. They were to have three children, of whom the youngest died aged 10.⁷

His brother Charles was married to Elizabeth Hunt, daughter of William Hunt, mason, at Melcombe Regis parish church, Weymouth, on the 25th June 1843, after banns; he marked his name in the register. They were to have five children, of whom the youngest died aged 7.⁸

Ann Trevett

Ann Trevett was born in Dorset around 1818 or 1819, and was baptised at Long Bredy, Dorset, on the 29th December 1819. At her baptism, and that of all her siblings through 1827, her father was

¹ Parish register; HO 107/280/16 f22 p5 suggests birth year 1821–6, RG 9/677 f20 p33 returns suggests 1820–1, RG 11/1205 f94 p29 suggests 1822–3; RG 10/1187 f35 p19 gives his birthplace as Bridport.

² Parish register.

³ Parish register; HO 107/280/16 f22 p5.

⁴ Parish register.

⁵ Parish register.

⁶ Parish register.

⁷ Parish register; GRO index.

⁸ Marriage certificate; parish register; GRO index.

described as a labourer, of Long Bredy.¹

Ann's sister Sarah Trevett was baptised at Long Bredy on the 30th March 1823.²

Their brother John was baptised at Long Bredy on the 25th February 1827.³

Ann's father had an extra-marital relationship with a Hannah Kingsden, and they had a daughter, baptised as Mary Ann Trevett Kingsden on the 15th April 1821, at Litton Cheney, Dorset: Ann's half sister, though it's not known how much contact they had.⁴

¹ Parish register.

² Parish register.

³ Parish register.

⁴ Parish register; Litton Cheney bastardy bonds.

Middle years

At the time of the 1841 census Richard was an apprentice rope maker, living with his mother, aunt, and brother at Southover, Burton Bradstock. Though neighbouring Bridport was a centre for ropemaking, there were actually only two rope makers in Burton Bradstock at the time. Nothing is known directly of Richard's apprenticeship, but it's likely to have been similar to that of another Burton boy, Alfred Chilcott, who was apprenticed as a rope maker to Ephraim Matthams & co., Rope Makers of Bridport Harbour (now known as West Bay), on a seven year apprenticeship, for which he received 3/- a week in his first year, rising to 7/- a week in his last. Given that by 1845 Richard had completed his apprenticeship, he must have been at least half way through it at the time of the 1841 census; if it is assumed that his apprenticeship ran until he was 21, then it was probably near completion at this time.¹

In 1841 Richard's half-sister Ann was a flax corder, living in the seventh house in Southover, Burton Bradstock. His half-brother Joseph was a mariner, his wife living in the sixth house in Southover. His brother James was a wheelwright, living with his wife and three children in St Nicholas Street, Melcombe Regis, Weymouth; with them was his brother Charles, also a wheelwright. His youngest sister Sarah was a servant, at Shadrack, Burton Bradstock.²

Ann Trevett appears in the 1841 census as one of two female servants living in the household of William and Richard Roberts, farmers, at Cogden House, Burton Bradstock. Her parents, John and Mary Trevett, were living in Litton Cheney, Dorset, where John and his son Edward were working as shepherds; Edward, and Ann's sister Sarah and brother John, were still living with their parents.³

Ann's father, John Trevett, was described as a labourer at the time of her marriage in 1845. But in fact he had died by then. He died of apoplexy at Milborne Port, Somerset, on the 5th February 1845. Of Milborne Wick, his body was buried on the 10th at Milborne Port.⁴

Richard Ferry and Ann Trevett were married at Burton Bradstock parish church on the 29th December 1845. Richard was described as a rope maker and, unlike his elder brother, was able to sign his name. Ann herself used a mark, her name apparently being written for her by Richard, the surname spelt as "Travitt", suggesting his own literacy was limited (in the marriage entry itself the spelling is correct).⁵

Richard was still a rope maker, living in Burton Bradstock, at the time of the birth there of Richard and Ann's eldest child, Alice Jane, in 1846, baptised at Burton Bradstock parish church on the 3rd September, and received into the church on the 17th September. It's likely that Richard was working at West Bay, where many Burton men worked at various trades, including ropemaking. It was

¹ HO 107/280/16 f22 p5; Elizabeth Buckler Gale (1984) *Farmers, Fishermen & Flax Spinners: The Story of the People of Burton Bradstock*, 2nd edition: 77, 111.

² HO 107/280/16 f18, /295/17 f52 p8, /280/16 f14 p21.

³ HO 107/280/16 f20 p118, surname appears as "Trevet"; HO 107/284/23 f11 p17.

⁴ Death certificate; parish register.

⁵ Marriage certificate; parish register. Perhaps this is an unfair judgement, as surname spellings were barely standardized at this date.

probably not long after this, however, that the family moved to Southampton.¹

The reason for the move to Southampton isn't clear. Although Richard was later to take employment with the railways, this was not the immediate reason for the move, as he continued to work as a rope maker for his first few years in Southampton. He was so described at the time of the registration of his son John's birth on the 30th August 1849, at which date Ann and he were living at Saint Mary Street, Southampton, where John was born. It was Ann who registered the birth, on the 10th October 1849.²

At the time of the 1851 census Richard was a ropemaker, and Ann a laundress, both of 4 St Mary's Street, Southampton. Their daughter—her name just given as “Jane”—was described as a scholar.³

In 1851 Richard's sister Ann was a house servant, living at South Over, Burton Bradstock. His brother James was a wheel wright and publican, of the Beer House, St Nicholas Street, Melcombe Regis, living with his wife and seven children.⁴ His brother Robert had moved up to the north-east of England in his early twenties, and in 1851 was living with his second wife and their family in Dene Street, Dawdon, Seaham Harbour, Durham, where he was working as a dock pilot.⁵ His brother Charles was working as a wheelwright, living with his family at 7 St Edmunds Street, Melcombe Regis.⁶ His sister Sarah had married a mariner, Richard Williams, in October 1847, and on census day was living with her husband at 23 Albert Terrace, Southampton.⁷

The census records that Ann's brother Edward, who had married Sarah Townsend Trevett at Litton Cheney in 1847, was working as a shepherd and living with his wife and their two young sons in Milborne Port, Somerset.⁸ Her sister Sarah was a house servant in the household of Samuel Longman, grocer and druggist, of High Street, Sturminster Newton, Dorset.⁹ Her brother John had married Sarah Hallett at Abbotsbury, Dorset, in 1848, was working as a farm labourer, living in Abbotsbury with his wife and their young daughter.¹⁰ Her half-sister Mary Ann Kingsden, as “Maryann Kingstone” was living in a Parish House at Litton Cheney with her mother's family, described as daughter-in-law (i.e. step-daughter) to the household head (James Teal, ag. lab.).¹¹

On the 18th March 1852, at the registration of his daughter Amelia's birth, Richard was a rope maker of 4 Saint Mary Street, Southampton, where Amelia was born. Ann informed the registrar on the 20th

¹ Daughter's birth certificate; Gale (1984): 77; parish register.

² Children's birth certificates; HO 107/1669 f237 p20; 1853 *Post Office Directory*. At this and subsequent birth registrations, Ann's maiden name is normally spelt 'Trivett'.

³ HO 107/1669 f237 p20.

⁴ HO 107/1861 f118 p1; HO 107/1857 f278 p49.

⁵ HO 107/2392 f563 p73.

⁶ HO 107/1857 f278 p50.

⁷ GRO index; HO 107/1669 f486 p32.

⁸ GRO index; parish register; HO 107/1931 f252 p5.

⁹ HO 107/1852 f165 p27.

¹⁰ GRO index; parish register; HO 107/1857 f677 p2.

¹¹ HO 107/1861 f60 p18.

April. Amelia was baptised at St Mary's on the 30th May that year. The 1853 *Post Office Directory*, compiled in December 1852, confirmed Richard's occupation, but gave his address with a slight variation, as 4 Upper St Mary's Street.¹

Little Amelia, just two years old, died of pneumonia certified on the 31st May 1854, at 4 Saint Mary Street.²

Although the 1855 edition of the *Post Office Directory* gives the same details as in 1853, it's clear that they were by then out of date, for at the time of his daughter's death in May 1854 Richard's occupation was given as porter. The specific nature of this occupation is confirmed at the time of his son Harry's birth, on the 26th February 1855 at 4 Saint Mary Street, when Richard is described as a "porter railway." Ann informed the registrar on the 29th March.³

The work of a railway porter has been described as follows:

Porters were really the men of all trades at a station or goods depot. They would do all the loading and unloading of parcels and passenger luggage and generally assist passengers on the platforms to find their trains. They would also sweep the station platforms and clean windows and toilets on the station when not attending to passengers and trains. At stations where trains terminated, they would sweep out the carriage, clean toilets and windows, and refill water tanks on carriages. They would also attend to the oil and gas lights and switch on electric lights when these were introduced.

A good porter would have the opportunity for promotion to a supervisory grade, such as Inspector.⁴

By the time of the birth of their next child, Annie, on the 16th May 1857, the family had moved to 23 Amoy Street, Southampton, where Annie was born; Richard, who informed the registrar on the 26th June, was a railway porter.⁵

In December 1858, when the *Post Office Directory* was revised, Richard was listed as a porter, of 23 Amoy Street, Bedford Place, Southampton.⁶

Ann and Richard's last child, Catherine, was born at 12 Amoy Street, Southampton, on the 6th February 1860. Ann, who informed the registrar on the 6th March, had still not learnt to sign her name.⁷

At the time of the 1861 census Richard and Ann, with their five surviving children, were found living at 12 Amoy Street, Southampton; Richard was described as a railway porter, "Alace", John, Harry, and Annie as scholars.⁸

¹ Daughter's birth certificate; 1853 *Post Office Directory*; parish register.

² Death certificate.

³ 1855 *Post Office Directory*; daughter's death certificate; son's birth certificate.

⁴ Frank Hardy (2009) *My Ancestor was a Railway Worker*. London, Society of Genealogists Enterprises: 41.

⁵ Daughter's birth certificate.

⁶ 1859 *Post Office Directory*.

⁷ Daughter's birth certificate.

⁸ RG 9/677 f20 p33.

In 1861 Richard's sister Ann was a twine braider, living in Burton Bradstock. His brother James was now a smith and wheelwright, of the Sailor's Return public house, Melcombe Regis, living with his wife and five children. His brother Joseph, a mariner, was now living with his wife and two sons at 6 Stewards Court, Melcombe Regis; their house was shared with another household. His brother Robert was a harbour pilot, living with his family at 7 Vane Terrace, Dawdon, Seaham Harbour—one of four households there. His brother Charles was working as a wheelwright, living with his wife, three children, and his brother-in-law at St Edmond Street, Melcombe Regis. His sister Sarah was living with her husband—a seaman in the merchant service—at 12 Albert Street, Southampton.¹

Ann's brother Edward was still working as a shepherd, but now, with his family, living in Haydon Street, Haydon, Dorset. Her sister Sarah was a cook in the household of James A. Hound, money holder, of 54 High West Street, Holy Trinity, Dorchester, Dorset. Her brother John was still working as an agricultural labourer, living with his family in a cottage in Abbotsbury. Her half-sister Mary Ann had married James Symes in May 1851, at Litton Cheney, but had died in the spring of 1855, her body being buried at Litton Cheney on the 7th May that year.²

The 1863 *Post Office Directory* shows another move, as Richard Ferry appears at 1 Dover Street, Bevois Town. On this occasion his occupation is not given as such, but after his name appear the letters "S.W.R.". This seems to confirm—as was always probable—that his employer was the London & South Western Railway, which ran the rail service from London to Southampton. The L & SWR was keen to employ countrymen: a staff magazine writer was to comment, in 1881:³

. . . looking at the general intelligence and powers of organisation of the higher grades of our uniformed staff, we need not inquire further of what that raw material is capable . . . coming from the country they have as a rule a deal of shrewdness and a certain amount of hard-headedness against which the blandishments of agitators have hitherto been levelled in vain. . . . If they do their duty faithfully towards the Company, their advancement is sure.⁴

Discipline was strict on the railways, and the L & SWR was no exception: in 1847 an L & SWR clerk had been dismissed for exercising his dog while on sick leave; and an employee who left this company without proper notice was prosecuted and sentenced to three weeks' hard labour.⁵ On the other hand the company catered for staff welfare with its own Friendly Society, augmenting its contribution to the Society's funds from lost property sales and staff fines.

In July 1865 Richard Ferry, of Dover Street, Bevois Town, voted for Geo. Moffatt and T.M. Mackay—both Radicals—in the Southampton parliamentary election.⁶

¹ RG 9/1366 f12 p17; RG 9/1349 f153 p10; RG 9/1350 f9 p12; RG 9/3748 f50 p10; RG 9/1349 f150 p4; RG 9/675 f9 p14.

² RG 9/1361 f98 p2; RG 9/1353 f45 p15; GRO index; Litton Cheney parish register.

³ 1863 *Post Office Directory*. Although many L&SWR staff records survive in the National Archives, no reference to Richard has been found in any that appear remotely relevant: RAIL411/491, /494-5, /497-8, 503-5, /507, /510-1, /517, /519, /524-5, /527-8, /530.

⁴ Frank McKenna (1980) *The Railway Workers 1840–1970*, London, Faber: 27, citing 'The Porter', 'Our Railway Men', *South-Western Gazette*, 1 October 1881, p. 6.

⁵ McKenna (1980): 34.

⁶ Poll book.

In May 1866 Richard's brother James was prosecuted at the Borough Petty Sessions for keeping fourteen pigs in a yard in St Edmund Street. He had by then got rid of the pigs, and the case was settled by payment of costs.¹

Richard's brother Joseph, a former mariner, died at Stewards Court, Melcombe Regis, Weymouth, on the 22nd January 1867, of softening of the brain 18 months, paralysis 3 days certified.²

Cox's 1871 *Directory* lists Richard Ferry, S.W.R., at 15 Liverpool Street, Bevois Town. At the time of the 1871 census Richard and Ann were found at 15 Liverpool Street, St Mary, Southampton. Richard was described as a railway porter. Alice Jane and Harry were still living at home, with no occupational description being given; Annie and Catherine were scholars, at home. John was also still living at home, now working as a gilder.³

In 1871 Richard's sister Ann—who had never married—was working as a house keeper, living alone in Burton Bradstock.⁴ His brother James was a smith and wheelwright, of the Sailor's Home Inn, 8 St Nicholas Street, Melcombe Regis, living with his four children and a grandson. Robert was still a dock pilot, living with his wife in Dawdon, Seaham Harbour.⁵ His brother Charles, a wheelwright, was living with his wife and daughter, and his brother-in-law as a boarder, at 8 Trinity Street, Weymouth. His sister Sarah was visiting with Elizabeth Yeatman and family at 10 Dover Street, St Mary, Southampton, and living on a small pension from W.J. Co.⁶

Ann's brother Edward was still working as a shepherd in 1871, now living with his family at Bradford Road, Sherborne, Dorset.⁷ Her sister Sarah was working as a domestic servant at 13 Dartmouth Park Road, Kentish Town, London, in the household of Stephen Cooper, master tailor.⁸ Her brother John was an agricultural labourer, living with his family at East Berington Farm Cottage, Abbotsbury.⁹

Ann Ferry fell ill with cerebral disease around August 1870, of which she died a year later at 15 Liverpool Street, Bevois Town, Southampton, on the 5th August 1871.¹⁰

¹ *Dorset County Chronicle*, 10th May 1866; *Sherborne Mercury*, 16th May 1866.

² Death certificate.

³ RG 10/1187 f35 p19; Cox's 1871 *Directory*.

⁴ RG 10/2027 f5 p2.

⁵ RG 10/4973 f41 p76; RG 10/2000 f29 pp11-12.

⁶ RG 10/1187 f42 p33.

⁷ RG 10/2020 f42 p76.

⁸ RG 10/247 f53 p46; /2000, 247 f? p46

⁹ RG 10/2008 f13 p17.

¹⁰ Death certificate

Richard's widowerhood

When he registered Ann's death in August that year, Richard gave her address as 15 Liverpool Street, Bevois Town, Southampton, and his occupation as railway porter.¹

Alice Jane Ferry, of 2 Upper Dover Street, Southampton, was married at St Luke's parish church, Southampton, on the 31st October 1877, to Walter Baggs, a railway porter; her father's occupation was also recorded as railway porter.²

Richard remarried on the 22nd December 1878, his second wife being Harriett Lavington. The wedding took place at the East Street Wesleyan Chapel in Southampton (built in 1850)³. Harriett herself had been married before (she was 45), and had two children from her previous marriage; she had been born Harriett Bell. By this date Richard's occupation at the railway was in transition: he was described for the first time as "railway servant", and was only referred to as a porter on one further occasion (when his daughter married, in 1881).⁴

Richard and Ann's first grandchild was born to Walter and Alice Jane Baggs on the 30th October 1879, at 15 Lower Dover Street, Bevois Town, Southampton, and given the name Walter William.⁵

Richard's half-sister Ann died of senile decay at the Union Workhouse, Bradpole, Bridport, on the 27th February 1880, aged 81.⁶

On the 31st March 1881 Alice Jane Baggs gave birth to a daughter, Alice Margaret, at 15 Lower Dover Street, Southampton.⁷

By 1881 the L & SWR was able to offer its staff the following societies: Medical Fund, Provident Fund, Widows and Orphans, Friendly Society, Staff Guarantee Club, and Institute Club, as well as others. For needy retired clerical staff it offered the Decayed South-Western Clerks Fund.⁸

The census that year recorded Richard as a railway servant, of 41 Bevois Place, Rockstone Lane, Southampton, living with his second wife, his daughter Catherine (now working as a milliner), and two step-children. His daughter's marriage certificate, in June that year, recorded her address as 42 Rockstone Lane, and her father's occupation as railway porter; the address must be a mistake (the 1881 census records a family of the name of Bath at that address), which perhaps suggests that the occupational description on this occasion is also unreliable (perhaps they were reported by the groom). On the other hand, Richard's occupational description on his son's marriage certificate in

¹ Death certificate.

² Daughter's marriage certificate.

³ www.british-history.ac.uk/report.asp?compid=42037#s24.

⁴ Marriage certificate; RG 12/913 f65 p36; daughter's marriage certificate.

⁵ Birth certificate.

⁶ Death certificate.

⁷ Birth certificate.

⁸ McKenna: 43.

December 1881 is different again: he is described as a “writer” (i.e. a clerk).¹

In the 1881 census Alice Jane and Walter Baggs were recorded as living at 15 Upper Dover Street, Southampton, with their young children. Also living with them was Alice’s brother John Ferry, a carver and gilder. Harry Ferry was working as a railway carrier’s clerk, living at 12 Portland Street, Weymouth. Annie Ferry was working as a domestic servant in the household of Abelard Aldana, the Columbian consul, at 10 Cranbury Place, St Mary, Southampton.²

That year Richard’s brother James, a smith and wheelwright, was living with his son and grandson at 3 St Nicholas Street, Melcombe Regis. His brother Robert was now a waterman, but still living with his wife at 7 Vane Terrace, Dawdon. His brother Charles, still a wheelwright, and now a widower, was living with his son’s family and one of his daughters at 8 Trinity Place, Weymouth.³

Ann’s brother Edward was still a shepherd, living with his family at Newtown, Milborne Port. Her sister Sarah was a cook in the household of William Highmore, MRCS, physician and surgeon, of Green Hill, Sherborne. Her brother John was now a farm bailiff, living with his wife in a cottage in Portisham, Dorset.⁴

On the 20th May 1881 Annie Ferry gave birth to a daughter, Beatrice Annie Ferry Grant, at 15 Dover Street, Southampton. Three weeks later, on the 11th June, she married the father, James William Grant, a boot blacker and clicker (a worker in the shoe trade cutting out the lowers), of 7 Cliff Road, Southampton. When she registered Beatrice’s birth on the 30th June she marked her name; she gave her address as 93 Saint Andrews Road, Southampton.⁵

On the 5th December 1881 Harry Ferry, described as an accountant of Horfield, Gloucestershire, married Mary Agnes Hole, daughter of James Hole, decorator, at Bishopston parish church, Gloucestershire.⁶

On the 23rd September 1882 Annie Grant had another daughter, Lilian Kate, born at 30 Dover Street.⁷

Ruth Elizabeth Baggs was born at 32 Dover Street, Southampton, on 22 December 1882.⁸

Stevens’s *Directory of Southampton* for 1884 and 1887 (the latter posthumously) give Richard’s address as Rockstone Cottage, Rockstone Lane, Bevois Town, Southampton, also described as 41 Bevois Place, Rockstone Lane. His occupation in this source is given as superintendent of the

¹ RG 11/1205 f94 p29; children’s marriage certificates.

² RG 11/1205 f45 p26; RG 11/2502 f17 p29; RG 11/1205 f82 p6; RG 11/1205 f94 p29.

³ RG 11/2104 f113 p3; RG 11/4967 f51 p35; RG 11/2106 f128 p12; RG 11/2106 f128 p12.

⁴ RG 11/2396 f142 p15; RG 11/2117 f52 p37; RG 11/2109 f38 p17.

⁵ Daughter’s birth certificate; marriage certificate.

⁶ Marriage certificate.

⁷ Daughter’s birth certificate.

⁸ Birth certificate.

railway coal department.⁹

On the 11th February 1884 Harry Ferry's daughter Agnes Lilian Sarah was born at 2 Portland Square W, Plymouth, Devon; Harry was described as a carrier's clerk.²

On the 28th May 1884 Richard Ferry was among the witnesses at the wedding of his daughter Catherine to Charles White, a joiner of Cromwell Row, Southampton, at St Luke's parish church, Southampton. Also among the witnesses were Richard's step-children Thomas and Mary Lavington.³

Richard, described as a railway servant, died at 41 Rockstone Lane, Southampton, on the 1st July 1884. The cause of death was given as cerebral tumour 2 months, effusion 4 days; 'effusion' is an abnormal collection of fluid. At his son's marriage in 1890, Richard's occupation was given as "railway clerk (deceased)."⁴



Rockstone Cottage, 41 Rockstone Lane;
photographed for Google Maps, May 2016

¹ Stevens's *Directory of Southampton*, 1884, 1887.

² Daughter's birth certificate.

³ Daughter's marriage certificate.

⁴ Death certificate; son's marriage certificate.

Afterlives

Siblings

In 1901 Charles Ferry was a retired wheelwright, now living alone at 4 James Court, Melcombe Regis. He died at Holy Trinity, Wyke Regis, Weymouth, on the 14th December 1911.¹

In 1901 Sarah Trevett, a domestic cook, was feeble minded, and resident in the Wincanton Union, Somerset; she died in early 1903, in Wincanton. John Trevett was a retired farmer, living with the family of his son John at Blinda, Greenhill, Northwood, Isle of Wight; he may have been the John Trevett who was buried at Puncknowle, Dorset, in December 1909.²

Widow

Harriet continued to live at 41 Rockstone Lane, where she is found in 1891 with her son Thomas, and in 1901, with her daughter Mary. “Mrs Ferry” is still listed at that address in the 1907 *Directory*, but died at home on the 22nd September 1915.³

Children

Alice Jane Baggs gave birth to a fourth child, Frank Henry John, on the 5th January 1888, at Princetown, Lydford, Tavistock, Devon. In 1891 she and her family were living at HM Convict Prison, Gillingham Kent, where her husband was an assistant warder. In 1901 they were living at 2, H. Quarters, Portland Prison, Dorset; in 1911 at 433 Canterbury Road, Gillingham, Kent. She died of pneumonia at 31 Marlborough Road, Gillingham, on the 20th April 1918.⁴

John Ferry, an artist, of 33 Middle Street, Southampton, married Agnes Mary Chamberlain, daughter of Ebenezer Chamberlain, clerk, at St Luke’s parish church, Southampton, on the 28th June 1890. In 1891 he was described as a self-employed artist sculp[tor], living with his wife in three rooms at 17 Cedar Road St Mary, Southampton. He had a son, Arthur Edward Stansfield Ferry, in 1895, and by 1901, a self-employed artist and cameo gilder, was living with his wife and son at 9 Cliff Road, Southampton. From the 1890s until his death he regularly showed his paintings at the annual exhibitions of the Southampton Art Society. In 1911 he was recorded, with his family and two boarders, at Sherwood, Omdurman Road, Highfield, Southampton. By 1921 he was a self-employed artist and picture restorer, living with his family at 31 Omdurman Road, with a family of three as boarders. He died in the autumn of 1932, in New Forest registration district.⁵

Harry Ferry—now calling himself Henry—was still employed as a clerk in 1901, and was living in

¹ RG 13/1993 f76 18; GRO index; information from Maurice Ferry.

² RG 13/2306 f22 p36; GRO index; RG 13/1019 f12 p16; parish register.

³ RG 12/913 f65 p36; RG 13/1053 f74 p6; *Directory*, 1907; GRO index; *Hampshire Advertiser*, 1915-10-02.

⁴ Child’s birth certificate; death certificate; RG 12/665 f121 p44; RG13/1997 f79 p43; RG14PN3952 RG78PN150 RD47 SD2 ED23 SN25; coverage in the *Hampshire Advertiser*.

⁵ Marriage certificate; RG 12/913 f26 p2; RG 13/1053 f35 p5; RG14PN5942 RG78PN273A RD99 SD1 ED8 SN300; GRO index.

two rooms at 158 Beaumont Road, Plymouth, with his wife and daughter Agnes. In 1911 he was a clerk in a shipping office, living with his family at 34 Lipson Hill Terrace, Plymouth, Devon; in 1921 at the same address, but described specifically as a shipping clerk, employed by H.J. Waring & Co., at Millbay, Plymouth. He died in Plymouth in the last quarter of 1927.¹

Annie Grant had another child, Hilda, in 1888. In 1901 the family were living at 24 Dover Street, Southampton. In 1911 she was working in ladies' tailoring, and, with her daughters, visiting with her sister Catherine's family; in 1921, engaged in home duties, she was living with her eldest daughter at 16 Northumberland Road, Southampton. She died in Southampton in early 1934.²

In 1891 Catherine White was living in four rooms at 17 Cedar Road, Southampton, with her husband and two children; the house was shared with her brother John. By 1901 she was living with her husband and three children at Rosedale, Heatherdean Road, Portswood, Southampton, as she was in 1911. In 1921 she was engaged in home duties, and, with her husband, was living with the family of their son Reginald, with their daughter Mabel, at 55 West Street, Warminster, Wiltshire. She died in Warminster in the autumn of 1923.³

Grandchildren

In 1901 Walter William Baggs was a student at the Training College in Winchester. He subsequently became headmaster of Launceston Council School in Cornwall, and changed his name to Pierson, at the insistence of his wife. He died in 1931.⁴

In 1901 (Alice) Margaret Baggs was still living with her parents, but was a pupil teacher. She subsequently married Arthur Petts, had two children, and died in 1970.⁵

Ruth Elizabeth Baggs was living with her parents in prison quarters at Gillingham Prison in 1891, but spent most of her childhood in the Portland area of Dorset. In 1901 she was living with her family at 2, H. Quarters, Portland Prison. Though she aspired to teaching, and was for a time a pupil teacher, she was prevented from this by domestic responsibilities. She married Reuben Alexander Beck at St Mark's church, New Brompton, Kent, in 1910, and had six children. She died, after a stroke, in 1949.⁶

(Frank Henry) John Baggs trained as a teacher at Goldsmiths College, and subsequently taught in Wandsworth, moving to Broadstone in Dorset when his school was evacuated during the Second World War. He married Grace Harriden in 1913, and the couple had one child, a daughter. The

¹ RG 13/2095 f109 p14; RG14PN12973 RG78PN748 RD276 SD2 ED15 SN55; RG 15/10627 RD276 SD2 ED18 SN32; GRO index.

² RG 13/1053 f41 p17; RG14PN5943 RG78PN273A RD99 SD1 ED9 SN156; RG 15/05595 RD99 SD1 ED27 SN236; GRO index.

³ RG 12/913 f26 p2; RG 13/1068 f167 p34; RG14PN5943 RG78PN273A RD99 SD1 ED9 SN156; RG 15/10062 RD Warminster SD Warminster ED9 SN77.

⁴ RG 13/1082 f100 p45; National Probate Calendar.

⁵ RG 13/1997 f79 p48; GRO index.

⁶ RG 12/665 f121 p44; RG 13/1997 f79 p43; interview with Sidney Beck, conducted by myself and Debbie Wells, transcribed by me; marriage certificate; death certificate.

family never subsequently left Broadstone.¹

Arthur E.S. Ferry began working life as a cabinet maker and polisher, but by 1921 had become an upholsterer, and by 1939 was self-employed as such. He married Chrishilda Rose Scammell in 1924, but the couple had no children. He died near the end of 1980.²

Agnes L.S. White married Harry Short Daniel, an assistant draughtsman at the government dockyard in Plymouth in 1906. The couple had three children, and continued to live in Plymouth until her death in late 1952.³

Beatrice A.F. Grant became a mantle maker, and later a coat maker. She married Frederick James Axton in 1924, but died in early 1931, in Southampton.⁴

Lilian K. Grant worked as a chemist's packer prior to her marriage in 1909 to William George Singleton, in Southampton. Initially they lived in Watford, Hertfordshire, but by 1939 they were living in Southampton again. She died in Torquay, Devon, in late 1948.⁵

Hilda M. Grant worked as a dressmaker before her marriage in 1917 to Walter Edward Hughes, a driver for the Southampton Gaslight and Coke Company, in Southampton. They had one child, a daughter. The couple lived all their lives in Southampton, where Hilda died in late 1971.⁶

By 1939 Mabel E. White was working as a waitress, living in Tendring, Essex, with her sister's family. Details of her death have yet to be found.⁷

Violet E. White was working as a dressmaker in 1911, but after her 1916 marriage at South Newton, Wiltshire, to Joseph Lawson, a relieving officer, she gave up paid work. After a period in Swindon, Wiltshire, they lived at Tendring. She died in Winchester registration district in early 1972.⁸

Reginald N. White worked variously as a hot water fitter, a general labourer, and a house decorator. He married Kate Grace in Romsey registration district in the spring of 1917, and the couple had three children. He died in Romsey in the last quarter of 1976.⁹

¹ *The Memoirs of Sidney Beck*; RG 15/2475 RG 26 SD9 ED24; GRO index.

² RG14PN5942 RG78PN273A RD99 SD1 ED8 SN300; RG 15/05576 RD99 SD1 ED8 SN383; 1939 England and Wales Register (RG 101); GRO index; National Probate Calendar.

³ GRO index; Devon Marriages, at Find My Past.

⁴ RG 13/1053 f41 p17; RG 15/05595 RD99 SD1 ED27 SN236; GRO index.

⁵ RG14PN7709 RG78PN380 RD140 SD2 ED11 SN342; GRO index; RG 15/07197 RD140 SD2 ED15 SN61; 1939 England and Wales Register (RG 101).

⁶ RG14PN5943 RG78PN273A RD99 SD1 ED9 SN156; GRO index; 1939 England and Wales Register (RG 101).

⁷ 1939 England and Wales Register (RG 101).

⁸ RG14PN5943 RG78PN273A RD99 SD1 ED9 SN156; South Newton parish register; 1939 England and Wales Register (RG 101); GRO index.

⁹ RG14PN5943 RG78PN273A RD99 SD1 ED9 SN156; GRO index; RG 15/10062 RD Warminster SD Warminster ED9 SN77; 1939 England and Wales Register (RG 101).

Living descendants

The descent from Richard and Ann Ferry isn't fully known, but at least 128 descendants are believed to be currently living.