

BRANSCOMBE FAMILY HISTORY

Lily Rose Branscombe
June 1895-March 1982
M. 18 May 1919
William Oldfield

Edward John Branscombe
Feb 1851-C.1931
M. 13 April 1973
Ellen Bartlett

Edward Branscombe
Feb 1826-C.1868
M. C.1847
Mary Ann Chenneour

Edward Branscombe
Jan 1791-Feb 1843
M. 8 April 1817
Ann Starling

Robert Branscombe
M. 5 May 1784
Joanna Branscombe

Generation 1:

William Oldfield, a bachelor, married Rose Garton, a widow, by banns at Christ Church, in Kensington's Notting Hill, on the eighteenth of May 1919. William, aged twenty-nine, was described as a Salesman of 57 Warrington Road, whose father Thomas Summers Oldfield was a Carpenter. Rose, aged twenty-three, was described as having no occupation but as being of 26 Wheatstone Road and being the daughter of Edward John Bronscombe, a painter. Witnesses to the marriage were Elizabet G Pont and [Lilian?] J Cagdell.

[Image redacted for copyright reasons]

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Figure 1: The parish register entry for the marriage of William Oldfield and Rose Lily Garton (Nee Bronscombe)

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¹ A report would contain these images, but I have redacted them here because the document is intended for publication online

² *Register of Marriages: Christ Church, Notting Hill 1912-1919* p.222 (Image property of Ancestry.co.uk)

Rose's previous marriage had been to Nelson Leonard Garton and had taken place at Christ Church, Notting Hill, on the twenty-fifth of April 1915, when she was nineteen and Nelson twenty-two. Nelson was described as a Soldier of 26 Wheatstone Road, and the son of Charles Nelson Frederick Garton, an upholsterer. Rose was also described as of 26 Wheatstone Road and was said to be the daughter of Edward John Bronscombe, a painter. Witnesses to the marriage were Thomas Edward Mac Cowan and Violet May Emberton.

[Image redacted for copyright reasons]

Figure 2: The parish register entry for the marriage of Nelson Leonard Gorton and Rose Lily Bronscombe

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Although Nelson's military records do not appear to have survived (around 60% were destroyed by fire during World War 2) there are records to show that he was a part of the ninth Battalion in the East Surrey Regiment and was killed in Belgium on the thirtieth April 1916, just days after his first wedding anniversary. Nelson was subsequently buried at Dranoutre Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.⁴

There is, at present, no evidence that William fought in the First World War but the 1911 census (April 1911) places him at 2 Holberton Gardens, Harrow Road, Kensal Green, in the household of his 'Cousin' Rosetta Mitchell. His occupation was as a blue collar worker collecting furniture hired to individuals or companies by an unnamed furniture dealer.

³ *Register of Marriages: Christ Church, Notting Hill 1912-1919* p.115 (property of Ancestry.co.uk)

⁴ 'Private Garton, N L' *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* <https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/453529/garton,-/> (Accessed 7 July 2020)

2 Holberton Gardens, Harrow Road, Kensal Green⁵

<i>Name</i>	<i>Relation to Head of House</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Marital Status</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Where born</i>
<i>Rose Mitchell</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>Widow</i>		<i>London, Marylebone</i>
<i>Robert Mitchell</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Greengrocer. Own account.</i>	<i>London, Willesden</i>
<i>Alfred Mitchell</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Cycle mechanic Worker</i>	<i>London, Paddington</i>
<i>William Oldfield</i>	<i>Cousin</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Hire System Collector. Furniture Dealer. Worker</i>	<i>London, N. Kensington</i>
<i>Alfred Holmes</i>	<i>Nephew</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Barman. Worker</i>	<i>London, Paddington</i>

⁵ 1911 census: 2 Holberton Gardens, Harrow Road, Kensal Green

Rose, probably because her marriage was a war-time one and lasted for only a short period, had no children by Nelson but she went on to have four daughters with William. The eldest, [Redacted for privacy reasons] was born on the eighth February 1921 and the second [Redacted for privacy reasons] was born on the twenty-fifth March 1922, just under fourteen months later. ^{6,7} [Redacted for privacy reasons] was born c.1924 and [Redacted for privacy reasons] c.1929.⁸

In the decade after the birth of the youngest daughter the family moved to Wembley, in the north of London, and the 1939 register (September 1939) recorded them living at 15 Swinderby Road, a short walk from the infamous Wembley Stadium⁹

1939 register: 15 Swinderby Road

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Birth Date</i>	<i>Marital Status</i>	<i>Occupation</i>
<i>William Oldfield</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>7 June 89</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Manager. Furniture Trade.</i>
<i>Rose L Oldfield</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>11 June 95</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Unpaid Dom. [Domestic] Duties</i>
<i>[Redacted for privacy reasons]</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>8 Feb 21</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>Clerk. In Wireless shop.</i>
<i>[Redacted for privacy reasons]</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>25 Mar 22</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>General Hand (Sorter of printer transfers)</i>
<i>[Redacted for privacy reasons]¹⁰</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>23 Apr 18</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>Charge Hand. (Wireless Factory)</i>
<i>[Blacked out]¹¹</i>				
<i>[Blacked out]</i>				
<i>[Blacked out]</i>				

William and Rose continued to live at 15 Swinderby Road until William's death at Hammersmith Hospital on the tenth of February 1961. He left effects to the value of £2422 19s 3d, with probate granted to Rose, his widow, on the twelfth of April 1961.¹²

⁶ GRO: Births: Kensington: 1st Quarter 1921. Vol 1a p.219/1939 register 15 Swinderby Road, Wembley

⁷ GRO: Births: Kensington: 2nd Quarter 1922. Vol 1a p.214/1939 register 15 Swinderby Road, Wembley

⁸ GRO: Births: Kensington: 4th Quarter 1924.Vol 1a p.162/ GRO: Births: Kensington: 1st Quarter 1929. Vol 1a p.162

⁹ The 1939 register is not strictly a census but instead a record of the population taken by the government in September 1939 in order to allow them to better prepare for the imminent outbreak of World War 2.

¹⁰ The 1939 register was subsequently used by the government for purposes such as the NHS, hence why married names were later added. [Redacted for privacy reasons] relationship to the family is at present unclear.

¹¹ For privacy reasons anyone whose birth date puts them under 100 years of age and who is not known to be dead is blanked out on the 1939 register. In this case two of the blanked out people were probably William and Rose's younger daughters.

¹² *Wills and Administrations: 1961: M-P* p.96

Rose remained at 15 Swinderby Road until her death on the 10 March 1982. She left effects to the value of £28,170.¹³

¹³ *Wills and Administrations:1982* p.6814

Generation 2: Edward Branscombe & Ellen Bartlett

Edward Branscombe, a bachelor of full age, married Ellen Bartlett, an unmarried minor, at the newly completed All Saints Church, Notting Hill, on the thirteenth April 1873.^{14,15}

[Image redacted for copyright reasons]

Figure 1. Parish Register entry for the marriage of Edward Branscombe and Ellen Bartlett at All Saints, Kensington, in April 1873

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Ellen was nineteen and a half when this marriage took place. She was also at least two months pregnant with her eldest child. In these circumstances a hasty marriage saved face and helped both families, as well as the bride and groom, to maintain the respectability that was so important to the Victorian mindset.

Over the next eight years Edward and Ellen became the parents of the following:

1) Ellen Maria Branscombe born c.1873 bap. 11 Nov 1874. St Michael and All Angels, North Kensington. Father-Painter. Abode-353 Portobello Road. Private Baptism.¹⁷
Died c.1876. Aged 2.¹⁸

¹⁴ Before 1970, the age of majority was classed as 21 rather than 18. In 1873, therefore, nineteen-year-old Ellen would still have been classed as a minor. Notting Hill is an area of West London and is situated in the borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

¹⁵ 'History of All Saints' *All Saints Notting Hill* <https://www.allsaintsnottinghill.org.uk/HistoricalReview.html> [Accessed 29 July 2020]

¹⁶ *Register of Marriages: All Saints, Kensington 1872-1878* p.10 (image property of Ancestry.co.uk. Original record held at London Metropolitan Archives)

¹⁷ GRO: Births: Kensington: 4th Quarter 1873. Vol 01A p.150/*Register of Baptisms: St Michael and All Angels, North Kensington: 1871-1883* p.26

¹⁸ GRO: Deaths: Kensington: 2nd Quarter 1876. Vol 01A p.88

2. Edward George Branscombe born c.1874 bap. (1) 16 Nov 1874. St Michael and All Angels, North Kensington. Father-Painter. Abode-353 Portobello Road. Private Baptism bap. (2) 18 April 1880. All Saints, Kensington. Father-Painter. Abode- 39 Wheatstone Road.^{19,20,21}

Following Edward's birth, the family moved to the newly built Wheatstone Road. A photo of Wheatstone road in the 1970s (not republishable here for copyright reasons) shows that the houses were typical three-storey late Victorian terraces whilst the census records suggest that they were quickly subdivided, so that the Branscombes occupied just a few rooms and the rest were let to other families.²² Whilst at Wheatstone Road, Edward and Ellen had a further three children:

3. Rose Alice Branscombe born 23 June 1877 bap. 29 January 1879. All Saints, Kensington. Father-Painter. Abode-39 Wheatstone Road.²³
Died c.1879. Aged 1.^{24,25}

4. Frederick Charles Branscombe born 7 January 1879 bap. 29 January 1879. All Saints, Kensington. Father-Painter. Abode-39 Wheatstone Road.²⁶
Died c.1879. Aged 0.²⁷

5. Percy James Branscombe born 11 January 1880 bap. 18 April 1880. All Saints, Kensington. Father- Painter. Abode-39 Wheatstone Road.²⁸
Died c.1888. Aged 8.²⁹

¹⁹ There are two separate baptism entries for Edward but why his parents had him baptised twice is unclear.

²⁰ There is some dispute over Edward's birth date. In his first baptism he was described as having been born on the 19th October 1874 (which would make him a round year younger than his sister) but on second baptism he was described as being born on the 29th November 1873, which would mean his birth clashed with that of Ellen. Furthermore, the fact that the birth was registered in the final quarter of 1874 provides more weight to the theory that the 1874 date was the correct one.

²¹ *Register of Baptisms: St Michael and All Angels, North Kensington: 1871-1883* p.26/*Register of Baptisms: All Saints, Kensington 1877-1888* p.137

²² 'The Works Committee' *West London Observer* 16 May 1868 p.2/ 'The Science District of North Kensington' *North Kensington Histories* <https://northkensingtonhistories.wordpress.com/2016/01/21/the-science-district-of-north-kensington-2/> [Accessed 29 July 2020]

²³ *Register of Baptisms: All Saints, Kensington 1877-1888* p.74

²⁴ GRO: Deaths: Kensington: 1st Quarter 1879. Vol 01A p.99

²⁵ The name given on this death registration index record is Rosanna. Given the closeness of the baptism and the death registration (at most three months, likely less), it seems probable this was a clerical error rather than a name change.

²⁶ *Register of Baptisms: All Saints, Kensington 1877-1888* p.74

²⁷ GRO: Deaths: Kensington: 3rd Quarter 1879. Vol 01A p.77

²⁸ *Register of Baptisms: All Saints, Kensington 1877-1888* p.138

²⁹ GRO: Deaths: Kensington: 3rd Quarter 1888. Vol 01A p.146

By the time the 1881 census was taken (April 1881), Edward, a painter, his wife Ellen and their two surviving sons Edward and Percy (Ellen, Rose and Frederick being deceased) had moved around the corner to 3 Rendle Street, a property built around the same time as Wheatstone Road and again subdivided, with a further four families (fifteen people including several children and a five-month-old baby) living, check-by-jowl, in the building.

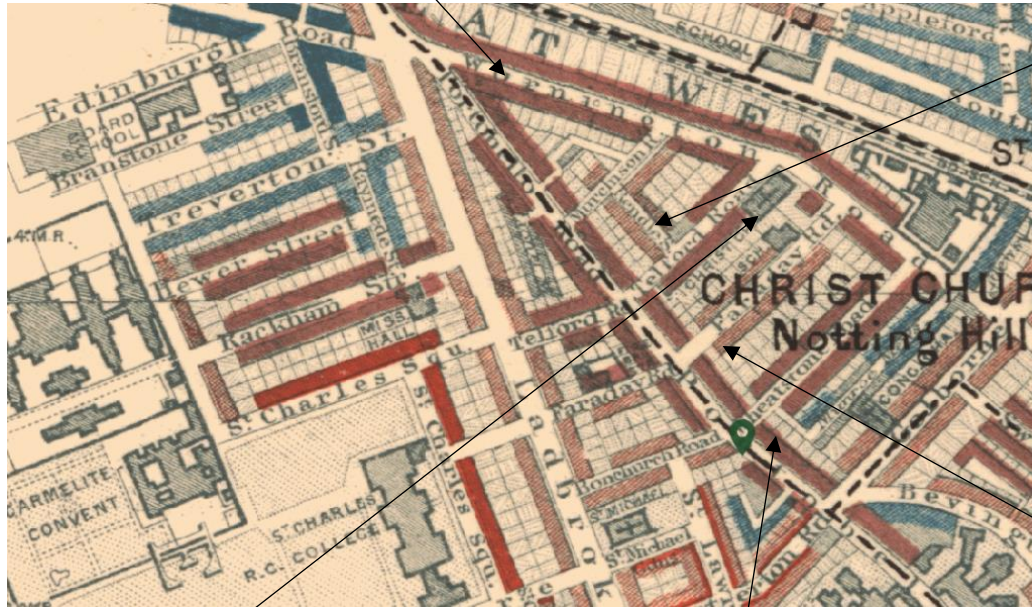
1881 census. 3 Rendle Street, Kensington³⁰

<i>Name</i>	<i>Relation to Head of House</i>	<i>Marital Status</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Where born</i>
<i>Edward Bromscombe</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>Painter</i>	<i>Manchester</i>
<i>Ellen Bromscombe</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>26</i>		<i>Mid, Barnet³¹</i>
<i>Edward Bromscombe</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>5</i>		<i>Mid, Barnet</i>
<i>Percy Bromscombe</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>1 year</i>	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Mid, Kensington</i>

³⁰ *1881 census: 3 Rendle Street, Kensington R.G.11/39*

³¹ In this census Mid is used as an abbreviation of Middlesex

3) Wornington Road where the Branscombe's lived at the time of the 1891 census



2) Rendle Street, where the Branscombe's lived at the time of the 1881 census

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4) Faraday Road where the Branscombe's were living c.1895 when Rose Lily was born

Christchurch, Notting Hill, where Edward and Ellen baptised a number of their children

1, 5 & 6) Wheatstone Road where the Branscombe's lived in the early years of their marriage (No.39). They later lived at No. 18 and then No.26

Figure 2. Extract from Charles Booth's poverty maps showing the roads where the Branscombe family lived. The red colour was used by Booth to describe roads that were 'Mixed' with some residents being 'comfortable' and others 'poor'. Given Edwards' blue-collar occupation and the fact that the family always lived in sub-divided housing it seems reasonable to suggest they were probably towards the poorer end of the scale.

Over the next decade Edward and Ellen added the following children to their family:

6. Florence Alice Branscombe born c.1882 Kensington³³

7. Daisy Louisa Branscombe born 8 March 1885 bap.26 July 1905. Christchurch, Notting Hill. Father-Painter. Abode- 18 Wheatstone Road.³⁴

³² Charles Booth *Poverty Maps* <https://booth.lse.ac.uk/map/17/-0.2116/51.5227/100/0?marker=524258.0,181809.0> [Accessed 12 July 2020]

³³ GRO: Births: Kensington: 1st Quarter 1882. Vol 01A p.83

³⁴ *Register of Baptisms: Christchurch, Notting Hill 1899 -1907* p.224

8. Alfred (Albert) John Branscombe born 9 April 1889 bap.19 Nov 1892. Christchurch, Notting Hill. Father- Painter. Abode- 176 Worrington Road.^{35,36}

9. Violet May Branscombe born c.1891³⁷

The 1891 census (April 1891) recorded Edward Branscombe, an employed Painter, and his wife Ellen living in two rooms at 176 Worrington Road, on the Kensington-Chelsea boarder, with their six children.³⁸ Florence, aged 10, Alfred aged 8, and Daisy aged 7 were all recorded as scholars whilst Edward, aged 17, was noted to be an employed tube maker, although exactly what kind of tubes he was making was unspecified.

As previously, the property was subdivided into one or two room 'apartments' and, besides the Branscombes, was occupied by a further five families. Although this eight roomed, three-storied, house was home to twenty-six people, the oldest of whom was 57 and the youngest just 3 months.³⁹

*1891 census: 176 Worrington Road, Chelsea. 2 Rooms.*⁴⁰

<i>Name</i>	<i>Relation to Head of House</i>	<i>Marital Status</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Where born</i>
<i>Edward J Branscombe</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>Painter. Employed</i>	<i>Manchester</i>
<i>Ellen Branscombe</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>36</i>		<i>Barnet</i>
<i>Edward J Branscombe</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>Tube maker. Employed</i>	<i>Barnet</i>
<i>Florence A Branscombe</i>	<i>Daur</i>		<i>10</i>	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>London, Westborne Pt</i>
<i>Alfred J Branscombe</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>8</i>	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>London, Westborne Pt</i>
<i>Daisy L Branscombe</i>	<i>Daur</i>		<i>7</i>	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>London, Westborne Pt</i>
<i>Albert Branscombe</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>2</i>		<i>London, Westborne Pt</i>
<i>Violet Branscombe</i> ⁴¹	<i>Daur</i>		<i>1</i>		<i>London, Westborne Pt</i>

³⁵ This child was registered and baptised as Albert but later used the name Alfred John

³⁶ *Register of Baptisms: Christchurch, Notting Hill 1891-1899* p.34

³⁷ GRO: Births: Kensington: 1st Quarter 1891. Vol 01A p.107

³⁸ 'Great Western Railway' *Reading Mercury*, 23 November 1872 p.7

³⁹ 'George H. Duckworth's Notebook: Police District 23 [St Mary Paddington and Kensal Town], District 28 [Kensington Town], District 30 [Hammersmith]' *Charles Booth Notebooks* BOOTH/B/359

⁴⁰ *1871 census: 176 Worrington Road, Chelsea* RG12/57

⁴¹ Violet's age is probably incorrect here. If we assume that, as was the case with her siblings, her birth was formally registered within a few months she cannot have been more than six months old, if that, in April 1891.

Edward and Ellen's youngest children were

10) Bertie Arthur Branscombe born c.1892⁴²

11) Rose Lily Branscombe born 25 June 1895 bap. 3 July 1895. Christchurch, Notting Hill. Father- Painter. Abode- 23 Faraday Road⁴³

By the 1901 census (April 1901), the family had returned to Wheatstone Road and were residing in 3 rooms at No. 18. Income came chiefly from Edward senior and Edward junior, both of whom were employed as Painters. The rest of the surviving children remained at home, although none had any recorded occupations.

Like Edward and Ellen's previous homes this house was also subdivided. Across nine rooms (the Branscombes had three, everyone else had two) there were, including the Branscombes, twenty-eight people divided into four families.

1901 census: 18 Wheatstone Road, Kensington. 3 Rooms⁴⁴

<i>Name</i>	<i>Relation to Head of House</i>	<i>Marital Status</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Where born</i>
<i>Edward J Branscombe</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Painter. Worker</i>	<i>Lancs Manchester</i>
<i>Ellen Branscombe</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>45</i>		<i>Middlesex, Barnet</i>
<i>Edward G Branscombe</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>Painter. Worker</i>	<i>Middlesex, Barnet</i>
<i>Alfred J Branscombe</i>	<i>Daur</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>17</i>		<i>Lond N Kensington⁴⁵</i>
<i>Florie A Branscombe</i>	<i>Daur</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>19</i>		<i>Lond N Kensington</i>
<i>Daisy L Branscombe</i>	<i>Daur</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>16</i>		<i>Lond N Kensington</i>
<i>Violet M Branscombe</i>	<i>Daur</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>10</i>		<i>Lond N Kensington</i>
<i>Rose L Branscombe</i>	<i>Daur</i>		<i>5</i>		<i>Lond N Kensington</i>
<i>Bertie A Branscombe</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>9</i>		<i>Lond N Kensington</i>

⁴² GRO: Births: Kensington: 1st Quarter 1892. Vol 01A p.136

⁴³ *Register of Baptisms: Christchurch, Notting Hill 1891-1899* p.136

⁴⁴ *1901 census: 18 Wheatstone Road, Kensington* RG 13/29

⁴⁵ This is a shortened way of writing London, North Kensington

In the 1911 census (April 1911), Edward and Ellen (who recorded themselves on the census form as Mr and Mrs Branscombe) had moved to 26 Wheatstone Road along with their three children Alfred, Bert and Rose. They had three rooms but shared the house with a further three families, each of whom had two rooms each. Combined, this meant twenty-three people were living at the address, a number which is hardly low but must surely be considered to be an improvement on their previous situation.

*1911 census: 26 Wheatstone Road, Kensington. 3 Rooms.*⁴⁶

<i>Name</i>	<i>Relation to Head of House</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Marital Status</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Where born</i>
<i>Mr Bramscombe</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>Married. 28 years.</i>	<i>House Painter</i>	<i>Manchester</i>
<i>Mrs Bramcombe</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>Married. 12 children. 7 living, 5 dead</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Barnet St albans</i>
<i>Bramscombe Alfred John</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>House Painter. Worker.</i>	<i>Kensington London</i>
<i>Bramscombe Bert arther</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Van Gard for G.Orkly. Worker.</i>	<i>London Chelsea</i>
<i>Bramscombe Rose Lily</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Daily Girl (Domestic). Worker.</i>	<i>London Kensington</i>

There are no records of any of Edward and Ellen's sons being killed in the First World War, but their son-in-law Nelson Gorton was killed in April 1916, just days after his first wedding anniversary.

Edward and Ellen's eldest son, Edward George, died in 1921 at the age of forty-five.⁴⁷

Edward appears to have died, aged 79, in early 1931 and Ellen, aged 74, later in the same year.⁴⁸

⁴⁶ *1911 census: 26 Wheatstone Road, Notting Hill*

⁴⁷ GRO: Deaths: Kensington: 4th Quarter 1921. Vol 01A p.176

⁴⁸ GRO: Deaths: Kensington: 1st Quarter 1931. Vol 01A p.166/GRO: Deaths: Kensington: 3rd Quarter 1931. Vol 01A p.144

Generation 3: Edward Branscombe & Mary Ann Chenneour

Edward Branscombe was married to Mary Ann Chenneour by banns at Coventry Cathedral sometime between late September and mid-October 1847. Unfortunately, the record was damaged when Coventry Cathedral was bombed during the Second World War and, in consequence, the outer edge, including the precise date and the signatures of the bride and groom has been lost.⁴⁹

[Image redacted for copyright reasons]

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Figure 3. Parish Register entry from the marriage of Edward Branscombe and Mary Ann Chenneour in 1847. The register was damaged during the bombing of Coventry Cathedral in World War 2

Edward and Mary's eldest child appears to have been

- 1) Henry Branscombe Chennour bap. 31 March 1847 (along with his cousin James). St Olave's, Exeter. Mother-Single woman. Abode- St Mary Arches Street⁵¹

Although no father is recorded, it seems almost certain, given the inclusion of the Branscombe name and the marriage later that year, that Edward was Henry's father. The parish priest, being a good and respectable Victorian, would likely have disapproved of his parishioners bearing children outside the marriage bed and so recorded only the mother's details. The inclusion of the name Branscome, however, ensured that once the marriage had taken place the Chennour could be quietly dropped and no one would be any the wiser

⁴⁹ 'Coventry St Michael Parish Registers' *Midland Ancestors* <https://midland-ancestors.shop/WARP357D>

[Accessed 19 July 2020]

⁵⁰ *Register of Marriages: St Michael's [Cathedral] Coventry 1844-1847* p.234 (Image property of Find My Past. Original record held by Warwickshire Record Office)

⁵¹ *Register of Baptisms*

Over the next three and a half years Edward and Mary Ann had, in addition to Henry, the following children:

2) Charlotte Louisa Branscombe born Dec 1849. Birmingham, Warwickshire.⁵²

Buried 30 Dec 1849. St George, Birmingham. Aged 3 weeks. Abode-New John Street West.⁵³

3) Edward John Branscombe born 21 February 1851. Manchester, Lancashire. Bap. 27 June 1852. Manchester Cathedral. Father-Painter. Abode- Manchester.⁵⁴

A year prior to Edward's baptism the 1851 census (March 1851) had recorded the family at 74 Oxford Street, Manchester. The ability to employ two men suggests that Edward's work as a House Painter was going well and, perhaps as a result of this, the family only needed to share their house with one other family. This was the Sourcer family, consisting of Thomas and his two adult children Frederick and Ann. Although the site where the property sat is now occupied by the Samaritans organization, there is stylistic evidence that these were once small terraced properties occupied by those at the lower end of the social spectrum.

*1851 census. 74 Oxford Street, Manchester.*⁵⁵

<i>Name</i>	<i>Relation to Head of House</i>	<i>Marital Status</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Where born</i>
<i>Edward Branscombe</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>House Painter. Employing 2 men.</i>	<i>Devon, Exeter</i>
<i>Mary Ann Branscombe</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>29</i>		<i>Devon, Exeter</i>
<i>Edward Branscombe</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>1 mo</i>		<i>Manchester</i>

Edward and Mary's elder son, Henry, was recorded in the 1851 census as being in the parish of St Olave's, Exeter, and more specifically in the household of his paternal grandparents William and Mary Chennour.⁵⁶ It is unclear exactly what he was doing there but one theory is that he may have been temporarily sent away whilst the new baby was born.

That he subsequently married in Notting Hill in 1876 suggests he probably lived with his parents later. Although a lack of 1861 census makes this impossible to prove, the fact that Henry is also missing in 1861 further supports the theory that he did normally live with his parents.

⁵² GRO: Births: Birmingham: 3rd Quarter 1849. Vol 16 p.275

⁵³ *Register of Burials: St George's, Birmingham 1848-1862* p.298

⁵⁴ *Register of Baptisms: Manchester Cathedral 1852* p.288

⁵⁵ *1851 census: 74 Oxford Street, Manchester* [Ref missing- damage to page]

⁵⁶ See the below sections of Branscombe & Chennour

There are no recorded children born into this family over the next several years' but it is known that at some point in that period they removed to London where two further sons were born:

4) Charles Richard Branscombe born 13 October 1856, Paddington area. Bap. 8 May 1859. St Stephen's, Paddington. Father-Painter. Abode- 28 Victoria Place.⁵⁷

5) Frederick William Branscombe born c.1861. bap.27 September 1863. Holy Trinity, Paddington. Father-Painter. Abode-40 [Cirencester?] Street.⁵⁸

It has not been possible to locate the Branscombe's in the 1861 census and so the next record of them is found in the arrival of:

6) Mary Ann Branscombe born c.1864 bap.7 September 1864. Holy Trinity, Paddington. Father- Painter. Abode-40 [Cirencester?] Street.⁵⁹
Died before 1871.⁶⁰

Edward Branscombe senior died c.1868 at the age of forty-two.⁶¹

By the time the 1871 census was taken (April 1871) Mary Ann was living with three of her sons, Edward, Charles and Frederick, at 9a Basing Road, Kensington. Although, this being an earlier census, no record was made of how many rooms they occupied, they are known to have shared the property with the Jenkins family (William, a Coach body maker, his wife Amelia, a Staymaker, and their three young children).

Charles Booth's poverty maps suggest that the road (now Basing Street) was in a lower middle/working class area.⁶² In his notebooks, Booth described the houses (surviving examples show them to be three storied Georgian terraces) as being of 'good repair' but having no servants, thus supporting the suggestion that the people occupying them were not destitute but were not wealthy either.

⁵⁷ *Register of Baptisms: St Stephen's, Paddington 1856-1865* p.48

⁵⁸ GRO: Births: Kensington: 4th Quarter 1861. Vol 01A p.2/*Register of Baptisms: Holy Trinity, Paddington 1859-1866* p.162

⁵⁹ GRO: Births: Kensington: 3rd Quarter 1864. Vol 01A p.38/ *Register of Baptisms: Holy Trinity, Paddington 1859-1866* p.221

⁶⁰ No death record has been found but it seems like that the younger Mary Ann did not survive as she is not recorded to have been living with mother and siblings on the 1871 census.

⁶¹ GRO: Deaths: Kensington: 3rd Quarter 1868. Vol 01A p.56

⁶² *Charles Booth Poverty Maps/ 'George H. Duckworth's Notebook: Police District 23 [St Mary Paddington and Kensal Town], District 28 [Kensington Town], District 30 [Hammersmith]' Charles Booth Notebooks* BOOTH/B/359 p.93

1871 census: 9a Basing Road, Kensington⁶³

<i>Name</i>	<i>Relation to Head of House</i>	<i>Marital Status</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Where born</i>
<i>Mary A Branscombe</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>48</i>		<i>Exeter</i>
<i>Edward J Branscombe</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Unm</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Painter</i>	<i>Manchester</i>
<i>Charles R Branscombe</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>14</i>	<i>Paper Hanger</i>	<i>Notting Hill</i>
<i>Fredk W Branscombe</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>8</i>	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Harrow Road</i>

At the time of the 1881 census (April 1881) Mary was a Monthly Nurse who lived with her two adult sons Charles and Frederick, both paper hangers, at 110 Golborne Road, Kensington.⁶⁴ As with their previous home, Golborne Road was situated in an area populated by the lower middle and the working classes. In addition to the Branscombe's, the house was occupied by the Birks family (James, a coal miner, his wife Martha and their four children) and the Birks family lodger, Sophia Newton.

1881 census. 110 Golborne Road, Kensington.⁶⁵

<i>Name</i>	<i>Relation to Head of House</i>	<i>Marital Status</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Where born</i>
<i>Marrian Branscombe</i> ⁶⁶	<i>Head</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>Monthly Nurse</i>	<i>Devon Exeter</i>
<i>Charles Branscombe</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Unm</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>Paper Hanger</i>	<i>Mid Kensington</i>
<i>Frederick Branscombe</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Unm</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Paper Hanger</i>	<i>Mid Kensington</i>

⁶³ 1871 census: 9a Basing Road, Kensington R.G.10 45

⁶⁴ A monthly nurse was a woman employed to look after a woman and infant in the period immediately post-childbirth whilst a paper hanger was someone paid to hang wallpaper.

⁶⁵ 1881 census: 110 Golborne Road, Kensington R.G.11/39

⁶⁶ There is an error on the census record where Mary Ann is recorded as Marrian. This may have come from a misunderstanding of her Devonshire accent.

Mary Ann Branscombe died c.1884 in Kensington. Her age was given as 69, although this is likely incorrect.^{67,68}

Generation 4: Edward Branscombe & Ann Starling

Edward Branscombe, a bachelor of Dawlish, married Ann Starling, a spinster of the parish, by Licence at Townstal, Dartmouth, Devon on the 8 April 1817. Although Edward signed his name, Ann left her mark, suggesting she may have been illiterate. Witnesses to the marriage were one Mary Fox and a Henry Tuckerman, whom we know from other records was Edwards' step-father.

[Image redacted for copyright reasons]

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Figure 4. Parish register entry for the marriage of Edward Branscombe and Ann Starling in April 1817 at Townstal, Dartmouth, Devon. (image property of Find my Past)

Edward and Ann lived in Dawlish in the early years of their marriage and had the following children baptised there

- 1) Anna Starling Branscombe bap. 23 February 1818. Father-Glazier. Abode-Dawlish.⁷⁰
- 2) Susanna Branscombe bap. 25 August 1819. Father-Glazier. Abode-Dawlish.⁷¹
- 3) William Branscombe bap. 9 March 1821. Father-Glazier. Abode-Dawlish.⁷²

⁶⁷ GRO: Deaths: Kensington: 4th Quarter 1884. Vol 01A p.98

⁶⁸ Mary Ann was probably closer to 65 than 70 but her age was recorded wrongly during the registration of her death. This often occurred, either through misunderstanding or because the person registering the death did not know the deceased's true age so made an educated guess.

⁶⁹ *Register of Marriages: Townstal, Dawlish 1817-1837* p.17 (Image property of Find My Past. Original record held by Devon Archives and Local Studies)

⁷⁰ *Register of Baptisms: Dawlish, Devon 1813-1833* p.50

⁷¹ *ibid* p.64

⁷² *ibid* p.83

At some point in the next seven years Edward and Ann moved to nearby Torquay where they had their next three children baptised in a joint ceremony in June 1828

4) Thomas Fox Branscombe born 2 October 1823 bap. 8 June 1828. Father-Painter. Abode-Torquay.⁷³

5) Edward Branscombe born 11 February 1826 bap. 8 June 1828. Father-Painter. Abode-Torquay.⁷⁴

6) Joanna Branscombe born 28 April 1828 bap. 8 June 1828. Father-Painter. Abode-Torquay. Admitted into church [?] [?] [?]⁷⁵

Buried 5 July 1833. Torquay, Devon. Aged 5. Abode-Torquay.⁷⁶

Whilst in Torquay Edward and Ann also had:

7) Elizabeth Jane Sparkes Branscombe born 13 August 1829 bap. 6 September 1829. Father-Painter. Abode-Torquay.⁷⁷

8) Robert John Branscombe born 17 December 1832 bap. 27 January 1833. Father-Painter. Abode-Torquay.⁷⁸

As residents of Torquay Edward and Ann would have been aware of the cholera outbreak that struck neighboring Exeter in 1832, although none of their own family died from it (Joanna's death occurred around nine months after the final case in Exeter).⁷⁹ They will have also witnessed the visit of the future queen Victoria in the Summer of 1833.⁸⁰

Within the next decade, Edward and Ann themselves moved to Exeter where they were living with their four youngest children at the time of the 1841 census (June 1841). Edward's elderly mother lived elsewhere in the road and was almost certainly supported by him.

⁷³ *Register of Baptisms: Tormoham, Torquay, Devon 1813- 1834* p.119

⁷⁴ *Register of Baptisms: Tormoham, Torquay, Devon 1813- 1834* p.119

⁷⁵ *ibid*

⁷⁶ *Register of Burials: Tormoham Torquay, Devon 1813-1842* p.99

⁷⁷ *Register of Baptisms: Tormoham, Torquay, Devon 1813- 1834* p.135

⁷⁸ *ibid* p.182

⁷⁹ 'Thomas Shapter: The History of the Cholera in Exeter' *University of Exeter: Medical School*

<https://medicine.exeter.ac.uk/research/biomedicalclinical/epidemiologyandpublichealth/projects/thecholerainexeter1832/> [Accessed 30 July 2020]

⁸⁰ 'Torquay Regetta, and Visit of the Duchess of Kent and Princess Victoria' *Exeter Flying Post* 8 August 1833 p.3

1841 census: Bartholomew Street, St. Olave's, Exeter⁸¹

Name	Age	Occupation	Born in County?
Edward Branscombe	50	Painter	No ⁸²
Ann Branscombe	47		No
Thomas Branscombe	17	Tailor (app) ⁸³	No
Edward Branscombe	15	Lab	No
Elizabeth Branscombe	10		No
Robert Branscombe	7		No

Edward Branscombe was buried 19 February 1843. St Olave's, Exeter. Aged 52. Abode- Bartholomew Street.⁸⁴

By the 1851 census (March 1851) Ann had moved to Preston Street in the parish of St Mary Major, Exeter, where she lived with her youngest son Robert, a Jobbing Labourer, and her two-year grandson Henry.

1851 census: Preston Street, St Mary Major, Exeter⁸⁵

Name	Relation to Head of House	Marital Status	Age	Occupation	Where born
Ann Branscombe	Head	W	58		Devon, Plymouth
Robert J Branscombe	Son	U	18	Jobbing Lab	Devon, Torquay
Henry Branscombe ⁸⁶	Grandson		2		Devon, Exeter

⁸¹ 1841 census: Bartholomew Street, St Olave's, Exeter HO 107/267/8

⁸² This is a clerical error. Other sources tell us that every member of this family was in fact born in Devon.

⁸³ Apprentice

⁸⁴ Register of Burials: St Olave's Exeter 1813-1861 p.68

⁸⁵ 1851 census: Preston Street, St Mary Major, Exeter H.O.107/1868

⁸⁶ Henry Branscombe's relationship to Ann is unclear.

Ann is presumed to have died at some point in the next decade as she does not appear in the 1861 census but there is no record of anyone with a similar name being buried in Exeter in this time period and it has therefore been impossible to determine exactly what happened to Ann after the spring of 1851.

Generation 5: Robert Branscombe & Joanna Branscombe

Robert Branscombe, a mariner of the parish, and his wife Joanna Branscombe, a spinster of the parish, were married by banns at Dawlish, Devon, on the 5 May 1784. Given that they shared the same surname it seems probable that Robert and Joanna were related in some way but this connection has not yet been proved.⁸⁷

[Image redacted for copyright reasons]

Figure 5. The parish register entry for the marriage of Robert Branscombe and Joanna Branscombe at Dawlish in May 1784

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Unfortunately few details are known about Robert's career but some general assumptions can be made. Firstly, the fact that Robert did not leave a Will and that his son Edward later worked as a painter suggests that the family were not wealthy. This, in turn, supports the idea that Robert was an ordinary seaman rather than a wealthy merchant. Secondly, the regular arrival of children (This marriage, on average, produced a child every two years), even after the outbreak of war with France in 1793, suggest that Robert did not have a Naval position but instead was carrying out some sort of domestic role, possibly in trade.

Robert and Joanna baptised the following children at Dawlish:

- 1) Robert Branscombe born 14 January 1785 bap. 30 January 1785⁸⁹
- 2) Elizabeth Branscombe born 21 October 1787 bap. 11 November 1787⁹⁰

⁸⁷ I was able to find a baptism for Robert Branscombe, son of Edward and Elizabeth, at Dawlish, on the 22nd July 1750 but could not find a corresponding baptism for Joanna

⁸⁸ *Register of Marriages: Dawlish 1754-1784* p.51 (Image property of Find My Past. Original record held by Devon Archives & Local Studies)

⁸⁹ *Register of Baptisms: Dawlish 1782-1812* p.8

⁹⁰ *ibid* p.14

3) Edward Branscombe born 28 January 1791 bap. 13 February 1791⁹¹

4) Joanna Branscombe born 21 June bap.9 July 1794⁹²
Died 14 June 1799. Buried 15 June 1799.⁹³ [Aged 4]

5) William Branscombe born 9 November 1796 bap. 26 November 1796⁹⁴

There are two candidates for the burial of Robert Branscombe. One Robert was buried at Dawlish on the 11 October 1799 and the other Robert was buried at Dawlish on the 26 October 1801.⁹⁵

Unfortunately, a lack of other detail on the parish register entry makes it impossible to determine which one of these is the correct man. Joanna's subsequent remarriage, however, tells us that one of them was must have been the Robert to whom she was married.

Joanna Branscombe, a widow of Dawlish, was remarried in September 1804 to John Hodge, sojourner [temporary resident] in the parish of Dawlish, in September 1804.⁹⁶

[Image redacted for copyright reasons]

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Figure 6. The parish register entry for the marriage of John Hodge and Joanna Branscombe at Dawlish in September 1804.

⁹¹ *ibid* p.24

⁹² *ibid* p.33

⁹³ *Register of Burials: Dawlish 1782-1812* p.142

⁹⁴ *Register of Baptisms: Dawlish 1782-1812* p.41

⁹⁵ *Register of Burials: Dawlish 1782-1812* p.142/ *ibid* p.140

⁹⁶ Sojourner was a term used in parish registers to describe somebody who was living temporarily within the parish.

⁹⁷ *Register of Marriages: Dawlish 1784-1812* p.50

What happened to John it is unclear but he seems to have died at point prior to September 1815, when Joanna Hodge, of the parish, was remarried at Dawlish to Henry Tuckerman, a Mariner of West Teignmouth.



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Figure 7. The parish register entry for the marriage of Henry Tuckerman and Joanna Hodge at Dawlish in September 1815

Henry Tuckerman was buried at Dawlish on 8 May 1830. Aged 82. Abode-Dawlish⁹⁹

When the 1841 census was taken (June 1841) Joanna, an 89-year-old upholsteress, was living at Bartholomew Street, St Olave's, Exeter. Although she lived in her own household, this census also tells us that her son Edward lived elsewhere on the same street and it is almost certain that she received some kind of support from him.

1841 census. Bartholomew Street, St Olave's, Exeter¹⁰⁰

Name	Age	Occupation	Born in County?
Joanna Tuckerman	89	Upholstress	No

Joanna Tuckerman was buried at Upton, Devon, on 16 April 1850. Aged 91. Abode-Pimlico.^{101,102}

⁹⁸ *Register of Marriages: Dawlish 1813-1837* p.12 (Image property of Find My Past. Original record held by Devon Archives & Local Studies)

⁹⁹ *Register of Burials: Dawlish 1813-1847* p.95

¹⁰⁰ 1841 census: Bartholomew Street, St Olave's, Exeter HO 107/267/8

¹⁰¹ Pimlico is probably a reference to the then poor area of Torquay known by the name rather than the more famous Pimlico, London

¹⁰² *Register of Burials: Upton, Devon 1850-1902* p.1

