

## *Chapter Two*



*Alfred Williams*

*1874- 1940*



Alfred Williams was born on Friday 14th August 1874 at 73 Whelley in Wigan, Lancashire to the proud parents of David Albert Williams and Margaret Williams Nee Tyley

**CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH**

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 2761575-3

REGISTRATION DISTRICT **WIGAN**

1874 BIRTH in the Sub-district of **Wigan** in the County of **Lancaster**

Column:-	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
453	Fourteenth August 1874 73 Whelley	Alfred Roy	Boy	David Albert Williams	Margaret Williams formerly maiden name Tyley	School Master	David Albert Williams Father 73 Whelley Wigan	14th August 1874	Robert Halliwell	Registered

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 28th day of October 2010

**BXCE 752226**

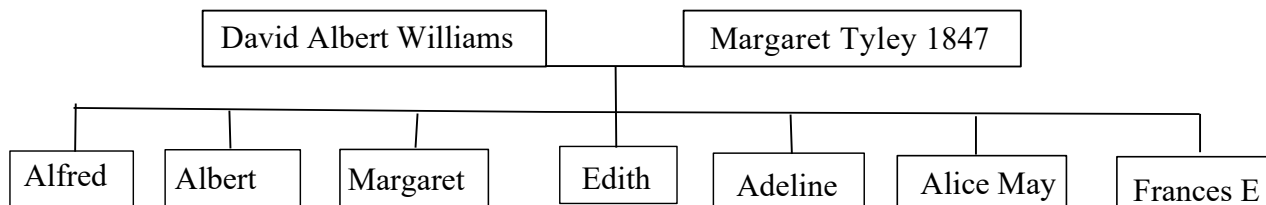
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THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE  
ENGLAND

### Copy of Alfred's Birth Certificate

Alfred was the third child of seven children born to David and Margaret. When Alfred was born, his father was working in Wigan as the Head Master of St Catharine's School. You can read more of David's Story in Volume One, Chapter Three of Ivor's story. Margaret's story can be read in Volume Nine.



Alfred's life in Wigan was too short to document. The fact the family left when Alfred was barely 10 months of age means Wigan rarely gets a mention except as Alfred's place of birth. However Alfred's parents had lived there for about 9 years and his brother Albert and Sister Margaret were born there. Wigan, Whelley and Scholes areas are mentioned widely in other parts of Volume One.

The family had probably lived at 73 Whelley for about four or five years. They had also been recorded there for the 1871 Census but were not there at Albert's birth in 1869. The family had lived at the address until 1875 when illness forced Alfred's father to resign his job as School Master and return to Oswestry where Alfred's mother was born and her family resided. Oswestry too was in some ways David's home town.

So it was in about May 1875 that the family moved to Oswestry but it is not known where.

The first official document which states where the family lived is on the Birth Certificate of Alfred's Sister, Edith, who was born on Monday 11th June 1877 and shows the family were living at Beatrice Street.

It is unfortunate that in this part of the Country they seem reluctant to enter any house name or number on a document making it hard to prove exactly where any family were living at the time of the event.



**Beatrice Street**

Above Right is shown one view of Beatrice Street but it is unknown if this was where they lived. At some point after the birth of Edith the family moved to Cross Street, Oswestry. Here Alfred's Sister, Adeline, was born on Friday 4th April 1879. Adeline's Birth Certificate states she was born in Cross Street but of course both The Cross and Cross Street contains many buildings, both commercial and residential and therefore it is impossible to state exactly where the family lived.



**Left - The Cross looking towards Cross St. Above - The Cross**

The 1881 Census shows the family living at The Cross but the birth certificate states Cross Street. It can only be assumed that they may have lived on the corner where both these places meet but it can not be proved.

<b><u>1881 Census – Town of Oswestry Ward - East Address - The Cross, Oswestry, Shropshire</u></b>						
<b>Name</b>	<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Con</b>	<b>DoB</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Profession</b>	<b>Where Born</b>
David A Williams	Head	M	1843	38	Brewers Clerk	Trefonen, Salop
Margaret	Wife	M	1848	33		Oswestry, Salop
Albert Edward	Son	S	1869	12	Scholar	Wigan, Lancs.
Margaret E	Daughter	S	1873	8	Scholar	Wigan, Lancs.
Edith	Daughter	S	1878	3		Oswestry, Salop
Shropshire Adeline	Daughter	S	1880	1		Oswestry, Salop
Ellen Sides	Servant	S	1864	17	Domestic Servant	Portabello, Staffs.



It is interesting to note that in the 1881 Census taken on Sunday 3rd April, Alfred is not at home. He can be found staying at his Grandmother's house in Roft Street, Oswestry. It is not known if Alfred was just visiting or whether he stayed here on a regular basis.

**1881 Census – Oswestry      Ward - East      Address - Roft Street, Oswestry, Shropshire**

Name	Relationship	Con	DoB	Age	Profession	Where Born
Elizabeth Tyley	Head	Widow	1810	71	Annuitant	Gresford,.
Eleanor Tyley	Daughter	Single	1834	47	Housekeeper	Oswestry,
Alfred Williams	Grandson	Single	1875	6	Scholar	Wigan, Lancs

Alfred's Grandmother can be found living at what was then known as Trinity House, as a Widow with her Daughter Eleanor. Alfred's Aunty.



**Above - Aunt Eleanor in 1906**

Alfred is shown as a Scholar and the chances are he attends the National School in Welsh Walls, Oswestry which is not far from either Beatrice Street or Roft Street.

**Left - Trinity House**

This school, pictured below, was obviously the one that his father, David, worked at as a 'Teach' and possibly Teacher. It was possibly also attended by his father and mother when they were young and living in Oswestry!

Alfred's siblings will also attend this School, except, that is, for Adeline.



Alfred was to gain another Sister soon after the Census when on Thursday 12th May 1881 Alice May Williams was born, again at Cross Street.

However the following year may not have been as happy as it should have been for Alfred, nor indeed the rest of the family. Alfred was probably aware, even at 7 years of age, that his father, David, was chronically ill with Bronchitis.

The family fears soon turned to realism when, on Sunday 2nd April 1882, David finally succumbed to the disease he had been fighting for many years and which had indeed forced his early retirement from Teaching and a move back to Oswestry where the air was cleaner.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 2761576-1

REGISTRATION DISTRICT		OSWESTRY							
1882 DEATH in the Sub-district of Oswestry		in the County of Salop							
Columns:-	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
470	Second April 1882 Cross Street Oswestry S.D.	David Albert Williams	Male	39 years	Commercial Traveler	Bronchitis Pneumonia Certified by J. P. G. Wright M.D. G.P.C.	Geo. Tyley Brother of the deceased at the death residing at the death Wellow Street Oswestry	Fourth April 1882	H. B. Bull Registrar

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 28th day of October 2010

DYC 821818

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### A Copy of David Albert Williams Death Certificate

Without doubt the news was probably devastating for the whole family. In addition it was an exceptional difficult time for Alfred's mother who was again pregnant with, what would be Alfred's fourth Sister, Frances who was born a short time later on 26 June 1882. So Margaret, as a widow, now had to cope with three young Children under the age of 4.

One can imagine that it may have been a short time after the birth of Frances that Margaret decided to move her family to her Mother's home at Trinity House and we can only assume life carried on with the support from the rest of the family. The next known record we have of the family is in the 1891 Census taken Sunday 5th April.

### 1891 Census – Oswestry Ward - East Address – Trinity House, Roft Street, Oswestry, Salop

Name	Relationship	Con	DoB	Age	Profession	Where Born
Elizabeth Tyley	Head	Widow	1810	81	Living on own means	Gresford,
Eleanor Tyley	Daughter	Single	1834	57	Living on own means	Oswestry
Margaret Tyley	Daughter	Widow	1849	42		Oswestry
Albert Edward	Grandson	Single	1869	22	Railway Clerk	Wigan
Alfred Williams	Grandson	Single	1875	16	Plumber Apprentice	Wigan
Alice May	Granddaughter	Single	1882	9	Scholar	Oswestry
Frances Elizabeth	Granddaughter	Single	1883	8	Scholar	Oswestry



In the Census we can see the family together with life, as near as can be, normal. Alice and Frances are at school. Albert, now 22, is working as a Railway Clerk possibly at Oswestry Rail Station just across the road from Beatrice Street.

Alfred can be seen learning the trade of a Plumber by doing an apprenticeship. The Tyley family were a well known family of Plumbers in Oswestry

Alfred's sisters, Margaret and Edith are not shown on this Census but it is known they both eventually married. Margaret married a Francis Bowen and Edith married a George Gordon.



**Oswestry Rail Station**

Adeline, or Lenie as she was affectionately known, is also not shown but she is found attending the Royal Commercial Traveller's School Pinner in Middlesex. The RCTS was a boarding school for the sons and daughters of "Commercial Travellers, Sales & Technical Representatives and Manufacturer's Agents". Admissions to the schools were prioritised according to the means of their parents, for example orphans of deceased parents or of parents who no longer had the capacity to make a living were given priority. This is explained more in the Addendum of Volume One Chapter Three. This shows how they were selected as a pupil for the school and how it was an honour to attend this school.

The schools were founded in 1845 by John Robert Cuffley, a commercial traveller, for children of orphaned and "necessitous" fellow commercial travellers. The school could accommodate around 365 pupils aged from 5 to 18 years and provided education to both O-level and A-level standards. It was later known as The Royal Pinner School and eventually closed in 1967.

It can be seen that Margaret has not declared a profession and it may be because of this life is beginning to become difficult financially and hence the need for Adeline to attend the RCTS? Margaret's mother and Sister do not seem to have money problems and continue living on their own means.



**Pinner Commercial Travellers School**

Below is shown the 1891 Census for the Royal Commercial Traveller's School at Pinner. Adeline can clearly be seen as the first entry on this page.

RETURN of all the PERSONS who SLEPT or ABODE in this INSTITUTION on the NIGHT of SUNDAY, APRIL 6th, 1891.												
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
NAME AND SURNAME.	RELATION to Head of Family, or Position in the Institution.	CONJUGIAL STATE.	AGE Last Birthday.	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION.	Place of Birth.	Place of Birth.	Place of Birth.	Place of Birth.	Place of Birth.	Place of Birth.	Place of Birth.	Place of Birth.
1. Adeline Williams	Capit											
2. Edith E. Williams	"											
3. Edith Wilson	"											
4. Thomas W. B. B. B.	"											
5. Edith A. B. B.	"											
6. Edith B. B.	"											
7. Edith C. B.	"											
8. Edith D. B.	"											
9. Edith E. B.	"											
10. Edith F. B.	"											
11. Edith G. B.	"											
12. Edith H. B.	"											
13. Edith I. B.	"											
14. Edith J. B.	"											
15. Edith K. B.	"											
16. Edith L. B.	"											
17. Edith M. B.	"											
18. Edith N. B.	"											
19. Edith O. B.	"											
20. Edith P. B.	"											
21. Edith Q. B.	"											
22. Edith R. B.	"											
23. Edith S. B.	"											
24. Edith T. B.	"											
25. Edith U. B.	"											
Total of Males and Females.....												

Alfred's Uncle, George Tyley, was himself a Master Plumber, as can be seen on the headstone of his grave. 'Plumber' was the profession on some other Tyley family headstones too. It should be safe to assume that Alfred was taught his trade by a family relative, maybe even George Tyley himself?



George Tyley and wife Sarah



George Tyley - Plumber



I will never know for certain who taught Alfred his trade but I know at one point on an official document Alfred was classed as a 'Master Plumber'.

When Alfred finished his apprenticeship is not known, nor is it known whether he worked as a plumber in the Oswestry area or not. It can only be assumed life carried on but it was not long before tragedy was too strike yet again when Adeline became ill. It can not be proved if she had contracted her illness while at the Royal Commercial Traveller's School or whether she had contracted the illness locally. Whatever the situation Adeline was suffering from Phthisis or as it is more commonly known, T.B.

Whether the family celebrated Christmas in 1894, or they just tried their best so that Adeline enjoyed the celebrations or whether the family were just too worried about her to even care about Christmas will never be known. Adeline was young and maybe too young to fight the disease because we know that on Boxing Day, Wednesday the 26th December 1894, Adeline sadly lost her fight for life.

Adeline was just the tender young age of just 15 years and 6 months. The newspaper article on the right, mentions her nickname Lenie.

WILLIAMS—December 26th, aged 15 years, at Trinity House, Roft-street, Oswestry, Adeline (Lenie), the dearly loved child of Margaret and the late David Albert Williams.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 3038665-4

REGISTRATION DISTRICT		OSWESTRY							
1894 DEATH in the Sub-district of Oswestry		in the County of Salop							
No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
1448	Twenty-sixth December 1894 Roft Street Oswestry W.L.P.	Adeline Williams	Female	15 years	Daughter of David Albert Williams Brewer's Manager (deceased)	Phthisis Certified by J.P. Cantorlight M.R.C.S. Eng	Albert Edward Williams Brother present at the death Roft Street Oswestry	Twenty-sixth December 1894	John Hughes Deputy Registrar

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 2nd day of March 2011

DYC 953672

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### Copy of Adeline's Death Certificate

On the death certificate we can see that under 'occupation' Adeline was declared as the Daughter of David Albert Williams, Brewer's Manager (deceased).

It can also be seen that Adeline died at the family home in Roft Street, I assume Trinity House, and it appears she was not alone when she died. Shown present at her death was her brother, Albert Edward Williams, who would now be classed as 'Head of the family' being the eldest male.

Whether the family took turns in caring for Adeline or whether it was mostly Albert again will never be known. If Albert was the sole nurse for Adeline then he was to pay the ultimate price by contracting the disease himself.

Albert was not to stay in Roft Street and was moved to the Oswestry Cottage Hospital which was located in Welsh Walls. This was possibly to isolate him in order to stop further spread of the disease.

Sadly Albert was beyond help and just over three months from when he was nursing Adeline, Albert was to succumb to the disease on Sunday 7th April 1895. One can see on the certificate that George Tyley, pictured on page six and Albert's Uncle was present at the death.

T.B is possibly the biggest killer of all my relatives across all names as I have mentioned many times throughout the Chapters.



**Oswestry Cottage Hospital**

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 3072075-2

REGISTRATION DISTRICT		OSWESTRY							
1895	DEATH in the Sub-district of Oswestry	in the	County of Salop						
No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
33	Seventh April 1895 Oswestry Cottage Hospital U.S.D.	Albert Edward Williams	Male	25 years	Railway Clerk	Phlebotis Embolism Certified by R.D. Beresford M.D.	George Tyley Uncle in attendance Lower Brook Street Oswestry	Seventh April 1895	C.H. Hall Registrar

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 14th day of March 2011

DYC 976043

See note overleaf

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BPB 942429 30720 03/10 2005PDL 026412

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ENGLAND

**Copy of Albert's Death Certificate**

The death of Albert was to leave Alfred as the only Son of the family to carry on the Williams name. Alfred was soon to be 21 years of age and probably wondered what his future would be. Whether Alfred was contemplating moving away from Oswestry at this time can only be guessed. If he was to leave now how would his mother feel? If he was to stay, would he be putting himself in danger of catching TB?

Whatever Alfred's thoughts or reasons were, it is known that at some point in the next two years Alfred left his family home and moved to Brighton, which at that time was a well known 'health town'. Had Alfred contracted and survived T.B and moved to the South Coast to help with his own health? It is an interesting theory but one which cannot be confirmed, or indeed, denied.



It is known that by 1897 Alfred was in Brighton, which by then was becoming a popular town with health benefits. The Palace Pier was being built and jobs were plentiful.



Designed by R St John Moon the Palace Pier is generally acknowledged to be the finest pleasure pier ever built and is now days a grade two listed building. The first screw pile was driven in the ground in November 1891 but progress was slow.

It was a condition that the Chain Pier had to be removed and the Brighton Marine Palace and Pier Company had bought the Chain Pier for £15,000.

The storm that destroyed the Chain Pier had done away with the need for its removal.

### The Brighton Marine Palace and Pier C1900

In 1898 a new company was formed by Sir John Howard which purchased and completed the pier, opening it to the public on 20 May 1899. The first phase was completed on 9 April 1901 at a cost of £137,000. The pavilion contained dining, smoking and reading rooms as well as a concert hall. The toll booths from the Chain Pier were installed. Today they can be found either side of the Palace of Fun.



So with plenty of work, a healthy atmosphere on the Sussex Coast, life seemed to be good for Alfred.

At some point Alfred had met the woman of his dreams in Mary Walder Strevens, a domestic servant.


Their relationship eventually reached the stage where they would be planning marriage and their lives together.

### George Street, Brighton

At the time of their marriage on Wednesday 12th January 1898, Alfred and Mary were both registered at 28 George Street, Brighton. It is not known whose address this was, maybe it was Alfred's home or maybe Mary had moved there after her parents died?



The marriage certificate shows that Alfred and Mary were married at the old Registry Office, Princes Street, Brighton. Mary is known as Mary Walder Strevens. It should be noted that the 'Walder' is pronounced 'Valder' and probably led to the confusion that there was 'German' within the family. This is not correct and can be explained in Mary's Story in Volume Four, Chapter One.

  
CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE  
GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE  
Application Number COL417676

1898. Marriage solemnized at the Register Office in the District of Brighton in the County of Brighton								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
109	Twelfth January 1898	Alfred Williams	24 years	Bachelor	Plumber (Journeyman)	28 George Street Brighton	David Albert Williams (deceased)	Commercial Traveller.
		Mary Walder Strevens	25 years	Spinster	Domestic Servant	28 George Street Brighton	Henry Strevens (deceased)	House Painter


Married in the Register Office according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the by Certificate before me.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Alfred Williams in the presence of us, John Mured. Paine Horace Binfield, Registrar  
Mary Walder Strevens Oliver Osborne Edward Thomas Sears  
Read that day

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a register of Marriages in the Registration District of Brighton  
 Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 18th day of September 2007

MXD 415215

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The certificate also shows the names of both the fathers who are both deceased, ironically within two years of each other. As stated earlier, Alfred's father died in 1882 but here his profession is shown as a Commercial Traveller. Mary's father, Henry, is shown as a House Painter and died under tragic circumstances. His story can be read in Chapter Two of Volume Four.



**Brighton Registry Office**

I can only assume the picture shown on the left was the Brighton Registry Office. It was certainly the building which served as the Registry Office from 1946, when my parents were married here, until my own wedding in 1971. The building, believed to date from 1894, was formerly Parochial Offices for Brighton and therefore would be suitable as a place of marriage. Today it is divided into flats and in 2011 a two bed roomed flat would have cost £770,000.

However life was not to be so rosy for the new Williams family. The De Ja Vu of tragic events which has dogged my Ancestry throughout the ages and across all families strikes yet another blow. This time it is Alfred's mother, Margaret who is the victim. Whether Alfred was aware his mother was ill or whether, as speculated earlier, this was the reason Alfred had left Oswestry cannot be proved but it seemed Margaret was suffering from the now familiar 'family disease' of Phthises, T.B or Consumption.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 2775300-2

REGISTRATION DISTRICT OSWESTRY

1898 DEATH in the Sub-district of Oswestry in the County of Salop

No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
300	12th April 1898 Roft Street Oswestry N.P.	Margaret Williams	Female	49 years	Widow of David Albert Williams Brewery Traveller	Phthisis Certified by J.B. Blackie M.D.	Sarah Tyley Sister-in-law Resident at death 6 Lower Brook Road Oswestry	12th April 1898	J.B. Bull Registrar

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Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 2nd day of November 2010

DYC 854744

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The disease that had killed two members of the Williams family claimed its third victim when on Tuesday 12th April 1898, three months to the day from Alfred and Mary's marriage, Margaret died at her home in Roft Street, at the age of just 49 years.

Margaret's sister-in-law, Sarah Tyley, who was pictured with George earlier, was present at Margaret's death.

### Copy of Margaret's Death Certificate

Whether Alfred attended the funeral is not known. Life for Alfred was to carry on. He had his new wife to think about and thoughts of starting a family were now the priority.

On Saturday 16th September 1899 Mary gave birth to their first child, Ethel Alice Williams.

There are two addresses on this certificate, one for Ethel's birth and one where Mary lived. I have checked both these addresses in the 1901 Census but can see no link.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number Y522512

REGISTRATION DISTRICT Brighton

1899 BIRTH in the Sub-district of West Brighton in the County of Brighton

No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
79	16th September 1899 45 London Street n.s.	Ethel Alice	Female	Alfred Williams	Mary Walter Williams Maiden	House painter (Glasgow)	Mr. W. Williams Mother 25 Queen Street Brighton	16th November 1899	J. M. Head Registrar	

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 23rd day of January 2003

BXBZ 769983

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### Copy of Ethel's Birth Certificate



London Street was by St Bartholomew's Church but was demolished to extend and build a school. The school itself was demolished in the 1960's and no longer exists.



London Street



Queen Street, Peel Street and Peel Place

Mary's address of Queen Street was built in the 1850's, However Queen Street, Peel Street and Peel Place adjoined railway property and in 1905 they were removed to provide extensions to the Goods Yard. At the same time the houses on the west side of Fleet Street and New York Street were also demolished.

According to Ethel's birth certificate Alfred did not follow the Plumbing Trade. There is no known reason for this but maybe the tools Alfred needed to buy for his trade were beyond his means or the trade of House Painter was better paid and of a more plentiful employment?

The next official record found for the family is in the Census taken on the night of Sunday 31st March 1901.

1901 Census – Brighton

Ward – St Peter

Address – 3 Boston Street

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Con</u>	<u>DoB</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Profession</u>	<u>Where Born</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Mary Williams	Head	Married	1874	27	Charwoman	Brighton, Sussex	
Ethel Alice	Daughter	Single	1900	1		Brighton, Sussex	

Here we can see Mary and Daughter Ethel living at No 3 Boston Street. This is a little area off of New England Street and can be seen on the map above. A closer view and old photographs can be seen on the following page.

Alfred is not shown at the address and searches of Ancestry.co.uk failed to find any trace of Alfred at all. This caused many problems in my initial quest for Alfred and initially took me down the wrong path. An ancestry colleague found the correct Alfred through searching Genesreunited. This showed Alfred in Hospital.

Alfred is shown below as a patient in the Sussex County Hospital. His profession is shown as a Plumber. I did eventually find this information in Ancestry but only by physically searching each page. Alfred was not indexed at all.

**Name** Alfred Williams

**Relation to Head of Family** Patient

**Age Last Birthday** 26

**Sex** Male

**Profession or Occupation** Plumber

**Condition as to Marriage** Married

**Where Born** Lancashire Wigan

**Address** Eastern Road Brighton

LIST OF ALL PERSONS WHO SLEPT OR ABODE IN THIS INSTITUTION ON THE NIGHT OF SUNDAY, MARCH 31st, 1901.									
No.	NAME and SURNAME.	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family in the Institution.	CONDITION as to Marriage.	AGE last Birthday.	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION.	Employer, Worked, or Own Account.	If Working at Home.	WHERE BORN.	Is this person a Pauper, or a Person of Colour, or a Person of any other description?
1	Alfred Williams	Patent	Married	26	Plumber	Wigan		Lancashire Wigan	

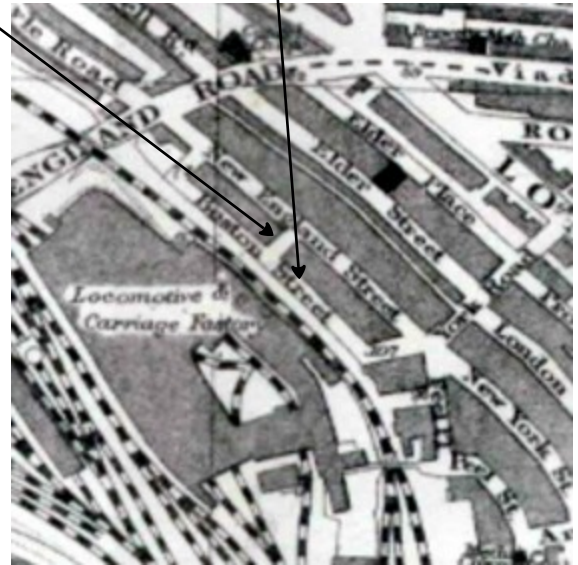




Above are two views of Boston Street. The street still exists but no longer has any houses. The street was built in 1850 on arable land between London Road and the railway.

The houses, intended primarily for railway workers, were built with little regard to density per acre, the chief object seemingly being to build as many houses in as a small a space as possible.

However, these houses in Boston Street had more space in them than Elder Row which was just a hundred yards away and is mentioned within the Maidlow Chapters of Volume Two.



The Royal Sussex County Hospital was known as the Sussex County Hospital from 1828, the year it was built, until around 1911 when the name was changed with the addition of the 'Royal'.

The Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton was designed by Charles Barry (1795-1860), hence the name of the main building being the Barry Building. He later became the architect of the Houses of Parliament.

The Brighton General Hospital was not established until 1935 and so the Sussex Country was Brighton's principal hospital.



Royal Sussex County Hospital

Unfortunately the Census does not tell us why Alfred was a patient in the hospital. There could be a couple of reasons. First, an illness, maybe Alfred's TB, if he had it, may have returned or second, and I think more likely but further research is required, Alfred had an accident.

It is a fact that Alfred lost a leg apparently after a fall whilst working. Hopefully one day I may be able to find the newspaper article that mentions this but at the time of writing this has not been possible. This is because the time frame for Alfred's leg loss is not known and this may not even be the correct reason why Alfred was in hospital during the census. So a search of newspapers could be fruitless and very time consuming.

The next event we have documented for Alfred is the birth of his first Son, Alfred Vallance Williams on Sunday 21st September 1902.

On the certificate we can see Alfred is again stated as employed as a House Painter but it is not certain if he is working or if he has lost his leg which could explain the Hospital admittance.

**CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH** **GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE**

Application Number 2549864-1

<b>REGISTRATION DISTRICT</b>									
<b>BRIGHTON</b>									
1902 BIRTH in the Sub-district of <b>West Brighton</b> in the County of Brighton									

Columns:-	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
401	Twenty-first September 1902 30 New York Street N.D.	Alfred Vallance	Boy	Alfred Williams	Mary Waldo Williams formerly Stevens	House Painter (journeyman)	M. W. Williams Mother 30 New York Street Brighton	Third November 1902	GEO. A. MORRISON REGISTRAR	

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 11th day of August 2010

**BXCE 659795**

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BTW

### Copy of Alfred Vallance's Birth Certificate



New York Street.

The family have now moved to New York Street from Boston Street. Why this move was made is not known. The move to Boston Street from Queen Street would have possibly been because of the building of the Railway Goods Yard.

New York Street itself was to eventually disappear and it became part of New England Street when the whole area was demolished for slum clearance.

In the background of the photograph on the left you can just see Saint Bartholomew's Church. It has claims to the largest nave in Britain.



Nothing of note happened in Alfred's life between 1902 and 1907, or at least no documentation has been found. One can only assume the family lived from day to day. If Alfred has only one leg then life would not have been easy and the whole family must have struggled.

On Friday 28th June 1907 the family size was again increased by the birth of another Daughter, Emily Edith.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 2549864-4

REGISTRATION DISTRICT BRIGHTON

1907 BIRTH in the Sub-district of West Brighton in the County of Brighton

No.	Where and when born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
26	Twenty eight June 1907 20 Franklin Street Brighton	Emily Edith	Girl	Alfred Williams	Mary Edith Williams nees Moses	Banker	M. H. Williams mother 13 Southampton Street Brighton	July 1907	RES. A. WILSON REGISTRAR	

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Emily was born at 20 Franklin Street although her mother Mary is recorded at 13 Southampton Street.

Why this happens to be the case I do not know. Maybe it was to provide Mary with some privacy as many families seem to share the same house or maybe it was the house of a relative which future research may reveal?

### Copy of Emily Edith's Birth Certificate

As the family seemed to stay in the Southampton Street area for the next few years, it is possible to look at the address in the 1911 Census.

The Williams family were still resident at that time as 'lodgers', although in No 12. The house at No 13 was vacant during the Census period.

Franklin Street, below, was built in similar terraced style to Southampton Street.

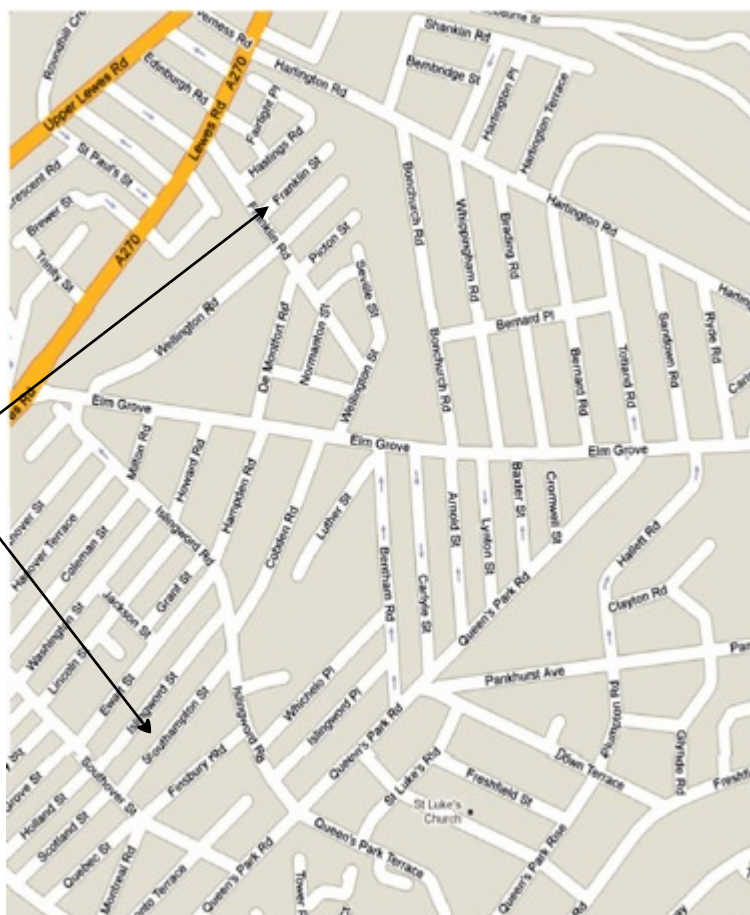
The two properties were however, some distance apart.

### Franklin Street

### Southampton Street



Franklin Street





By 1909 it can be seen that Alfred can no longer work in his trade as House Painter or indeed, Plumber. Alfred is now a Street Organ Player. This can be seen on the certificate of the birth of their third Daughter, Margaret Ivy Williams, born on Thursday 21 October 1909 who was born at 12 Southampton Street, the family home for the next few years.

**CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH** **GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE**

Application Number 2549864-2

REGISTRATION DISTRICT		BRIGHTON							
1909 BIRTH in the Sub-district of East Brighton, Brighton		in the County of Brighton							

No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
393	Tuesday first October 1909 12 Southampton Street Brighton	Margaret Ivy	Girl	Alfred Williams	Mary Helen Williams formerly Stevens	Organ Grinder	M. W. Williams Mother 12 Southampton Street Brighton	21/10/09	C. J. WEBB, REGISTRAR	

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.  
Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 11th day of August 2010

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B17K

### Copy of Margaret Ivy's Birth Certificate

On the certificate it can clearly be seen that Alfred's occupation is an 'Organ Grinder'. The organ grinder was a musical novelty street performer of the late 19th and early 20th century.



Period literature often represents the grinder as a gentleman of ill repute or as an unfortunate representative of the lower classes. Some organ grinders were itinerants or vagabonds, many were recent immigrants who chose to be street performers in order to support their families.

I know, from facts and history that Alfred did not enter this category by choice. Alfred was a well educated man from a rich, or at least fairly well off, background who had come across bad times through a terrible accident which caused the loss of his leg.

An Organ grinder normally had a medium sized barrel organ held in front of him and supported by a hinged or removable wooden stick or leg that was strapped to the back of the organ. The strap around his neck would balance the organ, leaving one hand free to turn the crank and the other to steady the organ.

A tin cup on top of the organ or in the hand of a companion (or an animal) was used to solicit payments for his performance.

There was an endless variation in the size of the organ. The size varied from a small organ with only 20 notes weighing only 18 pounds to a huge barrel organ with hundreds of pipes weighing several hundred pounds. Larger organs were usually mounted on a cart, although organ grinders were known to carry an instrument weighing over 100 pounds.

I once saw a photograph of my Grandfather stood by his Grinding Organ. From what I remember it was mounted on a cart and therefore must have been quite heavy. I would love to believe the photograph below was him but that would only be wishful thinking, this gentleman appears to have two legs.



**An Organ Grinder in the Brighton Area**

It has been mentioned by other family members that Alfred had a pet monkey. If this was true then it can not be proved. No living member of the current family would ever remember Alfred playing his street organ.

The monkey would collect the money from the audience and sometimes collect other shiny objects that attracted its attention. Other attractions might be parrots, dogs, or members of the organ grinder's family who would dance and sing.

Many cities in Britain had laws prohibiting organ grinders. The authorities often encouraged policemen to treat the grinders as beggars or public nuisances.

Music lovers usually hated the organ grinders, since most grinders seemed to be tone deaf and lacking any sense of rhythm. They apparently were not interested in keeping their instrument in tune or cranking at a rate suited to the music which was "programmed" in their barrel organ.

The disappearance of organ grinders from Britain's streets was in large part due to the early application of Copyright laws.

At the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century publishers of sheet music and the holders of copyrights often banded together in order to enforce collection of performance duties from any musician playing their property in any venue. Royalties would be something Alfred would not be able to afford.

When faced with notaries and the hounding of other legal representatives of the music industry of the time, in addition to the other sources of hostility mentioned above, organ grinders soon disappeared.

It is not known when Alfred eventually gave up this 'vocation' or whether he was forced to abandon the only means he had to maintain his family. With no welfare state back then it was a case of earning money, turn to crime or starve. I believe Alfred's principles and upbringing would urge him to work and earn a living for as long as possible.

It is with irony that in the Brighton of today an Organ Grinder would be welcome on the streets or seafront. The 'diversity' of people in Brighton would not tolerate their removal or treatment they had to endure 100 years ago. Then again, with the welfare system of today, Alfred would have been far better off both financially and with living conditions. It is not until you reflect back at your own relatives and what they had to endure that you sometimes wonder about that phrase 'The good old days'. They certainly were not for many people.



For people like Alfred and his family there was no such thing, it was a life of daily survival. Their homes prior to Southampton Street never even had electricity, it was not until the late 1920's this 'luxury' arrived. I think if Alfred could see life today he would not class his time as 'The good old days'.

So the next record we have of Alfred is the 1911 Census taken on the Sunday night of 2nd April. This form is quite interesting but more complicated than previous Census forms.

On this first form we can see Alfred and his family are residing at 12 Southampton Street and the family consists of six. This being two males and four females.

17

Civil Parish. BRIGHTON			Electoral Ward. BRIGHTON			Borough or Urban Sanitary District. BRIGHTON		
Ward of Borough or Urban Sanitary District. <i>Harbour</i>			Parliamentary Borough or Sanitary District. BRIGHTON			Parliamentary Borough or Sanitary District. BRIGHTON		
No. of House- holds.	Address.	Kind of Building. (For Details of Plans and Buildings see separate Plans or Particulars of separate Plans or Particular						

Ground Floor - Entrance Hall, Bedroom 3 approx 11ft x 10ft 5, Spacious Bathroom approx 11ft 3 x 8ft 5 having part tiled walls and with a modern white suite comprising a large bath, corner shower compartment, wash basin, low level W.C. chrome towel rail/radiator, chrome towel rail/radiator, built in cupboard housing Worcester gas fired central heating boiler and plumbing for washing machine, double glazed window. Obviously the luxuries of Shower, Washing Machine, Heating and 'modern' suites were just a dream back in 1911.

Lower Ground Floor - Superb Open plan Living room/Kitchen overall and maximum measurements of approx 24ft x 15ft, with the Living area having an open fireplace, radiator, cupboard with gas meter and a window. The Kitchen area has an extensive range of units with Beech working surfaces comprising an inset single drainer sink unit with adjacent work tops, cupboards and drawers below, inset 4 ring gas hob unit with under oven, matching range of wall cupboards, further worktop with integrated fridge and freezer.



### Modern Floor Plans of a Southampton Street Property

Again the luxuries would be a dream in 1911. No gas hob, fridge, freezer, kitchen units, heating etc. This 'open plan' room back then would have been two rooms. One to live and sleep in and one kitchen. The kitchen was probably shared by all the members of the house, as would the bathroom. Alfred and his family, total six, would have probably all lived in the one room.



It would be very difficult for people today to imagine what daily life was like just 100 years ago. In my own lifetime there was never any central heating when I was young. If you could afford to buy coal then you cleaned the fire grate out every morning to light a new fire to get warm.

You would also light a fire if you wanted hot water as that was the only way of heating it. The electric immersion heater was another luxury not everyone had. Bath water was normally heated once a week and therefore baths were normally had by the family once a week.

Even my memories of those days do not compare with the life my Grandfather, Alfred, had to endure, or indeed his father before him.

Left shows the basement window of No 12 Southampton Street where Alfred and his family probably lived.



Returning to the 1911 Census form we can see the second part gives us a further information and is more like previous Census records. There is some additional questions that seem rather intrusive, like the question of 'Children born alive to present marriage'. This would not be ask on any Census form now days.

Having just completed the 2011 Census Form it asked very little although there were many pages. It seemed to concentrate more on race and religion. Ancestral research for future generations will be very difficult due to the society we live in today.

On this part of the form which asks 'Children born alive to present marriage', Alfred has put the number of 'Children born alive' as Six and 'Children still living' as Four. As the Children we have are Ethel, Alfred, Emily and Margaret, this would mean there are two further children born who died at a young age.

Having searched Ancestry for the number of children born between 1900 and 1911 who lived less than a year with the name 'Williams' I found the number to be around 30 rather than one or two.

This means that to order birth certificates to find these two children who died would be time consuming and expensive on certificate costs. It is for this reason I will not be able to find out, sadly, who these children were. However there was one girl named Eleanor who I may purchase a certificate for at some point in the future because this name was not common in the Brighton area at this time, but there were relations in the Williams family in Oswestry who carried that name.

The form also shows Alfred as an Organ Grinder working on 'Own Account'. This basically would mean now days he is either 'self-employed' or has other incomes to live on and is not employed by anyone else.

**CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.**

*Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.*

*The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.*

NAME AND SURNAMES	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE last birthday and sex	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE		PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Person aged ten years and upwards		NATURALIZATION of every person	NATURALIZATION of every person	INFIRMITY
			Married, Single, Widowed, or Divorced	Particulars of Marriage	Particulars of Profession or Occupation	Particulars of Profession or Occupation			
Alfred Williams	Head	36	Married		Organ grinder				
Mary Williams	Wife	39	Married						
Ethel Williams	Daughter	11			School				
Alfred Williams	Son	9			School				
Ethel Williams	Daughter	3							
Margaret Williams	Daughter	1							

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

(To be filled up by the Head of Family or other person in charge, or in charge of this dwelling)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: Alfred Williams

Printed Address: 12 Southampton St Brighton

It can also be noted that the 'Infirmary Column' has been blanked out. This, no doubt, has been done to protect peoples 'Right to privacy' under the stupid 'nanny state' Laws we have now in this Country. It is a shame as we lose sight of how we judged people, rightly or wrongly, and what lessons we have learnt. By covering this information up, and I do not know if any entries were made in this column, we are just hiding our errors and not learning from them. Authorities obviously think we can not judge for ourselves.

Although at the time of the Census Alfred must have found life a struggle at times, his wife Mary must have found it even more difficult. She had four young children to look after, two under the age of 4 years, a husband to care for and a family to feed with very little income. Life was not to get any easier either. War was just a few years away and she was to find herself pregnant.

Whether the family were pleased with this at the time would not be known, what is known is that this birth would be, as far as I am concerned, the most important birth of all the children.

The reason this birth was so important was because on Friday 12th January 1912 Edward George Williams was born at 12 Southampton Street. Of course this was my father, so a special occasion for myself. Edward being a second son was also special for Alfred, but to make the occasion extra special for Alfred and Mary, it was also the day of their 14th Wedding Anniversary.

**CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH**

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number COL 409392

REGISTRATION DISTRICT Brighton

1912 BIRTH in the Sub-district of East Brighton in the County of Brighton C.B.

No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
1	Twelfth January 1912 228 St Southampton Street Brighton C.B.	Edward George	Boy	Alfred Williams	Mary Helen Williams formerly Shadwell	Street Organ Player	Mr. W. Williams Worker 12 Southampton Street Brighton	1912	Wendy Gould	Registrar

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Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 27th day of June 2006

**BXCB 795093**

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GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE  
ENGLAND

RMP

### Copy of Edward George Williams Birth Certificate

The family is now complete. It is unfortunate that I do not have any photographs of the family when they were young but I guess money was tight with Alfred just living off his income.

The only photographs I have show them as adults and some of those are in their autumn years. Unfortunately Margaret is missing as I do not have a photograph as yet. The rest are worth showing.



Alfred



Mary



Ethel



Alfred



Edith



Edward



Southampton Street holds quite a bit of history for my parents. Edward, my father, as you have just read, was born there. He was living at 55 Southampton Street when he married his first wife, Grace. As told in Volume One, Chapter One. The address, 12 Southampton Street, was also where my mother's first husband, Thomas Taylor, lived when they married. This is shown on the marriage certificate and mentioned in Volume Two, Chapter One. It would also explain why my father and Tommy were good friends living so close and having ties with the same address at No 12.



**37 Southover Street**

**Southampton Street**

It is not known how long Alfred lived in Southampton Street but he was not to end his days there. One day when time permits I may study the Electoral or Street Registers for that area of Brighton to try and complete the picture. I do know that in 1940 Alfred was living at 37 Southover Street.

It is interesting to note that on Edwards marriage to Grace in 1936, the certificate has Alfred's profession as a 'Painter'. On Edwards marriage certificate to Jean, my mother, the certificate states Alfred's profession as a 'Master Plumber'. Was my father ashamed of his own fathers profession for many years as an 'Organ Grinder'? I know my father at one point was a Dustman, it does not make me think any less of him. I am proud of my roots and I have no problems in telling people my father was a Dustman or my grandfather was an Organ Grinder.

It does not matter who they were or what work they did. They obviously done the best they could and raised their families with pride. It is with that pride I write this story.


Alfred had seen World War One and although never participated himself he had endured hardships during those times. He had been born to a decent family, was no doubt helped in his education by his School Master father. He had been taught a decent trade of plumbing by his Uncle and relatives on his mother's side. For some reason he had left his family in Oswestry to travel to Brighton, probably to better himself, where he met his wife, Mary.

Alfred had hit hard times after a tragic accident which cost him his leg and he had to resort, basically, to begging in order to feed his family. During this time his wife, Mary, had stuck by his side throughout.

Alfred was to see the start of a second World War but by now was ill and suffering from Pneumonia. On Wednesday 6th March 1940 Alfred died at the Brighton Municipal Hospital, Elm Grove, now known as Brighton General Hospital and as mentioned before, initially built as the Workhouse. He had reach the age of 65, not bad for someone who had to go through life as he had done, no doubt with lots of support from Mary.

His death certificate states he died as a 'Street Musician' (Organ). Obviously his 'skill' improved as he went on. I admire his guts and determination. The small lad with potential, born in Wigan.

**CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH**



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number COL 556538

REGISTRATION DISTRICT		Brighton							
1940 DEATH in the Sub-district of		Brighton Central			in the County Borough of Brighton				

Columns:-	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
261	Sixth March 1940 Brighton Municipal Hospital Elm Grove U.D.	Alfred WILLIAMS	Male	65 years	of 37 Southover Street Brighton U.D. Street Musician (Organ)	La. Lobar pneumonia Certified by I. G. Jenne M.R.C.S.	M. W. Williams Widow of deceased 37 Southover Street Brighton	Sixth March 1940	W. P. Howard Registrar


CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 6th day of September 2006

**DYB 159092**

See note overleaf

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KJW





