

Charles Leonard Goldsmith

16.11.1846 to 21.12.1930

Charles Leonard was born on 16.11.1846 in **Rede Suffolk** son of **William Goldsmith** and **Ann Evered** daughter of **William Evered** b 1786 at Hartest and **Mary Byatt** b 1795 at Brockley. William had one sister Mary Ann and five brothers Samuel James Thomas George & Charles.

Charles was the grandson of **Robert Goldsmith** baptised on May 18th 1788 in Lawshall Suffolk . He was the illegitimate son of a Mary Goldsmith. The father was given as William Bryant. He was buried at Rede in 1855. **Robert** married **Elizabeth Smith**

Most of the family in **Rede** were Agricultural Labourers living in tied cottages apart from **Samuel** who became a Groom at the Rectory



Rede Church

William and Ann had six children – George, Charles, Mary Ann, William, Susan and another Mary Ann

The oldest **Mary Ann** b 30th April 1850 died on 11th July 1852 and was buried from the Driftway

Susan b 20th June 1854 died aged 16 on 8th May 1870 at Rede

William b 18th May 1853 married Emma Dickinson and moved to Lancashire to live with his mother in law, he was a brick maker. The couple had three sons William Charles, James Henry and George Albert

Many **Clarkes** also lived in Rede and the surrounding villages.

1841 – the first Census where the family appeared : Pound Lane The Green Rede

Robert Goldsmith 50 Ag lab

Elizabeth 45

Charles 20

William 20

George 18
Robert 16
Thomas 14
James 12
Samuel 8
Mary Ann 6

1851 Census Drift Plummers Green

William Goldsmith 31
Ann 29
George 6
Charles 4
Mary Ann 11 mths

1851 Elliotts Cottages Rede

Robert Goldsmith 62 Widower
Mary Ann 16 – keeping father’s house
Thomas 24
James 22
Samuel 19

1861 Census

Samuel Goldsmith and his brother William Goldsmith were living next door to one another with their families ‘near the church’ in Rede. All the men were

Agricultural Labourers

William Goldsmith	43
Ann	40
George	16
Charles	14
William	8
Susan	6
Mary Ann	3

On or before 1870 **Charles**, his brother **George** and their friend **Charles Clarke** moved to London. Charles Clarke’s family **Eliza & Joseph Clarke** and the uncle & aunt (Samuel & Mira) of the Goldsmith boys lived near to one another on Rede Green. We believe Joseph Clarke was Septimus Clarke’s brother he ties in with census records.

Charles Clarke was married and had a baby son Charles who died at the age of 7 yrs, the couple in around 1870 must have been living in Walworth as baby Charles was born there.

Sister **Mary Ann** was also in London working as a servant in Paddington for a Civil Engineer and his family, there was also a Cook, Nurse and Underhand living in.

Uncle **Thomas** was established in London with his family and was a Milkman in Brixton Lambeth

On the **1871 Census Charles and George** were living at 10 Hudson’s Terrace Westminster and were labourers sharing the house with **Charles Clarke** his wife and their baby son



Gardens at Hudson's Terrace Today

On 27th May 1871 Charles married **Elizabeth Quick** 29 yrs at St Mary's Parish Church Lambeth, their address is given as Park Street even though Charles resided at 10 Hudson's Terrace for a number of years.

Elizabeth was born in Barnstable Devon and was lodging at 207 Camberwell Road with a Stationer his wife another couple and a servant. She was a General Servant

Charles and Elizabeth had four children



St Mary's today

Seven months after marrying on 23rd December **1871 William Charles** was born at 10 Hudson's Terrace he was baptised at St John's Smith Square

In **1875 Elizabeth Ann** was born on 20th September she died at birth and was baptised the same day at St Johns Smith Square.

In **1876 Harriet Augusta** was born on 4th September. She was baptised on 4th March 1877 at St John's Smith Square. She died on 28th September 1877 at 10 Hudson's Terrace after having bronchitis for 14 days

In **1878** on 7th October **Mary Ann** was born, baptised 8th December 1878 at St John's Smith Square



St Johns Smith Square from Millbank



St Johns Today

1881 Census

10 Hudson's Terrace – all in same household

Emily Smith	23	Office Cleaner (born Suffolk)
Charles Goldsmith	34	Warehouseman
Elizabeth	40	Wife
William	9	
Mary Ann	2	
William Wellington	26	Tailor (Nephew of Elizabeth)
Charles Pepperel	26	Bricklayers Labourer
Annie Pepperel	20	Wife
Annie	7	months

Between April and November **1881** the family moved to 17 Millbank Street Westminster a tenement building owned by the Cement Factory where Charles worked

On 15th November **1881 Elizabeth 40 yrs** died of Menorrhagia, Pneumonia and Diarrhoea at 17 Millbank Street – Charles her husband was present.

It is supposed that at this point Charles may have taken William and Mary Ann back to **Rede** to be cared for by his parents **William and Ann** who were living at Bowels Cottages. He must have met up with **Clara Selina Clarke** who had a baby son Lawrence John to care for and brought her back and the baby to London to 17 Millbank Street. Lawrence was brought up as his own.

The couple married on 13th May 1883 at St Mary's Lambeth. The same church where he had previously married Elizabeth Quick. **Charles** was 38 yrs and **Clara** 25 yrs



St Mary's church from Millbank

Charles had a further four children with **Clara**

On 4th June **1884 Charles Leonard**

On 27th April **1886 Gertrude Mary**

On 4th September **1887 Tom Edwin Goldsmith**

On 25th May **1894 Bertha Violet** was born at 23 Millbank Street

Millbank Street was just near the Houses of Parliament. The Family lived firstly at no 17 and then at no 23 which were both in tenement buildings.

Charles worked as a Horse Keeper/groom for White John Bazley & Brothers Cement Manufacturers. His brother **George** who was living in Lambeth with his family worked there as a Carman. Next door stood the Imperial Flour Mills, not a very healthy place to bring up a young family.



Millbank wharves view from the Prison

On the 1881 Census **William Dunham** the Wharf Manager his wife and three children shared number 17 with George Wheeler another Horse Keeper and his family.

By the 1891 Census the Dunhams had moved to no 25 and the Goldsmiths to no 23. There were eleven assorted people living in no 17. By 1901 no 17 appeared to be empty, William Dunham still lived at no 25 with his new wife and step son from Suffolk with Sarah Baxter a servant living in
The Goldsmiths were still at no 23 occupying four rooms

All the old houses and wharves were swept away at the north end of Lambeth Bridge in the 1920's to make way for new office blocks and Thames House the ICI Building which was completed in 1929



Charles' brother **George** was now living at 10 Leopold Street Lambeth just over the river he had five children living at home. George, Susan, Arthur, Elizabeth & Kate



*Lambeth Bridge built in 1896
Millbank St & wharfs on the left*

1891 Census

The whole of the Goldsmith family were living at 23 Millbank Street, **William Charles** the eldest son was a road sweeper, the rest of the family were scholars.



Westminster City Road Sweepers

1901 Census

The family had split up only **Charles, Clara, and the girls Mary Ann, Gertrude & Bertha** were living at 23 Millbank

Charles	52	Horsekeeper Groom
Clara	42	Dressmaker working at home
Mary Ann	22	Dressmaker
Gertrude	14	Stationers Assistant
Bertha	6	

Millbank in those days was industrial there was a Coconut Fibre Factory on the Wharf, as well as the Imperial Flour Mills and the Cement Works. There was also a

Hydro Electric Plant. It was dark gloomy and grimy and described as a black mass of wharves by the Booth Surveys

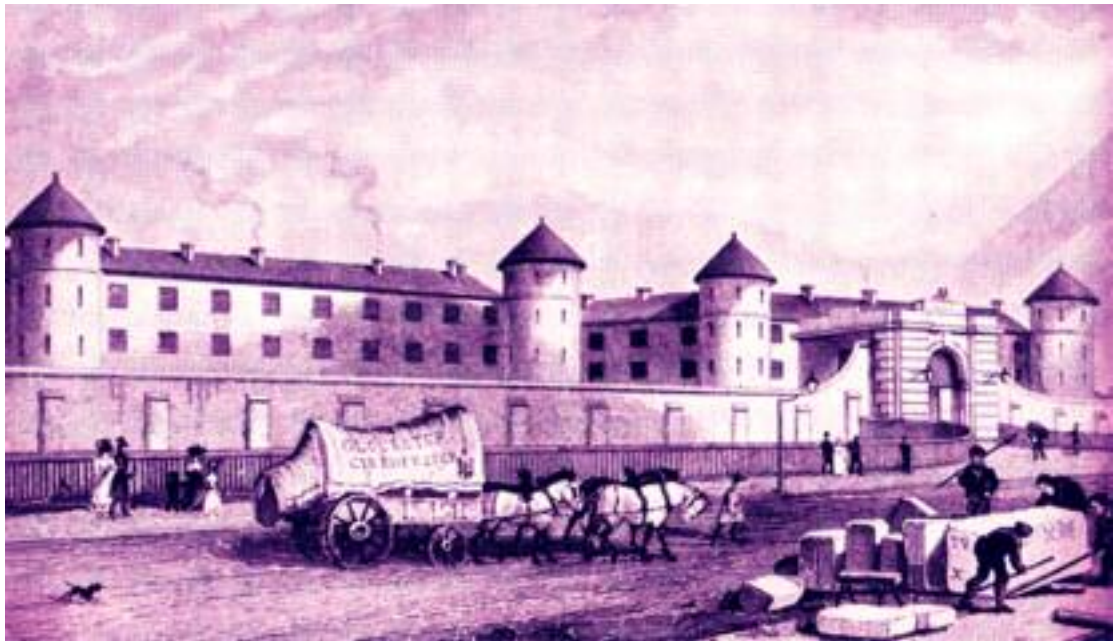


Coconut Fibre Works Millbank

Just along the road was the Millbank Penitentiary a dismal place with a very bad reputation it was closed in 1890 and demolished in 1903. The Tate Gallery and Millbank Housing Estate now stand on the site.



1901



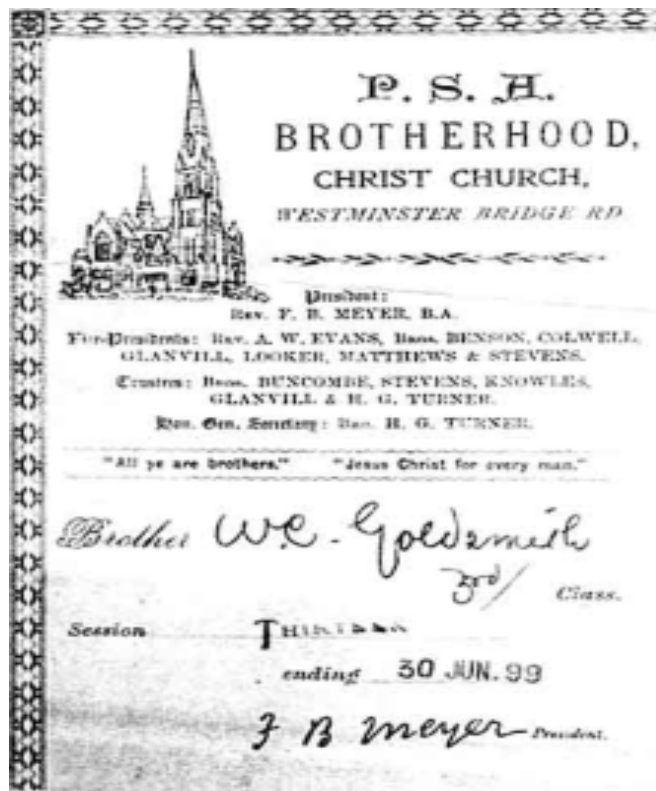
Millbank Penitentiary 1890

By **1901** The 'boys' had been sent round the corner to lodge at 12 Wood Street with a Mr and Mrs Charles Poulter and family. Mr Poulter was a Coal Agent. They also had a boarder William Ring a waiter in an Inn, from Lochray in Ireland Allegedly Charles had little to do with the children from his first marriage after he married Clara.



12 Wood Street today

William 29 yrs was a Vestry Worker at Christ Church and road sweeper
Lawrence 19 yrs a Carman at the Army & Navy Stores Victoria
Charles 16 yrs was an office worker with typewriters
Thomas 13 yrs was at school



Christ Church Westminster



Christ Church Today

Marriages of the Children

21st November 1904 Lawrence John 23 married Ellen Sheehan at St John's Newington Southwark

27th July 1909 Gertrude Mary 23 married Harry Bird at Westminster Registry Office

17th November 1910 Bertha Violet 16 married Harry Robinson at Westminster Registry Office. Bertha lived at 69 Ponsonby Place

31st August 1912 Mary Ann 34 married Edgar Woodward at Westminster Registry Office

3rd February 1913 Charles Leonard 29 married Rachel Nora Lockie at St Martin's Brighton

1923 Tom Edwin 36 married Mabel Lilian Eanor

William Charles never married – he died aged 43 yrs on 28th November 1914 at 69 Ponsonby Place. Cause of death was Coal Gas Poisoning – accidental. Gas was left turned on. There was a Post Mortem, he was described as a Road Sweeper.

On 7th **June 1914 Mary Ann** died seven days after giving birth to her second child **Ruth Mary** at 72 Regency Street. She had given birth to baby **Emma** three months after marrying Edgar, on her death it appears that Emma was sent to Suffolk to be raised by Edgar's family and possibly baby Ruth was raised by Clara in Westminster.

It seems that on or before 1910 the family moved to 69 Ponsonby Place and it was the family home for many years and appeared to be rented. Only **Gertrude** moved away after she married **Harry Bird**.

Bertha and her husband emigrated to Australia, they had eleven children, some went with them.

Number 69 appeared to be multi occupancy and is flats today. Other family members lived in the same street . Sons **Charles** (three children) and **Tom** (four children) ran shops at numbers 30 and 42. Grandson **Frank** lived at no 31 in the 1950's.

Bertha's children Clara and Henry were also registered at number 69 for some years **Lawrence** & his family lived in Ponsonby Terrace up until 1939. First at no 3 then at no 5. He had ten children. He had fought in the first world war and came back unscathed. He was a Horse & Cart driver. Allegedly he was quite an aggressive man whilst drunk and there are vague stories of fights between him and **Harry Bird**



Ponsonby Place & Terrace

Booth described the street as 3 storey houses very much alike. Improved in general character, quieter but not occupied by a different class.

Lawrence fought in the First World War he volunteered in February 1915 and his record is available (See WW1 pages)

After the 2nd world war he moved to Greenwich, he was a Messenger for the Ministry of Supply. A story in the family says that when he was 65 he had difficulty obtaining his old age pension as it was thought his birth was never registered. He died on 5th May 1959 at St Alfege's Hospital. But a clue was found on the 1891 Census which had an amendment that he was born, like his mother Clara in Somerton Suffolk. His birth certificate has now been traced. Laurance John Clarke b 14.12.1881, mother Clara Ann Selina Clarke . No name or occupation of father listed. So unless Charles Leonard officially adopted him –he should have taken the name Clarke. He therefore would not have been baptized in St Johns Smith Square like the rest of his half brothers/sisters. It is therefore pure coincidence that he was born one day before the death of Charles' wife Elizabeth on 15th November 1881.



St Alfege's Hospital Greenwich



69 Ponsonby Place today



Charles Leonard died at no 69 on 21st December 1930 aged 84 yrs
His daughter in law Nora registered the death

His two sons Charles and Tom and their families continued to run the shops in the road.

Number 42 was a newsagent run by Charles in 1925 – by 1935 Tom Edwin had taken over and Charles had moved to 28a which was a tobacconist.



no 42 Ponsonby Place today

By 1948 Tom was still the proprietor of no 42 his telephone number was

Victoria 9864

In 1970 it was **01 834 9864**

From 1970 to 1972 Charles was at no 30 with Rachel and Jean

In 1970 Stanley Tom's son had taken over no 42 with Megan

In 1972 Stanley Megan Anthony and Nadine were at no 42

In 1976 Charles Jean and Miss Loraine were at no 30

By 1977 both businesses had new owners.

The **Goldsmiths** were therefore residents in Ponsonby Place for over sixty years and had an association with Westminster for over one hundred years – some may still be resident today.