

# **1866 Suffrage Petition: Nottingham Signatories**

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## Foreword

WOMEN'S HISTORY often remains hidden. I hope this study will stimulate others to find out more about these pioneers. It is important that we give life to these women so they do not remain just names on a list. In compiling biographies of the 53 Nottingham women who signed the 1866 petition, I have drawn on many sources. There are six for whom no information can be found so there is the challenge. The only images found for any of these women are those of Sarah Loverseed and Catherine Turner. Several of the original properties in which they lived still exist. Some have undergone a change of use while others simply no longer exist. In reading the histories of these women some people may realise that they are part of their own family. Any further information will add to our knowledge. Readers will see strong links to non-conformity as well as connections to Bromley House Library and People's College.

## Introduction

In 1865 the Kensington Society, a discussion group for middle-class women which met in Kensington, London, discussed the issue of the vote and decided to form a small informal committee to draft a petition. The leaders included Barbara Bodichon, Emily Davies and Elizabeth Garrett, all prominent campaigners for women's rights in the mid-19th century. The Liberal philosopher John Stuart Mill MP agreed to present the petition to Parliament for them, provided they could get at least a hundred signatures. His stepdaughter Helen Taylor wrote a first draft of the petition.

### HOW MANY WOMEN SIGNED THE 1866 PETITION?

Signatures were sought by women from their family circles and friendship networks. They came in from a wide variety of women – teachers, dressmakers, shopkeepers, the wives of butchers, greengrocers and blacksmiths, as well as women of the leisured classes. And they came in from all over the UK and Ireland. The scientist and mathematician Mary Somerville even sent her signature from her home in Italy. The organisers collated signatures at Aubrey House in London, home of activist Clementia ('Mentia') Taylor and her husband Peter Taylor MP. They recorded 1,499 names which were printed and circulated in a pamphlet. However, the House of Commons Select Committee on Public Petitions later counted 1,521 signatures, revealing an extra 22 last minute additions.

### THE PRESENTATION OF THE PETITION

Emily Davies and Elizabeth Garrett brought the petition to Parliament in a hansom cab to give to Mill. A story later told was that they hid it under the cart of a woman selling apples in Westminster Hall in order to avoid attention, and that was where Mill found it. He laid it before the House of Commons on 7 June 1866, and spoke on it on 17 July, when he declared that the value of the petition was that it had been organised and signed exclusively by women. It therefore demonstrated clearly for the first time that women wanted the vote.

7 JUNE 1866

**“Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honourable House to consider the expediency of providing for the representation of all householders, without distinction of sex, who possess such property or rental qualification as your honourable House may determine.”**

### FIRST DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT

The following year, Mill initiated the first Parliamentary debate on votes for women, when he moved to replace the word 'man' with 'person' during the passage of the Second Reform Bill in 1867. His powerful speech was well received, even by opponents. He received support from some other MPs including Henry Fawcett, husband of Millicent Garrett Fawcett, but

the resulting division was lost 73 votes to 196. Mill was encouraged enough by this to continue to argue for votes for women and wrote personally to Mary Somerville to ask her to be the first signatory on another suffrage petition in 1868, which gathered more than 21,000 signatures.

### **THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE 1866 PETITION**

The 1866 petition marked the start of organised campaigning by women for the vote. Overall, more than 16,000 petitions for votes for women were received by the House of Commons and House of Lords between 1866 and 1918. The battle continued throughout the late 19th and early 20th century, in the peaceful 'suffragist' campaign led by Millicent Garrett Fawcett, and through the militant 'suffragette' campaign led by Emmeline Pankhurst and others. In 1918 the Representation of the People Act gave the vote to all men and women over the age of 30 who met minimum property qualifications. In 1928 women got the vote on equal terms with men.

### **THE PROVENANCE OF THE SIGNATORIES**

The bulk of the signatures came from London (414) Manchester (173) and Leeds (106). Over fifty women signed in Edinburgh, Salford and Nottingham respectively. Thirty-seven signatures were collected in Stroud. Tenterden, Kent, Rochdale, Aldeburgh and Brighton provided more than twenty signatures each. Ten locations (Bristol and Clifton, Birkenhead, Southport, Liverpool, Middlesex, Newcastle, Ipswich, Battle, Cuckfield, and Haywards Heath) provided between ten and twenty names. In each of a further sixty locations between two and ten women signed, and in thirty-seven only one person signed.

In 1890 a 'Survivors' Petition' signed by 78 of the original signatories, including Barbara Bodichon and Elizabeth Garrett (now Dr Elizabeth Garrett Anderson), was presented to the House of Commons by railway entrepreneur and women's suffrage supporter Edward Watkin MP. The 'Survivors' Petition' stressed that the situation had not changed for women since 1866, even though the franchise had been widened for men by the reform Acts of 1867 and 1884. I have not been able to establish if any of the Nottingham women were on this petition.

# The Nottingham Signatories

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Address Given</b>
1	Maria Attenborough	Nottingham
2	Miss A. M. Bale	Cromwell Street, Nottingham
3	Miss Basnett	Park Row, Nottingham
4	Mrs. M. A. Burt	Nottingham
5	Mrs. Carrington	Arkwright Street, Nottingham
6	Mary Ann Carter	Wellesley College, Nottingham
7	Mrs. D. Cooke	Royal Gate, Nottingham
8	Mary Selina Curzon	57, Barker Gate, Nottingham
9	Mrs Dame	North Sherwood Street
10	Mrs Dodson	Lamartine Street, Nottingham
11	Jane Dodson	ditto
12	Mary Dodson	ditto
13	Louisa Elizabeth Featherstone	Arkwright Street, Nottingham
14	Elizabeth Hall	Sherwood Street, Nottingham
15	Mary Harrison	Church Field, Old Radford, Nottingham
16	Sophia Harrison	Broad Street, Nottingham
17	Mary Houghton	Sneinton, Nottingham
18	Miss Johnstone	Derby Road, Nottingham
19	Mrs John Keeley	9, Regent Street, Nottingham
20	Miss Key	Enfield Terrace, Nottingham
21	Mrs Clara Langley	3 Queen's Road, Nottingham
22	Elizabeth Lester	Nottingham
23	Mrs. E. G. Loverseed	Ferrers Street, Nottingham
24	Hannah Marsh	Sherwood Street
25	Fanny Martin	Goosegate, Nottingham
26	Mrs T. M. May	Shakespeare Street, Nottingham
27	Mrs E. May	ditto
28	Mrs Thomas Moore	Chilwell, Nottingham
29	Mrs M. Morris	Shakespeare Street, Nottingham;
30	Mrs T. Ord	Sussex Street, Nottingham
31	Anne Penny	Bromley Place, Nottingham
32	Hannah Penny	ditto
33	Miss Petty	5, Gray Friar Gate, Nottingham
34	Elizabeth Rae	Nottingham
35	Fanny Roberts	Nottingham
36	Margaret Santer	Park Row
37	Susan Selwood	Huskisson Street, Nottingham
38	Anne W. Shaw	Wheeler Gate, Nottingham
39	Elizabeth Shepherd, sen.,	Walmer Terrace, Nottingham
40	Elizabeth Shepherd, jun.,	ditto
41	Mary Shepherd	Barker Gate, Nottingham
42	Mrs D. Simkins	Goose Gate, Nottingham
43	Mrs A. Simpson	Shakespeare Street, Nottingham
44	Mrs Edwin Smith	Mount Vernon, Nottingham
45	Mrs C. Southamer	Shakespeare Street, Nottingham
46	Elizabeth Sunter	Park Row, Nottingham
47	Phoebe Sutton	Nottingham
48	Mrs H. Turner	Park Terrace, Nottingham
49	Mary A. Ward	Castle Gate, Nottingham
50	Annie Ward	ditto
51	M. E. Ward	Castle Gate
52	Miss Westmoreland	Park Row, Nottingham
53	Mrs Emma Wilde	Talbot Street, Nottingham

*Note: This is as they appear in the petition copy digitized by Google.*

## NAMES

The names were transcribed from the original petition, which no longer exists. There are copies of the printed version at Girton College and one downloadable version accessible via Google. The spellings of names etc. is entirely reliant on the person who transcribed from the original. Signatures are notoriously hard to decipher at times.

**Warning:** If using the tabulated list on the [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk) website be careful of errors of transcription. For instance, the tabulated version says Mrs M.A Burton, Nottingham, when the original clearly says Mrs M.A Burt, Nottingham. To view the original printed copy of the signatures use the url <https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=JVAQN7MIMYC>. In the copy held at Girton College, which belonged to Miss Davies, there are annotations including three for Nottingham signatories, Mrs Carrington, Miss Petty and Mrs Simpson. What these mean is unclear.

## ADDRESSES

When seeking to clarify addresses, reference points are directories and censuses. However, one needs to be mindful that censuses are only ten-year snapshots and people moved around, particularly if they were renting or lodging. Someone described as boarder in a house of multiple occupancy might rent a room but share meals with the main family. A lodger might be self-contained, but one can never be certain in houses in which several families might live. Sometimes it seems impossible to find someone in a particular census. Directories are usually more for commercial purposes so not everyone might appear at a given address even when the individual streets are listed. Women in particular may not appear if they are not head of the household or lodging with others. A good example of why it is important to learn more about the wider family is the case of Louisa Featherstone (**No. 13**). At the time of the Petition she is said to be on Arkwright Walk. She does not appear in Wright's 1866 Directory but her uncle, Peter Case, is there at 245 and she is living with her aunt and uncle. Sometimes newspaper reports are useful. See the Marsh family (**No. 24**) for the complexity of addresses.

## NOTTINGHAM

There appear to be 53 signatures from Nottingham. The fact that a year later Mrs Turner (**No. 48**) and Miss Sunter (**No. 46**) are out collecting for another petition might suggest that they were the main instigators in Nottingham in 1866. Only Hannah Penny (**No. 32**) was still alive when the 1928 legislation was passed.

Of the 53 women, I feel that 47 have been positively indentified. Data is thus based on these 47.

A) Where were they born? Of the 47 identified, 19 were born in Nottingham, and a further 4 born in Nottinghamshire, so 49% were from Nottinghamshire. 7 were from Derbyshire, but interestingly another 7 were from the West Country, including Dorset, Devon, Somerset and Cornwall.

- B) In terms of Religious Denominational Allegiance, I have been able to identify 33. Of these, the largest number is 9 Methodists, followed by 6 Unitarians, 5 Congregationalists/Independents, 7 Baptists, 1 Quaker, 1 Roman Catholic, 1 Swedneborgian and 3 Church of England. The others will no doubt have allegiances, but these are still to be identified.
- C) In terms of occupation, those working in the field of education – at 9 – make up the largest group. There are 5 landed proprietors and 7 connected with millinery and drapery. There are those married to butchers, builders. shoemaker, tailors, grocer, and newsagents. Some are connected to the lace industry and one to coal mining.
- D) Ages at the time of petition ranged between 20–75. The largest percentage of those with known ages were those in their 30s with 29% of the total, followed by 23% being in their 40s and 16% being in their 50s. So those aged between 30–59 account for 69% of those who signed the petition. There were 6 women in both their 20s and 60s and two who were over 70.

(For Nottingham links to other signatories see **Appendix F**).

## **1. Maria Attenborough 1794–1883**

**Age at time of Petition: 72**

**Address at time of Petition: 30 Park Row**

**Religious Denomination: Unitarian**

MARIA ATTENBOROUGH came from a family which embodied the successful tradesmen of Nottingham “whose success and advancement in public life” rested in belonging to powerful Dissenting Chapels and support for the Whig cause. As Stanley Piggott notes in *Hollins: A Study of Industry 1784-1949*: “Year after year Whig Mayors, Alderman, Sheriffs and Senior Councillors from the same families followed each other by almost hereditary right.”

More commonly known as Maria Attenburrow, she was baptised at High Pavement Unitarian Chapel on 7 May 1794. She was the daughter of Dr John Attenburrow (1756–1843) surgeon at Nottingham General Hospital and his wife Elizabeth Oldknow, the daughter of Thomas Oldknow. The family were living then at Timber Hill before moving to Beastmarket Hill. Her great grandfather, Thomas Oldknow was twice Mayor of Nottingham. Her grandfather, Thomas Oldknow, (1744–1817) was a draper and mercer on Beastmarket Hill. He was an original partner in the Pleasley Cotton Mill with Henry Hollins, a senior councillor in Nottingham, and lived on Long Row. Thomas Oldknow was Sheriff of Nottingham in 1768 and Mayor in 1798. Her great uncle, Joseph Oldknow followed his brother as Sheriff in 1769 and as Mayor in 1799. Her great aunt, Hannah Maria Oldknow was the wife of Henry Hollins. Her uncle, Henry Oldknow was appointed surgeon of Nottingham Lunatic Asylum in 1811. Her aunt, Harriet Oldknow, was married to Thomas Paget (1768–1841) surgeon to Leicester Infirmary. Her cousin, Thomas Paget 1797–1875

was the father of Harriet Paget who attended the school of Catherine Turner in Lenton Fields (See **No. 48**). Her uncle, Joseph Attenburrow was a butcher in Nottingham

Maria, **born 1794**, was one of eight children. Her siblings, all baptised at High Pavement Chapel, were Lucy (b1793), Eliza (b1795), Charles (b1798), Harriet, (b1800), Jane, (b1802), John (b1804) and Henry Clinton (b1807). When Maria was six her father, a keen supporter of the pioneer of the smallpox vaccine, Dr Edward Jenner, vaccinated her younger brother Charles in an attempt to promote the use of vaccination in Nottingham. He also vaccinated the son of Charles Baxter, of the Cordwainer's Arms, Tollhouse Hill, and a member of the High Pavement Chapel. Such was the success that mothers brought their children en masse to Beastmarket Hill where Dr Attenburrow vaccinated hundreds of poor children at his own expense.

A founder of the Nottingham Medico-Chirurgical Society, her father was surgeon to the General Hospital for 61 years. In 1832, with other citizens, he petitioned the King to intervene with the Emperor of Russia on behalf of the Polish nation, and to restore the liberties granted in 1815. The following year an engraving of Dr Attenburrow by Barber was on sale in Nottingham – “the low price at which it is published places it within reach of almost all classes of society.”

**In 1841** Maria is living with her father John, 80 in a cottage in Breaston in Derbyshire with her sisters, Eliza and Jane. There are two servants. Her mother, Elizabeth is in the family home at Beastmarket Hill, Nottingham with Maria's brother, Henry Clinton Attenburrow, surgeon, an assistant and four servants. Maria's father died aged 87 in 1843.

Maria's brother, Charles died in 1845. He was a surgeon in Costock and well known in sporting circles. He wrote articles for the *Sporting Magazine*. Charles was a member of Bromley House Library but was in trouble in 1829 for losing a copy of *Modern British Drama*. His mother assumed his membership and was still being pursued for the book in 1831. She herself had her own library difficulties. In 1834 she was fined for lending *Water Witches* to Mr Burnside and was required to provide another copy of *Refugee in America*. Records show she owed fines! Charles died in the house of his mother in Park Row, Nottingham.

Maria herself was a member of Bromley House Library. She was a subscriber from 1 October 1855 until her death. She was a supporter of Count Marioni as librarian.

Her brother, Henry Clinton Attenburrow was appointed surgeon to the General Hospital in 1843 in succession to his father. In 1838 he had assumed the role of honorary secretary of the Nottingham branch of the British Medical Association. Due to marital issues he resigned in 1851, moving to Jersey. In the 1851 census he is in Jersey with his mother. His wife had



petitioned for the restitution of conjugal rights. Henry was a well-known as a cricketer and in 1847 took ten wickets as an under-arm bowler at Trent Bridge for Notts against England.

**In 1851** Maria is living at Park Row, aged 55 and is a landowner. With her are sisters Eliza (aged 50) and Jane (aged 45). There is also Anne C Attenburrow (aged 7) given as granddaughter, but this must be the granddaughter of their mother who was in Jersey at the time of the census. There are two servants. The house was at the corner with Regent Street. Maria's mother died in 1856 in Nottingham aged 89. Maria was 64 at this time.

**In the 1861** census Maria is still living at Park Row with her sisters Eliza and Jane. She is aged 61 and a landed proprietor as are her sisters. Jane died in 1864.

**In August 1866**, the same year at the Petition, the British Association for the Advancement of Science held its annual meeting in Nottingham. Some delegates were hosted by local families. Staying with Miss Attenborough on Park Row were Sir John and Lady Bowring. Barbara Castle was his second wife. They were both very active in the Women's Suffrage Movement, especially in the Exeter area. Also staying were her was Mr and Mrs James Heywood. He had been an MP and was a philanthropist and social reformer. In 1866 her niece, Ellen Jessie Attenburrow, daughter of Henry, married Arthur Davenport who was for many years in the consular service in China.

**In 1871** Maria is living at 30 Park Row. The return gives her name as Marion. She is there with two servants. Maria was an active member of the High Pavement Unitarian Chapel and sat in a part of the Chapel known as 'Saints Corner' together with Mrs Turner (No. 48), Mrs Carpenter, the Tayler Sisters and Miss Guilford. Maria's sister Eliza died in 1879.

**In 1881** Maria is still living at 30 Park Row with her great nieces, Nora and Edith Blount, a visitor Ada French and three staff. In September 1881, her brother Henry died in Jersey.

Maria died on **5 April 1883**, leaving an estate of approx £7,000. (The equivalent of £0.5 million in 2017 values). Her executors were her niece Annie Christina Blount of Woodside, Belvidere, Kent and Benjamin Dowson of Nottingham, husband of Alice Dowson, suffragist. Annie Blunt was the wife of George Bouverie Blount, Deputy Accountant General in the Royal Navy.

## **2. Miss A.M Bale 1846–1871**

**Age at time of Petition: 20**

**Address at time of Petition: Cromwell Street**

**Religious Denomination: The Pennys were Baptists**

THIS COULD BE ALBENIA/ALBINA Mary Bale, born in 1846 in Wellington, Somerset, daughter of James Bale, a woolcomber, and Susan Winter who were married in Wellington 1833.

**In 1851** at Champford Lane, Wellington, Albenia's mother, Susan is aged 50 and a widow, and recorded as a schoolmistress. There are three children Louisa, Thomas and Albenia, together with two visitors. The Penny family are on the same street.

**In 1861** the family are in Nottingham living at Vernon Street. Her mother, Susan, aged 50 is a maker up of hosiery as is Albenia. Her sister Louisa is a dressmaker. The owner of a Hosiery Factory in Nottingham was John Penny. His daughters, Hannah Penny (**No. 32**) and Susan Selwood (**No. 37**) who both signed the petition had been born in Wellington, Somerset so this may well be the link with Albenia Mary Bale. John Penny's wife, Anne (**No. 31**) was born a Winter, so this may well be the connection. When the Penny family resided in Wellington in 1851, living with them is one, Susan Winter, aged 88 said to be grandmother. Albenia's mother's maiden name was also Winter.

**At the 1871** census Albenia was a sewing machine worker staying with family of Gervis Green, a cab driver and widower, and his two daughters at 7 Vernon Street. Albenia's mother is working as a sick nurse at the home of Anthony Truman an unemployed civil engineer. Her sister, Louisa is married to James Humphrey a plumber. In 1881 Susan Bale is living with Louisa and James and their three daughters, Maude Louisa, Agnes Ellen and Edith A. Susan is said to be a retired nurse.

Albenia died in Nottingham in 1871 aged 25.

## **3. Miss Basnett 1797–1870**

**Age at time of Petition: 69**

**Address at time of Petition: 26 Park Row**

**Religious Denomination: Baptised Unitarian became Church of England**

PHOEBE BASNETT was born on 23 October 1797, baptised at High Pavement Unitarian Chapel on 11 August 1797. She is the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Basnett, granddaughter of Bramstone Seawell/Sewell of Beeston.

Her grandfather, Bramstone Seawell, had lived at Plumtree before moving to Normanton-on-the-Wolds in 1766. He died in Beeston in 1786. Elizabeth, Phoebe's mother, was from his first marriage. From his second marriage, Elizabeth's half sister was Mary Seawell.

Phoebe's aunt Mary Seawell married William Tiffin Iliff, a surgeon who served in Malta. Mary Iliff wrote a book of verse, *Poems upon Several Subjects* in 1808, which contained over 120 subscribers from Nottinghamshire and Nottingham, including Lord Byron's mother and members of Maria Attenburrow's (**No. 1**) Oldknow family. Eighteen members of the extended Basnett family subscribed, as did three of the Seawell family. This can be viewed at Google Books. There was a further edition published in Malta in 1818.

Phoebe Basnett's father Thomas was a surgeon in Nottingham. He was the youngest son of Nathaniel Basnett of Peckham, London and Elizabeth Still. He died in 1820. He and Elizabeth Seawell/Sewell married on 3 July 1787. Her mother died in 1826.

**In 1841** Phoebe is living at Fletcher Gate of independent means with her sisters Elizabeth Sewell Basnett (1788–1855) and Jane Basnett (1790–1845).

Although the Basnetts had been baptised at High Pavement Unitarian Chapel, the family seems to have moved allegiances to the Church of England. The Basnett sisters were keen supporters of St. Mary's Nottingham and their brother, Rev Thomas Still Basnett (1792-1865) became an Anglican clergyman, at one time Chaplain to the House of Correction in Southwell. In 1852 when it was proposed to erect two new churches in the Parish of St Mary's, one to be St Matthew's and the other St Mark's, Phoebe subscribed £1 to the additional churches fund.

**In 1851** the sisters sold the property in Fletcher Gate, advertising that it was in the centre of the lace and hosiery trades. In the census for 1851 Elizabeth S Basnett and Phoebe Basnett are living at 26 Fletcher Gate. Both are said to be fundholders. They have one servant.

The Basnetts were the victims of crime in Nottingham. In 1843 a thief got over the wall in Rose Yard, Bridlesmithgate into Miss Basnett's yard. He took clothes which were drying on the line. Her maid, hearing a noise, went out and the thief decamped taking with him a petticoat, but throwing the other articles into the dirt-hole. In 1852 there was a spate of pickpocket thefts in the crowded thoroughfares of Nottingham. Women were particular targets and Miss Basnett was robbed in Market Place of a purse containing three guineas.

**In 1854** the Bath Chronicle notes the arrival of Miss Phoebe Basnett and Miss Basnett (her sister, Elizabeth) at 22 Gay Street. Her sister Elizabeth died in Nottingham in 1855.

**In September 1858** Phoebe was back in Bath staying at 15 Brock Street. This is the home of her cousin, Charles Henry Basnett, architect. Charles was the only son of John Basnett of Wokingham, Berks. He died 18 July 1859 aged 75.

**In October 1859** Phoebe arrived in Bath again, staying at 25 Brock Street. In February 1860 we learn that Miss Basnett is living at 26 Fletcher Gate, but she is selling up and leaving Nottingham. There is a sale of “genteel drawing, sitting and bed oom furniture, glass, china, linen etc.”

**In 1861** Phoebe is staying with her cousin’s widow, Mrs Anne Basnett, at 15 Brock Street in Walcot Bath. They have 3 servants. On 14 September 1861 it is noted that Miss Phoebe Basnett was staying at Rogers’ Hotel, Bath with Mrs C. H. (Anne) Basnett. Anne died in 1873. **In 1866** Phoebe is living at John Westmoreland’s Appartments, 26 Park Row. **In the 1868** directory she is recorded as being at Mr Westmoreland’s, 28 Regent Street. She died in Nottingham in 1870. She left estate of £4,000.

#### **4. Mrs M. A. Burt 1807–1885** *(the surname seems to be spelt Burt and Burtt)*

**Age at time of Petition: 59**

**Address at time of Petition: 17 Angel Row**

**Religious Denomination: Quaker**

MARY ANN BURTT was born c1807 in Brushfield Hough, Bakewell, Derbyshire. She was the daughter of Ralph Blore/Bloore (1762–1848) a farmer and his wife Alice, née Bowman (1760–1816). She was baptised on 23 March 1807 in the Quaker Meeting House though her parents are noted as non- members.

Her siblings included:

- Bowman Bloore/Blore b1794, Bakewell
- Ralph Bloore/Blore b1796, Bakewell
- Alice Bloore/Blore b1798, Bakewell
- Phebe Bloore/Blore b1801, Bakewell
- John Bloore/Blore b1804, Bakewell
- Sarah Bloore/Blore b1809, Bakewell

Mary Ann married Samuel Burtt, a grocer, on 12 May 1836. He was also a Quaker, the son of Thomas Burtt, deceased farmer of Welbourn, Lincolnshire and his wife Mary. In 1841 they are living on High Street, Nottingham. With them are Samuel’s mother, Mary (aged 76), Mary Ann’s sister, Sarah Bloore, listed as a female servant, five other female servants and two grocer’s apprentices, William Mills (aged 15) and William Neave (aged 14).

**In 1851** they are living at 17 Angel Row in Nottingham where Samuel ran his grocer’s shop close to the Bromley House Library. Living with them are Samuel’s mother, Mary, Mary Ann’s sister, Sarah Blore, and the son and daughter of her elder brother, Bowman Blore. There is one female servant. Samuel’s mother died on 26 December 1855 aged 90 and is buried in the Quaker burial ground on Clarendon Street. Samuel became treasurer at

People's College, a post he held until his death in 1868 at the age of 69. He was also active in the Nottingham Christian Temperance Society. When he died he left an estate worth £1,000.

**In 1871** Mary Ann is living at Clarendon Street with her sister, Sarah Bloore. Mary Ann is said to have house property and Sarah is said to be in receipt of dividends. There is a boarder, Jane Barker (aged 55), living on interest of money. There is William Bloore (aged 44), their nephew, single and a seedsman assistant. There is one servant.

Mary Ann was clearly identified with the Quakers in Nottingham. When Elizabeth Sunter from College Street became Secretary of the Nottingham Committee of the London National Society of Women's Suffrage in 1871, Mary Ann joined the committee. In 1874 she was asked to chair a meeting under the auspices of the Nottingham Vigilance Association for the Defence of Personal Rights. The newspaper report notes: "Mrs Burt, of the Society of Friends in the Chair". The meeting was about the proposed 9-hour Bill being introduced by Mr Mundella and Mr T Hughes' Married Woman's half-time bill. There was a strong feeling that women would be greatly disadvantaged as their wages would be restricted. The meeting resulted in a petition stating that women ought to be free to work overtime when trade required. (See **Appendix A.**)

**In 1881** Mary Ann Burt continued to live with her sister, Sarah Bloore, at 23 Clarendon Street. Mary Ann is said to be 74, a widow and retired grocer. Sarah is 71, single and a retired bookseller. There is a visitor, Eliz Milnes (aged 43) a widow. There is one servant.

Mary Ann died on 4 January 1885, leaving £323. Her executrixes were her sister Sarah and Elizabeth Sunter.

## **5. Mrs Carrington – Arkwright Street**

In the copy held at Girton, Emily Davies seems to have corrected Mrs to Miss. I have not been able to trace Mrs/Miss Carrington.

A MRS ELIZABETH CARRINGTON is shown in Wright's 1866 Directory on Arkwright Street, two doors down from Peter Case. He was the uncle of Miss Featherstone (**No.13**) who was living with her aunt and uncle on Arkwright Street at the time of the petitions

## 6. Mary Ann Carter 1813–1873

**Age at time of Petition: 53**

**Address at time of Petition: Wellesley College, 11 Wellington Circus**

**Religious Denomination: Church of England**

**BORN c1813** IN NOTTINGHAM but no parentage has been established. The first knowledge we have of Mary Ann Carter is a poem written when she was about 16, published in the *Nottingham Review* on 9 January 1829 entitled “Faith.” (See **Appendix B/1 Poetry, Politics and Religion**).

In her book of poetry, *The Deluge*, published in 1838, is a list of subscribers. Among these is a Mr William Carter of Standard Hill, Nottingham who subscribed for four copies, as did a Mr J Carter so these might be relatives. We know she had a sister, Emma, born c1820 and in her poems she references family. From among the poems are:

### **Death of My Brother**

*My Brother! My brother! My spirit oft cries  
My brother! My brother! Repeat my sad sighs*

And

### **Death of My Mother**

*Tho' twice the year its course hath run*

We can infer from the poem that the mother had died two years before Mary Ann wrote this and that such was the illness that she was relieved when her mother was no longer suffering.

*No, I rejoice that thou are bless'd –  
That thou from ev'ry pang art free;  
No sorrow can disturb thy joy-  
The Godhead's smiles now beam on thee.*

And

### **Death of My Sister**

*I daily saw her wasting form –  
Her pallid lip and sinking eye,  
Foretel how shortly we must part  
And yet, I hop'd she would not die.*

We can assume these family members had died before 1837.

**In 1838** Mary Ann Carter published a volume of poems *The Deluge, the General Insurrection: And other poems, historical, descriptive etc.* On the 17 November 1837 the *Nottingham Journal* noted: “We have much pleasure in announcing shortly for publication, a volume of miscellaneous poems from the pen of Miss Mary Ann Carter, of Nottingham; and from a perusal of several of the pieces, amongst which, the principal subjects are the ‘Deluge’ and the ‘General Resurrection’ we venture to express an opinion that the talent displayed throughout, will secure for the work a place in the library of every admirer of native literature.” (*Reviews contained in Appendix B/2 might suggest a difference of opinion*). The *Nottingham Journal* on 1 December 1837 alerted its readers to the book costing 5s, neatly bound in embossed cloth.

From the book we can learn more about Mary Ann Carter and the influences in her life. The book of poetry was published by Hamilton, Adams & Company, London and J Hicklin, Nottingham. Mary Ann’s association with John Hicklin is an interesting one. John Hicklin was the publisher and printer of *The Nottingham Journal*. He was a Tory and member of the Church of England. He was the honorary secretary of the Nottingham Constitutional Club, Conservative Club, Low Pavement – the main conservative association in Nottingham. He was also secretary of the Literary Society at Bromley House and it is interesting to note that over 50 of the subscribers to the book (*see Appendix B/3*) were members or connected to Bromley House. Other subscribers were clearly Conservative supporters such as Mrs Fearnhead, wife of Peter Fearnhead, honorary secretary of the Ashby de La Zouche Conservative Association, and George Freeth who had been undersheriff for Nottinghamshire. Hicklin clearly promoted Mary Ann both within the *Nottingham Journal* and Bromley House subscribers.

The *Nottingham Journal* was a rival to the Liberal *Nottingham Review* run by Richard Sutton, whose wife Phoebe (**No. 47**) also signed the petition in 1866. Hicklin and Sutton were both poor law guardians and clashed over whether the workhouse should employ a chaplain. Hicklin clearly felt the pressures of the non-conformist ascendancy in Nottingham as is shown in the following review of one of his books on the history of Nottingham Castle in the *Churchman Magazine*, January 1838: “*We have always much pleasure in reading any thing from Mr Hicklin’s pen because so far from finding, as we too often do, something which may offend the eye and hurt the feelings of the Christian, there is everything to please and instruct. Mr Hicklin is an ardent lover of the Church of England, and never hesitates to manifest that love by his devotedness and zeal in its behalf whenever call upon to do so; and form the prevalence of dissent, and much consequent animosity against the Church in Nottingham, that is very often. He is we know highly and deservedly respected in the town, and even by some of those who are religiously and politically opposed to him, and it would be well if the Church had more such zealous lay friends in every town and village in the kingdom.*”

## The Poems

Included in the poems is one to Byron and Mary Ann Carter was clearly a great fan:

### On Byron

*Thy country never truly knew thy worth,  
Whilst thou were pouring forth thy soul  
In beauties rich, magnificent, sublime,  
Thine impress stamp'd upon the whole.*

There are also translations from Italian and French. One of the subscribers was Sig. Assolari, Professor of Languages, who as well as teaching at the Nottingham Mechanic's Institute, taught private students and may well have taught Mary Ann Carter and given her a love of French and her determination later to conduct her school entirely in French.

**In 1841** there is a Mary Carter working as a governess in Mansfield at the home of Martin Furniss/Furness, a surgeon. This could be Mary. One of the subscribers to her book of poetry in 1838 was a Mrs Furniss of Mansfield, so I think this is the right connection. She could well have been working for the Furniss family at the time of the publication of the book. I can find no trace of her sister, Emma.

At some point after working in Mansfield Mary Ann set up a school with her sister, Emma in Nottingham.

### The School

In their advertisements the School is said to have been founded in 1846. However, in 1845 there is an advert for a Boarding and Day School in Parliament Street run by Miss Carter and Miss E Carter.

**By 1846** the school is said to have a healthy situation. Its advertisement stated: 'Pupils benefit from having French continuously spoken, imposed upon them to speak it also.' **By 1847** the school claims "to promote the moral and intellectual improvement of all committed to their care".

**In January 1850** the Misses Carter removed the school to Derby Road, next to the Cathedral. It was said to have the advantages of town and country being close to the Park and just three minutes from the Market Place. A private garden attached to the premises was said to be conducive to the health and amusement of the young ladies.

**In the 1851** census Mary Ann is at West Side, Derby Road with her sister, Emma (aged 31) described as Governess and cousin. Also named is a Mary Ann Carter (aged 39) visiting from London and two servants. There are four pupils: Emma Hornby (aged 16) born in



Tuxford; Elizabeth Ann Crawford (aged 15) from Rufford; Mary Ann Shaw (aged 13) from Nottingham; and Matilda Wood (aged 6) from Nottingham

**Up to 1852** the school is advertised under both the Miss Carters, but by 1853 Emma is no longer involved. In January 1853 Miss Carter advertises in the *Nottingham Journal*: “Ladies Seminary, Derby Road, Nottingham. Latin and mathematics by a Classical Master. French – the language of the schoolroom. A vacancy for an Articled Pupil.”

**In July 1859** the boarding and day school is said to be at Wellesley House, Wellington Circus. There is a resident German governess. Wellesley House is No.11 Wellington Circus. On the 29 December 1859 Miss Carter announces that in the new term the school will be called Wellesley House College for Ladies, based on Queen’s College in London. There is to be a range of visiting professors. There will be a school as usual starting at the age of 5.

*(Note: Queen’s College a school for girls founded by the theologian and social reformer, Frederick Denison Maurice. It was the first institution in the world to award academic qualifications to women. In 1853 it also became the first girls’ school to be granted a Royal Charter for the furtherance of women’s education. It led the way in the study of music for women under William Sterndale Bennett and John Pyke Hullah, who were among the founding directors. Maurice had to defend the teaching of mathematics against claims of ‘dangerous’ consequences.)*

**On 19 January 1860** Miss Carter advertised that the following professors will regularly attend the College:

- Mr Russell – Drawing and Painting (*This is Joseph Fussell, Second Master at the School of Design*)
- Mr Quick – Dancing and Calllesthénics (*Mr E Quick of Castlegate – he attended schools and families*)
- Mr Shelmerdine – Pianoforte, Thorough Bass, Harmony and Composition (*William Shelmerdine was organist and Professor of Music at the Mechanics Institute*)
- Miss Gill – Singing (*Pupil of Garcia and Sterndale Bennett*)
- Mr Bond- Hullah’s System of Singing including Psalmody
- Mons. Durand – French Language and Literature (*Based at Clarendon Street*)
- Herr R Kleinenberg – German Language and Literature (*Robert Kleinenberg taught French, German and Russian based at Mrs Cummins, Station Street. He also taught Gymnastics and Fencing*)
- A Native (resident gentleman) Italian Language and Literature
- Mr Beilby – Latin Language and Literature (*He taught at Sherwood House School, Mansfield Road*)
- Arithmetic by a Master
- Religious instruction by a clergyman

- Lectures on Literacy and Scientific subjects by Professors
- First-class resident Governess for Music, French and German

**In September 1860** she has dropped 'House' from the title, referring to the school as Wellesley College. She announces that she is a member of the Royal College of Preceptors. (Founded in 1846, the Royal College of Preceptors was committed to raising standards in teaching as well as providing examinations and certificates for secondary pupils in a wide variety of subjects). Miss Carter stated: "Students are prepared for public examination and will receive examiners either for Certificate, Diploma or Honours, according to their respective merits." As well as these students she notes that there were daily classes under eminent professors and that the school for pupils above four years was open as usual.

The success of Miss Carter's pupils is recorded by the *Nottinghamshire Guardian* on 27 December 1860: "Among the successful competitors at the Royal College of Preceptors, we observe the names of three pupils from the educational establishment of Miss Carter, Wellington Circus, Nottingham, who took certificates of proficiency. One of them took a first-class place in German, and another the second in drawing, besides bearing evidence of great aptitude in other branches of learning. The fruits of this examination sufficiently attest the soundness and practical character of the instruction afforded in Miss Carter's Seminary, while at the same time they show no little assiduity and zeal on the part of the pupils themselves."

**In 1861** she is living at 6 Circus Street with a Teacher of German, Louisa Seibrecht, from Cassel, Germany and 2 servants. Miss Mary Ann Carter was a schoolmistress. This must surely be an error on the part of the enumerator with properties on Wellington Circus and East Circus Street becoming muddled.

In December 1861 Miss Nixon was awarded a Certificate of Proficiency in various subjects.

In December 1863 Miss R Cochrane and Miss Underwood achieved success in the London College exams.

In December 1864 Miss Rebecca Gelsthorpe and Miss Janet Smiles similarly received awards.

In an advert in the *Nottingham Journal* on **20 January 1866** the school is described as "Wellesley College for Young Ladies, Wellington Circus, Nottingham. Many Pupils during the last five years have, by Public Examination, obtained Certificates from the London College. Vacancies for Boarders and a few Day Pupils."

**In November 1866** it was reported that a bazaar had been held by Miss Carter at Wellesley College, Wellington Circus and her pupils on behalf of the Nottingham and Midland Eye Dispensary raising an acceptable sum.

The Schools Inquiry Commission, which deliberated between 1864 and 1868 and led to the Taunton Report in 1868, had received correspondence on the issues of girls' education including from Miss Carter.

**In June 1870** after continued ill health she gives up the Ladies Collegiate and the building, now at 45 Castle Gate, is put up for auction by Jas Carter & Son on 20 June 1870. This may well be a relative. He was born about 1815. His daughter Sophia Ellen also ran a school. This needs further investigation. The auction was selling the whole of her useful household furniture and effects. From the six bedrooms were being sold iron and other bedsteads, beds, blankets and counterpanes.

**1871:** Have not been able to trace her.

Mary Ann Carter had a very sad death. In the *Nottinghamshire Guardian* (7 March 1873) we have a story headlined: "The Awfully Sudden Death in Nottingham". It reads: "Mr Coroner Browne resumed the inquiry on Monday afternoon at the Running Horse Inn, Alfreton Road into the circumstances connected with the death of an elderly woman named Mary Ann Carter of Cromwell Street. It appeared from the evidence of two residents in the house the deceased was in the habit of drinking a considerable quantity of brandy, having on the average two bottles a week. On Thursday night she was found lying on the floor of the house quite intoxicated. She was raised with some difficulty and placed on a sofa-bed in the parlour, where she remained until she died at an early hour the next morning. Mr Herbert Owen Taylor, surgeon, made a post-mortem examination and ascertained that the immediate cause of death was fatty degeneration of the heart. All the organs in the body were diseased, and the liver beside being that of a drunkard, had fatty degeneration. He had no doubt drinking had contributed to the diseases of the liver and had therefore accelerated death. He traced alcohol in the brain and stomach. The Rev. George Dundas, vicar of St. Matthew's, expressed a wish to be examined, and this being complied with, he stated that he had known the deceased, who was a very ladylike person, for many years. She told him she took Brandy for the diarrhoea, but he had never seen her intoxicated, nor did she ever smell of drink. She was a highly educated person, and kept a school for many years, but relinquished it in consequence of ill health. The jury returned a verdict 'that the deceased had died from fatty degeneration of the heart, accelerated by intemperate habits'."

Interestingly in the *Nottingham Journal* on 4 March 1873 there is a slightly different story. Headlined 'Shocking Death from Drink', this report refers to her as Mary Ann Clarke (an

error) and stated that “it appears that early on Friday morning that the deceased was found drunk, and taken home to her lodgings in Cromwell St, where she died soon afterwards”. The report also mentions that as well as two bottles of brandy every week, she drank claret and other liqueurs.

**7. Mrs D Cooke 1823–1905** (*This is Mrs David Cooke Royce*)

**Age at time of petition: 43**

**Address at time of Petition: 25 Warser Gate**

**Date of Marriage: 1846**

**Religious Denomination: Non-Conformist**

BORN IN 1823, Jane Knight, daughter of John Knight, broker and Mary Bull was baptised at Saint Peter’s, Nottingham on 28 September 1823. I think Mary Bull was his second wife.

**In 1841** the family are at St Peter Gate. John is aged 65 and a broker. Mary his wife is aged 45. There is Sarah, a milliner (aged 20), Catherine, a bonnet maker (aged 20), Jane (aged 15), George (aged 11) and Eliza (aged 8).

**In 1846** under allotment of burgess parts, John Knight, broker, Peter Gate (aged 71) and his wife Mary (aged 50) a piece of land on the Hunger Hills worth £21 a year. (*Note: The land at Hunger Hills was owned by the Nottingham Coporation and although burgess parts were originally for grazing, by 1832 a total of 400 parts had been sublet for pleasure gardens. These were particularly popular with shopkeepers and professional people who lived over their businesses in the town centre and so had little garden around their homes. This site is now Grade II listed*).

Her father was a broker and general dealer on St Peter’s Gate, Nottingham. On 29 June 1849 it was announced in the *Nottingham Review* that there was to be a sale of furniture, floorcloths, paintings, coins and curiosities by way of auction held on the premises of Mr John Knight. He was selling his entire stock comprising paintings, antique carvings, china, glass, coins, museum of curiosities, antique cabinets, other furniture, books, prints, an astronomical clock, musical, eight days and other clocks, floor cloths, household furniture, desks, a pair of iron doors and frame, iron pans, several stoves and other useful effects. By 1852 he was trading in Hounds Gate.

Her siblings included:

- Sarah (married William Whittle, a mechanical engineer).
- Catherine (bonnet maker and married to James Townsend).
- George Knight (paper dealer and paper box maker who died in 1862).
- Eliza Knight.
- Rebecca (1808–82) half-sister, married Anthony Addington Watts, Attorney, in 1850.

Her father died 9<sup>th</sup> April 1861.

**In 1846** she married David Cooke Royce who was a currier and shoe manufacturer. Voted Liberal. He had been born in Oundle, Northamptonshire c 1818.

Their children included:

- George Appelbee Royce (1848–1920) In 1877 he married Olga, daughter of late Wilhelm Oesterling of Stuttgart.
- William Royce (1850–70).
- Mary Ann Royce (1851–1926) who was married to Rowland Hill, lace manufacturer.
- Barbara Royce (1853–?).
- David Cooke Royce (1856–1929).

**In 1851** Jane is living at 25 Warser Gate with her husband David Cooke Royce, Master Currier employing two apprentices and her son William (aged 1) and a servant.

**In 1861** the family are at 25 Warser Gate. With David and Jane are William, Mary Ann, Barbara and one David Cooke Royce Jnr.

**In 1871** the family are at 5 Elm Avenue. David is said to employ four men and one boy. With them are George (aged 22), Mary Ann (aged 19), Barbara (aged 17), David Jnr (aged 15), a currier and one servant.

**In 1876** David Cooke Royce was elected as Poor Law Guardian to represent the parish of St Nicholas.

**In 1881** they are at 18 Gregory Street. With David and Jane now are Barbara and David Jnr and one servant. David is said to be chairman of Royce, Gascoigne & Co., shoe manufacturer.

**In 1891** Jane and David are at 18 Gregory Street. He is said to be manager of a shoe factory. They have one servant.

**In 1901** Jane and David are living at 18 Gregory Street with a nurse and a servant.

David Cooke Royce was chairman of Royce, Gascoigne & Co., boot and shoe manufacturers. In 1887 the firm hosted the 'Robin Breakfast', an event arranged by the Non-conformists in Nottingham for some 700 poor children.

Jane and David both died in 1905. David Cooke Royce left £5,366.

## **8. Mary Selina Curzon 1809–1890**

**Age at time of Petition: 57**

**Address at time of Petition: 57 Barker Gate**

**Religious Denomination: Church of England**

MARY SELINA CURZON was the youngest child of the large family of John Curzon (1757–1827) and Sarah Taylor (1764–1835). Her parents had been married at St Mary's Church, Nottingham on 28 August 1783.

Among her siblings were:

- William Curzon (1820–58) born in Chatham and became Chief Constable in Worksop before becoming a malster.
- Sarah Curzon (1787–1846) married, in 1810, Samuel Lane (1781–1871), a builder.
- John Curzon (1790–1870).
- Samuel Curzon (1793–1868).
- George Curzon (1796–1860).
- Nathan Curzon (1799–1868) married, in 1855 aged 56, to Sabina Carter.
- Charlotte Curzon (1804–64) married George Dunstan, a baker, in 1825.

The Curzons owned a great deal of property in Nottingham and their name is remembered in Curzon Street.

**In 1841** Mary Selina is living in Count Street with brothers John (aged 51), independent; Samuel (aged 48), gardener; George (aged 45), gardener; and Nathaniel (aged 40), gardener.

**In 1851** she is still living with her three bachelor brothers. John is a landed proprietor; Samuel is a gardener; and George is a master gardener who owned 47 acres employed six men and three boys. From all brothers she undoubtedly acquired considerable wealth. There is one servant.

**By 1861** they are living at 25 Barker Gate. Interestingly, John's age is given as 71 and listed as head of household. Samuel, Nathan and Mary Selina are given as lodgers! Elizabeth Blunt is their house servant.

**In 1871** she is living at 35 Park Row. She is recorded as aged 61 with income from land, houses and dividends. Elizabeth Blunt (servant) is with her and there is a visitor: Sarah A. Mather, aged 57 and married. The description of dressmaker is crossed out against Sarah Mather's name.

**In 1881** she is living at 41 Park Row. Elizabeth Blunt is said now to be her cook and there is another housemaid.

Mary Selina was a subscriber at Bromley House Library 1871–90. On her death she left £68,897 (the equivalent of over £5.5 million by 2017 values). The bulk of her estate went to her many great nephews and nieces, but she left several bequests including:

- £200 each to Nottingham General Hospital and the Nottingham Dispensary.
- £100 each to Midland Institution for the Blind; Nottingham Eye Hospital, Nottingham Children's Hospital; the Midlands Orphanage; Industrial Training Institution for Girls at Lenton; British and Foreign Bible Society; Church Missionary Society: Church Pastoral Aid Society: Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge; Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts; Colonial and Continental Church of England Society; and Nottingham Women's Hospital.

(See **Appendix C**: *The 'Nottinghamshire Guardian' notes in 1892 the death of Elizabeth Blunt, her 'faithful servant' of 36 years. Elizabeth would have been working for Mary Selina Curzon when she signed the petition.*)

## 9. Mrs Dame 1821–1879

**Age at time of Petition: 45**

**Address at time of Petition: 184 North Sherwood Street**

**Date of Marriage: 1843**

DAME WOULD SEEM to be an incorrect transcription of **Dance**. There is a Mrs Rebecca Dance living at 184 North Sherwood Street in the 1868 Street Directory, described as a newsagent. There would seem to be other branches at Arnold Place and Sherwood Place. She had been born Rebecca Clark in St Germans, Cornwall to John Clark an agricultural labourer and his wife, Mary. She was baptised on 17 June 1821.

**In 1841** she is living in Hassenford, St Germans with her father, John.

She was married to James Dance in Devon in 1843. He was born in Nottingham c1820.

Their children included

- Sarah Ann b1844.
- Mary (bonnet maker) b c1849, Newport, Isle of Wight (d1919).
- Elizabeth Matilda (hose mender) b c1851, Guernsey.
- James Henry Tooley b1854, Guernsey.
- Joseph Arthur (saw maker) b1856, Nottingham.
- Thomas William (tailor) b 1859, Nottingham (d1919)

**In 1851** the family are staying in lodgings at St Peter Port, Guernsey, the lodging housekeeper being Elizabeth Roliffe.

**In 1861** the family are at 40 Sherwood Street. James is described as watchman and newsagent. He was watchman for the Shambles Ward. With him and Rebecca are Mary

(aged 11), Elizabeth (aged 90), James H T (aged 7), Joseph A (aged 4), and Thomas W (aged 1).

The firm of James Dance, stationer and general newsagent was at 40 North Sherwood Street in 1862. It had been established in 1857. It announced that the *Nottingham and Midland Counties Daily Express* could be had every morning by seven o'clock, delivered to any address if required, without extra charge. Advertisements and communications for the *Nottingham Express* could be received at the shop up to nine o'clock every evening. The family were clearly working long hours.

**In the summer of 1865** tragedy struck. James died while visiting Essex leaving the family in financial difficulty. In the *Nottingham Journal* on 30 August 1865 was the following letter:

### **A CASE FOR THE BENEVOLENT**

SIR – May I be allowed a small space in your columns for an appeal to your readers to exercise their generosity in aid of the widow and children of the late James Dance, newsagent, North Sherwood Street, who have been left by his decease in a situation of great difficulty and distress. Mr. Dance, who will be remembered by many of your readers as night watchman in the Shambles, and as agent for the sale of the Daily Express and other newspapers, is found, by all inquiries, to have been a man of remarkable probity, sobriety, and prudence; but in his anxiety to establish a business as newsagent and stationer, he has been led into expenses which have necessarily involved him in some pecuniary difficulties. These, however, were all in course of liquidation, and would, no doubt, had he been spared, have been met with his usual punctuality. His premature death, and the expenses consequent thereon, and the loss of his wages for some time previous, render some assistance necessary to save the widow and children from absolute want. Hence this appeal to the benevolent public. The gentlemen whose names are appended here kindly consented to receive subscriptions. They have inquired into the particulars of the cash, and believe that if a sufficient sum can be raised to clear off the small amount in which the deceased is found to be indebted, and also to make some little additions to the widow's stock in trade, she would, in all probability, be able to maintain herself and family, and keep her boy for some time longer at the Blue Coat School, and thus fulfil the father's most anxious desire – that of bringing up the family decently and respectably. Will you kindly make any use of these lines so as to give publicity to the facts of the case, and oblige myself and the promoters? Subscriptions will be thankfully received by the following: Mr R COWEN – Villa Road, treasurer; Mr. C.N. WRIGHT – Addison Street; Mr SAM STAMP – Nag's Head Inn, Mansfield Road; Mr E JAMES – Newstead Grove; EDWIN JAMES.



By November 1865, £19 19s 10d had been raised and debts paid. By January 1866 Rebecca was running the business. By 1869 she is also called bookseller as well as newsagent.

**In 1871** Rebecca is a widower (and said to be a stationer) living at 184 Sherwood Street with Mary, 21, Bonnet Shape Maker; Elizabeth, 19, Hose Mender; Joseph A, 14, Scholar; and Thomas W, 11, Scholar.

**In 1881** after Rebecca's death, Mary, Joseph and his wife Emma and Thomas W are all living together at 202 Sherwood Street. Joseph is now a saw maker and Thomas a tailor.

#### **10. Mrs Dodson 1799–1870**

**Age at time of time of Petition:**

**Address at time of Petition: 16 Lamartine Street**

**Date of Marriage: 1821**

**Religious Denomination: Independent - Congregational**

SALOME DODSON, née Gawthorne 1799–1870, wife of William Dodson, a lace maker. Her father was the Rev. Thomas Ratcliffe Gawthorne 1765–1847 of Belper. Her mother was Sarah Barrow.

Thomas Gawthorne was an independent minister who had been at Derby moving to the congregation in Belper in 1784. She was born in Belper and married William Dodson in Duffield, Derbyshire on 25 April 1821.

**In 1841** Salome and William are at the home of Matt Dodson and his family in Market Place, Sutton-in-Ashfield. There is a son, John Dodson, aged 8.

**In 1851** she and William are at Haywood Street, with them are Jane (**No. 11**) aged 27; Hannah, aged 25; Mary (**No. 12**) aged 23: and John aged 16. Jane, Hannah and Mary are milliners. Her daughter, Hannah died aged 26 at her parent's house, Haywood Sreet, Sneinton. She was said to be of South Parade.

**In 1861** she is living on 16 Lamartine Street with her husband and daughters, Jane and Mary. Lamartine Street is off St Ann's Well Road.

She died on 1 January 1870. William died on 4 December 1871 aged 76.

**11. Jane Dodson 1823–1900**  
**Age at time of Petition: 43**  
**Address at time of Petition: 16 Lamartine Street**  
**Religious Denomination: Independent - Congregational**

DAUGHTER OF William Dodson and Salome Gawthorne (**No. 10**). Born 10 October 1823 in Sutton-in-Ashfield. She was a milliner. She was baptised at the Old Meeting House – Independent – Sutton-in-Ashfield in November 1823.

**In 1851** she is living at Haywood Street, Nottingham with her parents, and sisters Hannah and Mary (**No. 12**) and brother John, who is 16. All sisters are milliners.

**In 1871** she is visiting Ventnor on the Isle of Wight.

**In 1874** Jane and her sister were helping to run the Swiss stall at a bazaar held at the Mechanics Hall to raise funds for the re-pewing of the Congregational Chapel on Friar Lane, and for a reduction on the debt on the Sunday Schools.

**In 1876**, according to Kelly's directory, Jane and Mary are at 11 South Parade, Milliners.

**In 1885**, according to White's Directory, the sisters are at 14 South Parade.

In the *Nottingham Journal*, on 22 September 1887, there is a report of Mr Lumley, the Revising Barrister, continuing the revision of the list of voters for the Borough of Nottingham. Mr J R Wild "said he appeared to support a claim, the lady being ill in bed. It was for Miss Jane Dodson, residing at 16 Lamartine Street. Mr Linforth said the claim might be allowed". It was a case in which there were two sisters who were joint ratepayers. One was dead, the other alive. The overseers had left the dead one on, and the living one off. The barrister said the name would be amended from Mary to Jane.

**In 1891** she was living at 3 Wellington Terrace with a servant. She died on 18 March 1900 at this address. She left £4,222 probate to John Rain Wild.

**12. Mary Dodson 1827–1886**  
**Age at time of Petition: 39**  
**Address at time of Petition: 16 Lamartine Street**  
**Religious Denomination: Congregational**

DAUGHTER OF William Dodson and Salome Gawthorne (**No. 10**). Born on 5 April 1827, Mary was baptised in Derby by her grandfather, Rev. Thomas R Gawthorne on 13 November 1827 when her parents were living at Babington Place, Nottingham.

**In 1851** she is living at Haywood Street, Nottingham with her parents and sisters Hannah and Jane (**No. 11**) and brother John, who is 16. All sisters are milliners.

**In 1861** she is living at Lamartine St with her parents and sister, Jane (**No. 11**) Both sisters are milliners.

**In 1874** Jane and her sister were helping to run the Swiss stall at a bazaar held at the Mechanics Hall to raise funds for the re-pewing of the Congregational Chapel on Friar Lane, and for a reduction on the debt on the Sunday Schools.

**In 1876**, according to Kelly's directory, Jane and Mary are at 11 South Parade, Milliners. This may be their work premises.

**In 1885**, according to White's Directory, the sisters are at 14 South Parade.

Mary died on 26 August 1886 at 16 Lamartine Street, Nottingham, aged 59.

### **13. Louisa Elizabeth Featherstone 1808–1878**

**Age at time of Petition: 58**

**Address at time of Petition: 245 Arkwright Street**

BORN IN 1808 she was the daughter of John 1771–1846 and Jane Eaton Featherstone née Goodall 1782–1853 who ran a boarding and day school at Middle Hill. Her grandfather was Patricius Goodall. Louisa was herself a teacher and had specialised in music, drawing and embroidery. Her sisters, Hannah and Jane Fanny, were also teachers. Her mother had begun her school in Goose Gate in the 1820s with an emphasis on drawing and needlework.

**By the 1830s** Mrs Featherstone is advertising lessons in plain and ornamental needlework as well as writing. There are options for plain sewing and reading. Mending could be taught for 7-year-olds. There was no extra charge for Geography. Music and Drawing is taught by Miss Featherstone.

**In 1841** Louisa is a schoolmistress at Middle Hill with her father, John Featherstone, a schoolmaster (aged 70), mother, Jane (aged 60), and sister Hannah, a schoolmistress.

**In 1846**, Louisa's father, John Featherstone died aged 76. The *Nottinghamshire Guardian* noted on 4 December 1846 that "... for many years he was chairman of the Conservative Society assembling in the Wellington Room, Peter Gate, in this town, and on retiring from his office on account of indisposition the members presented him with a handsome silver cup, as a mark of their esteem and respect".

**By the 1840s** the school is on Middle Hill and by 1847, it is advertised as run by Mrs and Misses Featherstone. In 1849 the school displays a large embroidery of the nativity.

**In 1851** Louisa is living with at Middle Hill with her mother Jane, a widow and schoolmistress, aged 69. Louisa is said to be aged 43 and a teacher. Her sister Jane is there too, said to be aged 39 and a teacher. There are two female boarders aged 14 and one servant.

**By 1852/3** the school is said to be run by the Misses Featherstone. They advertised the school as:

The Misses Featherstone's Boarding and Day School. In 1857 the terms were: For young ladies above 12 years of age £5 5s per quarters; under 12 years of age, £4 14s 6d. ditto; Day Boarders, £2 2s ditto; Day Pupils 13s 6d. ditto; Reading and Sewing, 9s ditto; Reading, 8s ditto. Music, Drawing and Dancing, on the usual terms.

**In 1861** Louisa is at Middle Hill, a schoolmistress, with sister Jane Fanny aged 50 and an invalid and one servant. Jane Fanny, who had suffered ill health, died on 4 November 1861.

Louisa continued running the school with her sister, Hannah, until 1864 when it was taken over by Mrs Hickling of London.

Her father, John, was a subscriber at Bromley House Library 1829–50 and in 1831 presented the library with a stuffed seal. Her mother took on the subscription from 1850. Louisa's mother died on 29 January 1853 after a lingering illness. Louisa was a subscriber from 1865 until her death.

**By 1866**, the year of the petition, she is living with her uncle and aunt, Peter and Lucy Case at 245 Arkwright Street. Lucy Goodall, the younger sister of Louisa's mother had married Peter Smith Case of Mansfield in 1831. Her uncle, Peter Case died in 1870.

**In 1871** she is living with her aunt, Lucy Case (aged 72) at 245 Arkwright Street. Her aunt, Lucy died in 1874. Louisa died aged 70 on 18 February 1878 at Arkwright Street. In her will her assets were deemed at £1,000. Her will was proved by Henry Wilcokson, bank manager, of Nottingham, William Bradshaw, newspaper proprietor, of Belvoir Street, Leicester and Samuel Morris, farmer, of West Bridgford.

**14. Elizabeth Hall – Sherwood Street**

**15. Mary Harrison 1832–1913**

**Age at time of Petition: 34**

**Address at time of Petition: Church Field, Old Radford**

BORN c1832 in Old Radford, daughter of George and Lydia Harrison, miller of Old Radford. In 1837, George Harrison was a Guardian for the Radford Poor Law Union.

**In 1841** the family are living in Church Street, Old Radford. With George and Lydia are George, a miller (aged 20); William, a miller (aged 20); Lydia (aged 15); Ann (aged 15); Mary (aged 10); and Elizabeth (aged 5). There are two other millers and a female servant.

**In 1851** Mary is with her aunt and uncle in Stapleford. She is working as a lace drawer. With her are her sister, Elizabeth, a servant and her brother, John (aged 25), who is a lace manufacturer. Her uncle is James Taylor, aged 58, a lace manufacturer, employing 25 men, born in Ilkeston and his wife Elizabeth, aged 62, born in Stapleford.

**In 1861** her sister, Elizabeth married Mr Charles Walker of Leominster.

**In 1881** she is living at Salisbury Street with her sister Elizabeth and her husband and children. Mary is said to be living on the income from houses. Her brother-in-law is given as a malster (brewer).

**In 1891** living on her own means at Church Field House with her sister, Elizabeth Walker a widow, aged 54, living on her own means and her niece, Eleanor B. Walker, aged 21, also living on her own means. She had been born in Leominster, Herefordshire. There is a boarder, Lucy Glenday, aged 34, an elementary school teacher, born in India. In 1892 Mary stood for Guardian on the Nottingham Board of Guardians but was not successful.

**In 1901** she is living at 41 Whitely Road, Lambeth with her sister Elizabeth Walker and her niece Eleanor Walker and nephew William Walker who is an engineer.

**In 1911** she is 83 and living with her neice Eleanor Beatrice Walker, who is said to take pupils at 41 Whitely Road, Lambeth. There is a boarder, R. Williams, aged 20, a solicitor's clerk.

Mary Harrison died at 41 Whitely Road, Gypsy Hill, Surrey on 9 September 1913. Her executor was her niece, Eleanor. She left £1,142.

**16. Sophia Harrison – Broad Street, Nottingham**

**17. Mary Houghton 1836-1910**

**Age at time of Petition: 30**

**Address at time of Petition: Sneinton**

MARY ANN HOUFTON, born c1836 in Swadlincote, was the daughter of John and Sarah Houfton. Her mother had been born Sarah Ellis in Kirkby-in-Ashfield.

**In 1841** the family are living in Ibstock, Leicestershire. With John aged 50 is Sarah aged 35. No trade is given against his name. There are Charles (aged 10), Elijah (aged 8), Elizabeth (aged 5), Mary (aged 3), Sarah (aged 2) and Thomas (aged 3 months).

**In 1851** May Ann is working as a servant in the house of Michael Browne, a solicitor on Gregory Street, Nottingham. In 1851 her mother, Sarah is living with her son Elijah, 19, a schoolmaster, son Charles and daughter Sarah.

**In 1861** she is living on Sprotsborough Terrace with her sister Sarah (aged 22), both working as dressmakers. Also there is Sarah's illegitimate daughter, Annie (aged 2).

**In 1871** she is recorded as being a grocer living on Sneinton Hill, with her sister who is now married to John Cropper, a silk merchant. They had married in Sunderland in 1868. As well as Annie there are the Croppers' young daughter Estella Beatrice (aged 1), a niece named Mary Ann Holiday (aged 12) and a servant.

**In 1881** her mother, Sarah (aged 75) is living with the Croppers on Gill Street.

**In 1891** she is living at 3 Field Place, Mansfield Road as a lodger in the house of George Laseby, a widower and a shoemaker.

**In 1901** Mary is at 3 Field Place, Mansfield Road with George Laseby. She is employed as a mantlemaker.

Mary died in 1910 in Nottingham as did George Laseby.

Her niece, Annie married Albert Septimus Bradshaw owner of the *Nottingham Journal* who gave J. M. Barrie his first job. Annie herself was the author of several books.

**18. Miss Johnstone – Derby Road, Nottingham**

**19. Mrs John Keeley 1806–1905** *(The name is generally spelt Keely)*

**Age at time of Petition: 60**

**Address at time of Petition: 9 Regent Street**

**Date of Marriage: 1843**

HANNAH LEE was born in Arnold c1806 to Joseph Lee, Gentleman.

**In 1841** she is living at Clumber Street with her father, Joseph, who is said to be a plumber. With them is a William Kendall aged 3. Hannah loses ten years off her age. The Kendalls appear elsewhere so it is likely he is a cousin or second cousin

Hannah was married, aged 37, on 7 September 1843 in Islington to John Keely, Silk and Cotton Dyer of Nottingham. He was said to be of St Nicholas, Nottingham, son of John Keely, Gentleman. She was living at 31 Gibson Square, Islington. The witnesses were William Kendall and Annie Kendall.

**In 1851** Hannah and John were living at Castle Terrace with John (aged 5) and Emily (aged 4). There is a general servant and a nurse maid.

**In 1861** the family are recorded at 4 Castle Terrace. With Hannah and John are son John, aged 15 and a student, daughter Emily Louisa, 14 and a student, and niece Annie Kendall, aged 24, a proprietor, born in Islington. There is a cook and a house maid.

John, her husband, was a Poor Law Guardian for Nottingham and died on 6 February 1864, leaving £9,000.

In 1868 she is recorded in the directory as Mrs H Keeley at 9 Regent Street.

In 1870 her son, John married Matilda Mary, 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter of Rev. H. T Curry of Bricett, Suffolk and moved to Chesterfield.

**In 1871** Hannah is living at 66 St James Street with her daughter, Emily, daughter-in-law Matilda Keeley, and grandson, Harold Keeley. Hannah is now a widow and an annuitant, (someone who benefits from an annuity or allowance.)

In 1873 her daughter Emily Louisa married James Bailey Gibson, who was a hosiery manufacturer, employing 316 people and a magistrate for the Borough of Nottingham. They lived at 24 The Ropewalk. He died in 1881.

Hannah died 8<sup>th</sup> August 1875, leaving £5,000.

Her son, John was living in Lenton Avenue in the Park in 1881, with his wife and 5 children. There are 3 servants. He is the next-door neighbour of Sarah and Hannah Guilford. John is said to be a Solicitor employing 82 hands. He died that same year aged 36. This was the same year as his brother in law, James Bailey Gibson. He had a valuable collection of Oil Paintings and Water Colour Drawings which were auctioned.

**20. Miss Key 1828–1889**

**Age at time of Petition: 38**

**Address at time of Petition: 4 Enfield Terrace, Plantagenet Street**

**Date of Marriage: 1867 (Radford, Nottingham)**

**Religious Denomination: Unitarian**

ELIZABETH CUMMINS KEY (pronounced Kay) was baptised on 27 April 1828 in Basford. Her father William Key was a rate collector. Her mother was Elizabeth Cummins. Her brother William Cummins Key was baptised on 27 June 1830.

**In 1841** the family are living at Windmill Hill, Sneinton with his wife Elizabeth, son William (aged 11) and daughter Elizabeth (aged 13). At this point William is a lace maker.

**In 1851** there is a William Key (aged 50), a rate collector, with wife Elizabeth (aged 57) and son William (aged 20), an engraver. This is at Fisher Gate. There is no sign of Elizabeth. Her brother, William died in 1852. I think her mother Elizabeth died in 1853.

**In 1861** Elizabeth is living at 4 Enfield Terrace and recorded as a schoolmistress. She is with her widowed father (aged 60) a rent collector. They have one servant.

Elizabeth was mistress of the girls' department at the Unitarian School.

On 7 January 1864 at the annual Christmas tea meeting of the High Pavement (Unitarian) Congregation they reported on the School Inspector's report: "Miss Key's department continues in a very satisfactory condition. Of 27 girls presented for examination in geometry, model and free-hand drawing at the School of Art, 22 passed." At the recent Government inspection, the first held under the new code, over 95 per cent of the girls passed the examination, a success, the inspector said, almost unsurpassed in his district.

She married in 1867 John Jardine who was a lace machine maker, born in Hull.



**In 1871** she is living in Lenton with John Jardine and his two children by his former wife, including the future Sir Ernest Jardine. Her father, William Key is living with them, described as a boarder. There is one servant.

**In 1881** they are living at 14 Newcastle Drive. Her father is still living with them. As well as Ernest, an assistant machine worker, there is Mary Watchorn, one of John Jardine's granddaughters. Her mother was Mary Elizabeth, younger daughter of John Jardine, and her husband Dr Isaac Watchorn whom she had married in 1871 in Lenton.

Elizabeth's father, William Key died in 1886 aged 85.

Elizabeth died in 1889 at 14 Pelham Crescent.

Her husband died in 1895 leaving £50,581, the equivalent in 2017 of £4million. Her stepson, Ernest, took over the family business and by 1907 he was employing some 3,000 workers. He was MP for East Somerset 1910–18, became a baronet in 1919 and High Sheriff of Nottingham 1918–19.

## **21. Mrs Clara Langley 1816–1892**

**Age at time of Petition: 50**

**Address at time of Petition: 3 Queen's Rd**

**Date of Marriage: 1836**

CLARISSA THEOBALD was born 1816 in Peldon, Essex. She was the daughter of Joseph Theobald and Mary Wells.

Her siblings included:

- Charles Theobald (1811–88).
- Jane Theobald (1814–82).
- Harriet Wells (1821–92).

She married James Edward Martin Langley on 6 July 1836 at St Marylebone, Westminster. He worked for the Inland Revenue. The family moved to Nottingham around 1856/7. She had five sons and one daughter.

Their children included:

- Charles Edward, 1837–1922, Great Quebec Street, Marylebone. Also became an Inland Revenue inspector.
- Harriett Mary Langley b1841 Shoreditch, d1842.
- Henry Martin Langley born c1843 in Mayfield Sussex. He married on 17 March 1870 at Grosvenor Square, Manchester, Janet, daughter of William Young of Lime Grove.

- Julia Harriett born c1846 Mayfield, Sussex, d1935.
- James Edward Langley b1849 Hadleigh, Suffolk, d1940.
- James Martin b1851 Hadleigh, Suffolk.
- Thomas William b1855 Longside, Aberdeenshire, d1933.
- Frederick Swinburn b1857 Nottingham, d1941

**In 1841** the family are at Ashley Crescent, Shoreditch.

**In 1851** the family are at Bunny Lane, Hadleigh, Suffolk.

The family moved to Longside, Aberdeenshire where James worked for the Aberdeen Collection of the Inland Revenue. **In 1856** he moved at his own request, to the Nottingham Second District (Inland Revenue departments operated in districts).

In 1861 the family are at Queen's Road Nottingham.

**In 1871** the family are living at 7 Queen's Road, but Clarissa is absent. (She is recorded at 2 Redcliffe Road, Kensington staying with her daughter Julia Harriet Browne and family).

**In 1881** the family are at 7 Queen's Road. With James Edward and Clarrissa are James Martin Langley (aged 30), an accountant and estate agent, unmarried; Frederick Swinburn Langley (aged 24), a commercial agent, unmarried; granddaughter, Beatrice Lilian Langley (aged 6); and one servant.

**In 1891** James Edward, 79, retired Inland Revenue supervisor and Clarrisa, 75, are at 7 Queen's Road with son Frederick, lace manufacturer. Her husband died in 1891. He left estate of £1,776. Clarrissa died at 7 Victoria Terrace on 31 July 1892.

## **22. Elizabeth Lester 1829–?1906**

**Age at time of Petition: 37**

**Address at time of Petition: 9 Angel Row**

**Date of Marriage: 1886**

BORN c1829 IN MANSFIELD, the daughter of John Sylvester Lester, a wood turner and joiner. Her mother was called Hannah Finch. She was baptised at Saint Peter and Saint Paul on 24 June 1829. Her sister, Charlotte, was also baptised in the Church of England, but their sister Mary was baptised in a Wesleyan non-conformist church, giving the surname of the mother as Finch. Her parents were married at SS Peter and Paul on 25 December 1814. Another sister, Maria, had been born in 1820 and baptised in the Wesleyan Church.

**In 1841** the family are living in Nottingham. With William and Hannah, both aged 45, are Charlotte (aged 20), a dressmaker, Mary (aged 17) and Elizabeth (aged 12).

**In 1851** she was living with her father, by now a widower, at Mount St Taylor's Yard. She is said to do housework. There are two visitors. In 1851 her sister Mary Ann married Robert Mumby at the Disciples Meeting House, Barker Gate. The service was officiated by Elder James Wallis, editor of the British *Millenial Harbinger*, the mouthpiece of the Church of Christ which had been established in Nottingham in 1836. Robert Mumby was a tailor on Long Row who went on to found the Mumby's factory for ready-made clothing in Newark. Mary Ann Mumber set up her own business at 10 Angel Row, Nottingham, with Elizabeth acting as her manager.

**In 1861** Elizabeth is living at Bromley Place with her father, John. She is said to be an apprentice to a milliner.

In 1864 Mrs Mumby passed on her business to Elizabeth Lester, urging her patrons to support her sister.

In Wright's 1866 Directory she is described as a smallware dealer at 9 Angel Row. She was advertising herself as: Cheap Lace, Hosiery, Glove, Corset and Crinoline Establishment.

**In 1871** Ladies Outfitter at 2 Green's Yard, Angel Row.

Her father died in the Nottingham Asylum in Sneinton, said to be imbecile (at this age means senile). At this point the family is living at Green Yard, Angel Row. On his death on 27 May 1871 he left Elizabeth £450.

In 1876 she was given notice to quit (as the property had transferred to other hands) and in January 1876 she moved to 8 Alfreton Road (a few doors from the entrance of the General Cemetery). She advertises as a Ladies Underclothing and Haberdashery Establishment.

**In 1881** she is a draper at 8 Alfreton Road, not far from the Running Horse Inn.

**In 1886** she married Michael Shaw, a skinner. He was a widower and nearly 20 year her senior.

**In 1891** they are living on Noel Street with a servant and are still there in 1901, with the same servant, Harriet Hardy. Michael died in 1902 and I think Elizabeth died 1906 aged 77.

**23. Mrs E G Loverseed 1833–1908**

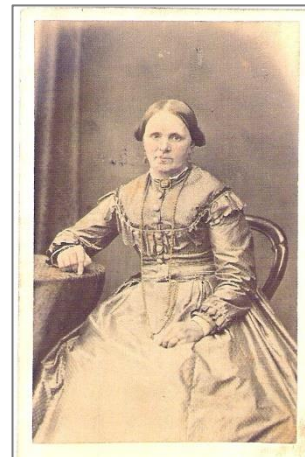
**Age at time of Petition: 31**

**Address at time of Petition: 1 Ferrers Street, off St Ann's Well Road**

**Date of Marriage: 1852**

**Religious Denomination: Methodist – New Connexion**

SARAH BAKER, born c1835 in Mansfield, the daughter of John Baker, a tailor and his wife, Ann Nicholson. Her siblings included Anthony, a labourer (b1830), and Hannah (b1835).



**In 1841** the family are at Church Yard, Mansfield. John is 40, a tailor, Ann is 44. There is a Francis aged 10 (is this Anthony?), Sarah aged 8 and Hannah aged 6.

**In 1851** the family are at West Gate, Mansfield. John (aged 50) is a tailor, born in Retford, his wife is aged 54 and born in Worksop. Anthony, 21, is a labourer born in Mansfield, Sarah, 18, is said to be a Cotton Doubler and her sister Hannah, 16, is also a Cotton Doubler. (A doubler is someone who operates a machine which twists two or more strands of cotton fibre together to form a thread). The family had four lodgers, all of whom were agricultural labourers.

Sarah married Edwin Gauntley Loverseed, contractor, **on 26 December 1852** at St Mary's.

**In 1861** the family are at Ferrers Street. With Edwin and Sarah, there is Harriett, Edwin Gauntley, Mary and one servant.

**In 1871** the family are on the St Ann's Well Road. Edwin G Loverseed 40, a contractor, Sarah 38, Harriett A 17, Edwin G 13, Fanny 8, nephew Frank Baker, 12, and one servant.

**In 1881** they are living at Gladstone House, Lincoln Circus. With Sarah and Edwin are Edwin G, Fanny, and grandson Edwin L Hadfield aged 6. There are two servants.

**In 1891** Sarah and Edwin are living at Western Terrace with their grandson John L Piggin aged 5 born in Stapleford.

**In 1901** she is living at 1 Western Terrace with her granddaughters, Edith M Piggin and Emily Piggin aged 4. There are 2 servants.

Her children included:

- Harriett A Loverseed (1854–77). Harriet married Joseph Hadfield in 1874 but died three years later leaving a son, Edwin Loverseed Hadfield. Sarah cared for her grandson, but he too died aged 7 in 1882 while staying at the house of his aunt, Fanny Piggin.

- Sarah Ann Loverseed (1855–56).
- Edwin Gauntley Loverseed (1858–1938). He married Jemima Thornley in 1882.
- Emily Loverseed (1859–60).
- Mary Loverseed (1861–62).
- Fanny Loverseed (1863–1936). She married John Piggin of Stapleford in 1882.

Sarah was soon to have many grandchildren.

Sarah's brother, Anthony came to work in Nottingham and was employed by his brother in law as an excavator. On 11 September 1866 while working on a new culvert in Cromwell Street, a large quantity of earth fell in and Anthony was killed leaving a wife and child. At the inquest it became clear that while there was timber available to shore up the sides it had not been used. The coroner remarked that in future this should be done on every occasion to which Mr Loverseed agreed.

Her sister, Hannah, who married William Carter, a bricklayer also moved to Nottingham.

**In 1881** her husband became a member of the town council, representing St Ann's Ward for the Liberals. In 1888 the Eastern Division Liberal Association presented him with his portrait in oils, in recognition of his valuable service. Her husband was an active member of the Nottingham Board of Guardians for seventeen years up to his death. He was Vice-Chair several times. He was particularly concerned with the elderly. In 1883 he is recorded as giving the old men and women of the workhouse 3d. each.

Sarah's husband died in 1893. He had not been well for some months. They were members of Parliament Street Methodist New Connexion Chapel.

On his death in August 1893, the *Nottingham Journal* noted: "His visits to the workhouse were always welcome and the news of this decease will be learned with unfeigned regret by many poor people there." On the day he died he had been at a meeting appointed to select the site of the new workhouse. The report recalled him "as a faithful, loving husband, and a good, kind and intelligent father".

On his death in 1893, Edwin Gauntley Loverseed left £23,212.

Sarah died in 1908 aged 76. The *Nottingham Journal* in reporting her funeral on 22 July 1908 noted: "She had been connected for a lengthy period with the Parliament-street Methodist Chapel, and being one of the oldest members, her loss will be keenly felt. She was also a generous supporter of the charities of the chapel." She left £441.

**24. Hannah Marsh 1826–1876**  
**Age at time of Petition: 40**  
**Address at time of Petition: Sherwood Street**  
**Date of Marriage: 1849**  
**Religious Denomination: Wesleyan Methodist**

SHE WAS BORN Fanny Bacon Knowles in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. Her parents were John Knowles, schoolmaster 1802–1860, and his wife Mary née Bacon. She was baptised on 22 January 1826.

**In 1841** she is living with her parents in Mansfield with her siblings, Mary Ann 13, William, 11, Ellen 9, Henry 5 and Alfred, 3.

She married Samuel Marsh, designer and lace manufacturer, in 1849, in Mansfield.

From what we learn from bankruptcy reports life with Samuel was never going to be easy and the creditors seemed never far from the door.

**In 1851** Hannah and Samuel are living with daughter Kate in Nottingham Road, Mansfield before moving to Fenton Lane. Samuel then obtained a job working in Lille, France as manager of lace machines or Contre-Maitre. The family lived in lodgings with Monsieur Dormael at 37 Rue Jean Jacques Ronsieau and then with Monsieur Job Britto at 15 Rue de la Baigniere.

While in Paris, their son Richard Francis Marsh was born in 1854. They then returned to Mansfield living at Tenter Lane. This detail is known because in 1855 Samuel was before the courts for debt.

In 1859 Samuel is before the judge of the County Court of Kent on 19 August. Besides the previous addresses in France it now mentions Allison Terrace, Nottingham; 1 Woodborough Road, Nottingham; St Mary's Gate, Nottingham; 19 Addle Street, Wood Street, Cheapside, London; and Freemason's Tavern, St Margaret Street, Canterbury, Kent. He is imprisoned for being a debtor. Clearly the family had to move around repeatedly running from creditors.

**In 1861** Hannah is visiting in Nottingham at Michael Terrace with her children, Isabella b1852, Richard, Frederick Samuel, b1858 and Samuel B b1859. Can find no trace of Samuel. Daughter Kate must have died.

It is when Samuel before the courts in Nottingham for debt on 27 August 1867 that we learn of further addresses including Sherwood Street. He is imprisoned for debt but appeals. He had gone into business as a mineral agent with the purpose of securing a contract from Sir

Robert Clifton for boring for coal at Clifton. He had entered into agreement with Messrs. Boot to secure the contract but they had not paid him, causing him to go into debt and be imprisoned. Hannah appeared in court to speak on behalf of her husband. "Mrs Marsh, wife of the bankrupt was in the box. She corroborated that promises had been made to her husband, Messrs Boot had broken every promise they had made, even when her husband and the family were in want of food for their daily maintenance. The judge found in his favour. Samuel continued with Sir Robert's venture in Clifton went on to become the Colliery Manager in Clifton and life seemed to become easier.

**In 1871** Samuel and Hannah are with Frederick Samuel and Isabella who is now a teacher.

**In 1873** Samuel is helping the poor of Nottingham with cheap coal and urging the Mayor to do more for the poor. He knew what it was to be in dire circumstances.

Hannah died aged 50 in 1876.

Some years later we learn of a sad end for Samuel who had travelled to New Zealand where his son, Richard had settled. On Saturday evening, 4 March 1882, at about a quarter-past five o'clock, the dead body of a man named Samuel Marsh was discovered in the back room of a house situated in Castle Street near St Andrew Street. At first it was thought that the deceased had committed suicide, as several bottles of laudanum and opium were found on the table, but on Dr Copland examining the body, he stated that there were no signs of actual poisoning, but it was evident that the deceased had died from slow poison caused by taking soporiferous tinctures. The deceased was a native of England, a mining engineer, and a professed Freethinker. He came to this city about three months ago from the Bay of Islands with his son, who departed for Sydney about a fortnight ago. The following note was found on the table: "I wish my body may not have a Christian service read over it. I wish my body to be cast into the ocean and not covered with thick calico. The above is my wish –Samuel Marsh." In reference to the note, however, the landlord of the house (Mr Russell) states that it was written a few days previously, he having seen and read it. The deceased was in the habit of talking of the manner in which he would like his body disposed of when he died. He was also supposed to be affected in the brain, for on several occasions he asserted to Mr Russell that he had received visits from certain celebrities, amongst whom was the Duke of Wellington. The room in which he was found was in a disgraceful condition. It is a pity there is not a law enforcing people to keep their houses clean.

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**25. Fanny Martin 1822–1878**  
**Age at time of Petition: 44**  
**Address at time of Petition: Goosegate**  
**Date of Marriage: 1849**  
**Religious Denomination: Wesleyan?**

I THINK THIS MUST be Fanny Martin, née Ryde, wife of Francis Martin. She was baptised at St Peter's Derby on 22 May 1822, daughter of Joseph Ryde and Joanna Smith.

Her siblings included:

- Joseph Henry Ryde baptised 10 December 1819, St Peter's, Derby.
- Josiah Ryde baptised 8 June 1823, King Street Chapel, Derby Wesleyan Methodist.

The couple had married at St Peter's Derby on 27 January 1849. Francis was a widower and described as a railway clerk. Francis had previously been married in 1843 to Mary Tacey and their children included Sarah Ann Martin born 1844. Francis was from the parish of St Peter's, Nottingham and his father was John Martin, engineer. Fanny's father is given as Joseph Ryde a house dealer.

Among their children were:

- John Francis                      born Newark 1850
- Penelope Martha                born Nottingham 1851
- Arthur Graham                 born Nottingham 1852
- Louisa Fanny                    born Nottingham 1854
- Kate Mary                        born Nottingham 1856
- Phoebe                            born Nottingham 1857
- Josiah Ryde                      born Nottingham 1860
- Lydia Ann                        born Nottingham 1862
- Henry                              born Nottingham 1863 (died 1865)

**In 1851** Francis is described as a clerk in a gas office in Claydens Yard, Nottingham. Francis too had been born in Derby. In 1851 Fanny's stepdaughter, Sarah Ann is being cared for by Fanny's brother Josiah Ryde and other relatives.

**In 1861** the family are living with Francis' parents John and Sarah at Rancliffe Street. Francis is a newsagent. With them are Sarah A Martin, Francis' daughter from first marriage (aged 16), John F Martin (aged 11), Penelope M Martin (aged 10), Louisa F Martin (aged 7), Kate M Martin (aged 5), and Josiah R Martin (aged 1).

**In 1864** John Martin, newsagent, was at 30 Goosegate.



From a report in the *Nottingham Journal* on 22 April 1865, in regard to the death of his son, Henry, we know that Francis Martin was living in Goosegate.

**In 1871** Francis is a commercial clerk and bookkeeper in manufacturing. Living with them is John Francis who is packing case-maker, and Penelope and Louisa who are working in the lace industry.

Fanny died in 1878

**26. Mrs T M May 1839–1922**

**Age at time of Petition: 37**

**Address at time of Petition: Stratford Square, Shakespeare Street**

**Date of Marriage: 1865**

**Religious Denomination:**

MARY MYRA PUNCHARD was born at Stone House, Devon in c1839, daughter of John Punchard, of Lake Villas, Totnes, Devon and his wife, Elizabeth White.

In 1841 she is living at Fore Street, Totnes, Devon with her father John, a butcher (aged 30), mother Elizabeth (aged 25), brothers John Albert Punchard (aged 8) and William Henry Punchard (aged 6).

In 1851 the family are at Lake Garden, Totnes. Her father John is now said to be a farmer and her mother, Elizabeth, a farmer's wife. Her brother John Albert Punchard is a Painter Apprentice, brother William Henry is a Tailor Apprentice. Mary Myra herself is given as a scholar. There is one house servant and two lodgers.

**In 1861** the family are at Lake Garden Cottage. Mary's father John is now said to be a Market Gardener and her mother the wife of a market gardener. Mary is there with no descriptor. There is also a Mary Punchard, granddaughter (aged 6), presumably the daughter of one of her brothers. There are two boarders, one servant and a visitor, Marie Spay (aged 20) from Cornwall.

**In 1861** Mary's future husband, Thomas Milton May was living in Stoke Damerel aged 26 and a bank clerk. He was living with widowed mother, Mary Ann May aged 49 and a fundholder and her unmarried aunt, Miriam Palmer aged 60, said to be a gentlewoman.

Mary married Thomas Milton May also from Devon at St Mary's Nottingham on January 26 1865. He was a Liberal. He was living at Stratford Square, Nottingham.

**In 1871** they are living at Mansfield Grove, Nottingham, living on dividends. Thomas had been a bank clerk in 1861. They had a son Harold born in 1868. With them is her mother-in-law Mary Ann May and Mary Ann's aunt, Miriam Palmer.

**In 1881** they were at 3 Dart Villas, Totnes. There was Thomas Milton May (aged 46) a retired banker, Mary Maya (aged 42), Harold (aged 12) and one servant.

Thomas died on 3 May 1883. They were living at 3 Dart-Villas, Totnes

**In 1891** she is living at Lake Garden, Totnes with her son Harold Milton May (aged 22), a mechanical engineer who worked for the Hunslet Engine Works in Leeds.

During the 1890s she immigrated to Australia with her son, Harold Milton May. They were living at the Hermitage, Darling Downs in Queensland by 1897. Mary Myra died on 23 July 1922 in Queensland.

**27. Mrs E May 1812–1879 Shakespeare Street**

**Age at time of Petition: 54**

**Address at time of Petition: Stratford Square, Shakespeare Street**

**Date of Marriage: 1833**

I THINK THIS IS Mrs Mary Ann May widow of Edwin May, mother of Thomas Milton May and mother-in-law of Mary Myra May (**No. 26**). She was born 1812 in Devonport, Devon as Mary Ann Milton. She was the daughter of Thomas Milton and Ann Palmer. Thomas Milton and Ann Palmer had married in Nynehead, Somerset in 1811.

Mary Ann married Edwin May (1810–63) in Stoke Damerel, Devon in 1833. Their children included Thomas Milton May (1834–83) and William Milton May (1836–81). William emigrated to the States and died while working as a medical assistant at Swinburne Island Hospital, Staten Island.

**In 1851** Mary Ann is living with her father Thomas Milton, 66, and mother, Ann, 59. With her is her son William Milton May, aged 14. With them is Miriam Palmer, aged 50, said to be sister. (This would be her mother's sister). Her husband, Edwin may have already left her by this date.

**In 1861** Mary Ann is living in Stoke Damerel. She is living as a widow and fundholder with her son, Thomas, a bank clerk. Her aunt Miriam Palmer is with her. It would seem that her husband, Edwin, had another family in Bermondsey, London and she was not in fact a widow. He died in Bermondsey in 1863.

I think Mary Ann must have moved to be near her son in Nottingham for in **1871** she was living at Mansfield Grove, Nottingham with her son and family. Her aunt Miriam Palmer, who died in Nottingham aged 72 in 1873 is with her.

Mary Ann must have moved south with her son and died in Totnes on 17 March 1879

## **28. Mrs Thomas Moore 1840–1925 Chilwell**

**Age at time of Petition: 26**

**Address at time of Petition: Chilwell**

**Date of Marriage: 1864, Beeston**

**Religious Denomination: Wesleyan**

SARAH WARD is the daughter of George and Martha Ward and born in Stapleford c1840.

**In 1841** she is in Stapleford with her parents and siblings Mary, Martha, Ann, Elizabeth.

**In 1851** she is living with her parents and family in Stapleford where her father is employed as a lace manufacturer responsible for 65 men, 40 women and 11 girls.

**In 1861** she is at Castle Gate with her sisters, Mary Anne (aged 37) (**No. 48**), Martha Elizabeth (aged 28) born in Nottingham (**No. 49**), Annie (aged 26) born in Nottingham (**No. 50**). They are all milliners employing 11 young women.

Sarah married Thomas Moore, Lace Manufacturer, in 1864 at the Wesleyan Church in Beeston.

Her son, Leonard, was born in c1868 in Chilwell so they were probably living in Chilwell at the time she signed the petition.

**By 1871** the family are living at 26 Strait, Lincoln. With Sarah and Thomas are George Leonard (aged 3) born Beeston, Alfred Ernest 1869 and Fanny Gertrude Ward 1870 both born in Lincoln in 1870. In 1872 Edgar William 1872 was born in Lincoln.

**By 1881** they are back in Beeston. With Sarah and Thomas are Leonard, Ernest, Edgar and Annie Winifred. Daughter Anne W was born c1880.

Her husband, Thomas Moore died 15 June 1883 at Beeston leaving £253. Sarah was then living at 62 Radford Road, Nottingham.

**By 1891** she is a widow, living with her family on Radford Road, Lenton, working as a milliner. With her are Alfred Ernest, a Leivers Lace Draughtsman, Edgar, a bookkeeper, and Annie Winifred.

**By 1901** she is living at 21 Tennyson Street by her own means with her family including her daughter Fanny G Moore (aged 30) a milliner, Edgar Moore (aged 29) a clerk in a sewing machine factory, daughter Annie Winifred Ward (aged 20) book seller's assistant and her sister Anne Ward (aged 66) living on her own means (**No. 50**).

**By 1911** she is living in Sherwood with her son Edgar and married daughter, Annie Winifred Philips and her children.

She died in 1925. She was then living at 8a Oxford Street, Nottingham.

**Note:** For her sisters see Nos. **48 49** and **50**.

## **29. Mrs M Morris – Shakespeare Street**

### **30. Mrs T Ord 1825–1879**

**Age at time of Petition: 41**

**Address at time of Petition: 21 Sussex Street**

**Date of Marriage: 1846**

FRANCES GAUNTLEY was born c1825 in Brant-Broughton, Lincolnshire, daughter of Joseph and Sarah Gauntley. Joseph was a baker, dying in 1847 aged 63.

In 1841 Frances is working as a domestic servant on a farm in Brant Broughton as is her brother, Frederick, a farm labourer.

She had been married in 1846 in Nottingham to Thomas Ord, tailor. He had been born in Hexham.

**In 1851** the family are at Sussex Street with Thomas' daughter, Louisa\* aged 11. She had been born in Sheffield. There are also six lodgers who are either journeyman tailors or shirt makers. They are still there in 1861. There are five lodgers including a tailor and dentist.

**In 1871** they are still at 21 Sussex Street. There is a daughter Sarah T\* aged 8 and five lodgers including a malster, cattle dealer and factory hand.

*\*For both Louisa and Sarah T Ord, cannot find any record of their births. The only Sarah T born in Nottingham for the right date is Sarah Thirza Barson. Could it be that Frances and*

*Thomas adopted/fostered these two girls and gave them the name Ord at the time of the censuses? Needs further investigation.*

Thomas was a member of the Midland Songbird Society and had birds such as Linnet Jonque.

Frances died in 1879 and Thomas remarried Hannah Hoffen in 1884. He died in 1892.

**31. Anne Penny 1817–1876**

**Age at time of Petition: 49**

**Address at time of Petition: 18 Bromley Place**

**Date of Marriage: 1836, Wellington, Somerset**

**Religious Denomination: Baptist**

ANNE PENNY née Winter was born in Kidderminster c1817. She married John James Penny in Wellington, Somerset, on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1836. Witnesses were James Bale and Harriet Winter. I take this James Bale to be the father of Albenia Bale (**No. 2**). I think that Anne Penny was the aunt of Albenia Bale.

**In 1841** she and James are living in Wellington. James is 27 and a woolcomber, Anne is 26 and a weaver. Their daughter Susan is aged 2.

**In 1851** they are still in Wellington on Champford Lane. James is a woolcomber. There are daughters, Susan (12); Hannah (8); Sarah Tucker (sister-in-law born Worcestershire); Susan Winter (88, grandmother and a widow): and a visitor John Palmer (21).

Cannot find them in the 1861 census, but in Wright's 1862 Directory, John James Penny and family are living at 18 Bromley Place. He is working for John Scott Wells, hosiery manufacturer on Mount Street.

**In 1871** the family are at 7 Alma Terrace. John is 56, a manager hosier. Ann is 54, Hannah is 28 and an assistant lady outfitter and Lousia is 19 and a teacher. In 1868 she was pupil teacher at People's College with Miss Sunter (**No. 46**).

Mother of Hannah Penny (**No. 32**) and Susan Selwood (**No. 37**) née Penny (See under Selwood).

Anne Penny died 1876. John Penny died in 1891 aged 77. He was a Liberal.

**32. Hannah Penny 1843–1929**  
**Age at time of Petition: 23**  
**Address at time of Petition: 18 Bromley Place**  
**Religious Denomination: Baptist**

HANNAH PENNY was the daughter of John James Penny and his wife Anne (née Winter) (**No. 31**) and sister of Susan Selwood (**No. 37**).

**In 1851** the family are in Wellington on Champford Lane James is a woolcomber. There are daughters, Susan 12, **Hannah** 8, Sarah Tucker Sister in law born Worcestershire, Susan Winter Grandmother aged 88 and a widow and a visitor John Palmer (aged 21).

Cannot find them in the 1861 census but in Wright's Directory 1862 John James Penny and family are living at 18 Bromley Place. He is working for John Scott Wells, hosiery manufacturer on Mount Street.

**In 1871** the family are at Alma Terrace. John is a manager in a hosiery factory. Hannah had been born in Wellington, Somerset. In 1871 she is said to be an assistant lady outfitter. Also there is her younger sister, Louisa, aged 19, who is an assistant teacher.

**In 1881** Hannah and Louise are still at Alma Terrace living with their widowed father. Louise is now Head of a Board School. Hannah does not have an occupation.

**In 1891** they are living at 38 Burton Road with Hannah now called Annie, living on her own means; sister Louise, given as Headmistress of an Elementary School (Alfreton Road Board School, now called Bentinck Road Primary School); and their niece Maude L Selwood, aged 16, a pupil teacher in an elementary school. They have one general servant.

**In 1901** they are at 1 Tennyson Street. Annie is now 58. Sister Louise is Headmistress of a Board School, niece Maude Louise Selwood is an assistant mistress in a board school and they have one servant. In 1902 Louise married William Edward Shaw. She died on 7 February 1910.

**In 1911** Annie is living at 7 Mapperley Hall Drive with her brother-in-law William Edward Shaw, a widower, aged 59 who was a silk and cotton yarn merchant. She was the only one of the 1866 Nottingham signatories who was still alive when the 1928 legislation, which gave women equal voting rights with men, was passed. At her death she is recorded as Hannah. She died on 19 October 1929 at Ebers Grove, Nottingham, leaving £845 but which was resworn at £585 in her estate. Her executors were Thomas Stubbs Penny, company director and Arthur Raymond Penny, solicitor. (This father and son I take to be distant Somerest cousins).

**33. Miss Petty 1847–1910**

**Age at time of Petition: 19**

**Address at time of Petition: 5 Gray Friar Gate**

**Date of Marriage: 1868**

**Religious Denomination: Baptist**

IN THE COPY held at Girton, Emily Davies has scored through the name and address with black ink. I presume this is Miss Hannah Amelia Petty who became a pupil teacher at People's College under Elizabeth Sunter. Maybe Miss Davies deemed her too young at 19 to sign the petition. She is the daughter of Samuel Petty and his wife Ann Scattergood.

**In 1851** the family are at 1 Houndsgate. There is Samuel (44) master cooper and general dealer; wife Ann; son Henry (20) cooper salesman; John (18) printer compositor apprentice; Sarah Ann (15) scholar; Samuel (13) scholar; Catherine (11) scholar; Elizabeth R (9) scholar; and Sephina (3) scholar. But where is Hannah Amelia?

**In 1861** she is living at 1 Hounds Gate with her family. Her father, Samuel Petty is a cooper and rent collector. Her brother Henry is a Singing Master and Brush Manufacturer. Also there is Catherine, a shop worker, and Elizabeth, said to be a housekeeper. Hannah was probably one of the youngest Nottingham residents to sign the petition.

In 1868 she married Philip Heides Freeman in Belper. She died in Scotland in 1910.

**34. Elizabeth Rae 1823–1902**

**Age at time of Petition: 43**

**Address at time of Petition: Walker Street**

**Date of Marriage: 1849**

**Religious Denomination: Methodist?**

BORN ELIZABETH HEARNshaw and baptised on 14 January 1823, she was the daughter of Thomas Hearnshaw and Elizabeth Barker of Sneinton, Nottingham. Her mother Elizabeth Barker (1792–1869) had been married to Thomas Hearnshaw (1797–1878) at St Nicholas's Church on 26 August 1822.

**In 1841** her family are in Sneinton. Thomas, 45, is a warehouseman. Elizabeth is 45. Amongst her siblings were Mary, 13, Helen 12, John, 10 William, 7 and Thomas, 3. Elizabeth is not with them in 1841.

Her siblings included:

- John (1831–68) a solicitor and married in 1867 to Hannah Louisa Lingford.
- Mary (1826–61).
- Thomas (1837–1911) a rate collector.

- Helen who married James Thornley in 1852 and had 5 children.
- William (1834–1909).

Her father became a commercial clerk in the hosiery business and in **1861** was living on Walker Street, where Elizabeth was also living.

She married in 1849, William Rae, a travelling draper born in Scotland. They lived at Bond Street.

**In 1851** they are living at Bond Street, Sneinton. With them are Jane Bukie (aged 17), a niece of William's from Scotland. They have one assistant, Nathaniel Palmer (aged 23) also from Scotland.

**In 1861** they were living at Walker Street with one servant.

After her husband's death between 1861 and 1871 she moved to Burton Joyce to be with her brothers William and Thomas.

In 1868 her brother, John died in Sneinton, leaving £600

**In 1871** she is in Burton Joyce with the two brothers and a niece, A. E Thornley, aged 17. (daughter of Helen Hearnshaw and James Thornley)

Her father, Thomas Hearnshaw died in 1878, leaving £5,000

**In 1881** she is in Burton Joyce with two servants

**In 1891** she is with her brother Thomas and one servant.

**In 1901** she is with Thomas and two female boarders, Fanny and Elizabeth Alcock.

Her brother, William, became manager of Wright's Bank in Nottingham. William's son, Roger Fletcher Hearnshaw, was well known in the poultry world as a breeder and judge. The village hall in Burton Joyce owes its existence due to his generosity.

Elizabeth died in 1902.



**35. Fanny Roberts c1837–?**

**Age at time of Petition: 29**

**Address at time of Petition: 51 Goldsmith Street**

THIS COULD BE Hannah Roberts, professor of music who lived at 51 Goldsmith Street. Her father, Henry, was a lace manufacturer. In the 1866 directory she is given as Tanny Roberts and maybe she signed herself as this in 1866 and the transcriber took it for Fanny. In 1868, Hannah is at 51 Goldsmith, a teacher of music. Her sister, Carole, is a Schoolmistress.

**36. Margaret Santer 1791–1881**

**Age at time of the Petition: 75** (*oldest person in Nottingham to sign the petition*).

**Address at time of the Petition: 26 Park Row**

**Date of Marriage: 1809**

**Religious Denomination: Methodist/Swedenborgian/Quaker**

THIS HAS SURELY been mis-transcribed for Margaret Sunter, the mother of Elizabeth Sunter (**No. 46**). Born Margaret Close in 1791, in Gunnerside, Yorkshire, this would make her the oldest Nottingham resident at 75 to sign the petition. She died in Wakefield in 1881 at the age of 90. She married George Sunter on 25 September 1809 at Grinton.

Their children included:

- George – b1812 Gunnerside, Yorkshire. Worked for Darlington Railway as Engine Driver. After 15 years he was sacked by the railway owners who were Quakers for going on Sunday picnics to Easton Nab in the Chilton Hills. George married Miss Mercy Lawrence on 1 May 1857 in Chicago; he had immigrated to Brantford, Ontario where he died on 23 November 1868 in a railway accident aged 57. (**See Appendix D/1**).
- Joseph Sunter (1814–74) – born in Crosby Garrett. Married Mary Ann. In 1851 he was a living in Litchurch Derby, working as a railway foreman with a wife and three children.
- Isabella – born c1817 Gunnerside, Yorkshire. Died 1851 in Derby.
- Annie (Nancy) – b1818, married John Edgar 1850, died in Canada in 1851.
- Margaret born c1821, married George Scott 1850.
- Elizabeth – born c1823 Crosby Garrett, Westmoreland.
- Rebecca – born c1827 Crosby Garrett. In 1851 she was living as a lodger at 14 Constitution Row, St Pancras, an Infant School Mistress. She was Mistress of the Model Infant School of the Home and Colonial Society and in 1856 published “The Home and Colonial Society’s Manual for Infant Schools and Nurseries, Prepared at the Desire of the Committee by Miss Rebecca Sunter, late Mistress of the Model Infant School under the superintendence of Miss Mayo.” She married William Humble Mowbray of Darlington on 3 June 1857 in Derby. (**See Appendix D/2**).
- Mary Ann – b1824 Shildon, Bishop Auckland, a teacher. Died in Liverpool in 1853.

**In 1841** the family are living at New Shildon. County Durham. George 50, Quarryman, Margaret 50, George 25, engine man, Isabell 25, Margaret 20, Elizabeth, 15, William 15, Rebecca 12, Mary 7, Only Mary born in County Durham.

**In 1851** Margaret is living with her husband George, railway line and storekeeper in Litchurch, Derbyshire. With her and George, her son George aged 39 a train driver, Isabella 34, a dressmaker and Mary Ann, 17, said to be teacher in a boy's school. Mary Ann died aged 19 in Liverpool. All the family who were living there had been born in Gunnerside apart from Mary Ann who had been born in Shildon, Durham.

**In 1861** Margaret is living at 26 Normanton Road, Derby with George, Railway Timekeeper, and grandson, John F Sunter (aged 3) who had been born in Middlesborough.

Her husband, George died in Derby on 6 August 1862, aged 72. From his obituary in the *The Intellectual Repository for the New Church*, we learn more about the life of the Sunters both in Shildon and in Derby and his transfer of loyalties from Methodism to the Swedenborgians. It states he was "highly respected for his vigorous good sense and independent liberality of judgement. He was born and educated a Methodist, but after a few years' experience of the inability of the ministers to remove the doubts arising in his inquiring mind, combined with the tendency to domination in the rulers of all grades, he left the connection, and devoted his attention to questions relating to human improvement generally. And especially to the emancipation of the negro from slavery. About two years since he called on our friend, Mr Mason, who introduced the doctrines to him, and lent him a copy of this recent publication – *Christianizing India: What, How, and By Whom* – which contains remarkably lucid and convincing explanation of the Trinity. In a fortnight afterwards Mr Sunter called on Mr Mason and declared that the pamphlet 'had given him what he had been seeking for the last forty years.' After many conversations with Mr Mason, our friend desired to join the church. On our quarterly meeting he was received as a member, and on the day of the next quarterly meeting it had become my duty to commit his mortal remains to the grave, a duty so far painful, as it was associated with the privation of our society of a worthy friend, but other wise full of joyful hope and anticipation. "Thou shalt say to the righteous, it shall be well with him." J.H.

*NOTE: The New Church refers to the Swedenborgians. Mr Mason had been pastor of the Swedenborgian Church in Derby but had resigned due to ill health. J H refers to Rev John Hyde who became pastor in Derby in 1861. Hymns by both these pastors are still used by worshippers in the New Church in Derby to this day. A new Swedenborgian Church was being built on Blue Coat Street, Nottingham in 1867.*

George died 1862 and by the time of the 1866 petition Margaret is said to be at Park Row.

**In 1866** she is living with her daughter, Elizabeth Sunter (**No. 46**) at John Westmoreland's Apartments, 26 Park Row.

**In 1871** Margaret is living with Elizabeth, lodging at 40 Bilbie Street, Nottingham.

**In 1881** she is living in Wakefield with her daughter Margaret Scott née Sunter and her family. Her son-in-law George Scott is a foreman in a worsted factory. Her granddaughter 25 is a dressmaker.

She died on 2 October 1881 in Wakefield aged 91. She was buried as a Quaker.

**37. Susan Selwood 1838– 1916**

**Age at time of Petition: 28**

**Address at time of Petition: Huskinson Street, off Sherwood Street**

*(Huskisson Street must be a transcription error for Huskinson Street).*

**Date of Marriage: 1859**

**Religious Denomination: Baptist**

SUSAN WAS the daughter of John and Anne Penny (**No. 31**). She married Thomas Selwood in 1859. He was manager in a hosiery factory. They had both been born in Wellington, Somerset. She was sister of Hannah Penny (**No. 32**).

**In 1841** she and James are living in Wellington. James (27) is a woolcomber, Anne (26) is a weaver. Their daughter Susan is aged 2.

**In 1851** they are still in Wellington on Champford Lane. James is a woolcomber. There are daughters, Susan (12); Hannah (8); Sarah Tucker (sister-in-law born Worcestershire); Susan Winter (88, grandmother and a widow): and a visitor John Palmer (21).

**In 1871** they are living at 7 Bromley Place with Charles H (10), Florence A (2) and Ernest A (3 months).

**In 1881** she was living with Thomas, son Charles Henry Selwood (20), Ernest Arthur Selwood (10), Maude Louisa Selwood (6) and Evelyn Annie Selwood (aged 3).

In 1886 her son Charles Henry Selwood married Nellie Gamble of Whitemore Lodge.

**In 1891** Susan and Thomas are living on Bridge Road, West Bridgford with son Ernest Arthur (20) a sanitary plumber and daughter Evelyne Annie (15).

**In 1891** she is vice-president, Bridge Ward Women's Liberal Association.

**In 1901** she is living in West Bridgford with Thomas, Ernest, a plumber and Evelyn who is a draper's shop assistant.

Thomas died in 1909

**In 1911** she is living in West Bridgford with her unmarried daughters, Maude and Evelyn. Maude is a schoolmistress.

She died in 1916.

**38. Anne W Shaw 1812–1877 Wheeler Gate**  
**Age at time of Petition: 54**  
**Address at time of Petition: 13 - 15 Wheeler Gate**  
**Religious Denomination: Unitarian**

ANNE/ANN WATERHOUSE SHAW was the daughter of Joseph Shaw, stationer and printer of 8 Wheeler Gate, and Ann née Waterhouse. Joseph and Ann were married on 16 September 1811 in Wakefield. Anne was one of twins, her sister being Mary Cheetham Shaw. They were baptised at High Pavement Unitarian Chapel by Rev. J Taylor.

Her father, Joseph, was born in Wakefield and came to Nottingham in 1810. For 15 years he employed by Mr Sutton, proprietor of the *Nottingham Review*. In 1825 he became printer of the *Nottingham Mercury* and was for some years a reporter for that journal. In November 1831 he became blind. He established a bookselling business in Carlton Street moving in 1847 to Wheeler Gate where he established the firm of Shaw & Sons.

Her brother William Goodair Shaw was born on 11 July 1815 and baptised at High Pavement Unitarian Chapel. Her brother Earnshaw Joseph Shaw was born on 8 August 1819 and baptised by Rev. Henry Turner of High Pavement Unitarian chapel, the husband of Catherine Turner (**No. 48**).

**In 1841** Joseph Shaw 53, printer, and his wife Ann, 55 are at Carlton Street South with Ann, aged 25. There is also a William North aged 15, an apprentice.

**In 1851** she is living with her parents at what they described as 'Gallery of Arts, Wheeler Gate'. She is described as a bookkeeper. Her father is called a printer and master bookseller, employing two men and five boys. The firm was known as Shaw & Sons.

Her mother died on 12 May 1851 aged 71.

In 1852 Windsor & Newton are advertising that a full supply of materials for oil and watercolour painting are available at the Gallery of Arts. In 1853, Shaw & Sons is advertising 'All the Novelties in Wedding Stationery'.

In 1854 the firm invested in new machinery and an extensive stock of new type for their printing offices. They advertised cards, circulars, bill heads, club articles, pamphlets, catalogues, posting and head bills. They also did engraving and copper-plate printing for address cards, invoices, tickets, cheques etc. They made special mention that wedding cards could be done at the shortest notice!

**In 1861** she is with her father, now a widower employing three assistants and five boys. She is described as housekeeper.

Her father died 1864. For twenty years he had been one of the Superintendents of the High Pavement Chapel. He was a founder of the Nottingham Ancient Imperial United Order of Oddfellows. Anne was his executor but did not execute the will, which said he had only left £20. This was proved at the same time of her own will in 1877.

Anne and her two brothers were in partnership under the title 'Shaw & Sons', but in July 1866 resolved to dissolve the partnership. In the notice it states their trade as 'Printers, Printsellers, Stationers'. Earnshaw Shaw took on the business. They were 'Photographers, and Dealers in Glass, China and Earthenware'.

**In 1871** she is living at 64 Goldsmith Street. Described as independent.

On her death on 16<sup>th</sup> March 1877, her will was proved by Jesse Hind and Rev. Richard Acland Armstrong of High Pavement Chapel. She left effects under £300.

### **39. Elizabeth Shepherd Snr 1811–1869**

**Age at time of Petition: 55**

**Address at time of Petition: 7 Walmer Terrace, Wellington Street**

*(Wellington Street is now called Arundel Street)*

**Date of Marriage: 1833 St Mary's Nottingham**

**Religious Denomination: Baptist**

KNOWN AS BETSEY she was daughter of John and Elizabeth Buttery. Her father was a framework knitter of Sawley. Although born c1811, she and her brothers, George and Thomas, were not baptised until 4 November 1819.

Betsy married Josiah Shepherd, lace manufacturer, in August 1833 at St Mary's Nottingham. Her cousin was John Wright, a cattle dealer.

**In 1841** the family are living in Sawley. Josiah is a toll collector and he and Elizabeth have three children: Elizabeth, aged 7 (**No. 40**), Thomas, aged 5, and George, aged 2. Josiah is given as aged 30 and Betsey as aged 25. Next door is Ellen Buttery aged 80, presumably her grandmother.

**In 1851** the family are at Two Mile House in Basford. Living with Josiah and Betsy are Elizabeth, Thomas, George, Mary Ann and James. Also there is Josiah's mother, Alice Shepherd (aged 74), an annuitant (some one who benefits from an annuity) who had been born in Castle Donnington.

In 1851 they have a son, James Josiah Shepherd, who died in 1868. At this point Josiah is working as a coal agent. Josiah had been in partnership with George Marshall but this was dissolved in 1856.

The family had lived at Two Mille House in Basford before moving to 2 Walmer Terrace, Wellington Street in Nottingham.

In 1859 Josiah dissolves this partnership with George Shepherd of Walmer Terrace, presumably his son and George sets up on his own as George Shepherd and Co.

**In 1861** Josiah is still working as a lace manufacturer with premises in 27 Hounds Gate. The family are living at Walmer Terrace. With Betsy and Josiah are Elizabeth, Thomas, George, Mary Ann and James. On 21 February 1861 he is appealing in the *Nottingham Journal* for a worker who had fallen on hard times due to the depressed state in trade and had been forced to sell his pig to pay for the rent.

In 1861 Josiah Shepherd, Lace Manufacturer, Moses Barto, Engineer and Thomas Evans, Mineral and Coal Agent all of Nottingham applied for a patent for an invention for 'certain improvements in the method of and apparatus for supplying and heating air, the same to be used as a motive-power for marine, locomotive and stationary engines'.

In 1866 the family are living in lodgings at 7 Walmer Terrace, Wellington Street.

In 1867 Josiah appeared in the bankruptcy court. It was reported in the *Nottingham Journal* on 17 July 1867. His wife's cousin John Wright claimed that Josiah owed him £290, security being place on property in Sawley. The securities could not be produced. There were clearly family issues. It appeared that John Wright had lent Josiah money scores of times during the last twenty years. It appeared that Josiah had paid John Wright £300. Another witness, George Truman, one of the trustees of the Mansfield Road Baptist Chapel noted that Josiah had wanted to transfer some money, which Josiah had advanced on the chapel, to his daughter. He wanted two notes of £100 to be made out in his daughter's

name. Another witness Thomas Chambers, basket maker, stated that about a year ago he had purchased the bankrupt's lace business for £280. There is mention of George Shepherd who had brought the book debts and liabilities of Josiah. The eldest son, Thomas Shepherd, a bookkeeper said he lived with his father on Walmer Terrace. He had lent his father a great deal of money. Eliza Shepherd was called, but it was stated that she could not leave her room without danger to her life. Another son, James, is also mentioned. Josiah claimed he had been ruined by the swindling affair of Gurney & Co.

Josiah died in 1871.

Elizabeth/Besty died on 25 April 1869 at her home in Walmer Terrace.

#### **40. Elizabeth Shepherd Jnr 1834–1902**

**Age at time of Petition: 32**

**Address at time of Petition: 7 Walmer Terrace, Wellington Street**

*(Wellington Street is now called Arundel Street)*

**Religious Denomination: Baptist**

Daughter of Josiah Shepherd, lace manufacturer, and his wife Betsy Buttery (**No. 39**). Born in Sawley, Derbyshire on 29 April 1834 she was baptised in the Band Gate Baptist Chapel, Castle Donnington.

**In 1841** the family are living in Sawley. Josiah is a toll collector and he and Elizabeth (**No. 39**) have three children: Elizabeth 7, Thomas, 5 and George 2. Josiah is given as 30 and Betsey as 25. Next door is Ellen Buttery aged 80, presumably her great grandmother.

**In 1851** the family are Two Mile House in Basford. Living with Josiah and Betsy are Elizabeth, Thomas, George, Mary Ann and James. Also there is Josiah's mother, Alice Shepherd aged 74, an annuitant who had been born in Castle Donnington.

**In 1861** Josiah is still working as a lace manufacturer with premises in 27 Hounds Gate. The family are living at Walmer Terrace. With Betsy and Josiah are Elizabeth, Thomas, George, Mary Ann and James.

**In 1871** Elizabeth is living at Walmer Terrace with her brother Thomas Shepherd, who is 35 unmarried and a lace manufacturer and her sister Mary Ann who is a teacher in a school. Elizabeth is described as a housekeeper.

**In 1881** she is living with her sister, Mary Ann, at Buckland Street. She is said to be a housekeeper and her sister is said to be a Governess. With them is Amelia James, an Assistant Music Teacher Her brother, George, also a lace manufacturer, specialising in

'finishing' died in 1881. His business on High Pavement had connections with Manchester and London.

**In 1891** Elizabeth is at 9 Birkland Avenue with her sister Mary Ann who is an elementary teacher.

**In 1901** she is living at 9 Birkland Avenue, said to be 63 and living on her own means. Her sister Mary Ann is 50 and an elementary teacher in a school.

Elizabeth died in 1902 at 9 Birkland Avenue, Peel Street. Mary Ann died in 1930.

**41. This could be one of two people.**

**A. Mary Shepherd 1818–1889**

**Age at time of Petition: 48**

**Address at time of Petition: 6 Riste's Place, Barker Gate**

THIS MARY ANN SHEPHERD was born in Sawley, Derbyshire 1818. She was a lace pattern setter and lived at 6 Barker Gate. She is therefore the sister-in-law of Elizabeth Shepherd Snr (**No. 39**) and aunt of Elizabeth Shepherd Jnr (**No. 40**).

**In 1841** in Sawley is John Shepherd, wheelwright, aged 60, with his wife Alice, aged 60, John, aged 25, a railway labourer and Mary aged 25. All but Alice are born in Derbyshire.

**In 1871** she is at 6 Riste's Place, Barker Gate.

**In 1881** she appears to be in the Union Workhouse on York Street, Nottingham.

**OR**

**B. Mary Ann Shepherd 1848–1930 (*pupil teacher at People's College*)**

**Age at time of Petition: 18**

**Address at time of Petition: Barker Gate**

THIS MARY ANN SHEPHERD was the daughter of Elizabeth Shepherd Snr (**No. 39**), sister of Elizabeth Shepherd Jnr (**No. 40**) and niece of Mary Shepherd of Barker Gate. Was Mary staying with her aunt in Barker Gate at the time of the petition? However, she would have only been 18 at the time and there is no black line scored against her by Emily Davies

**In 1871** Mary Ann is said to be 23 and a teacher in a school. She is living with her brother Thomas Shepherd, aged 35, a lace manufacturer and her sister Elizabeth, aged 36, at Walmer Terrace, Wellington Street.



**In 1873** she is listed in George Bevan's The Teacher's List as Assistant Teacher to Miss Sunter at People's College.

**In 1881** she is living with her sister, Elizabeth (**No. 40**) at Buckland Street. Her sister is said to be a housekeeper and she is said to be a governess. With them is Amelia James, an Assistant Music Teacher Her brother, George, also a lace manufacturer, specialising in 'finishing' died in 1881. His business on High Pavement had connections with Manchester and London.

**In 1891** Mary Ann, an elementary teacher is at 9 Birkland Avenue with her sister Elizabeth.

**In 1901** she is living at 9 Birkland Avenue, said to be 50, an elementary teacher in a school. Her sister Elizabeth is living on her own means.

**In 1911** she is living on her own as a retired schoolmistress at 9 Birkland Avenue

**42. Mrs D Simkins 1832–1897**

**Age at time of Petition: 34**

**Address at time of Petition: 26 Goosegate**

**Date of Marriage: 1856**

**Religious Denomination:**

BORN IN 1832 Elizabeth Neep, her father was Thomas Neep a butcher who had been born in Epperstone. He had married at St Peter's Church, Nottingham, a widow, Mrs Elizabeth James, née Simkin in 1829. Elizabeth was baptised at St Nicholas parish church, Nottingham, on 22 April 1832. Perhaps there is a cousinship with the Simkins family?

Elizabeth's siblings included: John b1831, a butcher; Anna b1833; Thomas born c1834, a butcher; William b1840, a butcher; Charles b1836; and William b1840, a butcher.

She married Daniel Simkins in Nottingham in 1856. Her husband was a butcher in Nottingham, well known as the principal buyer of sheep in the Grantham fortnightly market. He died aged 59 in 1887.

Among their children were:

- Daniel Thomas b1857.
- Elizabeth Jane b1859.
- George b1861.
- Isaac b1862.
- Mary b1867.
- Edith Alice b1871 (*She was the Suffolk artist Alice Simkins who died 1949*).

- Frederick Arthur b1874.
- John Huthwaite b1877.

In 1839 Thomas Neep was up before the magistrates for assaulting John Waterhouse. He was fined 1s with 13s expenses which he paid.

In 1840 directories indicate the family are living in Hounds Gate.

In 1848 we learn in the *Nottingham Review* that Thomas Neep had a sheep stolen “which was slaughtered up on Mapperley Hills and the whole removed except the skin, entrails and head. The mutton has since been discovered in the house of a poor man in this town, and part of it, we believe, was in process of cooking.” The guilty party – one John Richards, aged 45 – was brought to court in 1850 and sentenced to be transported for seven years.

**In 1851** Elizabeth is living at Hounds Gate with her widowed father, Thomas, 49, a butcher, brothers, John and Thomas, butchers and brother Charles, an apprentice. William is still a scholar. There is a visitor William Neep, aged 26, a butcher born in Anstey, Leicestershire (a cousin) and one servant. There is no sign of Anna.

**In 1861** the family are living at 8 Carlton Road. With Elizabeth and Daniel are son Daniel aged 3, Elizabeth aged 2 and George aged 4 months. There is one servant. (Her father, Thomas Neep, butcher was living at St Nicholas Street with son William, also a butcher, and daughter, Anna.)

Each Christmas Daniel Simkins supplied some 200 stones of beef to the tenantry of Lord Middleton’s Wollaton Estate. The steward of the estate and others would come to the Shambles with carts to take away the meat which was presented to the several families on the estate in quantities varying from 7lbs to a stone in weight.

We learn more of the shops which Elizabeth and Daniel were running from Newspaper reports.

On 27 December 1867 there is an article on the Shambles in the *Nottinghamshire Guardian*. “In the interior of the the Shambles, the shop of Mr Daniel Simkins presents a full and cheerful aspect – indeed it seems almost impossible to breed better beasts than he has; there are eight bullocks and heifers, and the quarters of two are something extraordinary, for they weigh between 70 and 80 stones. Mr George Hassall of Shelford Manor is the breeder and feeder. In addition to the beasts there are a goodly number of Lincoln and Woodland shep, and these Mr Hassall also takes the credit for having reared. We might also remark, in passing that Mr Simkins shop in Carlton Street possesses plenty of the same substantial fare.”

**In 1871** the family are at Foxhill Lane. Records mention that Daniel owns 213 acres in Carlton. There are Daniel, Elizabeth, George, Isaac, Mary, Edith and two servants.

**In 1881** the family are living at 10 Goldsmith Street. With Elizabeth and Daniel are Elizabeth (22), Jane (19), Mary (12) and Frederick (8).

Her husband, Daniel, died on 22 August 1887, leaving £2,759. His executors were Elizabeth and his sons, Daniel Thomas Simkins and George Simkins, butchers, and Samuel Simkins, cattle dealer, brother of Daniel.

She died on 29 September 1897. She was then living at 440 Upper Woodborough Road, Nottingham. She left £264, her executors being her son Frederick Arthur Simkins, butcher's assistant, and her daughter, Mary Louisa Simkins.

**43. Mrs A Simpson 1835–1917**

**Age at time of Petition: 31**

**Address at time of Petition: 10 Stratford Terrace, Shakespeare Street**

**Date of Marriage: 1864**

INTERESTINGLY IN THE COPY held at Girton, Emily Davies has scored through the name and address with black ink.

This is the former Miss Clara Bishop who was born c1835 in Dorchester, Dorset. She was the daughter of John Bishop, a spirit merchant and grocer and his wife Harriet Stevens.

Her siblings included: Mary Bishop b1832, Thomas b1834, Emily b1839, Anna b1841, Edward F b1843, Henry G b1845 and Charles b1846.

**In 1841** Clara is with her family in Dorchester, with parents John, a grocer, and Harriet plus John 11, Mary 9, Thomas 7, Clara 6. Emily 2 and Anna 6 months. There is a grocer's apprentice and two female servants.

**In 1851** Clara is living in Dorchester with her father John, spirit merchant and grocer and her mother, Mary. With Clara (aged 16) and a scholar at home are Mary 19, Thomas 17, a grocer's apprentice, Emily 12, Edward F 8, Henry G 6 and Charles 4. There is one servant.

**In 1861** she was working as a governess in Nottingham, boarding at the home of Sarah James in Park Valley. Sarah James is a widow with three daughters and Clara appears to be part of the household with two other female servants.

She married Arthur Simpson, second master at People's Colleg, in 1864 in Nottingham. He seems to have been some years younger than her. He was the son of Elizabeth and Thomas Simpson. By 1861 at the age of 19 he is working as a teacher in Nottingham, boarding with Everard Miller at 56 Mount Street.

Clearly in 1865 Clara is running a Ladies School from the house at 10 Stratford Terrace, Shakespeare Street. It was described as a commodious house with Music, French and German on the agenda. There was a vacancy for two boarders. She had a son Arthur Thomas Simpson born c1866.

When her husband died in 1868 he was said to be 25. He died in Mansfield and his mother Elizabeth is the executrix of the will.

**In 1871** Clara is working as an assistant teacher at a school in Westbury-on-Trim, Bristol run by a Phillis H Thomas. The school is at Ebenezer House. Her son Arthur is at the school aged 5.

**In 1881** she is a lodger at Postern Street, Nottingham, said to be a governess. She is at the home of John B. Moss and is there with her son Arthur, a clerk in a lace factory.

**In 1891** she describes herself as single and a private governess. She is living at 5 Postern Street with her son Arthur Thomas Simpson, a commercial clerk. They have one servant.

**In 1891** Clara Simpson is President of the Market Ward Women's Liberal Association.

**In 1911** she is lodging at 5 Dryden Street, said to be widow and retired teacher. She is lodging at the home of Robert Leggett. There are two other lodgers.

She died at Brooklyn House, Thorneywood Lane in 1917. She left £1,243 with Arthur as her executor.

#### **44. Mrs Edwin Smith 1803–1904**

**Age at time of Petition: 63**

**Address at time of Petition: Mount Vernon, Sandy Knoll, 89 Forest Road West** (*Now Number 89a*)

**Date of Marriage: 1862**

**Religious Denomination: Unitarian**

ANNIE SHAWCROSS, born c1833 in Manchester, was the daughter of Edward Shawcross, cotton merchant of Willow Bank, Higher Broughton and member of Strangeways Unitarian Free Church, Salford.

**In 1841** the family are in More Field, Broughton. With Edward and Eliza are Helen, Thomas, Francis, Anne and Edward. There is an Ellen Hind (aged 88) and independent. There are three female servants and a warehouseman

**In 1851** the family are at Great Clowes Street. With Edward and Eliza are Helen (21), Francis (19) in the export trade, Annie (18), Emily (9). There is a visitor from Scotland, Helen Hutchinson, and two servants.

**In 1861** the family are in Broughton near Salford. With Edward and Elizabeth are Annie (28), Edward R (23) a cotton jean agent, Emily (19) and two servants.

She married Rev. Edwin Smith on 4 June 1862 at Upper Brook Street Chapel, Manchester.

Others in the Shawcross family signed the 1866 petition:

- In Higher Broughton, Manchester, Eliza Shawcross the mother of Annie Smith, née Shawcross (**No. 44**) signed the petition.
- In Lower Broughton, Sarah Shawcross, the sister-in-law of Annie Smith, née Shawcross (**No. 44**), signed the petition. Born Sarah Willmer, she was married to Francis Shawcross, the brother of Annie Smith.

They moved to Nottingham setting up a day and boarding school at Sandy Knoll, 89, Forest Rd West, calling the school, Mount Vernon College.

### **Mount Vernon High School, Nottingham**

Rev Edwin Smith MA of the Universities of London and Heidelberg devotes the whole of his time and attention to educating a limited number of Pupils intended for business, the professions, or the Universities

**In 1871** they are at Forest Road. With Thomas and Annie are Arthur (7), Emily E (5), Kate E (2) and sister-in-law Emily Storrs (29). There are 4 servants.

**In 1881** Edwin, Schoolmaster MA London, and Annie are at 89 Forest Rd. With them are Arthur (17), Emily (15), Jane (9) and Edward 8. There is Walter Letch (aged 31) acting as a tutor. He was an undergraduate at London University. There are boarders, Robert A Cuddeford (15) from Surrey; Edward Fagg (15) from London; Athdston W. Fagg (11) from

Croydon; Thomas Clark (14) from Newcastle; Fred H. Standing (13) from Manchester; W. E. Fagg (15) from Croydon; Ethelbert Fagg (13) from Croydon; Albert E. Anthony Abinger (15) from Surrey; Isaac B Dobell (14) from Loughborough; James L Dobell (14) from Loughborough; Otto Killeman (11) from Manchester; and Ernest Killemann (8) from Germany (British subject). There are 4 servants including a children's maid and a cook.

They wrapped up the school in 1883 and Sandy Knoll (Mount Vernon) was put up for sale. It eventually became Nottingham Baptist College.

**In 1891** Edwin and Annie are at Birkdale in Lancashire. Edwin is said to be teacher of languages. Daughter Kate (22) is a teacher of cookery and Edward (18) a student.

**By 1895** they had moved to Liverpool where Edwin died aged 63 at 38 Wellesley Road, Princes Park, Liverpool.

**In 1901** she is at 12 Amptill Road, Toxteth Park with daughter, Jane aged 29. Annie is living on her own means. She died in Liverpool on 3 September 1904.

#### **45. Mrs C Southamer 1840–1888**

**Age at time of Petition: 26**

**Address at time of Petition: Shakespeare Street**

**Date of Marriage: 1864**

**Religious Denomination: Roman Catholic**

THIS IS ELLEN SOUTHEIMER/SONTHEIMER, née Bell wife of Carl Southeimer, who worked at Jacoby's factory in Nottingham. Jacoby, another German, was a director at People's College and well known to Elizabeth Sunter (**No. 46**).

Ellen Bell was born in Greenhithe in Kent. She was the daughter of Edward Bell, who is variously described as gardener, architect and engineer. (He appears to have been married several times and it is uncertain which of Ellen's siblings are half or full). The family appear to have been born in the Church of England but later embraced Roman Catholicism.

**In 1841** she is at Ingress Park, Greenhithe, Swanscombe, Kent with her father Edward (aged 40) mother Anne (aged 30) and brother Edward Ingress Bell (1837–1914). He was well known as a sculptor and architect. He was apprenticed to his father who was a civil engineer. He was for many years in partnership with Sir Aston Webb.

**In 1851** Ellen is living in Chipping Camden, Gloucestershire with sister Anna Bell (aged 37), Mary (aged 25) a dressmaker born in Egglestone, Durham and sister Jane (aged 4) born in Gravesend, Kent. I think Elizabeth is a half sister born to Edward and his first wife,

Elizabeth while Anna is Anna Munk who married Edward Bell in 1848 so is stepmother to Ellen. Her father, Edward, is living in Cadogan Street, Chelsea, is said to be Clerk of Works together with Ellen's brother Edward who is said to be a civil engineer. Edward Bell was said to be Clerk of Works to Sir Gilbert Scott.

There is a sister, Emily, who is living with Jane and Elizabeth Monk in Milton, Gravesend.

**In 1861** Ellen is working as a governess for a family in Imham, Lincolnshire. Her stepmother is living in Stamford, Lincolnshire with Jane (15) and Florence Agatha who had been born in 1853.

Ellen and Carl married at St Barnabas Roman Catholic Cathedral, Nottingham on 27 September 1864. They were married by Canon John Mulligan. Carl Southeimer was said to be formerly of Stuttgart, now of Nottingham, son of John Southeimer. Ellen Bell is said to be of Nottingham, daughter of Edward Bell. The witnesses were Mary Anne Wellington and Ellen Grace. Mary Anne Wellington was a servant from Ireland and Ellen Grace was the cook for the priests of the cathedral.

Ellen's father had died by 1866.

In his application for naturalisation in 1871, we learn more about Carl. On the application he called himself Charles Louis Albert Southeimer, born in Stuttgart in Wurtemberg. He is said to be 35, a bookkeeper and accountant, married with three children, namely Edgard Carl (aged 6), Dorothea Caroline (aged 5), and Louis Albert (aged 16 months). By this time the family are living in New Cross, London. Francis was born 1872, Lena in 1876, Rosa in 1877. Louis Albert died in 1888, Dorothea in 1943. Carl/Charles died in 1892. Ellen died in East Dulwich, London in 1888. Her husband died in 1893.

#### **46. Elizabeth Sunter 1823–1903**

**Age at time of Petition: 43**

**Address at time of the Petition: 26 Park Row**

**Religious Denomination: Methodist then Unitarian**

BORN IN 1823 AT Crosby Garrett, Westmoreland to George Sunter (1791-1862) and Margaret Close (1791-1881).

**In 1841** the family are living at New Shildon. County Durham: George 50, Quarryman, Margaret 50, George 25, engine man, Isabell 25, Margaret 20, Elizabeth, 15, William 15, Rebecca 12, Mary 7, Only Mary born in County Durham. Elizabeth became a teacher at the British School in New Shildon which opened in October 1841. The family became temperance workers and suffered much petty persecution. She had to leave her job 'as a

result of the persecution of the Methodist priesthood'. She moved to London to teach at Home & Colonial Training College where her sister, Rebecca, also worked. The College has been set up the Mayos and James Pierrepont Greaves on the principles of Pestalozzi. Sister Rebecca worked closely and wrote a book on Infant Education.

On the 26 June 1856 the Directors of People's College, Nottingham\* made an announcement in the *Nottinghamshire Guardian*, in regard to their plans for the Girls Days School at the College, that they had "engaged Miss Sunter, late Mistress in the Home and Colonial Training School, London, who – the Directors believe – will be found to unite very superior attainments with experience and skill in MENTAL TRAINING; and who earnest efforts will be directed to the FORMATION of CHARACTER as well as to the inculcation of knowledge and of sound principles."

The COURSE of INSTRUCTION in the Department of the People's College will comprise Reading and Spelling, Writing and Arithmetic, Geography and History, English Grammar and Composition, Model and Inventive Drawing, Plain Needlework, "Common Things" (including the Natural History of Animals and Plants, Human Physiology, as far as to make the Laws of Health intelligible, Domestic Economy and the Simple Elements of Social Economy.)

That the Pupils may be placed under the most favourable influences from their earliest years – a separate School for Infants of both sexes will be formed under the direct superintendence of the Mistress.

#### TERMS IN ADVANCE

For the Girls School: 10s per quarter.

For the Infant School: 5s per quarter.

Parents and Friends are invited to visit the Boys' and Girls' Schools that they may be better enabled to appreciate the value of the Superior Education given.

Elizabeth Sunter was appointed to People's College in 1856 as Head Mistress of the Girls and Infant Schools. She introduced natural science and physiology, which was criticised and considered as improper.

*\*People's College had been set up in Nottingham in 1847. By 1848 there were evening classes for adult women but in 1850 the Directors set up a Girls Department under Miss Kirkland. Moritz Jacoby, local German-born, Jewish lace manufacturer and later his son John Henry Jacoby were directors of the College. The Jacoby's house backed onto People's College. In 1874, John Henry Jacoby's brother, James Alfred Jacoby, now a Unitarian, became joint secretary with Elizabeth Sunter of the Nottingham Suffrage Society,*



*organising the sale of tickets to the Mechanics Hall with Miss Lydia Becker as speaker. Later as Sir James Jacoby MP he recalled with pride his involvement in the early days of female suffrage.*

In 1857 Miss Sunter set up a new class for the special purpose of qualifying nurses to train the minds of their infant charges, after the most enlightened methods. We also know from a letter written by Harriet Martineau to Florence Nightingale that Elizabeth was using *Nightingale's Notes on Nursing* to support the training of teachers.

**In 1861** she is living as a boarder at Talbot Street, Nottingham, a school mistress in the home of Sarah Watson, a teacher at a boarding and day school. In the household is a Sarah Broonie (18), training to be a teacher. There are also three children aged 6 to 9 who are boarders and scholars, so presumably pupils of Sarah Watson. There is one servant.

**In 1871** she is lodging with her mother Margaret at 40 Bilbie Street, Nottingham. Elizabeth is a School Mistress. They are living as lodgers in the home of Leonard Peck, Porter.

Miss Sunter had become Secretary of the Nottingham Committee of the London National Society for Women's Suffrage in 1871.

She is still mentioned as headmistress at People's College until 1874. Not sure when she finished at People's College.

In 1880 she is advertising her school for girls at 74 Shakespeare Street. It is still there in 1887. Cannot find mention of this school before 1880

**In 1881** she is living as boarder at 74 Shakespeare Street, Nottingham. School Mistress at Nottingham. This is the home of three unmarried sisters by the name of Foster who were all dressmakers so perhaps she had a room where she taught pupils.

She served on the committees for Woman's Suffrage Society, Woman's Total Abstinence Union, Ladies Sanitary Association, Liberal Association and Nottingham Temperance Mission.

**In 1891** she is visiting her widowed sister Margaret Scott and her family in Wakefield. Elizabeth is a retired schoolmistress.

**In 1894** she is living at 37 Huntingdon Street, Nottingham.

**In 1901** she is with sister Rebecca Mowbray at 9 Northstead Road, Tulse Hill Park, Streatham. Retired Schoolmistress.

She died in London on 29 January 1903. In her will she left £534 with her nephew William Sunter Mowbray and niece, Esther Elizabeth Mowbray as executors

**47. Phoebe Sutton 1799-1874**

**Age at time of Petition: 67**

**Address at time of the Petition:**

**Date of Marriage: Unknown**

**Religious Denomination: Methodist**

BORN C1799 PHOEBE OR PHEBE GILLETT, she is the daughter of Thomas Gillett of the Blackbrook Estate near Belper, Derbyshire. Sometime between 1827 and 1833 she married Richard Sutton of Nottingham as his second wife.

Her children were:

- Richard Charles Sutton (1833–1915) was an architect. *Richard Charles Sutton rented rooms at Bromley House from 1869 and was a subscriber to the library 1899–1916. Buildings in which he was involved was the Wesleyan Chapel in Bingham, The Congregational Chapel on Castlegate, St Saviours, Arkwright Street and Parliament Street Methodist Church. He was a member of Nottingham City Council 1887–1901.*
- Alfred Gillett Sutton (1835–1900) was author of *Favourite Flowers and How to Grow Them* (1859).
- Alexander Kilham Sutton (1837–1922) was a partner with his brother in Sutton Brothers, booksellers, printers and stationers. He was declared bankrupt in 1873.
- Frederick William Sutton (1840–42).

Her stepchildren who are of interest are listed at **Appendix E**.

Richard Sutton was proprietor of the *Nottingham Review*, known as the organ of the radicals and nonconformists. Richard Sutton (1789–1856) was the son of the founder, Charles Sutton. In 1830 Richard Sutton led the campaign against the Church rates, urging parishioners to attend vestry meetings and vote against the rate. In 1836 he was one of the founders of the Nottingham Reform Association. He was a Methodist local preacher. The family were members of Parliament Street Methodist Church. Earlier 18<sup>th</sup> Century Suttons had been members of High Pavement Unitarian and Castle Gate Congregational Churches.

**In 1841** the family are living at 14 Bottle Lane. Richard is not there. Phoebe is with John (20) a printer, Sarah (18), Richard (7), Alfred (5), Alexander (3), Frederick (1), and three female servants.

**In 1851** the family are at Grove House, Radford Grove. Richard is there aged 61, a newspaper proprietor, printer and bookseller; Richard Charles, aged 17, articled to an

architect; Alfred Gillett, aged 15, bookseller apprentice, and one servant. Not sure where Phoebe is. Son Alexander Kilham is a boarder in a school in Newark.

Richard Sutton died in 1856.

On 20 June 1859 the City Council allotted burgess parts amounting to £10 a year to Mrs. Phoebe Sutton aged 60

**By 1861** she is living on Forest Road with her son, Alexander Kilham who is the Manager of a printing works. She is said to be a proprietor.

**In 1871** Phoebe is living at Forest Grove with her widowed son, Richard Charles, architect, and his two sons and three daughters. There are three servants

At her death in 1874, her son Richard Charles proves her will. She left effects under £450.

#### **48. Mrs H Turner 1797–1894**

**Age at time of Petition: 69**

**Address at time of Petition: Park Terrace**

**Date of Marriage: 1819**

**Religious Denomination: Unitarian**

THIS IS CATHERINE RANKIN who married Rev. Henry Turner of High Pavement Unitarian Chapel Nottingham. She was the daughter of John Cole Rankin, merchant of Newcastle upon Tyne and his wife, Catharine (née Holland). Her grandfather was Rev. Philip Holland, a non-conformist minister. Her grandmother, Catherine Holland, was the great aunt of Mrs Gaskell.



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Her father, a wholesale grocer and tea dealer, was a founder member of the Unitarian Society in 1791. He died in 1810. Through her Holland family, Catherine Turner could claim descent from the 17<sup>th</sup> century non-conformist minister, Philip Henry.

#### **The Rankin Aunts and Uncles**

Although Catherine appears to be an only child, and her mother had one unmarried brother, her Rankin relatives ensured she had at least 27 cousins.

Her Rankin aunts and uncles included:

- Robert Rankin (1769–1837). Lived in Bristol. He had been in business with his father and brother Thomas in Bristol but Robert senior dissolved the partnership in 1808.

Robert and Thomas became wine merchants. He married Margaretta Dobson and had 10 children.

- William b1770.
- Ann (1773–74).
- Jane (1774–75).
- Ann (1775–95).
- Jane Rankin (1776–1854). Married Dr Edward Kentish, in 1804 in Bristol, who had previously practised in Newcastle before removing to Bristol where he became senior physician of St Peter's Hospital. Aunt Kentish ran a small school which Harriet Martineau attended for 15 months. Of her Aunt Kentish, Harriet wrote: "I was to find for the first time, a human being of whom I was not afraid."
- Thomas (1778–1849). Lived in Bristol and was a wine merchant. He married Anna Maria Wright and had seven children.
- Isabella Rankin (1779–1856). Married Thomas Webb Hodgetts who was an Iron, Nail and Tin Plate Merchant in Stourbridge. He died in Hagley in 1855.
- Margaret Rankin (1780–1860). Lived in Newcastle and in old age relied on Catherine Turner.
- Mary Rankin (1783–1848). Lived in Newcastle.
- Alice (1784).
- Georgina Alice Rankin (1787–1848).
- William Burdon Rankin (1788).
- Elizabeth Rankin (1771–1848). Married Thomas Martineau and had 8 children including Harriet Martineau and Dr James Martineau. Catherine was close to her Martineau cousins all her life.

The Martineau cousins included:

- Rev James Martineau.
- Harriet Martineau.

(With such a famous cousin as Harriet Martineau, it is not surprising that Catherine Turner receives mentions in Harriet's letters. For the purposes of this study I have used letters in *Harriet Martineau to Fanny Wedgwood* (Ed. Elisabeth Sanders Arbuckle, Stanford 1983), *The Collected Letters of Harriet Martineau* (Ed. Deborah Logan, 2007) and *The Life and Letters of James Martineau* (By James Drummond, 1902). Further information about Mrs Turner is found in Constance Martineau's *Memories of Lenton* (1910) and Alix Meynell's *What Grandmother Said* (1998).

- Robert Martineau. Became Mayor of Birmingham in 1846. It was his daughter, Maria, who became the full-time carer of Harriet Martineau and for whom Catherine Turner provided much needed respite.
- Dr Thomas Martineau. Died at sea, aged 28, on his return from Madeira where he had gone for his health. His widow, Helen née Bourn, remarried the Rev. Edward Tagart.

Their daughter, Lucy Tagart, became a pupil of Catherine Turner (*Letter from the Tagart sisters to Catherine Turner held at Stanford*).

- Elizabeth Martineau. Married Dr Alfred Higginson of Liverpool.
- Ellen Hobbs Martineau. Married Dr Michael Thomas Greenhow who co-founded Newcastle Eye Infirmary. It was Greenhow who introduced Harriet Martineau to the Nottinghamshire Mesmerist, Spencer Timothy Hall. The Greenhow's daughter Lucy Lupton was co-founder of Leeds School for Girls.

**In 1819** Catharine Rankin married Rev. Henry Turner, minister of High Pavement Chapel, Nottingham. He had taken up his appointment in 1817. Her father-in-law was Rev. William Turner of Newcastle who was an early mentor of Elizabeth Gaskell. They were all related through the Holland family.

Her sister-in-law, Mary Turner (1786–1869), had married John Gooch Robberds, Unitarian Minister at Cross Street Unitarian Chapel, Manchester. It was at the house of the Robberds that William Gaskell, then the second minister of Cross Street, met the young Elizabeth Stevenson, the future Mrs Gaskell. Catherine's nephew was Charles William Robberds, the future Unitarian minister in Oldham. His wife, Catherine Robberds, signed the 1866 petition.

Rev. Henry Turner's cousin was James Aspinall Turner JP DL (1797–1867) a cotton manufacturer and merchant in Manchester. He was Chairman of the Manchester Commercial Association. He was a Unitarian and a Trustee of Cross Street Chapel. In 1857 he became MP for Manchester. He was clearly a great support to Catherine Turner.

In 1821 Sarah Whittaker writes of Mrs Turner that "she is a pleasing nice-looking woman, and appears a very suitable spokeswoman for her husband who is not more talkative than formerly".

Henry died in 1822 so Catherine was a widow for 72 years.

### **Her School**

On her husband's death Catherine set up a successful school for girls in Nottingham, perhaps first in the house in Fletcher Gate and then at 11 Market Street and then after about nine years moving to Park Row. In the Bromley House Library records we learn that between 1832–1834 Catherine hired rooms at Bromley House Library for evening dance classes. The pupils all appear to come from the families of Unitarians. Among them were Ellen and Mary Needham, Isabella and Caroline Philips, Eliza Hunt (Lady Fellows), Maria Enfield (Mrs Withers Dowson) and Eliza Smith, daughter of Thomas Smith of Southwark, Surrey, who in 1835 married Alfred Paget (1810–1904, solicitor, Leicester).

One of the visiting masters was William George Spencer (1790–1866) – usually called George and the father of Herbert Spencer – who taught natural philosophy. George Spencer, a follower of Pestalozzi, had taught in Derby where he gave the same curriculum to boys and girls. He had come to Nottingham to take up the lace trade. Originally a Methodist, George Spencer became a Quaker. Writing and arithmetic was taught by John Taylor, headmaster of High Pavement School.

**In 1827** her cousin, Harriet Martineau, was visiting Nottingham. She wrote: “I am indeed happy with Catherine [Turner], the best of friends, the most improving of companions.”

In 1836 Matthew Needham built Lenton Fields for Catherine. The Needhams had nine children and Catherine Turner was clearly very close to them – both through their shared membership of High Pavement Unitarian Chapel and family connections. Lucy Needham married Richard Martineau, a cousin of Harriet Martineau and Rev. James Martineau who had been so inspired by Rev. Henry Turner, in 1827. Anne Needham (1801–65) married William Enfield, Town Clerk of Nottingham (1845–70). Anne and Catherine were very close friends.

Alix Meynell noted that the education provided at Mrs Turner’s school ‘was something very different from the ordinary schools for young ladies’. The girls were taught not only the usual subjects, but also botany, history, philosophy; they learnt to speak French, to take an interest in public affairs, to think for themselves and ‘have an earnest purpose in life’. They also learnt dancing, singing and Latin. Other Needham children included Mary Priscilla who, in 1838, married Samuel Greg of Bollington, Cheshire. Her daughter, Alice Greg married Benjamin Dowson of Nottingham. Alice was to become a very active suffragist.

Eleanor Sara Needham (1813–80) married the brother of William Enfield, Henry Enfield, later Secretary to the Commissioners in Lunacy. Henry and William’s brother, Richard, (1817–1904) was a driver in the creation of University College, Nottingham.

**In 1841** ten girls were resident at Lenton Fields: Maria and Elizabeth Hansfield (both 15); Mary Paget (15); Fanny White (15); Sarah Swaine (15); Susan Hatton (13); Ann Hatton (14); Emma Henrick (12); Catherine Turner (11); and Constance Martineau (10). In 1841 there were two teachers and three domestic servants. Eliza Swanwick the assistant teacher was ‘young genial and sympathetic’.

We learn from Constance Martineau more about the education at Mrs Turners. The girls enjoyed studying botany in the field. Some girls ‘read with Miss Swanwick Buckland’s *Bridgwater Treatise*, a geological work which first impressed upon me that we must not look to the Bible for scientific truth ... an astounding enlightenment to me’. Books studied with Mrs Turner included Burke’s *The Sublime and Beautiful*, Alison’s *Taste Theory*, Paly’s

*Moral Philosophy* and Lingard's *History of England*. Martineau recounted that the girls were taught to play the piano, draw, dance, speak French and also to think, and 'to have an earnest purpose in life'. Catherine Turner encouraged a lively interest in public affairs, reading debates to her pupils such as Peel's 1844 Dissenters Chapel's Act. Among visiting speakers was Mr George Spencer of Derby, father of Herbert Spencer, who 'came once a week to give lessons on natural philosophy. The aim was to teach us to think, to find out things for ourselves, and explain in clear language the reason of them'. With more advanced pupils Mr Spencer taught astronomy, electricity and other sciences.

Catherine would take her pupils to High Pavement Chapel on Sundays, chartering a fly for those unable to walk both ways.

In 1847, when Ralph Waldo Emerson came to lecture at the Mechanic's Institute in December, he called on Catherine Turner as recorded in his journal. We also know she had really wished for him to stay with her, but this honour went to Joseph Neuberg.

**In the 1851** census pupils are recorded as Anna Taylor (15); Bertha Taylor (13) born in Diss, Norfolk; Alice Taylor (14) born in Ellichpore; Julie Keyman of Nottingham; Lucy Taggart (14) of London; Anne E Paget and Harriett Paget (13) from Leicester; Clara White of Loughborough; Nina Radice (9) and Amy Greg of Styal. Eliza Swanwick, now 40, had been born in Dublin and there is a third teacher, Eliza Wilson (25) from Glasgow.

Catherine Turner was at 'Lenton Fields' until at least 1858. Amy Greg, daughter of Mary Priscilla Greg (née Needham) was said to be her 100<sup>th</sup> and last pupil. She retired to Park Terrace in The Park.

### **Her relationship with her cousin, Harriet Martineau**

Holidays did not always bring rest and Catherine would be up to Ambleside to care for her cousin, Harriet Martineau. Harriet had moved into The Knoll, Ambleside in 1847. By 1855, her niece Maria Martineau had moved in as her full-time carer. Maria naturally needed breaks and other family and friends stepped in including Catherine. She proved to be a very understanding carer for Harriet was not always the easiest person to be with.

It was not only Harriet for whom she had to care. In November 1859, instead of returning to Nottingham after a month with Harriet, Catherine Turner was required in Newcastle to support her Aunt Margaret who had insisted on moving house even though it was not a good time the year.

As Harriet tells the American Charles Sumner: "My old cousin is with me who has an interest in your cause (anti-slavery)."

There is no doubt that Mrs Turner was torn between supporting her Nottingham friends such as Anne Enfield who was dying of cancer and cousin Harriet. Harriet clearly feels she should take priority. When Maria Rankin died in 1864, Catherine Turner tried to help her cousin by sending up a young girl from Ruddington, Nottinghamshire, to be her cook. This was Mary Ann P. Matthews.

### **Life in Nottingham**

Back in Nottingham Catherine was living at Park Terrace and in 1861 staying with her are two former pupils – Constance Martineau born in London and Maria Stansfield born in Halifax.

Catherine continued to work as a teacher in the Sunday School at High Pavement Chapel. She was teacher there for 50 years, being superintendent for 25. She retired from this work in 1877 aged 80 and was presented with an address. Catherine was a member of the group at High Pavement who sat in the transept which was known as 'Saints Corner'. Other group members included the Guilford sisters, Mr Collinson, Emily Carpenter and the Taylor sisters, Clara and Margaret. It was said that when in the company of Mrs Turner and Mrs William Enfield one felt one was 'associating with beings of a higher sphere'.

Catherine Turner and Elizabeth Sunter may well have been the instigators of getting the signatures in 1866 for on 22 February 1867 Miss Emily Davies writes to Lydia Becker: "Signatures have been collected at Nottingham by two ladies, Miss (sic) Turner and Miss Sunter. I do not know anything of them personally." Did they canvass in 1866 as well?

In August 1866, the same year at the Petition, the British Association for the Advancement of Science held its annual meeting in Nottingham. Some delegates were hosted by local families. Staying with Mrs Turner at Park Terrace were Professor James Couch Adams FRS Mathematician and Astronomy, University of Cambridge, and Mrs Adams.

Retirement from her school did not end her involvement in education. As well as her Sunday schoolwork, we find her as a member of the Ladies Committee of People's College in 1868, a close ally of Elizabeth Sunter.

**In 1871** she is at 13 Park Terrace, with a cook and housemaid.

**In 1881** at she is at 13 Park Terrace. She has a visitor, Ann Jemima Clough, Principal of Newnham College, Cambridge. Catherine would have known her through her cousin, Harriet Martineau and on her visits to Ambleside where Miss Clough also taught before going to Cambridge. There is a domestic housekeeper, housemaid and a cook.

**In 1891** she is at 8 Park Terrace with a housekeeper, housemaid and a cook.



In her obituary in the *Enquirer* on 12 May 1894, Dr James Martineau, her cousin paid this tribute: "She was a gentle and gracious woman, and an old scholar speaking of earlier days than I can remember once said to me that when in the company of Mrs Turner and Mrs William Enfield (Anne Needham, her co-superintendent) he felt he was associating with 'beings from a higher sphere'. She kept her youthfulness and interest in life to the last."

In her will she left over £700 to Benjamin Dowson, husband of Nellie Dowson, to be used by him as might think best for the benefit of High Pavement Chapel and its schools.

**49. Mary A Ward 1822–1871**

**Age at time of Petition: 44**

**Address at time of Petition: 58 Castle Gate**

**Religious Denomination: Methodist - Wesleyan**

MARY ANN WARD was the daughter of George and Martha Ward, née Goodhew. Her parents had married at Thurnham, Kent on 25 December 1822. She was born in Thurnham, East Farleigh, Kent on 10 November 1823 and baptised on 14 December 1823 at the Methodist Chapel in Maidstone. She died in Nottingham in 1871. Her mother, Martha, was the daughter of George and Mary Goodhew. She is the sister of Martha Elizabeth Ward (**No. 51**), Annie Ward (**No. 50**) and Mrs Thomas Moore (**No. 28**).

**In 1841** she is in Stapleford with her parents and siblings Martha, Ann, Elizabeth and Sarah.

**In 1851** she is aged 27 and living with her parents and family in Stapleford where her father is employed as a lace manufacturer responsible for 65 men, 40 women and 11 girls. George, aged 53, had been born in Sevenoaks, Kent while Martha Ward (aged 53) had been born in East Farleigh, Kent. Mary Ann is said to be schoolmistress. With her are sisters Martha Elizabeth (aged 18) born in Nottingham and a lace pattern card maker, Eliza (aged 13) and Sarah (aged 11), both born in Stapleford. Also with them is their unmarried aunt, Tabitha Ward, aged 48, formerly a bonnet maker, who had been born in Banbury, Oxfordshire.

**In the 1851 Religious Census**, George Ward, her father, is described as Society Steward and Trustee of the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Stapleford. This church was erected in 1782 and enlarged in 1848. Interestingly services were held in the afternoon and evening with an average congregation of between 80 and 100 scholars. Stapleford was clearly a non-conformist town with a Methodist New Connexion Chapel, a Primitive Methodist Chapel, a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, a Primitive Methodist congregation in New Stapleford and a General Baptist Congregation.

Her sister, Eliza, married William Phelps (1834–88) a lace manufacturer in 1859. She had six children and died in 1873.

**In 1861** Mary Ann is at 58 Castle Gate with her sisters Martha Elizabeth (28) born in Nottingham, Annie (26) born in Nottingham, and Sarah (21) born in Stapleford. They are all milliners employing 11 young women. Their brother was William George Ward (1825–78) who was the Sheriff of Nottingham and also twice the Mayor of Nottingham. He was also a trustee of Bromley House Library. He lived at 5 Newcastle Drive, The Park. He died after falling from his horse.

Her sister Sarah married Thomas Moore in 1864. He was the manager of a lace factory. (*See Mrs Thomas Moore (No. 28).*)

Mary Ann died in 1871.

#### **50. Annie Ward 1835–1903**

**Age at time of Petition: 31**

**Address at time of Petition: 58 Castle Gate**

**Date of Marriage:**

**Religious Denomination: Methodist - Wesleyan**

Sister of Mary Ann Ward (**No. 49**), Martha Elizabeth Ward (**No. 51**), and Mrs Thomas Moore (**No. 28**), Annie Ward was the daughter of George and Martha Ward. She was born in Nottingham c1835.

**In 1851** she is described as a visitor at the home of Dorothy Crofts, a lace dealer at 8 Carlton Street, together with her brother, William George Ward (1825–78) who was the Sheriff of Nottingham and also twice the Mayor of Nottingham. He was also a trustee of Bromley House Library.

**In 1861** she is at Castle Gate with her sisters, Mary Ann Ward (37) born in Kent, Martha Elizabeth (28) born in Nottingham, and Sarah (21) born in Stapleford. They are all Milliners employing 11 young women.

**In 1871** she is described as an invalid, living with her sister, Martha Elizabeth. Visiting on the day of the census is Katherine Rachel Rowe, their brother's housekeeper. There is also a visitor Ellen Walton a dressmaker born in Bilsthorpe. The sisters have one house servant.

**In 1881** she is with her nephew, Charles Edgar Phelps, b1865/6, at 22 Villa Road. There is one servant. Charles' parents are clearly away. Ann is said to be a retired lady.

**In 1891** she is living at Carisbrooke House, Cavendish Crescent North in The Park with nephews, Charles Edgar Phelps and Thomas Edwin Phelps. The house had a tennis lawn and pleasure grounds.

**In 1901** she is living at 21 Tennyson Street with her sister Sarah Moore (**No. 28**) and her nieces Fanny and Annie and nephew Edgar Moore.

She died at Tennyson Street on 13 December 1903. She left £409

**51. Martha Elizabeth Ward 1833–1903**

**Age at time of Petition: 33**

**Address at time of Petition: 58 Castle Gate**

**Date of Marriage: 1874, Nottingham**

**Religious Denomination: Methodist - Wesleyan**

SISTER OF Mary Ann Ward (**No. 49**), Annie Ward (**No. 50**) and Mrs Thomas Moore (**No. 28**)  
Martha was born on 5 January 1833 in Nottingham, daughter of George and Martha Ward.  
She was baptised in the Wesleyan Chapel, Nottingham on 3 March 1833.

**In 1851** she is living with her parents and family in Stapleford, employed as a lace pattern card maker.

**In 1861** she is living at 58 Castle Gate, Nottingham with sisters Mary Ann, Annie and Sarah. They are all milliners.

**In 1871** she is living at 58 Castle Gate with her sister, Annie, an invalid. Visiting on the day of the census is Katherine Rachel Rowe, their brother's housekeeper. This is the sister of Martha's future husband, Frederick Geach Rowe. There is also a visitor Ellen Walton a dressmaker born in Bilsthorpe. The sisters have one house servant.

She married Frederick Geach Rowe (1842–1932) a tea dealer and grocer in 1874. She was ten years older than her husband. He was born in Cornwall.

**In 1881** they are living at 149 Sherwood Street with Frederick's sister, Susan Carter, a widow and niece Matilda, aged 3.

**In 1891** Martha and Frederick are at 149 Sherwood Street. Mildred Carter (13), niece, was with them. There is one servant. (Presume Mildred is the Matilda of 1881).

**In 1901** they are living in Keighley, Yorkshire with niece Mildred R Carter who was born in Cornwall. Martha died in Nottingham on 16 July 1903.

**52. Miss Westmoreland 1829–1879**

**Age at time of Petition: 37**

**Address at time of Petition: 26 Park Row** (Apartments of John Westmoreland)

**Religious Denomination: Baptist**

THE ELDEST DAUGHTER of Elisha (Elija) and Mary Westmoreland née Soar, Elizabeth Westmoreland was born on 18 October 1829, she was one of 12 children.

Her siblings were:

- Mary Westmoreland (1833–1937).
- Ann Westmoreland (1834–1834).
- Elisha George Westmoreland (1835–1902).
- Edwin Westmoreland (1837–1909).
- Ann Westmoreland (1839–1839).
- John Westmoreland (1840–1889).
- Joseph Westmoreland (1844 went to New Zealand).
- William Henry Westmoreland (1845–1846).
- Louisa Westmoreland (1847–1847).
- Louisa Ann Westmoreland (1851–1912).

**In 1841** the family are living at Hanover Yard. Elisha is 32 and a lace maker. With him are his wife Mary (34) and children Elizabeth (11), Emma (10), Mary (9), Edwin (4) and John (1).

**In 1851** the family are living at Bulwell Lane, Basford. Elizabeth is there with her parents and her sibling: Emma (19) and Mary (18) who were assisting at home; Elisha George (15) a lace maker; Edwin (13); John (10); Joseph (6); and Louisa (2 months).

**In 1861** she is living at 2 Bulwell Lane, Basford with her parents and sisters, Emma and Louisa and said to be a bonnet maker Her father was a lace manufacturer.

Her mother died aged 56 in 1863.

**In 1866** she is at 26 Park Row in the apartments of John Westmoreland, her brother.

**In 1871** she is living with her father and sisters Emma and Louisa in Park Valley.

Elizabeth died at the Samaritan Free hospital for Women, Lower Seymour Street, Portman Place, London on 8 July 1879. Her father died in 1891.

Her sister Mary, born in 1832, died aged 105 in 1937. She had worked in domestic service and retired to Caythorpe at the age of 66.

**53. Mrs Emma Wilde 1830–?**

**Age at time of Petition: 34**

**Address at time of Petition: 58 Russell Place, Talbot Street**

**Date of Marriage: 1859, Manchester**

**Religious Denomination: Congregationalist**

THIS IS MRS EMMA WILDE/WILD, born Emma Rain in 1829/30 in Manchester. Emma was the daughter of Thomas Rain (1791–1861) and Mary Read (1789–1864) who had married in Kendal, Mary's hometown, on 1 July 1813.

Her great grandfather was the Rev. Robert Rain, vicar of Hayfield Church, Manchester, where there is also a memorial to Thomas and Mary Rain.

Thomas Rain was a school master at a school in Oldham Street next door to the Methodist Chapel. He was known for teaching writing. The school was run on non-denominational lines for boys and girls. Isabella Varley, authoress of *The Manchester Man*, was a pupil.

We learn more about her father around the time of her birth. In a letter in the *Manchester City News* on January 23 1880, a correspondent recalled being a pupil at Mr Rain's school: "About 1832, when a small boy of ten, I was introduced to Mr Rain as a senior. The long, low room, lighted on the Oldham Street by windows twice as wide as high, full of desks and scholars, with Mr Rain in the centre, to be the Doctor Busby of his time. His form was bulky, with a full, broad face, and of a bilious temperament. Closely shaven, his complexion had a grey swarthinness, which indicated sedentary and long-continued confinement in bad air. But I soon found he was agile, energetic and thoroughly earnest as a schoolmaster. Nothing in the school escaped his quiet eye, and out of school he could reach a victim." The correspondent recalled the 'twitching cane on my open hand!'. "The whole long days of teaching were employed in fiving what was called a commercial education ... It was maintained that he turned out a greater proportion of good penmen that any other master then in Manchester."

Emma' siblings included:

- Martha Rain (1817–1880).
- Mary Rain (1821–1882).
- Sarah Rain (1821–1887). Married William Walker, Professor of Drawing, in 1843.
- Thomas Rain (1823–1826).
- William Rain (1826).
- Hannah Rain (1827–1831).

**In 1841** the family are at Oldham Street, Manchester. With Thomas and Mary are Martha, Mary and Sarah all given as 20 and all teachers. William is 15 and Emma is 12.

**In 1851** they are at Oldham Street. With Thomas and Mary are Martha, 34, a governess; William, 26, at home; and Emma, 21, a governess. There is also grandchildren William Walker (aged 3) and George Edward Walker (aged 2), the children of Emma's sister Sarah.

Emma married in Manchester in 1859, John Rain Wild, schoolteacher who son of was Rev John Wild, independent minister of St James Chapel. Nottingham. Ten years earlier, in 1851, John Rain Wild had been working at a school in Potton, Bedfordshire, teacher of ancient languages.

**In 1861** her family are still at Oldham Street: Thomas, a teacher of languages; Mary; Martha (44) an assistant teacher; Mary, an assistant teacher; and William (35) an invalid.

**In 1861** Emma and John are living at 58 Russell Place, Talbot Street, Nottingham. Her mother died in 1864 and I think Emma brought her invalid brother, William, to Nottingham where he died in 1865.

**In 1866** they are living at 58 Russell Place, Talbot Street.

**In the 1868** Directory she is recorded as the organist at St James Congregational Chapel.

**By 1871** Emma and John are living in Annesley Grove. Her sister Mary is visiting them. John's school is in St James Street.

Her nephews and nieces included:

- Thomas Raine Walker (1846–1908). Diplomat including role as Vice-Consul in Hawaii.
- William Eyre Walker (1847–1930). Artist who had several paintings donated to Stafford Art Gallery.
- George Edward Walker (1849–1920).
- John Teasdale Walker (1854–1926). At some point he and his wife changed their surname to Wilde. Not sure why.
- Sarah Ruth Walker (1857–1876).

**In 1872** her husband became a director of The London Missionary Society. Emma died between 1881 and 1891. Her husband, John Rain Wild died in 1909.

## Acknowledgements

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Nottinghamshire Archives (Inspire).

The University of Nottingham Manuscripts and Special Collections.

Nottingham RC Diocese Archives.

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# Appendices

## Appendix A

The following petition was to be sent to the House of Commons, signed by Mrs Burt, 1874.

“The humble petition of the working women of Nottingham, in public meeting assembled. Sheweth – that your petitioners view with regret and indignation certain proposed legislative restrictions upon the labour of women. These proposals are “The Factory Acts Amendment Bill,” for limiting the labour of women in factories to nine hours a day, introduced last sessions by Mr. Mundella: the projected measure of Mr. Thomas Hughes to make all married women half timers, thus putting them on the footing of children, and forbidding them to earn more than half wages; and the further proposal to prohibit altogether the employment in factories of mothers of young children, at least for a given period before and after each confinement. Your petitioners object to all such legislation, because they hold that adult women ought to be entirely free to sell their labour without further restraint from legislation than is applied to the labour of men. Whereas by the proposed legislation working women would be reduced to the condition of children, incapable of thinking and acting for themselves. Because the tendency of all legislation restricting the labour of women, is to drive women gradually out of the labour market, by subjecting their labour to unfair competition with that of men. Your petitioners wish expressly to say that they sympathise with any legitimate effort for a general re-function in the hours of labour, but they believe that such an end may be best attained by free arrangement between employer and employed, and that by such means a mutual concord would be secured which could never be the result of arbitrary legislative enactment. Your petitioners, therefore, pray that your honourable House will refuse to pass any measure imposing legislative restrictions upon the labour of women, which are not at the same time equally free with men, to sell their labour. And your petitioners ever pray”.

Signed on behalf of the meeting.

Nottingham 6<sup>th</sup> January 1874.

Mrs Burt, Chairwoman.



## Appendix B/1

### Faith

Poem by Mary Jane Carter

Published in *Nottingham Review and General Advertiser for the Midland Counties*

9<sup>th</sup> January 1829

Faith is that virtue which inspires  
Patience and meekness, hope and peace;  
It purities our gross desires, and gives us joys that never cease.

However keen afflictions pang,  
However dark its troubled hour,  
'Tis ever conq'ring faith that can  
Restore contentment's lulling pow'r.

'Tis this alone when death bereaves,  
Like mighty floods when sorrows roll,  
That can support the mind which grieves,  
And calm the passions of the soul.

Faith boldy may the storms defy  
That rise on life's tempest'ous sea;  
Serenely may behold on high  
Her port from storms and tempests free.

Where her worn bark shall ne'er be toss'd  
By winds or waves, or billows more;  
But all the bright seraphie host  
Shall shout her welcome to their shore.

*Mary Ann Carter*

*Nottingham 5<sup>th</sup> January 1829*

## Appendix B/2

A review of *The Deluge* appeared in the *Morning Advertiser* on 11 August 1838.

“Sacred subjects are far above the pen of the most exalted genius. With all the bold and enthusiastic imagery and description of Milton, the readers of *Paradise Lost* cannot but feel conscious that its best passages are inferior in conception and expression to some which might be selected from the *Book of Job* and other inspired poems. Yet it must be allowed that some of the best poems in the English language are descriptive of sacred subjects. *The Deluge and the General Resurrection* are two of the most remarkable events recorded in Scripture, one by the pen of the historian, the other by that of the prophet. They are events not to be conceived by the human mind, nor can the most vivid description enable us to realize the awful phenomena attending them, although it may impress the realizing more firmly on our minds. Of the manner in which Miss Carter has performed her task, we may speak in terms of praise, but we are most pleased with the tone of piety and the talent of the miscellaneous poems. We have not space for further remarks, but we recommend our readers become acquainted with the poems themselves, giving them one specimen of her style of poem in *The Resurrection*:

*“How lovely doth the universe appear,  
And how refulgent shine those glorious orbs  
That round the sun their evolutions make!  
As well as you innumerable hosts,  
That fill the wider range of boundless space!  
This fruitful earth, with beauties bright adorned,  
Still in unfading freshness smiles and blooms,  
Successive reasons bring to man supplies  
For every want his nature hath, - and mark!  
Busied in varied scenes of life, he fears  
No dissolution of this pondrous globe,  
But carelessly beholds its charms - its fruits -  
And from their fullness sates his own desires.”*

The same review appeared in the *Nottingham Journal* on the 24 August 1838

**The Literary Gazette and Journal of Belles Lettres, Arts, Sciences etc.,  
9 June, 1838.**

*The Deluge and other Poems by Mary Ann Carter*

‘We really wish that the task of noticing these two poems had fallen to one of the sweet sex, for these are divers little faults that ought to be treated snappishly, and in such a way as they assail each other for wearing a “fright of a cap,” or having the gown cut after so horrid a pattern.” It is useless calling on the spirits, like Lady Macbeth, to “unsex us;” for the spirits, mingling their potions with “our milk of human kindness,” would only make it rum and mil after all. Well, Mary Ann Carter, we have read thy volume; and had thy name bee Gill, Dick, or Bob, instead of Mary Ann, why, we should have handled thee just a scape-grace dogs at school. But what he living could have given utterance to such tender thoughts as are here and there to be found in thy volume? They are so lady-likes, so kind, so affectionate, that we admire thy heart almost more than thy talents, and could half love thee for giving birth to such thoughts, for awakening such gentle emotions; but thou shouldst not whisper them in poetry. Then, there is thy “Amy Robart,” into which thou has poured the kind feelings of the woman. Would that thy whole volume had been filled with similar things. Let the Deluge and the Resurrection rest: leave them to stronger minds. We can read thy verses to “Mary Queen of Scots,” etc: thou art “a very woman,” and thy sigh and tear, and heart felt sympathy, is more readily awakened than the greater power at which thou aimest. Thy thunderbolts are launched by a dove, thy rain-torments are April showers – be a good bard and aim not at the eagle’s flight.’

## Appendix B/3

Subscribers to *The Deluge* by Mary Ann Carter.

*I have added (BH) to those who were members or had connections to Bromley House Library.*

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Woodhouse Mr. T. *Nottingham* (BH)  
Wright Mr. J. *ditto*, 4 copies (BH)  
Wright S. Esq. *Edinburgh*, 2 copies  
Wright Mr. C. N. *Nottingham*, 4 copies. (BH)

## Appendix C

From the will of Mary Selina Curzon made on 19 May 1886. Her executors were Joseph White, surgeon of Nottingham, Roby Liddington Thorpe, solicitor of Nottingham, and Robert Halford, town estate agent of Nottingham. There were two codicils: 27 July 1887 and 9<sup>th</sup> November 1889. The will was proved on 1 July 1890. In the 19 pages of the will we learn more about her extended family. The will has references to the many properties she owned.

‘Samuel Lane, only child of late nephew, John Lane.

Elizabeth, wife of the said Samuel Lane.

3 children of my deceased nephew, William Curzon Lane viz George Samuel Lane (usually called George Lane), Frederick Curzon Lane, and Arthur Albert Lane.

Samuel Lane Bradbury, one of eight children of my deceased niece, Matilda, the widow of George Bradbury. The other 7 are left legacies but not named.

The three children of my deceased nephew, Samuel Lane, viz John Henry Lane, Louisa Curzon Lane and George Binkley Lane.

Nephew John Curzon Dunstan and his three children viz George Dunstan, Joseph Dunstan and John Curzon Dunstan

Great niece, Elizabeth Curzon, daughter and William John Curzon, son of my deceased nephew, William Curzon of Worksop. In 1886 in a codicil, she revokes the legacy of £1500 for Elizabeth Curzon on her marriage to Zephaniah Cooper Linay of Worksop.

4 children of my deceased niece, Mary Ann Kirkham, viz Elizabeth Curzon, Robert Kirkham, Percy Kirkham and Emily Kirkham.

My cousin, Frederick Gilbert of or late of Milnton near Tuxford, farmer.

Sabrina Curzon, widow of deceased brother, Nathan Curzon.

Vincent Curzon Buckingham, one of four children of niece Selina Curzon. His sisters included Emily Elizabeth Buckingham, Selina Buckingham and Nellie Curzon Buckingham.

Niece Ann Oliver Allen.’

## Appendix D/1

### **George Sunter, son of Margaret Sunter (45) and brother of Elizabeth Sunter (46)**

George Sunter was a member of the Middlesbrough Temperance Society. He was familiarly termed 'the George Fox of the Cleveland district'. "He was an able writer, an indefatigable worker, and, so far as an impediment of speech would allow, a fair speaker; his ideas and principles were clear and unmistakable." He worked for the Stockton and Darlington Railways. In the early days of the Stockton & Darlington Railway, drivers were paid by how much freight they could haul, so most of them would cut any corner to save time. George Sunter could run his train of wagons from Shildon to Middlesbrough without stopping, even though he had to make two water stops along the way. That section of the line was downhill, and he accomplished this feat by uncoupling the wagons and dashing off with the locomotive at full throttle, allowing them to coast down the incline. By the time he had taken on water the wagons had caught up, and he could be on his way again. The company were highly disapproving of such cavalier behaviour and Sunter would doubtless have lost his job had he been caught in the act.

On 24 January 1847 while in Middlesbrough he wrote a tract for Joseph Barker: *Tracts Wesleyan Methodism Contrasted with the Methodism of John Wesley: Being an Exposure of a Pious Fraud of the Nineteenth Century*. He is damning in his view of the Methodist hierarchy.

In 1890, the Northern Echo recounted the sacking of George Sunter in 1849. George Sunter was an engine driver. The paper recorded that he was the 'leader of go-ahead local reformers'. "He was a deep thinker, a powerful writer, a telling, though hesitating and slow speaker, and an advanced reformer. He was therefore considered a "dangerous man" – all the more so because he was an absolutely good man!" The authorities, urged by sectarian bigots, undertook the ungracious duty of dismissing him from the company's employment." Such was the regard his colleagues had for him, that they presented him with a silver inkstand. He moved with the family to Derby.

In 1853 he wrote *Voluntaryism Versus Violence, as the Motive Power of Education: being an examination of the claims of the National Public School Association to public Support*. (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2d.)

He was in America in 1853 in contact with William Lloyd Garrison and Wendell Phillips, being active in the anti-slavery movement.

## Appendix D/2

### Rebecca Sunter

Daughter of Margaret Sunter and sister of Elizabeth Sunter.

Report of the Committee of Council on Education (England and Wales) – by Rev. F. C. Cook on Training Schools for Females 1850, printed 1851. The infant school under Miss Sunter is “conducted with energy and skill”.

Report of the Committee of Council on Education (England and Wales) – by Rev F. C. Cook on Female Training Schools 1853, printed 1854.

Home and Colonial Society’s Training School, Gray’s Inn Road

Infant School – 160 children in two rooms, the larger one divided by a curtain, thus forming three sections, each with a gallery.

The mistress is Miss Sunter, an excellent teacher holding a first-class certificate, assisted by four pupil teachers. I gave a detailed account of this admirable school last year ... adopting a suggestion I made last year from the experience of German Schools, Miss Sunter now trains the children to read and write at the same time. The infants imitate the forms of letters printed by the teacher. Written characters are then substituted for printed, and instead of merely copying from the board the more advanced children write from memory and dictation.

Review of the book in the Schoolmaster recommends her book to all pupil teachers.

She was also interested in phonics.



## Appendix E

### The Suttons

By his first wife, Sarah Salt, Richard Sutton had the following children (*these were the stepchildren of Phoebe Sutton*):

**Charles Salt Sutton** b1813

**Anne Wilson Sutton** b1815

**Thomas Salt Sutton** b1817, d1864

A printer, it would appear he was a serial debtor, known at many addresses in Nottingham, London and Manchester. Later became a grocer at Union Cottages.

**John Frost Sutton** b1820, d1871 Graham's Town, South Africa.

Took on the Editorship of the Review from his father. Author of the following:

- *The Supremacy and Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures – Being a Reply to a recent publication, entitled “The Evangel of Love”* (1847). He clearly did not hold with the tenets of his brother, Henry Septimus Sutton!
- *Date Book of Remarkable and Memorable Events Connected with Nottingham and its Neighbourhood* (1880).
- *Annals of Crime in the Midland Circuit; or, Biographies of Noted Criminals in the Counties of Nottingham, Derby Leicester and Lincoln: From Authentic Records* (1859).
- *Nottingham Cricket Matches from 1781–1865* (1865).

**Eliza Sarah Sutton** b1822 d1905

She was living unmarried with William Oldham in 1861 in Sheepscombe, Gloucestershire, as an art teacher. He was 30 years her senior. They married in 1862, presumably after the death of Oldham's wife. She became an author, winning in 1864 first prize of £250 from the Scottish Temperance League for her novel *By the Trent*. She tackled prostitution, drink and the proper use of money. She was a friend of William and Mary Howitt and went to school with their daughter, Anna. The Oldhams embraced spiritualism. In 1870 they were living in Long Ditton, Surrey from where they wrote to Alcott. Oldham claimed that he and his wife 'frequently use the indicator and get very good communications'. Their home was known by their friends as Millennial Cot. William died in 1879.

**Sarah Jane Sutton** b1823.

**Henry Septimus Sutton** b1825 d1901.

Henry Septimus Sutton is probably one of the better-known children of Richard Sutton. Readers can find more about him in Rowena Edlin-White's *Exploring Nottinghamshire Writers*. For those interested in his engagement with American writers and reformers I would recommend *Search for a New Eden – James Pierrepont Greaves 1777–1842* by J. E. M Latham. It is some 20 years since the author was in contact with Jackie Latham for James Pierrepont Greaves was the uncle of Rev. Richard Wilson Greaves who took as his third wife, Charlotte Smoult White, who set up the first school for children with learning difficulties in Bath in 1846. From the book we can learn more about his association with Amos Bronson Alcott and James Pierrepont Greaves. In 1847, Henry was invited by Joseph Neuberger to dinner with Ralph Waldo Emerson. A few days later Emerson visited him in his cold lodgings in Trinity Terrace.

**Samuel Sutton** b1827.

## Appendix F

### Nottingham links to other signatories

#### Viscountess Amberley

The wife of the future MP for Nottingham Viscount Amberley who became MP in May 1866. Nottingham was seen by some as a hotbed of radicalism. Writing to her niece, Lady Amberley, in 1866, Louisa Stanley noted: "There is not so rough and brutal a lot as the Nottingham mob in all England. Well can we remember the Past – the burning the Castle – the attack upon Private Houses ...".

**Katharine Louisa Russell, Viscountess Amberley** (née Stanley) 3 April 1842–28 June 1874)

Often referred to as Kate, she was a British suffragist. She was the mother of the philosopher, Bertrand Russell.

**Family** – Viscountess Amberley was the daughter of the politician Edward Stanley, 2nd Baron Stanley of Alderley, and the women's education campaigner Henrietta Stanley, Baroness Stanley of Alderley. Her nine siblings included Rosalind Howard, Countess of Carlisle, another suffragist, and Maude Stanley, a youth work pioneer. On 8 November 1864 she married John Russell, Viscount Amberley, the son of the former prime minister John Russell, 1st Earl Russell, and his wife Frances. Their first child, John Francis Stanley, was born the next year and followed by twins, Rachel Lucretia and her stillborn sister, in 1868. The couple's last child, Bertrand Arthur William, was born in 1872.

**Views** – Lady Amberley was a suffragist and an early proponent of women's rights. She encouraged women to study medicine, providing a scholarship for the medicine student Emily Bovell and employing Elizabeth Garrett Anderson as her personal physician.

**Death** – In 1874, Viscountess Amberley died of diphtheria caught from her daughter, who died five days later. Her death greatly affected her husband, whose decision to have her body cremated shocked the society.

#### Mrs Mary Howitt 1799–1888

An author, she left Nottingham in 1836.

#### Unitarian connections in the North West

In Oldham, Catherine Robberds, wife of Rev. Charles William Robberds of the Unitarian Chapel signed the petition. Her husband was the nephew of Catherine Turner (**No. 48**).

In Higher Broughton, Manchester, Eliza Shawcross, the mother of Annie Smith (née Shawcross) (**No. 44**) signed the petition.

In Lower Broughton, Sarah Shawcross, the sister-in-law of Annie Smith (née Shawcross) (**No. 44**), signed the petition. Born Sarah Willmer, she was married to Francis Shawcross, the brother of Annie Smith.

Elizabeth A. Herford of Manchester, who signed was the wife of William Henry Herford whose brother, Charles James Herford had married Mary Jane Robberds, niece of Mrs Catherine Turner (**No. 48**).

## Appendix G

### Houses and buildings

The following addresses are houses and buildings still in existence:

- 30 Park Row – Maria Attenborough (**No. 1**).
- 26 Park Row – Miss Basnett (**No. 3**), Miss Sunter (**No.46**), Mrs Margaret Sunter (**No.36**), Miss Westmoreland (**No.52**).
- 9 Regent Street – Mrs Keeley (**No.19**).
- 11 Wellington Circus – Miss M A Carter (**No.6**).
- 7 Walmer Terrace, Wellington Street – Elizabeth Shepherd Sr & Jr. (**Nos. 39 & 40**), (Wellington Street is now Arundel Street, which runs between Derby Road and Ilkeston Road. Walmer Terrace is at the top of the street.)
- 17 Angel Row (*now Cardzone next to The Bell public house*) – Mrs Burt (**No. 4**).
- 9 Angel Row (*now Taco Bell*) – Miss Lester (**No. 22**).
- Mount Vernon, Sandy Knoll, 89 Forest Road West – Mrs Smith (**No. 44**). It is now 89a, but 'Sandy Knoll' is clearly visible on the gate post.
- 184 North Sherwood Street – Mrs Dance (**No. 9**). This one of the few surviving original buildings on North Sherwood Street and is now a restaurant.
- 7 Enfield Terrace, Plantagenet Street – Miss Key (**No. 20**). This row immediately is off Lamartine Street.
- 26 Goosegate (*now PizzaExpress*) – Fanny Martin (**No. 25**).
- 13-15 Wheeler Gate – Miss Shaw (**No. 38**).
- People's College – College Street Arts Centre, College Street.
- High Pavement Unitarian Chapel.
- Bromley House Subscription Library.