

INTRODUCTION

Family Background

The following is a DRAFT and will be edited and added to after June 2002. This version is dated May 19, 2002. (David Man, New York City).

James Mathews was born at Aldgate High Street in the East End of London on July 24th, 1803, the third child of Christopher Matthews and Elizabeth Teague¹. He was baptized on August 24th 1803 at St Botolph Without Aldgate, London². He married Mary Ann Bailey (M.A. Matthews) on October 3rd, 1830 at St Nicholas, Cole Abbey, London. James died on September 14th, 1891 in Brighton, Sussex. His wife died on February 14th, 1870 in London. They had four daughters and two sons. There are many descendants extant of James and Mary Matthews, although none carry the name Matthews, as there are no male descendants through a male line.



Christopher Matthews (1765 -1840)³ was apprenticed as butcher on July 12th, 1780 to his father John Matthews. Both John and his son Christopher were made freemen of the City of London and the Worshipful Company of Butchers in 1769 and 1789 respectively.



James himself may have followed family tradition by becoming apprenticed as a butcher to his father, but it was not long before his sharp mind and obvious financial abilities quickly brought him to a position in the City⁴. In 1828 (aged 25) James joined the firm of Leslie and Grindlay at their Birchin Lane offices. The firm of Leslie and Grindlay was known as an Agency house, which helped members of the British colonial service (both civil and government) in India handle their financial affairs and travel arrangements. Few if any domestic banking institutions at the time were set up to handle clients resident overseas and so the Agency houses filled the gap. In 1839 James became a partner in the Agency and the name was changed to Grindlays, Christian, and Matthews. However with the irruption of banking in the mid nineteenth century the agency established itself as a bank in 1843 and became known as Grindlay and Co, headquartered at 54 Parliament Street. [Pictures: top St Botolph and left St Nicholas, Cole Abbey].

The company also published a newspaper for its overseas clients from 1847 to 1897 known as '*The Home News: A Summary of European Intelligence for India and the Colonies*' and among its editors were Shirley Brooks, A.B. Wright, T.H.S. Escott, and other then well-known writers, but now mostly forgotten. In 1867 when the editor of the *Home News*, Robert Bell died, the position was offered to Shirley Brooks and it was during this time that a friendship was struck up between Brooks and the Matthews family

that was to last their life times. Indeed James gathered around him an interesting group of artists including Ellen Terry, Augustus Sala, Henry Silver, and others. Unfortunately, not much of a record of this social mix remains, although Shirley Books did leave some reminiscences of the Matthews family, which can be found separately under the title 'The Brooks – Matthews Letters'. (right silhouette of James Matthews)



We know little about Mary Ann Bailey⁵ except that, according to notes belonging to Andrew Man, before she married James Matthews in 1830, she had been engaged to an Indian army Lieutenant who had no money. It was for this reason broken off, or as Andrew puts it because of the Lieutenant's 'inability to meet the financial implications' of marriage. It is fortunate that Mary Ann was to later marry a man who could more than meet these implications. Andrew's notes on Mary Ann go on to say 'her family lived in Shirley, Southampton' and that 'her marriage was kept secret for a year or more after it had taken place (she returned to her parents), and that she had a sister who married a Mr. Withers, a Quaker, and the sister became one too'. Nowhere does Andrew state from where this information was gathered, except that it is the result of researches supplied to him by a company of genealogists. Mary Ann may have had a brother Charles who appears among the memoranda and he in turn may have had a son John who could have worked in the firm of Grindlays.

The structure of the memoranda is quite simple. For each year there is a page of written notes followed by another page of 'accounts' showing James' various stocks and shares and the income derived from them for that year. I have not included the lists of stocks, although in his notes he sometimes refers to these. There is one set of written notes for the year 1862, then a gap of two years and it picks up uninterrupted from 1865 through to 1889, two years before his death. I have 'highlighted' any mention of 'Man' for ease of reference. For those non-Man readers I hope later to have a version that omits these Man highlights. Some of the place names I have transcribed roughly and may not be accurate, e.g. Does James go to Homburg or Hamburg? I assume it is Homburg, the sap. These place names will be dealt with properly in latter versions. James Matthews' memo book is the property of Tina Grace who shall determine when, if, and how this version (May 2002) is to be published, etc.

CAST OF CHARACTERS.

(Those underlined are mentioned by James)

The children of James and Mary were: Albert (? - 1851), Sarah Ann (1832 – 1868), Elizabeth (Lizzie) (1834 – 1917), Victoria Maria (Torie) (1837 – 1931), James Henry (1839 – 1928), and Catherine Jane (Kate) (1843 – 1919). Albert died before the start of these memos. Torie and Lizzie make frequent appearances, as does Major-General Webber Desborough Harris (Webber) (1822 – 1903), Lizzie's husband. Lizzie and Webber had no children, while Torie never married.

In 1853 Sarah Ann married Herbert Hancock (1831 –1872). In the course of writing these memoranda, both Sarah and Herbert died, leaving five children: Jessie (1854 – 1917), Herbert Laurence (Laurie) (1855 – 1902), Ernest Latouche (1857 - ?), Florence (Flo) (1860 – 1944) and Ethel (1862 – 1938⁶).

In 1867 James Henry Matthews married Sarah Julia Stuart (? – 1903) on August 8th 1867 at Twickenham. They had three daughters: Maude (1868 - 1935), Edith (Edie) (1868 - ?), and Alice (1876 - 1962) and four sons: Victor Henry (1870 - ?), Eric (1872 - 1915), Harold (1878 - 1902), and Trevor (1882 - 1954).

James Matthews' youngest child, Catherine Jane (Kate) married Edward Garnet Man (1837 – 1920) on December 26, 1867 in Calcutta, India. They had nine children: Edward (1869 – 1933), Beatrice (1870 - 1953), Sarah Josselyn (1872 – 1967), Harry (1873 – 1936), Hubert (1876 – 1956), Morrice (1877 – 1948), Mary (1880 - 1962), Katherine (1883 – 1975), and Dorothy Stuart⁷ (1886 – 1939).

Thus James had 21 grandchildren (5 Hancock, 7 Matthews, and 9 Man), many of whom were born during the period in which James wrote his memoranda. Note where square brackets [] appear are my comments (David Man).

JAMES MATTHEWS MEMORANDA

Memorandum of my affairs made 25th of August 1862.

Policy of insurance in London Life Office for £1,000 is in the Iron Box by the side of my bed room, labelled "Iron Box". The key is in my small drawer in bedroom also two policies for £200 each (in the London Life and Naval and Military officers) -- the same box also contains the title deeds of my house in the Bloomfield Road -- also the lease of Lawn Cottage Halliford which is dated 25th December 1855 for 42 years and the lease for the corner piece of land and cottage for 99 years from the 29th September 1864.

My Will is with Mr. Merriman, 25 Austin Friars, it is my intention and wish to insert my son's name as one of the executors in the stead of the Rev. Stent not out of any disrespect to Mr. Stent, but because my son would be more conversant with my affairs. On page 5 of this book [omitted in this version] will be found a Quarterly statement of my affairs upon which I will from time to time make comments that will assist James in understanding the statement. Mrs. Matthews' own private property does not appear in the memorandum at all, it consists the half share of a Freehold Public House (Falcon)⁸ and house adjoining in Upper Thames Street, the other half share is held by the London



Brewery Company (formerly Messrs. Calverts) and the rent is paid by them at Christmas and Midsummer, on presentation of the following form of receipt signed by M. A. Matthews.

Copy from next receipt London 28th December 1862.

Received of Messers Calvert and Co have sum of thirty seven pounds ten shillings being my moiety of half a years rent of the Falcon Public House, Upper Thames Street due at Christmas last 37.10 – income tax.

M.A. Matthews.

[Also in 1862 Ethel Hancock, James Matthews fifth grandchild, was born and the last of Sarah Ann Matthews and Herbert Hancock's children]

Memo 1865

The private property belonging to Mrs. Matthews is being bought by the South Eastern or Charing Cross Railway for their new Cannon Street terminus. The Railway gave £2,450 for it which sum was invested in the new 3 percents at 88 7/8 producing £2,743.1.2 stock which stands in the names of Charles Jay, The Grove, Boltons, Old Brompton, and John Bailey 55 Parliament Street, London as trustees, the income on which will be about £82 - per annum less income tax - New 3 percents were 88 7/8 when the investment was made 25th February 1865. This private property is thus dealt



with, the interest is only payable by the trustees to Mrs. Matthews' own receipt and after her death the interest to Mr. Matthews during his life and after his death it is to be equally divided between the surviving children of Mr. and Mrs. Matthews. (Above is the Canon Street railway station in the nineteenth century soon after its construction).

The lease of No 5 Minories is dated 4th June 1863 and is for 21 years expiring June 1884 at £40 per annum rental which is paid by one half yearly April and October to the receivers Messrs Wood, Street, and Hayter, No 6 Raymond Buildings, Grays Inn, the last receipt April 1857 will be found with the paid vouchers --- this property is let to Mr. C. Bailey at £60 per annum which he regularly pays every quarter.

House in Bloomfield Road No 22 --

The lease is dated 27 February 1847 the term is 91 years from Xmas 1846. The lessors Thomas Thistlethwaite, Thomas Somers Locks, and the Bishop of London. The lessee James Matthews.

Ground rent:

To the Bishop	£3.16.8
To the other Lessors	£7.13.4
total	£11.10. -.

The receivers of the above ground rent are Budd and Son, Bedford Row who send printed notices in April and October to J. Matthews at 55 Parliament Street -- the present tenant is Mr. Louis Goldberg, Wood Street, Cheapside.

(5 November 1870 memo the lease of 22 Bloomfield Road has been sold in February 1888 J. M.)

(Memo made by Mr. Matthews this 12 November 1885 this property No. 5 Minories is now done with the lease having expired. J. Matthews)

Remarks 1867 memo during last year I have paid to James £200 making altogether £500 I have paid being the same sum that each of his sisters have had from me, so that they will all share and share alike after my and their mother's death.

12 March 1867 on the occasion of Webbers return to India I have lent him £100 in addition to £50 which I advanced him on account of a debt of that sum that Mr. Evans owed him – Mr. Evans has since paid £40 – of that £50 which I have received, leaving Webber my debtor of £110 --



James married Miss Stuart on the 8th August 1867 and started for Calcutta with his wife and sister **Kate** on the 28th of September from Marseilles, this has made his expenses this year unusually heavy.

[Also in 1867, on December 26, Kate Matthews married Edward Garnet Man at Calcutta Cathedral. Picture is of James Henry and Sarah Matthews.]

Memorandum 1868

On the 6th January Sarah [James' eldest daughter] died in Paris on her way to London from China. Laurie with W. Whitall and Mr. Elias followed to the grave at the cemetery Montmatre.

During last year I have lent Webber a further sum £300 making him a debtor of £400, the interest on which is £5 quarterly. I shall draw from his account at Grindlay – should the amount not be repaid at my death, it will have to be deducted from Lizzie's share of my estate. The three hundred pounds I held of poor Sarah's and which, under

Mr. Whitall's advice (whose money I only thought it really was), I have sold out the New South Wales debentures in which it was invested paying in the sum of £300 to the credit of the 'Hancock Children' a new account opened with Messrs Grindlays and Co., this account, at Herbert's request, was merged into Herbert's account.

August – Grindlays and Co have advanced Lt. Col. [Webber] Harris, on my security, £1,000 and should it not be repaid before my death which is due to _____, will have to be deducted from Lizzie's share of my estate, as per agreement signed by them both in my cashbox.

Major P. A. Reynolds died on the 24th August this year, a letter has been written to James in Calcutta stating that in consequence of the death of the Major, James is to come to England to take his seat as a member of the London firm of GB [Grindlays Bank] on 1st March 1869.

[Also in 1868 twins Maude and Edith (Edie) were born to James Henry and Sarah Julia Matthews]

Memorandum 1869.

It will be observed that in the summary for January 1869 (next page [not reproduced here]) that I have left out of the account 50 shares of the Star and Garter Hotel which cost me £500, but as they have since ceased to pay dividends and are of little present worth, I have taken the item out of my assets hoping that hereafter they may be worth something.

memo -- I have this month sent **E. G. Man** the balance of Kate's marriage portion £500 after paying _____ and one or two other bills the credit I sent him was for Co Rs. 3,207.4 or £317.7.9.

On the 1st March 1869 James took his seat at 55 Parliament Street as a member of the firm of Grindlays bank where I hope he will have a long and successful career. During this year I have removed my life assurance policy from my iron box in Wimpole Street to the safe of Messrs Grindlays & Co in Parliament Street also my Debenture Bonds, which are duly entered in Messrs Grindlays security book.



27 January sold the Dutch India Bonds realising £227.12.6.

[Also in 1869 Kate Man's first child Edward James Fowle Garnet Man was born in Rangoon, Burma. [Kate picture above]]

Memorandum 1870.

14th February 1870. Lost my dear wife soon after eight o'clock in the morning deeply mourned by us all but by none will she be so missed as well as mourned, she was my faithful and constant companion for the last 40 years; by her death the interest of £2,743.1 .2 reverts to me for life, after my death it will be equally divided amongst my children. I have therefore added that amount to my assets in April 1870 as it will form part of my estate. This stock was bought in at 88 7/8 - in consequence of this addition to my assets the total amount is up in April 1870 from £16,725 to £19,589.7.0.



7th July I have this day received £538.17.4 being my portion of a Policy from £2,000 effected on the life of C.J. Churcham, with this sum and a little added I have purchased a bond for £500 (Victoria) – 6 per cent and handed over to Torie being the same sum that her brother and sisters have received of me, the interest on the 25 Hudson Bay shares I previously gave her I shall receive the interest upon during my life, after my death the shares will become hers, being already in her name -- I have received also during this month £3 per share on these 25 shares, as well as on the 155 shares I have so long possessed and which I feel sure will some day become good property, there being some of our best men interested in the Hudson Bay Company, the present chairman being Sir Stafford Northcote, their late chairman Lord Kimberly at present a Cabinet Minister, the Earl of Derby is also much interested in the success of the company as one of the trustees of the Peebody Trust.

[Also in 1870 Kate Man's second child Beatrice was born in Rangoon; James Henry Matthews' son Victor Henry was also born but we have no information on him, other than he married Alice Maud Collins in 1896. Picture above is Lizzie wearing her 'VC']

Memorandum made since 1st January 1871.

Early this month James paid me the £100 he was in my debt, consequently I am all clear with him in money matters.

27 April 1871 signed my will at Merrimans this day and left it to remain with them.
22nd May **Kate** arrived home from Rangoon with her two children all the worse for the voyage having had bad _____ on board ship, **Mr. E.G. Man** is expected to follow in about two months.

24th July -- **Mr. Man** arrived home for a few months change, which he seems much to appreciate having been absent from England for five years.

September -- Received accounts from Mr. Curtoys⁹ in Calcutta that the balance sheet of Grindlays for 1870 would show a profit of some £700 to my credit, Mr. Curtoys said that Mr. Groom has hinted a claim to my share being devoted to the expense of establishing the Bombay house.

October -- received letters from both Groom and Curtoys withdrawing any claim to my share of a profit made by the Calcutta house in 1870. This will give me £700 increase of income for this year and the first profit I have touched from either of the Indian houses.

27 November 1871 received a bill for £270 from Mr. Curtoys in part payment of the said £700.

30th of December -- received the second statement from Calcutta of £250 -- leaving one more payment to complete the amount due.



Lizzie and Webber arrived the middle of December and came up to London to stay a week with us at Christmas so that with James and _____ we were all together.

Memorandum made after 1st January 1872.

In the statement of January 1872 I have had to take out an item of £200 for Life Assurance in the European, that office having gone to smash fortunately the account for the year will very well bear it as the unlooked for profit of £750 from Calcutta and the increase of other items of income more than compensate for the loss -- I have received in January the final remittance from Calcutta of the £750.

On the 14th of February received a telegram from Mr. Whittall stating that Herbert [husband of Sarah who had died in Paris] was lying dangerously ill at Hong Kong and on the 16th a second telegram informing me that poor Herbert died on that day 16th February. Torie and Laurie went off on the 18th to Frankfurt to acquaint Jessie of her loss and bring her home, they returned with her on Thursday the 25th.

Edward Man, after staying 12 months in England, returned to Rangoon in September [1872] in the hope of having a prosperous year or two, leaving Kate and his children at home

[Note: In 1872 James' granddaughter, Sarah Josselyn Man, was born April 26 1872 at Lawn Cottage, Halliford. Also in 1872 Eric Stuart, James Henry Matthews' fourth child was born. My grandfather, Harry Morgan Stoe Man (pictured above), was born the following year in April in Burma, which means he was conceived during the period noted by James above, i.e. in England!]



Memorandum made during the year 1873.

Have bought the house 21 Manchester Square for £8,000, to pay which I had to sell many securities including my Hudson Bay which brought me about £150 more than they cost, a favourable result considering how long they have been at a heavy discount. (above)

Kate returned to Rangoon in the Steam Ship Sultan on the 20th of October to rejoin her husband.



Sold my three cottages at Colney Hatch for £410 -- less agents cost £20 and lawyers charges £16.

Kate arrived at Rangoon about the end of December.

Had a memorable party on Christmas Day to dinner consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Shirley Brooks, _____, James and Sarah with the two first born, Mr. _____, Webber and Lizzie with ourselves. Mr. S. B. made up some very clever verses and recited them after dinner much to the gratification and enjoyment of all of us.

[Note: Andrew Man had the originals of these verses. I do not know their whereabouts right now. See also 'Brooks – Matthews Letters' where Brook (picture above) mentions this Christmas party. Picture below is Sarah (Stuart) Matthews].

Remarks during 1874

Poor Mr. Shirley Brooks died on the 23rd of February to the deep regret of us all and was buried in Kensall Green on Saturday the _____ 1874.

Sold the lease of No 5 Minories to Mr. Charles Bailey¹⁰ for £80.

Let Lawn Cottage to Mr. Marshman for three months for £10 and 10 shillings a week for the use of the pony and chase. Torie, _____, Ethel, and Jessie went to Bombay and joined Webber and Lizzie there. Webber had a severe attack of gout, the worst I have known him to have. Ernest and I went to the Karlsbad Hotel halfway up the Rhine and returned home two or three weeks earlier than we expected on account of James' illness with rather a severe attack of congestion of the lungs and liver from which however I am glad to say he soon recovered. We took a house together at Brighton for six weeks 59 Regency Square. Webber and Lizzie were with us on a visit. Mr. David Evans of Crayford died this year, also Mr. Jay's mother and Mr. Dever on the 12 November. Our cashier Mr. Wilkinson also died on 4th December after only three days illness and 33 years servitude to Messrs. Grindlays and Co.



Although the weather has not been so intensely cold I must confess to have felt it more this year than I ever recollect before, suppose I must be growing more sensitive as I get older.

Remarks during 1875

Let Lawn Cottage this year for three months to Captain Wells and took a house ourselves at Ryde for five weeks, I did not feel at home at Ryde and did not stay there beyond a few days, I afterwards went to Dieppe and Rouen for ten days and enjoyed the excursion.

Lizzie and Webber went to Homburg and afterwards to Merun, where Lizzie was taken ill and had to be brought home to Manchester Square where she was confined to her room for some six weeks with Dr Profert in constant attendance -- Miss Bell¹¹ behaved very badly to Laurie after nearly three years engagement she coolly threw him over for another.

Flo went to Hanover to school.

Events during 1876



On the 25th February 1876 Torie and I started on a visit to Nice to see Captain Grindlay. Arrived there on the 3rd March and found bright warm sun shiny weather in exchange for the damp dark cold weather we had left in London, we had to buy white sunshades or umbrellas to protect us from the sun. Found the old gentleman looking tolerably well but rather infirm which must be expected considering that he is in his 90th year. After leaving Nice we met Mr. and Mrs. Hewitt. I travelled on with them to Genoa where I moved homewards, leaving Torie and the Hewitts to go on to Rome. Torie and James went over to Paris and brought Flo home from school where she had having swallowed some medicine intended for outward application and become very ill, she however happily recovered and

came home in December 1876 got [her?] well enough to go to a new school Mrs. Miller's Sussex Square, Brighton 16th January.

[Also in 1876 Hubert Man was born in Rangoon, bringing James' grandchildren total to 14. Picture above is Captain Robert Melville Grindlay].

Events during 1877

Torie and I dined at the Mansion House on Easter Monday.

Went with Torie in June to Dieppe and then on to Paris from whence we returned on the second of July. In August I started for Homburg, took Ellis to look after me as far as Homburg, joined Webber and Lizzie at _____ and then went on with them to Switzerland returned in September.

In October I took a house at Brighton, 128 Kings Road jointly with James and stayed there a month returning home on the 7th November.

Ernest starts for Rangoon on the tenth of November having thrown us all over and his prospects of getting on in England through own interests, for the sake of a young woman who wanted to marry him at 19 years of age.

Poor old Captain Grindlay died at Nice on Sunday 7th December after a residence there of more than 30 years showing that it was a very healthy place.

[Also in 1877 Morrice Man was born in Rangoon]

Events during 1878.

28 March. The death Captain Grindlay caused the realisation of his policy of insurance and the addition £250 to my means this year.

Kate and her husband **E. G. Man** arrived in May with their six children and the ever faithful Emily and two native servants, I was glad to be enabled to take them all in at 21 Manchester Square.

Paid two visits to Paris this year, one with Torie and Jessie in June, and one with Lizzie and Webber enjoyed the exhibition very much –

Elected Master of the Butchers Company on 2nd September and took my seat accordingly.

Ernest came home from a good appointment at Rangoon to England and announced that he had married in the spring of last year when he was only 19 years of age, by which act he has completely blighted his own prospects in the world, having deceived all his friends by his untruthfulness on the subject, I confess to have lost all confidence and interest in him¹².



Laurie married Miss MacCredie in April 1878 and has comfortably settled down at 21 Edith Road, West Kensington.

E.G. Man takes a house 22 Royal Crescent, Notting Hill and is also comfortably settled down.

[Harold Matthews, James Henry's fifth child, was born in July 1878, he was killed during the Boer War in 1902]

[Pictures: Left Julius Benedict and above James Matthews as Master of the Butcher's Company]



Events during 1879.

On the 15th January Jessie married Bertie Keith.

On the 9th May the Rev. W. Aringer gave a reading at 21 Manchester Square towards the expense of establishing a Coffee Tavern, at which Sir Julius Benedict¹³ assisted at the pianoforte, tickets were sold at five shillings each and upwards of £60 was realised.

On the 26 July I took Torie, Flo, and Ethel to Paris, Brussels, and Switzerland we stayed ten days at Carlsbad hotel on the Righi [?] were absent from home for one month -- the trip cost about £130.

On Saturday the 25th of October Jessie was confined with a fine boy to be named hereafter Gerald Keith.

[Gerald Keith was JM's first great grandchild]

Event in 1880.

On 2nd February I took Torie, Flo, and Ethel to Cannes and Nice. We stayed a month at the latter place and returned home on the 30th March having been away just two months and one day, the longest period I have ever absented myself from the office.

Poor Mr. Beer died at Mentone on the 29th February rather suddenly as Torie and I took a drive and dinner with him the previous afternoon. Mrs. Arden died on Sunday 18th April and was buried at East Burnham - Mrs. Dean also died in February this year - Torie, I, and Lizzie went to Harrogate in August and stayed there a month -- Flo and Ethel went to Armathwaite Hall on a visit to Mrs. Clark and stayed there a fortnight we also made a tour of the Scottish lakes finishing with a month at Brighton towards the end of October which concluded our outings for this for this year.

Jessie confined in November with a second little boy who died about a fortnight after its birth. This year 1880 has been an exceedingly good business year and consequently my income has greatly increased. Poor Madame Beer died very suddenly on Christmas day.

[Also in 1880 Mary Caroline Man was born in London, Kate Man's seventh child and who would be the mother of Hugh Casson, architect. Picture is James Henry and Edie (?)]



Events in 1881.

10th February Mrs. Julius Beer died suddenly on this day making the fourth adult member of that family who has died within the last 12 months. Flo went to Belfast on a visit to Miss McMaster and captivated one of her brothers Mr. Percy McMaster to whom she has become engaged and they are to be married in January next -- Ethel Hancock also

became engaged to a suitor Mr. Quayle Jones but their engagement was but of short duration. We fancy that she had accepted Mr. QJ without mature consideration, the whole family are not sorry that the affair came to an end as Ethel is “over young to marry yet”. In August I took Ethel and **Kate** to Holland, the Hague, Amsterdam and Rotterdam and enjoyed the fortnights trip very much -- Torie took a trip for a month in Switzerland with Laurie and Barbara which they all enjoyed but Torie a little over did or overtaxed her walking powers and sprained her ankle which barred her for considerable time. In November Percy McMaster visited us for a week to make the acquaintance of the family and arrange the preliminaries for his wedding on the 12 January next. Our Christmas day party included the **Man family** with Jessie and Bertie and their little boy [Gerald Keith], also James and his sons Victor and Eric and Edie [daughter] the three latter staying with us in consequence of the serious illness of Maudie and Harold at Mandeville Place, the latter was in a critical state for some days but is much better and I believe out of danger now, I'm glad to say. Sarah was only able to leave her patients for an hour or two to see how the young people acted the operetta of “Wanted a Parlour Maid”.¹⁴

Events in 1882.

Flo was married to Percy McMaster on the 12 January, everybody said that the wedding was a very pretty one. They left London for Folkestone, Paris and Biarritz. I hope, trust, and expect they will be happy, after three weeks absence they came on a visit to us in Manchester Square for a week and then went to their new home at Gilford near Belfast, Ireland. Jessie was safely delivered of little boy [Leslie Keith] No 2 at the end of February.



On application from **Edward** [Man] for some assistance in bringing up his family I agreed to place £100 a year at his disposal £50 to be paid to him the first week of January and £50 the first week in July. This will cease at my death as [redacted] will have her share of my estate -- for my holiday ____ I took a run to Dieppe for a few weeks with Torie and Ethel and with Roeselli took a run to Paris for a few days and finished the autumn by a six weeks stay at Brighton which I did not much enjoy as I got ill there and was glad to leave it, think the drainage of many houses in Brighton must be out of order, passed between two and three months of this summer at Lawn Cottage which has been considerably enlarged in fact almost rebuilt and is now very comfortable and I look forward to passing two or three months there next summer. [picture a young Kate (Matthews) Man.]

Events in 1883.

On the 14th April took a trip to Venice and the Italian lakes with Ethel and Torie, with Roeselli as courier, found him very useful, in fact if I ever take another trip it will be with a courier as I am getting too old and irritable for the small annoyances at the foreign railway stations, the next trip I have in my mind will be to Biarritz but it won't be this year and goodness knows whether I shall be able to accomplish it next -- the Reverend

Thomas and Mrs. Hewitt came to stay a week with us in June, he was attacked by typhoid fever on the day of his arrival, took to his bed and remained our guest until the first week in July the attack proving a very slight one, **Kate** brought an addition to her family by the birth of a little girl on the 29th June. [Katherine Rosa, born in Croydon]. Kept my 80th birthday at Lawn Cottage on the 24th July and was favoured with fine weather and the attendance of many friends, the cottage never looking better than it did on this occasion which I suppose will be the last great gathering I shall ever have for alas I begin to feel that I have reached that sedate period of life where one begins to realise that there is no joy but calm.



Went to Brighton for a fortnight in September and enjoyed my stay at the Norfolk Hotel. Torie was greatly pleased with the visit. About the middle of December I was attacked with a very inconvenient complaint named "Herpes", it is of the same type as eczema but not so lasting, however I did not get rid of it until the new year had arrived and has left me with a craving for change which I feel I must soon take as I feel so weary of the many hours I have to pass solus in my chamber.

[Picture is of Victoria (Torie) Matthews with her great niece Stella Lewis daughter of Cecil Lewis and Josselyn Man. Below is the Man family in Dieppe.]

Events in 1884.

Towards the end of February in this year I took a trip to Biarritz and stayed there a month, Torie and Ethel accompanied me, the sea air there benefited me greatly, went on to _____ which we liked very much while there visited Lourdes and visited the magnificent church erected over the cave where the Virgin appeared to the peasant girl, much struck by the evidences of cures effected by the numbers of crutches that were left there, as being no longer wanted, there was also one wooden leg, paid also flying visit to St Sebastian.



Stayed at Lawn Cottage during the months of July and August and contemplated a stay in Brighton later in the year. Paid Flo a visit at the Castle, Gilford, Co Down, a very superior residence beautifully situate standing in its own well wooded grounds, met with a warm welcome and enjoyed my weeks stay very much. Flo and Percy returned to England with me and Torie and after a day or two we all went to Brighton for a month and were comfortable in lodgings at No 4 Cavendish Place, on my return to 21 Manchester Square

in October had another attack of herpes or eczema similar to that of last year, only the irritation was more intense.

Events in 1885.

The eczema not subsiding I went on the 7th February to Cannes in the south of France accompanied by Torie, Ethel, and Rudolph who has become my indispensable medical attendant, I did not benefit much by my five weeks residence there, said however, to be my own fault owing to my not abstaining altogether from all sweet things, invited **Kate** to meet me at Paris on my return home where she enjoyed a weeks stay with us very much and on our return home looked at a furnished house in Dieppe with a view of her children getting colloquial knowledge of the French language.¹⁵

The months of April, May, and June brought an increase rather than a decrease of eczema which will compel me to make a change of treatment either to English or foreign bathing places, a change to Halliford brought some relief or rather abatement of the severe symptoms. Ethel went to New York with her sister and will remain there a few months, she had a pleasant and short passage of about 8 days. Rudolph left my service after scarcely two hours notice on the 28th August in consequence of a quarrel with Mrs. Freeman the cook, after nearly two years service. He was a good and honest servant, fortunately my eczema has been much better of late and I have not required his personal attendance so much or it would have put me to much inconvenience. Went to Brighton for the month of October and consulted Dr Marcus Allen there, he changed the treatment for my eczema, which is at present only in my legs and certainly the irritation is less _____ than it was. (Picture: Lizzie Webber-Harris)



On the 12 November Lizzie underwent a severe operation in having a tumour cut from her breast by Mr. Heath under chloroform and at the date of my writing this in November is fast recovering from it. Ethel arrived home from New York on Sunday 2nd November after an absence of four months looking very well, she enjoyed the trip. I nearly got rid of my eczema at the end of November.

Events in 1886.

On the 27th of January took, Lizzie, Ethel and my man _____ to Cannes and the Riviera and returned home about the 20th March. Webber accompanied us. We all greatly enjoyed the trip and I was benefited, the acuteness of my eczema having subsided, I was able to dispense with having a doctor although the weather was much colder than it usually is in the South of France -- stayed at Lawn Cottage for the months of July, August, and September in the latter month three persons whom I have known well have died Mr. George Robinson of Coutts, Mr. Morgan Thomas, and Dr Seaton.

Took a run over to Dieppe a few days to see **Kate**, had Henry with me for I require someone with me now more than ever I did being rather unsteady in my gait; seem to be always fearing a fall. Went to Brighton for a few weeks in October.

Occupied a flat at No 4 Grand Avenue Mansions, Hove (pictured above) returned to London much benefited by the trip and well content to stay in London over the Christmas holidays.

Events in 1887.

Torie and I with Henry started for Monte Carlo on Friday the 4th February via Dieppe to see **Kate** en route, lost my pocketbook in the sleeping car; fancy it must have worked itself out of my side pocket -- surprised by an earthquake at Monte Carlo on the 27th February at six o'clock in the morning while at the Hotel Victoria and a second shock at 2 o'clock the next morning which had been predicted and which alarmed us very much, arrived home safely on the 24th March, don't think I shall ever go again to the South of France the journey is too long and fatiguing for me now.



Had Flo, Percy, Nurse and their baby, on a month's visit at 21 Manchester Square, Percy very much out of health and we don't quite know what is the matter with him but I think that he has been overtaxing his brain. Took a month at Brighton from the middle of October until the middle of November. Torie only able to be there for two weeks in consequence of the continued illness of Percy whose symptoms were so very alarming that we had to place him at Holloway's institution at Virginia Water – Mrs. Denby the widow of a Denby died about August in this year.

Percy McMaster passed away on Friday 2nd December leaving poor Flo with one little girl to lament his loss. He died at Virginia Water and was taken over to Ireland to be buried, the funeral was very imposing as all the hands of the Mill followed some of whom carried the poor fellow to the grave.



General Harris had a severe attack of illness which commenced at the end of November and lasted over Christmas, at one time he had both the day and night nurse and at one time he was dangerously ill. [Pictures: Ethel Hancock above; left is Trevor Matthews, Edie and James Henry.]

Events in 1888.

General Harris's illness continues up to this date 20th March with varying gravity, better some days worse on others, we sometimes fear what the result will be, his life has only been protected by good nursing. 20th June up to this date he has continued to improve in

health and has become decidedly stronger and gets out for a drive daily but not able to walk without assistance.

Torie, I, and, Ethel paid a short visit to Brussels at the end of May and enjoyed the change. Webber continues to improve up to this date and we have very good accounts of him from Homburg where he now has been since 1st August, the place seems to agree with him wonderfully well. The trip to Homburg which he took in July with the _____ for a few weeks afterwards set him up completely so that he pronounced himself well again and able to enjoy October and November at Brighton which benefited us all very much and we hope will set up our health for Christmas time. (picture above on page 16 shows: Trevor Matthews, Edith (?), and James Henry Matthews)

Events in 1889.

In March this year **Edward Man** returned to Burmah where he resumed business as a barrister and found business so good that he sent for his wife in August to come out to him and bring his youngest child and eldest daughter with her which she did in October. Ethel Hancock was married in August to Ernest McMaster and sailed for South Africa on the 24th September. On the 3rd November bade goodbye to Kate who sails tomorrow on her return to Burma to join her husband. James also starts tomorrow for a trip Port Said from where he hopes to return next month¹⁶.



Picture shows: Torie Matthews, Morrice Man, Katherine (Matthews) Man and Edward Garnet Man.

APPENDICES

MORRICE MAN'S RECOLLECTIONS

In 1948 Morrice Man sat down and wrote his recollections, most of which concerned his family and growing up. Among these are some jottings on his maternal grandfather, James Matthews. Morrice offers a neat summary of James' life and of his death, which Morrice witnessed in Hove in 1891:

He [James Matthews] was immensely hospitable and liked good music, the theatre and clever people. Around him he gathered interesting people – Shirley Brooks (Editor of Punch) was a regular visitor and often wrote verses for the great Christmas dinner gatherings. Marie Tempest, C. Hoey and Ellen Terry being very young all acted in private theatres there. Mark Lemon, Sir Augustus Harris and many others belonged to a circle of people who gathered around my grandfather at Manchester Square.

To us children it was a name to conjure with. He loved children and every Xmas filled his house with nephews and nieces and grandchildren. How my dear Aunt Torie (Victoria) who was his housekeeper when Grandma Matthews died ever got us all in and our elders I cannot understand.

It was a big corner house (and is) and every nook and cranny was filled with relatives and children. We always had a children's play each year, for which we were coached long before (I remember Beauty & The Beast especially). And there was a visit to the Drury Lane Pantomime.

My grandfather had worked his way up from junior clerk to Senior Partner in Grindlay's and after his marriage lived in Wimpole Street. He brought up his family there until he went to No 21. My father [Edward Garnet Man] began life as a Clerk in Grindlay's (I cannot imagine him a Clerk and Charles Lamb's words to his Grandfather [Henry Man] apply tenfold to him, "What *didst* thou in an office – thy gibes thy jokes...?" He soon fell in love with the Partner's youngest daughter, Catherine Jane. Visits were exchanged between the ladies of Halstead [the Man residence] and Wimpole Street. My father was sent in to India (1855) where he joined the Uncoremartex Service and then (eventually) the Bar.

Our holidays we spent in Aunt Torie's house when the parents were away, 6 Montagu Street, Portman Square which she had taken after grandfather's decease and when 21 Manchester Square ... (missing).

He [James Matthews] died at Hove in rooms when Hubert, Harry & I were staying there with him and AT. For a long while he used to walk when in London from his rooms to Grindlay's until he was 80. AT used to get Mrs. Man's servant to follow him surreptitiously, the old man was independent indeed and would have been furious had he known he was followed. At Hove his walks became shorter and shorter, Harry, Hubert and I used to go with him onto the front one of us on each side of him. One morning I

noticed his weight on my shoulder; it was the beginning of the stroke. His breathing as he lay dying was loud and we listened to it; painful to hear but I have since learned from doctors that when that happens it means that the patient is unconscious and has no pain.

6 Montagu Street was a byword in the whole family, AT [Aunt Torie] made it a family centre and whenever any of us returned from abroad, Burma, Canada, Spain, China, it's doors were always open. Many a honeymoon couple spent days there many engaged couple's spooned there (ourselves, D & I included). She was a wonderful woman, much beloved by us all and a large circle of devoted friends. As I have said we boys, Harry, Hubert & I always spent our holidays at No 6 the girls (when not in Rangoon with the parents) lived at AT's eldest sister Mrs. Webber Desborough Harris and General Harris at Eaton Place.

We usually walked across the park to see them on Sundays. AT's regime was very broad minded, she trusted us. We used to go to the pits of the theatres and "scrum" in the queues to get in (a shilling entrance) thus we saw melodramas (Terries in "Harbour Lights") Shakespeare comedies etc. Every winter holidays our elder cousin Victor Matthews, who was a member of the famous "Cream Club" used to take us three in evening dress in two hansom cabs (with bells jingling) to the Gaiety Theatre where we sat in the stalls and felt we were in heaven. We used to go to the music halls (the best of them) and many a laugh we had at Marie Lloyd etc. At the London Aquarium now the Central Wesleyan Hall in Westminster we saw "Zazel" shot from a cannon into a net "Zaco" dive from the roof into a tank and other thrilling events. The Aquarium got into trouble with the "Police Desmoeurs" but we never got any harm from our visits to these and other similar places, though indeed, once when returning on foot after midnight from a theatre in The Strand an importunate damsel, attracted by our Top Hats and well to do appearance seized Hubert's arm and held on not to be shaken off until he tapped the hand with his stick, where upon she shouted for her friends who came at us but we took to our heels and soon outdistanced them.

KATHERINE ROSA MAN'S RECOLLECTIONS

Among papers given to me by Nicholas Man is the following recollection of James Matthews by one of his Man nieces. Unfortunately the writer is not identified, but I believe it is Katherine Rosa Crosthwait.

Grandpa Matthews when I first remember when I was 5 was a very old gentleman with a small beard in an overcoat with a wide beaver collar. I don't remember ever speaking to him. He lived in a beautiful house in town 21 Manchester Square and a lovely country house at Halleford on the Thames called Lawn Cottage. We all spent Xmas at Manchester Square. There was a fascinating footman called Samuel with a spotty face who used to carry me on his shoulders. There was also a cook called Mrs. Gill. She made very tall ice cream puddings and on Xmas night there was always a large dinner party for the grown ups and we children used to hang over the banisters and watch with watering mouths the delicious course carried in across the hall --- On Xmas afternoon the family assembled, hordes of them, in the large double drawing room and the presents

were given away in a different manner each year. On one occasion the curtain separating the two rooms were drawn aside and hanging from the ceiling was an enormous stocking bulging with presents and labeled "Uncle Webber's gouty leg". Uncle Webber and Auntie and A. Torie all lived at Manchester Square . My only other recollection was my young sister Dolly aged about three years dressed in blue and spangles suddenly appearing from behind an enormous laundry basket to give away presents.

I expect this is perfectly untrue but I remembered it was whispered among us children that grandpa once sold knives on London Bridge. History does not relate how he eventually became a partner with Mr. Grindlay and _____ Grindlays bank and they were the most important people and sat in a glass "case" when you went to 54 Parliament Street. Grandpa was succeeded by his son uncle Jim and on his death Eric and Trevor Matthews my cousin.

Grandpa died at Brighton where we were staying in rooms there, and Mother came and told us and we felt full of awe, A. May (Mary Caroline Man) terrified me in the middle of the night by suddenly shrieking out 'here he is' and said that he was standing at the foot of our bed!! We didn't go the funeral, but the scarlet collars and cuffs on our best grey dresses were replaced by black ones.

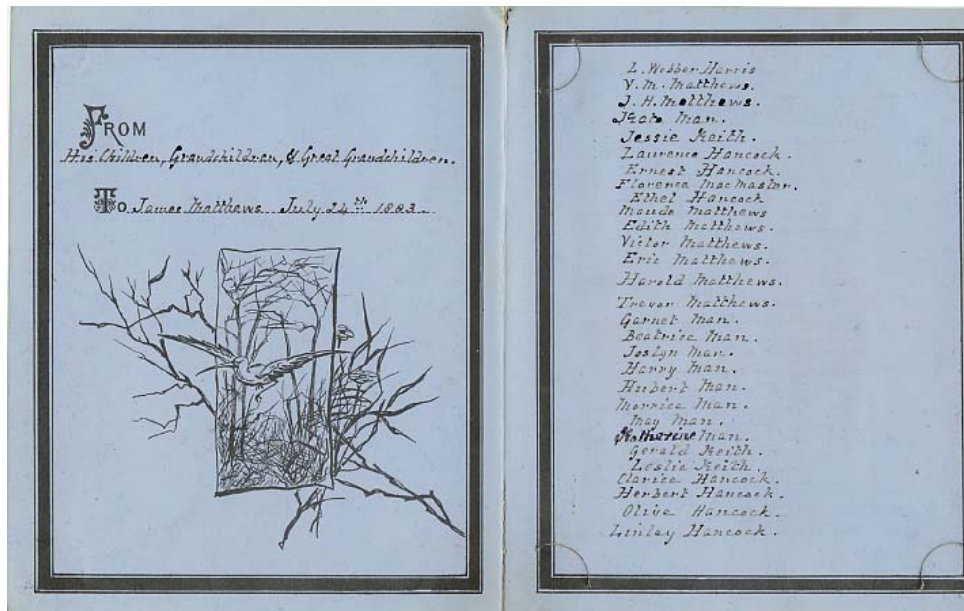
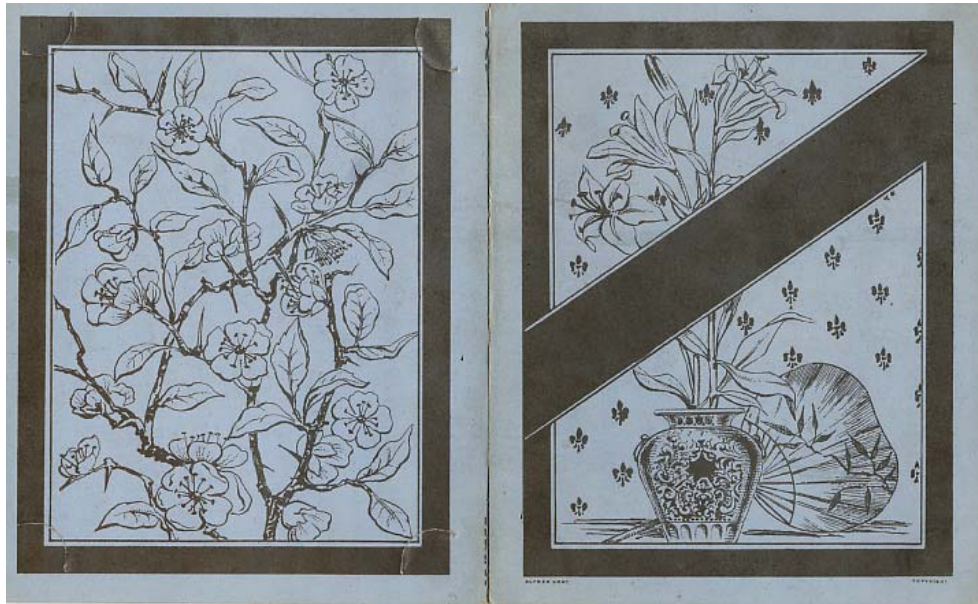
JAMES'S 80th BIRTHDAY CARD

Below is either side of a birthday card given by his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren to James Matthews on the occasion of his 80th birthday. It appears to be made by hand. James notes that he:

'Kept my 80th birthday at Lawn Cottage on the 24th July and was favoured with fine weather and the attendance of many friends, the cottage never looking better than it did on this occasion which I suppose will be the last great gathering I shall ever have for alas I begin to feel that I have reached that sedate period of life where one begins to realise that there is no joy but calm.'

A letter, dated 20th December 1883, has been found written by James's nephew Beaver Roll (his mother was James's sister Mary Matthews) where mention of the event is made:

'I heard the other day that James Mathews celebrated his 80th birthday about June last.'



The Keith great grandchildren, Gerald and Leslie, listed near the end are picture below.

APPENDIX

The McMasters and The Castle, Gilford.

In 1884 James Matthews wrote in his memorandum book: “Paid Flo a visit at the Castle, Gilford, Co Down, a very superior residence beautifully situate standing in its own well wooded grounds, met with a warm welcome and enjoyed my weeks stay very much. Flo and Percy [McMaster] returned to England with me and Torie and after a day or two we all went to Brighton.”

Two members of the Matthews family married into the McMaster family namely Florence (Flo) Hancock who in 1882 married Percy Jocelyn McMaster son of Christian McMaster and her sister Ethel who in 1889 married Joseph Emile Patrick McMaster the son of the mill owner Dunbar McMaster. I assume Percy and Joseph are first cousins. Percy was later committed to Holloways Sanatorium for the Insane at Virginia Water, Surrey and died there.



The following about Gilford has been found on the internet:

Gilford was once a small town in County Down but under **Dunbar McMaster** it grew rapidly. Before it experienced expansion under its patron, it had only 100 houses. By 1851, just around twenty years after the development of the McMaster mill it had a population of 2,184, and a total of 359 houses. Mostly built by McMaster to attract the workers. The Company also provided many other incentives to their workforce. They built schools, provided heated and lighted reading rooms for adults, they operated their own gas works for the lighting of the village. Pumps were strategically placed in the village in order to provide a fresh water supply. A mill co-operative store was built to serve the community and children working in the factory were required to spend half their time at school, and were to become known as half-timers.



Gilford Castle Estate is a picturesque private estate in County Down, Northern Ireland and once in the possession of the McMaster family. The estate straddles the River Bann, one of Ireland's finest game fishing rivers and it is the backdrop of the river, the castle's parkland and the majestic stands of mature woodland that make this one of the most idyllic settings on the island of Ireland.



The town of Gilford was named after the Magill family from Scotland in the early 17th century and purchased land in the area from the Magennis family. The principal family residence was at Gillhall, Dromore, but Magill's Ford or Gilford was established by 1680 and by 1691 milling of corn and flax was underway. The former Dunbar **McMaster** spinning mill in the centre of the town, the largest industrial undertaking on the river Bann, was established by 1841 and while it provided enough employment to see the town grow rapidly, it also provided enough wealth to give Gilford two beautiful castles, Elmfield and Gilford. (Phrasing taken from a web site on the internet).

Bubbles and Suspense.

James Matthews' first grandchild, Jessie Hancock, was born in 1854. Andrew Man has noted that she was born 'on the high seas' and that 'she spoke Chinese only until three years old.' Her father Herbert, whose death in Hong Kong is noted by James in his memorandum for 1872, was "rumoured" to be the son of George IV by an unknown

mistress, according to AM's notes. The youngest child of Jessie and Herbert Hancock was Winifred born in 1891. AM has noted that she was the "... model for C. Burton Barber for his Pears soap "Suspense" advertisement of 1895". I believe that AM is conflating two paintings, the first is 'Suspense' by Barber and the second is 'Bubbles' by Millais which was used by the Pears soap company for their advertising. AM is referring to the former painting.





The Keith family

From left to right: Graeme Keith (younger brother of Herbert) Noel Keith (1884 –1917) Gerald Keith (1879 – 1952) Leslie Keith (1882 – 1907), Jessie Keith (nee Hancock and James's grandchild) and Herbert Keith (1828 – 1896).

ENDNOTES

¹ We know that James' parents were Christopher and Elizabeth. However, the marriage of Christopher Matthews to Elizabeth Teague is based on deductive reasoning rather than any hard facts. Their marriage is the only one in London within the right time and appropriate place, i.e. January 22, 1793 at Saint Dunstan, Stepney, London (see IGI).

² The parish of St. Botolph Without Aldgate was part in the City of London and part in the County of Middlesex (East Smithfield Liberty). It extends from Aldgate High Street to the junction of Fenchurch Street and Leadenhall Street and gets its name as one of the eight gates to the walled City of London. The present church of St. Botolph was completed in 1744 and replaced earlier churches on the site dating back to the 10th or 11th century. It is a plain brick building with stone dressings.

³ According to Andrew Man, Christopher lived at Ilford, Essex from 1827, then moved at some point to 64 High Street, Whitechapel, and finally by 1838 was living at 46 Aldgate High Street, London. His will was proved in London on February 1, 1840. The source of Andrew's information appears to be a firm Heenan and Mount of King Street, Canterbury, Kent, as well as his own work.

⁴ He continued the family tradition of association with the trade of butcher by being a member of the Worshipful Company of Butchers and was twice elected as Master of the Company.

⁵ I have found on the IGI a christening on October 10 1802 at All Saints Southampton for a Mary Ann Bailey whose parents are Henry and Elizabeth Bailey. The fact that the first son of James and Mary is named James Henry Matthews may support this finding as our Mary's christening. [457819](#) (IGI Film No. 457819). Her siblings include Henry born in 1800, John born in 1798 and Eliza born in 1805.

⁶ She married Joseph Emile Patrick McMaster whose father Dunbar McMaster founded a mill in the town of Gilford, County Down (see Appendix). Andrew's notes state that Joseph attended Harrow and Cambridge and went on to become a barrister. AM's notes also indicate that McMaster was a good cricketer having taken part in an MCC cricket tour of South Africa.

⁷ Dorothy's second name was chosen in recognition of her uncle Matthews' wife's family name.

⁸ Christopher Wren had a house next door to the Falcon Inn, from which he could view at a distance the progress made in the building of St. Paul's cathedral. This statement has to be verified.

⁹ William Joseph Curtoys whose son Charles Ernest Edward Curtoys married Maude Matthews in 1891.

¹⁰ A relative of James' wife Mary Ann Bailey, I believe a nephew.

¹¹ Andrew Man claims that this Miss Bell committed suicide at Lady Place, Hurley.

¹² Andrew Man notes that Ernest left England for the USA and Canada and that he and his wife Charlotte had five children of which the first three appear to have been: Hebert August 31, 1879; Olive born March 17, 1881; and Linley born December 4 1883. Andrew Man (AM) notes that Olive was living in the 1930's as Mrs. Olive Jordan of Morristown, New York and that Linley was living 'in 1903 at 488 St Nicholas Avenue, New York.'

¹³ Julius Benedict (1804 - 1885) also lived at Manchester Square, and was a close friend of Lablache, Meyerbeer, Rossini, Bellini and Donizetti. He was born in Stuttgart Germany, and became a renowned conductor, composer, teacher, writer and pianist. He was very active in British concert halls, conducting and accompanying almost every important singer of his time and is remembered for conducting Jenny Lind's first London oratorio appearance - *Elijah* in 1848..

¹⁴ *Wanted, a parlour maid: drawing-room operetta for ladies* (1880) by William Charles Levey, 1837-1894 and Henry French, 56 pages.

¹⁵ Man family tradition has it that the move to Dieppe was prompted not by a search for linguistic knowledge but rather, economic necessity.

¹⁶ At the very end of his memo book James Matthews has written:

Supposing I die soon after this day the 25th July 1888 I estimate that my estate including investments, ready money and property of every description would realize about sixty-five thousand pounds. From which will have to be deducted legacies to the 4 Hancock children (2,400), daughters (1,500). Legacy to about 20 grandchildren (2,000); legacy to son (1,000) JHM 6 children (600), my brother George (200); 2 or 3 executors (300); legacy to John Bailey (100) ... Leaving about £56,400 to be divided between Torie, Lizzie, Kate ...and I have about £20,000 cash.

Some legacies have been omitted because James' handwriting is hard to decipher. Andrew Man has made a note that James' estate was valued at £92,333 – 17 – 0 at the time of his death.