

WASC 2361

Berry Family
Correspondence

June 4 2000

THE FAMILY OF SAMUEL ROBERT BERRY

Samuel Robert Berry was one of twelve children born to James Edward and Sarah Berry; there were ten boys and two girls. The parents with their developing family appear in the Waltham Abbey census records for 1881, 1891 and 2001. There was opposition to the gathering of census information, and some people were un-cooperative. In particular people were reluctant to give their place of birth for fear of being sent back there if they became poor. Mistakes could easily be made by the enumerator in copying from his notes to the printed forms, also the writing of the enumerator is often very scrappy. The Berrys added to the difficulty of interpretation by seemingly not giving their proper ages and by the casual use of either first or second Christian name. Also they did not always appear to have their children baptised, and when they did, they sometimes delayed the baptism and had a multiple ceremony, but fortunately, at this time, the date of birth was given. The relevant census records need to be studied with care to ensure we are dealing with the same family. The records are:

1881 143 Romeland no.2

James Edward BERRY	28	Laborer Royal Gunpowder Factory	All born at Waltham Abbey
Sarah	26		
Edward	8		
Henry James	6		
Arthur	3		

1891 292 The Romeland

Edward BERRY	41	Laborer Gunpowder Factory	All born at Waltham Abbey
Sarah	39		
Edward H	18	Laborer Gunpowder Factory	
Henry J	16	Laborer Gunpowder Factory	
Alfred G	13	Errand boy	
Arthur	10	Scholar	
William	7		
Samuel R	3		
Anne R	8 mo		

1901 30 Romeland

Edward BERRY	49	Laborer in Powder Mills
Sarah	47	
Edward	28	Laborer in cordite factory
Arthur	23	Laborer in gun cotton factory
George	19	Blacksmith
William	16	Laborer in gun cotton factory
Robert	13	
Rose	10	
Leonard	8	
Frank	5	
Albert	3	

There seems enough consistency in the names and ages of the children to accept that these records are of the same family, and that the father, James Edward Berry, is the same man as Edward Berry. A child recorded as aged 10 in 1881 ought to have been born in 1870 or 1871; inconsistency from decade to decade should be no more than 1 year, depending on whether a birthday fell just before of just after the enumeration day. We see here one pretty obvious mistake, the names of Alfred and Arthur apparantly being transposed in 1891; it is Arthur who should be aged 13 in 1891, he was aged 3 in 1881 and 23 in 1901. As for the ages of the parents, perhaps they were just not sure of their

proper age. We see here examples of the variation in the use of names; 'Anne R' of 1891 was baptised 'Annie Rosina', whereas in 1901 she is listed as 'Rose'; also we note that Samuel R in 1891 becomes Robert in 1901. Therefore it is easier to accept that James Edward of 1881 should be the same as Edward of 1891 and 1901.

From the three sources above, the father should have been born in 1852-53, in 1849-50 or in 1851-52 respectively; thus the overall range for his birth, from this rather confused evidence, is 1849-53. There is no suitable baptism for him in the Waltham parish registers; however the children were baptised as follows:

Baptism	Name	Parents	Place	Occupation of father	Born
10 Nov 1872	Edward William	James Edward & Sarah	Highbridge St	Lab RGPF	29 Aug 1872
20 Dec 1874	Henry James	Edward & Sarah	Highbridge St	Filer, Enfield Lock	15 Sept 1874
20 Dec 1874	Ernest Charles	Edward & Sarah	Highbridge St	Filer, Enfield Lock	15 Sept 1874
	Do	buried 5 July 1875	Highbridge St	aged 9 months	
28 Feb 1876	Sarah Isabella	James Edward & Sarah	Highbridge St	Laborer	* 10 Feb 1876
	Do	buried 17 Aug 1876	Highbridge St	aged 6 months	
8 June 1884	Arthur	James Edward & Sarah	Romeland	Laborer	6 Nov 1877
8 June 1884	Alfred George	James Edward & Sarah	Romeland	Laborer	6 April 1881
8 June 1884	William	James Edward & Sarah	Romeland	Laborer	6 April 1884
16 Oct 1887	Samuel Robert	James Edward & Sarah	Romeland	Laborer	15 July 1887
12 Oct 1890	Annie Rosina	James Edward & Sarah	Romeland	Laborer RGPF	28 July 1890
23 Oct 1892	Leonard Joseph	James Edward & Sarah	Romeland	Laborer RGPF	7 Sept 1892
17 Feb 1895	Frank	James Edward & Sarah	Romeland	Laborer RGPF	23 Nov 1894
31 Oct 1897	Albert	James Edward & Sarah	Romeland	Laborer	13 Sept 1897

This appears to be a convincing record of the family of James Edward and Sarah, with the first name James omitted at the baptism of the twins Henry James and Ernest Charles, as it was in the two latter census records. The family lived first in Highbridge Street by 1872, and, by 1881, in Romeland. Two children died in infancy. Although both parents claimed to be born in Waltham Abbey, there seems to be no record of their marriage here, which would be expected in 1871 or just before.

We have reasoned that James Edward, or just Edward Berry, should have been born in the years 1849-53. Although we cannot find his baptism, we appear to see him as a boy, living with his parents William and Caroline, in the census records for 1851 and 1861, see below:

1851 165 Highbridge Street

William Berry	29	Laborer	Essex, Waltham Abbey
Caroline	29		Essex, Waltham Abbey
William	3		Essex, Waltham Abbey
Edward	8 months		Essex, Waltham Abbey

It has to be said that the name Berry, in 1851, is so badly written that Perry would have been read, had not the names and ages of the parents and two children been consistent with the 1861 record below; perhaps we should see this as another mistake by the enumerator or as an example of his dreadful handwriting. We note that Edward was aged 8 months when the 1851 census was taken on 30 March. Thus he was born by 30 July 1850. This falls within the range 1849-53 already postulated for the birth of James Edward Berry. We therefore suspect that this baby Edward is in fact the James Edward who married Sarah. Then by 1861 we see the birth of his brothers and sisters. We note the use of the same Christian names, particularly the more unusual ones of Rosina and Ernest, for the children as used by James Edward and Sarah:

1861 115 Highbridge Street

William Berry	38	Laborer RGP works	Waltham Abbey
Caroline	40		Middx, Islington
William	13	Scholar	Waltham Abbey
Edward	10	Scholar	Waltham Abbey
Rosina	8	Scholar	Waltham Abbey
Robert	5		Waltham Abbey
George	2		Waltham Abbey
Earnest	4 months		Waltham Abbey

Here, Caroline seems to feel it is safe to give her proper place of birth. This family are not present in the 1871 census, the family seem to have moved away, outside the parish. However the parents and one son do appear in 1881 when most of the children have left the nest, by which time James Edward Berry has married and is starting to raise his family:

1881 159 Romeland no.19

William Berry	57	Laborer (blacksmith)	Waltham Abbey
Caroline	56		Middx, London
Earnest unmarried	18	General laborer	Waltham Abbey

The 1861 record is the first intimation that William Berry worked in the Royal Gunpowder Works. In a list of persons employed in the government works in 1855, W. Berry is one of 11 granulating house men (Winters 1887, 112); William would then have been aged about 34.

For some reason we do not find the baptism of any of the above children at Waltham Abbey, although their first child Caroline Bury was baptised here on 6 December 1846 and was buried a week later on the 13th. But the marriage did take place in the parish church at Waltham, on 30 March 1845; this was between William Berry, aged 20, a laborer in the Gunpowder Mills, of Fountain Place, whose father was James Berry, a brewer, to Caroline Brown, of Sewardstone Street, whose father was Robert Brown, a boot maker. We find that William Berry, born on 26 February 1823, was baptised on 18 May; his parents being James and Rachael Berry, the father being a Laborer of Greenyard.

One might hope to find the baptisms, and possibly the marriages too, in the IGI (International Genealogical Index) records for Essex. But the later registers for Waltham Abbey seem not to have been accessed for these records, and anyway several children were not baptised here, if at all. Sometimes *in lieu* of the register records, some family data may be included instead in the IGI. This happens in this case where a 'relative', Isabella R Crafts, is the source for the birth at Waltham Abbey, of six of the Berry clan:

Mr Berry	Born 1879	
Albert Berry	Born 10 Sept 1898	(13 Sept 1897 from register)
Henry James Berry	Born 15 Sept 1874	(15 Sept 1874 from register)
James Edward Berry	Born 23 July 1851	--
William Berry	Born 3 April 1884	(6 April 1884 from register)
Mrs Beatrice Emma Berry	Born 1883.	

It is worth comparing the above 'family data', which is often inaccurate, with what we can from the parish registers. Three direct comparisons can be made. Only the date of birth of Henry James Bury is identical. That of William Berry shows a difference of three days. That of Albert Berry is almost a year out. For James Edward Berry we reason he was born by 30 July 1850, so again there is a difference of about a year; however we are particularly pleased his name included in this data. Who the 'relative' Isabella R Crafts, or Mr Berry or Mrs Beatrice Emma Berry, might be, is not presently known; but the feeling must be that this group is a closely connected one and that Isabella was quite good at remembering

birthdays but was not accurate with her relation's ages. We may dare to conclude that James Edward Berry was born on 23 July 1850 rather than 1851.

At the time of writing, Waltham burials have been indexed to 1878, and baptisms and marriages only to 1812. Thus it is tedious to be sure of finding later data other than by scrolling through microfiche. However another useful source is the Waltham Abbey Church Monthly; this has been indexed from November 1889 to November 1906. The following 19 Berry entries are found, including the marriage of the first four of the surviving sons of James Edward and Sarah Berry, and some of their first children. We might guess that Beatrice Emma was the wife of one of the other sons. The entries are augmented here by additional information in brackets from the baptismal records (B = born; b = baptism; m = marriage; d = death):

b Albert	31 Oct 1897	(B 13 sept 1897, s of James Edward & Sarah)
b Albert Leonard	15 Jan 1905	(B 27 Oct 1904, s of Edward William & Jessie of Romeland, father foreman in RGPF)
d Albert Leonard	8 May 1905	6 months, (s of Edward of Cordite Works, Madras formerly of Rounton Road
m Alfred George	10 Sept 1905	of Romeland, to Ellen Tarling of Highbridge St
b Annie Rosina	12 Oct 1890	(B 28 July 1890, d of James Edward & Sarah)
m Arthur	29 March 1902	of Romeland, to Edith May Hurren of W Cross
b Arthur Reginald	21 Sept 1902	(B 11 Aug, s of Arthur & Edith May)
d Ellen Elizabeth	30 July 1890	aged 25, died at St Leonards (different family)
d Ernest	23 Jan 1895	aged 32, of Hoxton, formerly of this parish
b Esther Mary	28 May 1893	(B 2 May, d of Henry & Jane, of Kertch Cottage, Waltham New Town, father sawyer)
b Florence Emily	17 June 1894	(B 5 May, d of Samuel Francis & Florence Emily of Harold Road, father laborer RGPF) <i>corrected</i>
b Frank	17 Feb 1895	(B 23 Nov 1894, s of James Edward & Sarah)
b Frank Arthur	14 Feb 1892	(B 4 Dec 1891, s of Samuel Francis & Florence, of Waltham New Town, father foreman RGPF) ✓
b George David	14 Jan 1906	(B 19 Dec 1905, s of Alfred George & Ellen, of North Place, father laborer)
m Henry James	24 Dec 1898	of Romeland, to Edith Maud Attwood, of Galley Hill
b Leonard	24 Dec 1905	(B 25 Sept, s of Henry James & Edith Maud, of Romeland, laborer)
b Leonard Joseph	23 Oct 1892	(B 7 Sept, s of James Edward & Sarah, of Romeland, father laborer RGPF)
b Rose	24 Dec 1905	(B 20 Oct, d of Henry James & Edith Maud, of Romeland, father laborer)
b Samuel John	3 March 1889	(B 19 Jan 1889, s of Samuel Francis & Florence Emily, of Waltham New Town, father laborer)
b Violet Maud	24 Sept 1899	(B 10 July, d of Henry James & Edith Maud, of Galley Hill, father laborer RGPF)

Here we learn of the marriage of four sons of James Edward and Sarah, the elder brothers of Samuel Robert Berry; of Edward William to Jessie; of Henry James to Edith Maud Attwood of Galley Hill; of Arthur to Edith May Hurren of Waltham Cross; and of Alfred George to Ellen Tarling of Highbridge Street. We learn of the birth of six children to these couples. We learn of the baptism of the last four children of James Edward and Sarah. We come across two couples who may not be part of this Berry family; of Henry and Samuel Francis who seems to have married twice.

The marriage of Samuel Robert Berry to Sarah Sambridge we learn from the writings of their daughter Enid Rosemary; there may be more records of this branch of the family in the later registers and in the later issues of the Church Monthly. The Poor Rate books survive for Waltham from 1840 to 1900 at the decade intervals. The occupants of property paid the rate and the overseers, who collected the monies, would have trod an established path around their districts; thus it is often possible to work out roughly where a particular family lived. From the 1860 book, William Bury leased a £4½ rental value House and Garden from the Board of Ordnance, property 264, on the north side of Highbridge Street. We have discussed above, from the 1861 census that this is William and Caroline Berry; we reasoned too that we recognised them in the 1851 census. In the 1850 Poor Rate book we have just the name Bury as occupier of a similar house, entry 287, leased from the Ordnance. This house and garden ought to be one of the Ordnance properties just west of Powder Mill Lane.

We did not find the family in the 1871 census. In the 1870 Poor Rate book we find only the name 'Berry' in property 63, occupying a tenement and yard, belonging to George Coxshall, on the east side of Sewardstone Street. It seems likely this is Samuel Berry who also worked item 421, a government allotment in Edmonsea, one of 111 such pieces of 'garden ground'; this man is not one of the immediate family we have been discussing. The name of William Berry is not one of the allotment holders in this list. We conclude that between 1861 and 1870 William and Caroline and their children had moved out of the parish. By 1872 their son James Edward, or just Edward, had married and returned here for the baptism of his first child, Edward William, in November of that year.

In the 1881 census both William and his son James Edward were living in Romeland. The son having moved there in late 1876 or 1877 from the baptism of his children. It is a mystery therefore why the name of James Edward does not appear in the 1880 Poor Rate book; William is not there either, so perhaps came back to Waltham in late 1880 or early 1881. It is just possible tht James Edward was living in a Romeland property where the name of the occupied was not given.

In the 1890 Poor Rate book, we find James Edward was living in a Cottage with Garden on the east side of Romeland, which was owned by William Gardener. In 1900 James Edward leased probably the same Cottage which was then called No.30 Romeland.

In the census returns we see, in 1891, that Samuel Robert Berry was 3 years old, and in 1901, when aged 13, he was called Robert. His daughter Enid Rosemary Berry Neilsen Clay, in her story "I remember..." tells that he married Sarah Sambridge. Enid was born in 1920 at 15 Woollard Street, the houses in this street, like many in Greenfield Street, and Town Mead Road, and the Victoria Villas, were all built by William Gardener in the late Victorian period. Enid tells also of her brothers Robert James Edward and Ernest William. There is more to tell of her and her brothers. Hopefully, too, Enid remembers her aunts and uncles.

WALTHAM ABBEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

27 Grange Court,
Waltham Abbey,
Essex. EN9 1RQ.
10 June 2004

Dear Denis, *& Roy*

BERRY FAMILY

It was good to meet you all at the Gunpowder factory. I spent a day at the Family Records Centre in Myddleton Street, Clerkenwall, and looked up the Cheshunt census records. The family of Samuel and Florence are on the enclosed sheet. Rosina Emily does not exist; it was my misreading of Florence, the F and l were joined up to look like an R and the rest followed in error. I have found one new baptism:

Samuel John 3 March 1889 (Born 19 Jan 1889, s of Samuel Francis and Florence Emily, Waltham New Town, father laborer)

I am not sure if your interest is to trace the family backwards. If so the baptism of Samuel Francis ought to be found at Suffolk Record Office, and of Florence Emily at Hertford Record Office; would Dorothy like to follow her up at Hertford Record Office? I could introduce her there.

Also you mentioned the Rudd family. I forget how they are connected, please remind me. There are 3 Rudd baptisms I happened to come across:

12 June 1864 Emma d of George & Caroline Sarah
Born 11 May 1864, Waltham Abbey, gunsmith
24 July 1864 Elizabeth Jane d of James & Sarah
Born 5 June 1864, Sewardstone, laborer
31 Dec 1865 Alice d of George & Caroline Sarah
Born 21 Nov 1865, Marsh Cottage, gunsmith

There are Rudd burials:

Albert 28 Aug 1875 age 4 months; High Bridge Street
Alice 11 Jan 1868 age 2 year 9 months; High Bridge Street
Emma 27 April 1864 age 35; Waltham Abbey
Emma 7 Jan 1868 age 3; High Bridge Street
James 15 April 1855 age 46; Waltham Abbey
John 28 Jan 1855 age 6; Waltham Abbey
Phillip 12 July 1862; Waltham Abbey
Sarah 3 Nov 1877 age 73; High Bridge Street

I see in the two census records of 1891 and 1901 that Samuel Francis was a 'laborer' and a 'hand'. At the baptism of Frank Arthur in 1892 he was a foreman; at the baptism of Florence Emily in 1894 he

was again a laborer. I can't find baptisms of Arthur, Clara or Harold. I wonder what to make of this. In 1892 he would have been aged 28, just old enough to be a foreman. What do you think? Did you believe he was a foreman, if so why? Do you think there could have been confusion with Samuel Berry of Enfield; see 1891 census, living at Waltham Lane.

I include a tree of the other Berry family. Since your Samuel Francis came from Bury St Edmunds, it looks likely that there may be no connection between the families. I wonder if you would like to write up everything you know about your family, saying where the information comes from, and what you hope to find out.

Sincerely,

Peter Huggins

Samuel Berry

There are two flat tombs, side by side, with inscriptions around the sides within the 'island' in the old cemetery; they are presently filled with green stone chippings as if presently cared for. The inscriptions are on the kerb stones.

In loving memory of	east end
Florence the beloved wife of Samuel Berry	north side
who fell asleep Feb 11th 1926 aged 62 years	B 1764
also of Samuel Francis Berry	south side
who died 13th may 1940 aged 76 years	∴ B 1764
At rest	* west end

In loving memory of	east end
Samuel John Berry who died January 1st 1916 aged 26 years	north side
could we have raised his dying head, or heard his last farewell	
the blow would not have been so hard to those he loved so well	

*He drowned
acc. to Kemp
& Donth*

Also two Turnham tombs seen towards the north west corner:

Alfred Turnham son of Edward and Charlotte, born 6 Sept 1844, died 24 July 1865.

James Turnham died 11 December 1909, aged 68.

Recorded January 2004 PH

THE BERRY NAME IN THE CHESHUNT CENSUS RECORDS

1891 District 1

20 Harold Road

Samuel BERRY	27	Labourer Gunpowder Factory	Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk
Florence BERRY	27		Hertford, Herts
Samuel J BERRY	2		Cheshunt, Herts
John HOPKINS	24	Lodger	Hertford, Herts

147 Waltham Lane, The King Harold

Samuel BERRY	49	Foreman (Royal Gunpowder Factory)	Enfield, Middx
Clara BERRY	47		Waltham Abbey, Essex
Ada BERRY	19		Waltham Abbey, Essex
Frank BERRY	17		Waltham Abbey, Essex

1901 District 1

10 Harold Road

Samuel BERRY	37	Factory hand Gunpowder	Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk
Florence BERRY	37		Ware, Herts
Samuel BERRY	12	Scholar	Cheshunt, Herts
Frank BERRY	9	Scholar	Cheshunt, Herts
Florence BERRY	6	Scholar	Cheshunt, Herts
Arthur BERRY	4		Cheshunt, Herts
Clara BERRY	9 months		Cheshunt, Herts

The latter Florence aged 6 was the girl baptised as Florence Emily when her mother's name was wrongly read as Rosina Emily, it is now read as Florence Emily. So, although living in the parish of Cheshunt, the first four children were baptised at Waltham Abbey, being the nearest church; the baptisms of Arthur and Clara have not been found.

We need the baptism of Samuel Francis Berry at Bury St Edmunds, which should have been in 1863 or 1864. Since we know the mother as Florence Emily, who should have been born in 1863 or 1864 at Hertford or Ware, we ought to be able to establish her surname; also her marriage there possibly in 1898 or before.

5/12/03

hey,

Denis King has a lot of information re his family that worked here during the Great War. He has photographs that we could have copies of if needed. He now lives in Norfolk and is aged 70.

Could you please give him a ring 01603436627.

It maybe worth getting Ron to carry out a taped interview for our oral history project.

Lynne

Item

special needs:

concessions:

/no com

CHARGE:

Adult: \$4.90
Child: \$2.50

concession: \$4.25

SCHOOL GROUPS

Programme of visit:

Directed // Self directed

Don WX Father
M.A. ^{Supervisor}
Betty
Foreman

RSAF

Maryann Harrison
Col. Editor: RSAF Apprentices
Assn.
RSaf Sp engineers @ Bt
operated.
Com

All u/line?

www.btinternet.com/~sophyemaryann.com/rsaf.html

Mercury
Denis King
24 Hansell Rd
Thorp St. Andrew
Norwich
Norfolk NR7 0LZ

Info on
Mills

01603 436627

Mother canteen 1914-18

Father Samuel Francis Berry

Sons Jim Frank Harold Foreman

Cousins - Rose Frank
Dorothy Rosemary - Berry

DENIS KING

01603 436627

RSAF

raytuthill@supanet.com

020 8367 2247

Berry Cousins Paper

21 Weardale Gardens

Enfield

- EN2 0BA

29-5-04

- 1) Photos for Denis
- 2) Rudd - Pgt. w/
Marsh Woodens
Take New Brick cottage - Marsh Cottage
- 3) Cam Ho. Explosion
Geo. Rudd
1893 Letter of sympathy
- 4) King connection
Waterway control
1874 Letter

WASC

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PHOTO PLAN

REFERS TO

BERRYS

[No photo?]

Berry

Asst. Foreman

18-1-40

Explosion Inquiry

P. 6

strength given you
for the bitter ordeal
that you have before
you and I trust you
may all be strengthened
and sustained is the
earnest wish of yours
Very sincerely

Phoebe Island

P.S. I hope this
will find you as
I do not know your
proper address

P.B.

My Mother's brother was killed
on the so Waldmay House
called Lam House
Explosion
at RGPE
Waltham Abbey
Hertfordshire
114 Balls Pond Rd
Islington
Dec 17/93
Dear Mr. & Mrs. Rudd.

allow me
to offer you my deepest
sympathy and condolence
in your great bereavement
knowing how deeply
grieved you all must
be at your great loss.
It has indeed been a
great blow to you all
I do feel for you

knowing only too well
what it would have
been to us had she
now been dead as we.
I feel also for your
daughters knowing
what sisterly love is
and what she loss
of one of my dear
sisters would be
to me; of course
everyday is very
sorry for you but

they cannot share your loss &
have witnessed all my life what
a parent's love is for her children
but try and think that what has
happened "has happened" for the best
although we cannot think so as to
time but sometimes things turn
up to convince us that it is so
in things that we little think of
I do hope that you may all have

34 Woodland Crescent
Hemsworth
Ponte Fract
W. Yorks
WF9 5LJ
01977 615141

13. June 04

Dear Les,

Please find copies of photographs and newspaper cuttings relating to my mother's family The Berrys. I hope you will find them useful.

If you feel we can provide anymore information please do not hesitate to contact myself as my brother Denis.

Yours

Ray King

**Mr. R. King
34 Woodland Crescent
Hemsworth
Pontefract
W.Yorks
WF9 5LJ**

**8 The Heights
Loughton
Essex
IG10 1RN**

18th August 2004

Dear Ray,

I have been speaking to Enid Clay, the 'other' Berry. I gather her contact Nila Monckton has a copy of Denis's newspaper ad, so perhaps there has been some contact there.

You might recall that I said I would let you know when 'Gunpowder People' by Peter was available. We have now completed the work and it can be bought from the Mills. It is an impressive piece of scholarship on Peter's part, running to 169 pages. It doesn't of course deal with the Berry's directly but it contains much of general Waltham Abbey/Mills genealogical interest.

If you did wish to order the cost would be £8.25, including postage. Orders should be sent to:

Royal Gunpowder Mills
Powdermill Lane
Waltham Abbey
Essex
EN9 1BN

Cheques made payable to: Royal Gunpowder Mills Co.Ltd.

Best Regards

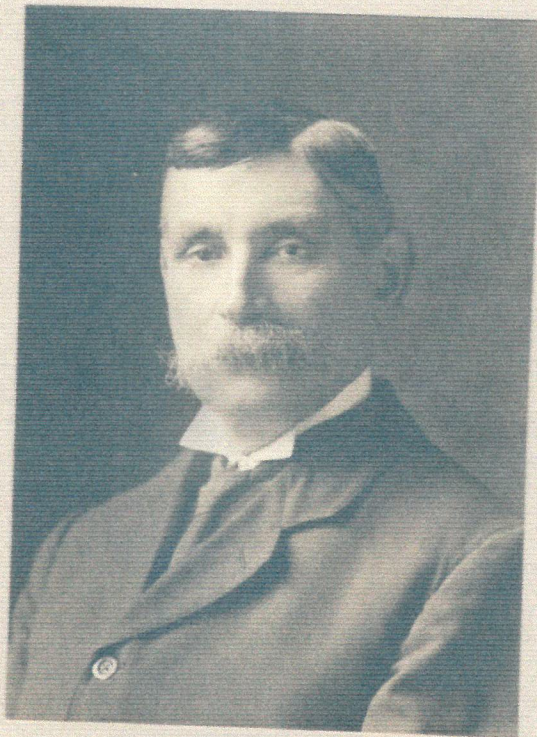
Frank Berry



Emberson & Son
12, GAXFORD ST.
LONDON, W. 9

In Loving Memory
of
Our Dear Father
Samuel Francis Berry
Who passed away,
13th May, 1940,
Aged 76 years

Interred in Waltham Abbey Cemetery
Gravespace No. 2913



Copyright

Elliott & Fry

55, Baker Street, London, W.

Fifty years at Waltham factory

A WALTHAM Cross man who has been responsible for the waterways of the Explosives Research and Development Establishment, Waltham Abbey, for many years, was presented with a spin dryer on behalf of his colleagues on Wednesday, the occasion of his retirement from the factory. He is Mr. Arthur Stanley Berry, of Darley Dene, Eastfield Road.

The presentation was made in front of the employees by Dr. C. H. Johnson, director of the establishment, who congratulated Mr. Berry on his 50 years' service with the establishment.

Mr. Berry, foreman of the factory's building works department, was connected with two major reconstruction programmes in the factory at the beginning and end of World War II.

In his responsibility for the waterways he had to make sure that the premises were not flooded during the frequent risings of the River Lea. He prevented flooding in the town by his control of the river level on several occasions.

His services were recognised by the country at the beginning of the year when he was awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year Honours List.

Wedding of Harold and Mabel



Robt. H. Rice, Eastbourne, Bath & Waltham Cross

Wedding of Arthur and Nellie



Betty Family

Sam

Florence

Arthur

Frank

Clara



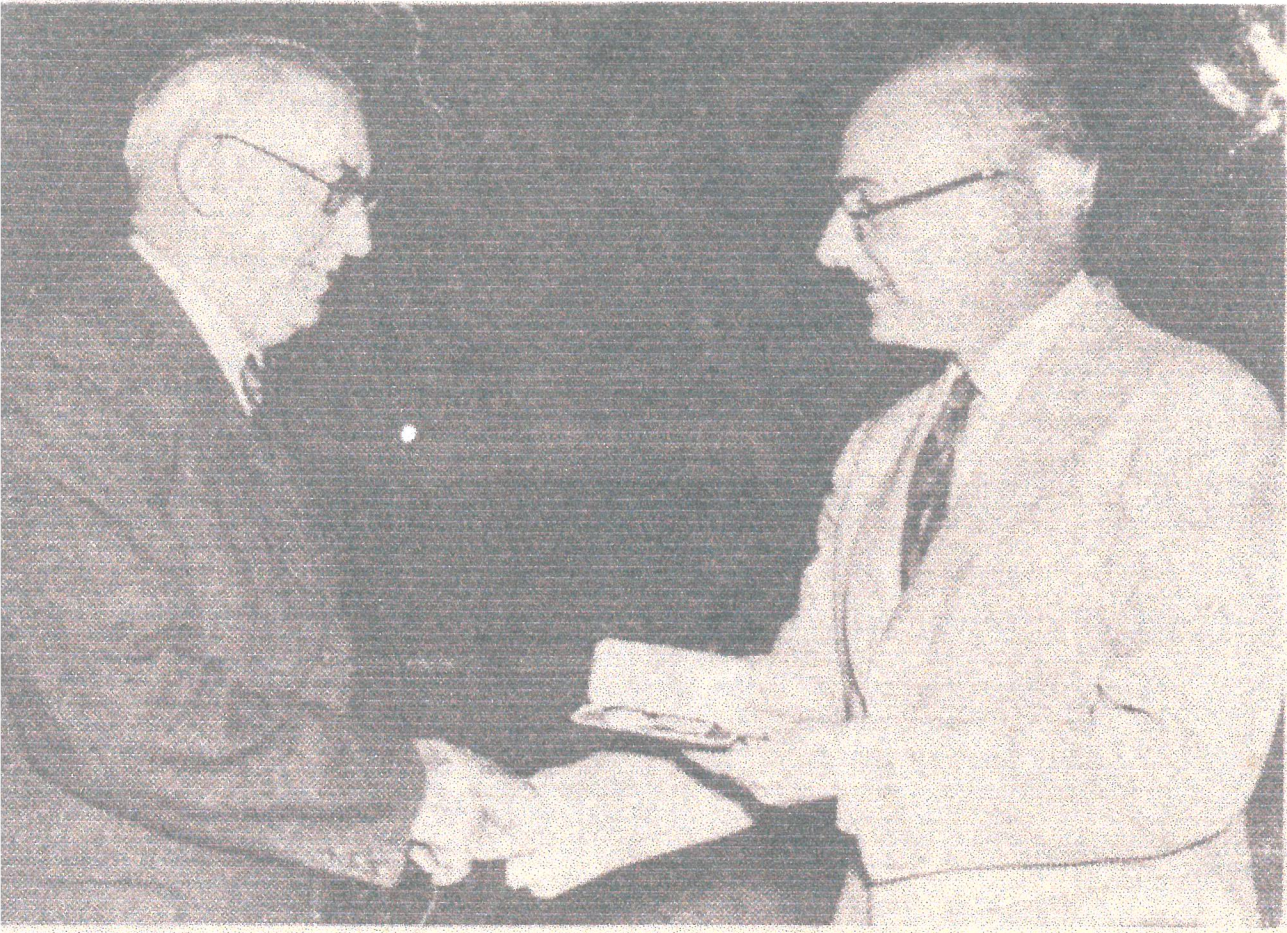
Samuel
Francis

Harold

Florence

Florence Betty (1864 - 1926)





Mr. L. D. Williams (right), director of the Explosives, Research, and Development Establishment, Waltham Abbey, presents the Imperial Service Medal to Mr. Frank Arthur Berry, a senior storeman at the establishment. (See story below.)

Long service of worker rewarded

MR. Frank Arthur Berry, a senior storeman at the Explosives Research and Development Establishment, Waltham Abbey, was presented with the Imperial Service Medal in recognition of 49 years' continuous government service, by Mr. L. D. Williams, director of the Explosives Research and Development Establishment, Waltham Abbey, at a special ceremony last Friday.

A large number of Mr. Berry's workmates attended the presentation, which was held in the establishment's canteen.

Mr. Williams said that presentations of Imperial Service Medals seemed to be becoming family affairs. Mr. Berry's father was awarded one in recognition of 20

years' service, and so was his father before him.

"Frank Berry inherited the determination to render resolute, efficient, and loyal service," said Mr. Williams.

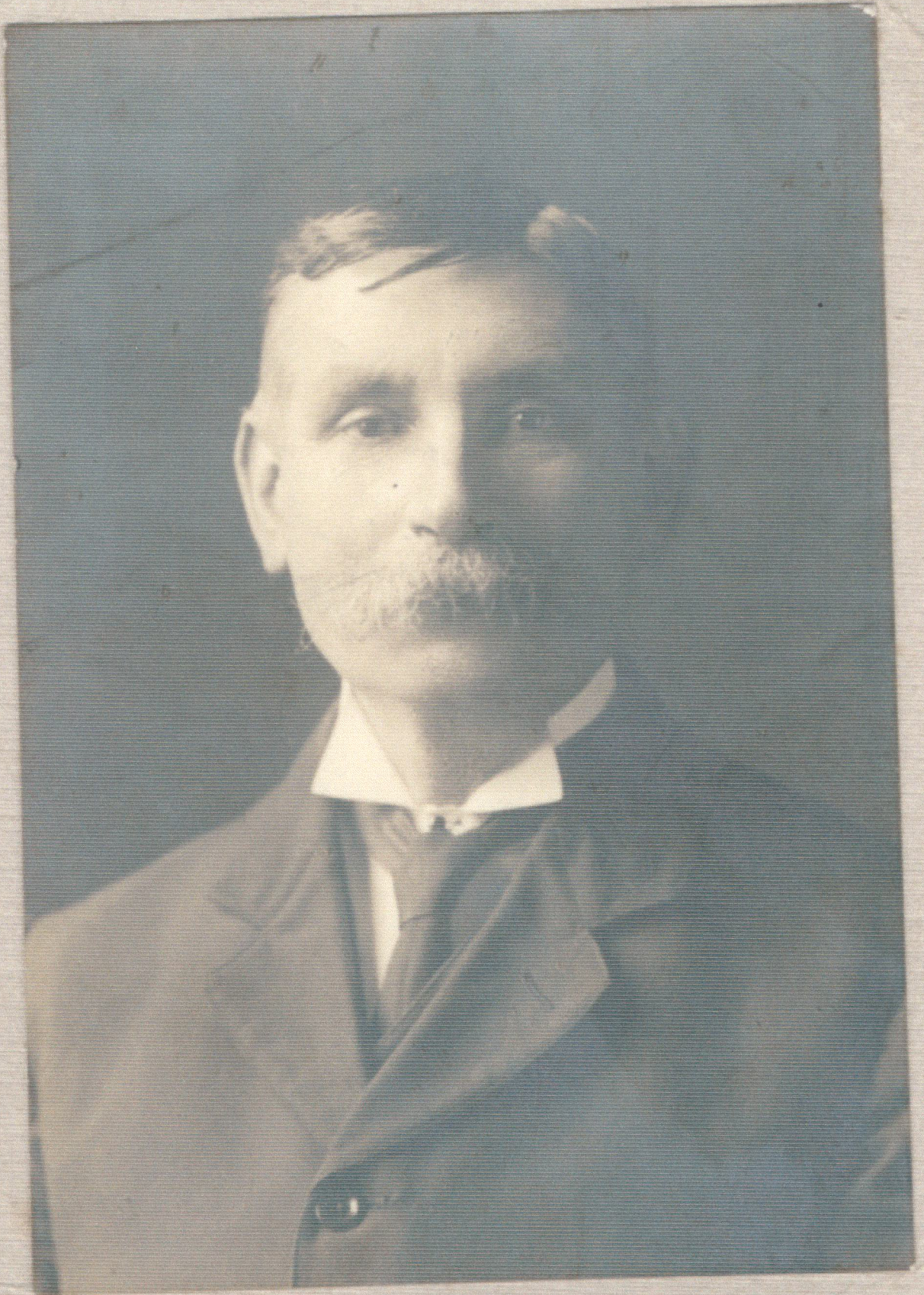
Mr. Berry lives at 12 Harold Road, Waltham Cross. Though the award was in respect of 49 years' service, by the time it was presented he had completed over 50 years at the establishment, which was previously known as the Royal Gunpowder Factory.

RETURNING home at 7.30 p.m. last Saturday, Mr. A. Mannifield, of 266 Great Cambridge Road, Cheshunt, found his home in disorder. Entry had been gained by cutting glass in the front door. Nothing was taken.



Arthur Stanley
Berry
Top row
2nd from right
Harold Berry
Middle row
Far left

Samuel Francis Berry (1864 - 1940)



Copyright

Samuel John Betty



G. E. Carroll & Son
MUSH HILL WASH
ENFIELD, N.



the national archives

BERRY

Ms Freda Bloomfield
15 Bittern Close
Kelvedon
Colchester
Essex
CO5 9PQ

Reader Information Services Department

The National Archives
Kew Richmond Surrey TW9 4DU
United Kingdom
Tel +44 (0)20 8392 5200
Fax +44 (0)20 8487 1977
enquiry@nationalarchives.gov.uk
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

The National Archives, bringing together
the Public Record Office and the
Historical Manuscripts Commission

Our Ref: PR06/1006

18 January 2007

Dear Ms Bloomfield

Thank you for your enquiry of 8 January 2007 about a member of the staff of the Royal Gunpowder Factory, Waltham Abbey.

I have not been able to find any records that mention Edward ^{William} James Berry by name, but there is one sentence in the Annual Report of the Royal Gunpowder Factory for 1903-1904 (National Archives document reference SUPP 28/315) saying that seven men left that year on transfer to the Indian Cordite Factory. There is nothing to indicate whether they went together or at different times. Nor is there any reason given for their transfer. However, I have found a website with some information about the cordite factory at Aruvankadu and it seems that the factory opened in January 1904. It is very likely that the men were recruited from the Royal Gunpowder Factory to bring their expertise to the new factory. The website address for the cordite factory at Aruvankadu is :
<http://www.ofbindia.gov.in/units/index.php?unit=cfa&page=about&lang=en>

I hope that this information is of help to you.

Yours sincerely

Linda Hoare

Miss L R Hoare
Reader Information Services Department



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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12th June 2004

Dear Denis,

I was glad to see you and your relatives at the Mills and it was gratifying to hear that the newspaper ad and the Royal Small Arms contact had paid off.

I enclose the photo of the fire squad with the two Berrys and one of the 13.12.1893 No.2 Cam House explosion.

I will be seeing Peter soon to find out how he is getting on with the Berry tree. In the meantime if you are able to record detail to flesh out the tree this can be brought in due course. Also, I want to see whether Peter is doing anything on the King connection, including the link with the water job, which brings us back to the Rudds and the Cam House explosion.

The Mills are in the process of obtaining Mrs.Clay's, nee Berry, permission to publish her memoirs. After this we will start to sort out her tree, which should show whether the existence of the same surname at the Mills is pure coincidence.

I would think that Peter will wish to contact you direct, but in any case I will keep you posted.

Best Wishes

**Mr. D. King
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18th August 2004

Dear Denis,

I have been speaking to Enid Clay, the 'other' Berry. I gather her contact Nila Monckton has a copy of your newspaper ad, so perhaps she has been in contact with you.

You might recall that I said I would let you know when 'Gunpowder People' by Peter was available. We have now completed the work and it can be bought from the Mills. It is an impressive piece of scholarship on Peter's part, running to 169 pages. It doesn't of course deal with the Berry's directly but it contains much of general Waltham Abbey/Mills genealogical and historical interest.

If you did wish to order the cost would be £8.25, including postage. Orders should be sent to ;

Royal Gunpowder Mills
Powdermill Lane
Waltham Abbey
Essex
EN9 1BN

Cheques made payable to: Royal Gunpowder Mills Co. Ltd.

Best Regards