

THE SKINNER FAMILY

My maternal Grandfather William John SKINNER was born on 23rd December 1894 in Marylebone, London to Isabella BAILLIE and Joseph SKINNER. Sometime afterwards while still an infant he was taken to the small Hertfordshire village of Hatfield Broad Oak to be raised by another family and never knowing his own parents, he grew up and married my Nan, Alice CRACKNELL.

Joseph SKINNER was the son of Thomas SKINNER a shoemaker from the Isle of Man who'd later settled in Liverpool. Isabella BAILLIE was the daughter of Charles BAILLIE, a Grocer also from Liverpool.

Joseph's father Thomas had left the Isle of Man some time in the early 1800's with other SKINNER families all of whom were Shoemakers by trade, Thomas eventually had his own shop in Liscard, Wallisey, Liverpool.

There is some mystery as to why Isabella and Joseph left Liverpool and their families for London, Isabella was forty two years old when she had her son William and she was not married to his Father Joseph.

They finally married in 1906 and for this reason they returned to West Derby, Liverpool, both their Father's were by this time deceased.

Joseph died the following year in his Shoemakers shop in Kensington, London. On finding his will we found he had a daughter, Daisy also living in London at that time in Domestic Service but there was no mention of their son William.

At some time during my Mother's childhood, possibly the mid-1930's to early 40's a personal ad' appeared in a newspaper, possibly The Times, a Sir John Skinner was trying to trace William John Skinner and know his whereabouts, my Grandfather refused to reply to the advertisement and so the mystery was never solved.

There could well have been some scandal in connection with Joseph and Isabella hence their departure for London and their late Marriage.

I am now researching more into my Isle of Man ancestors and have found out that Thomas SKINNER's Grand-Parents were Thomas SKINNER and Esther CAIN but have yet to find the other missing links.

I must now turn to the BAILLIE family for Isabella's family history, all I know is that she was born in 1852 the daughter of Charles BAILLIE a Grocer from West Derby. I will one day have all or most of the answers and they may be simple but this is surely a problem and one I look forward to solving with relish!

My mother first aroused my curiosity with this story of her Father's unusual background and set me on the trail of my Family Tree, eventually I hope to be able to present her with a finished article!

My father is from Southern Ireland so that will be another challenge.

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