

*A photograph of carriages and a trolley heading down High Road, Leytonstone near the Central Station, taken before 1910*

# **The Harrington's of Florence Road** *Leytonstone, East London*

**1886 - 1901 and beyond**

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**Version 0.1**



*It's a busy day for many in this photograph, looking down High Road, Leytonstone, from the early 1900s*

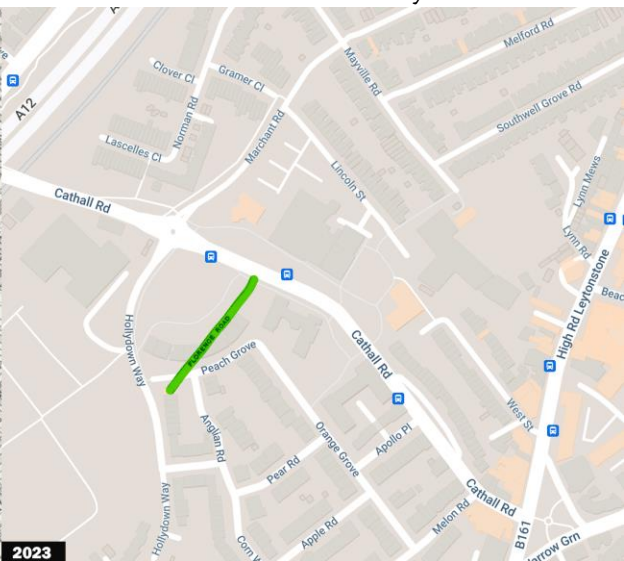
## The Harrington's of Florence Road, Leytonstone

Born in the London Borough of Southwark, sisters Ellen and Mary Ann Harrington became orphaned as young girls after their parents had both died. They remained close and in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century were together again at Florence Road in Leytonstone, East London.

Rows of brick terraced homes lined Florence Road and the area as far as one could see. Built in 1879 this working-class housing block ran between Cathall Road and Trinity Street.

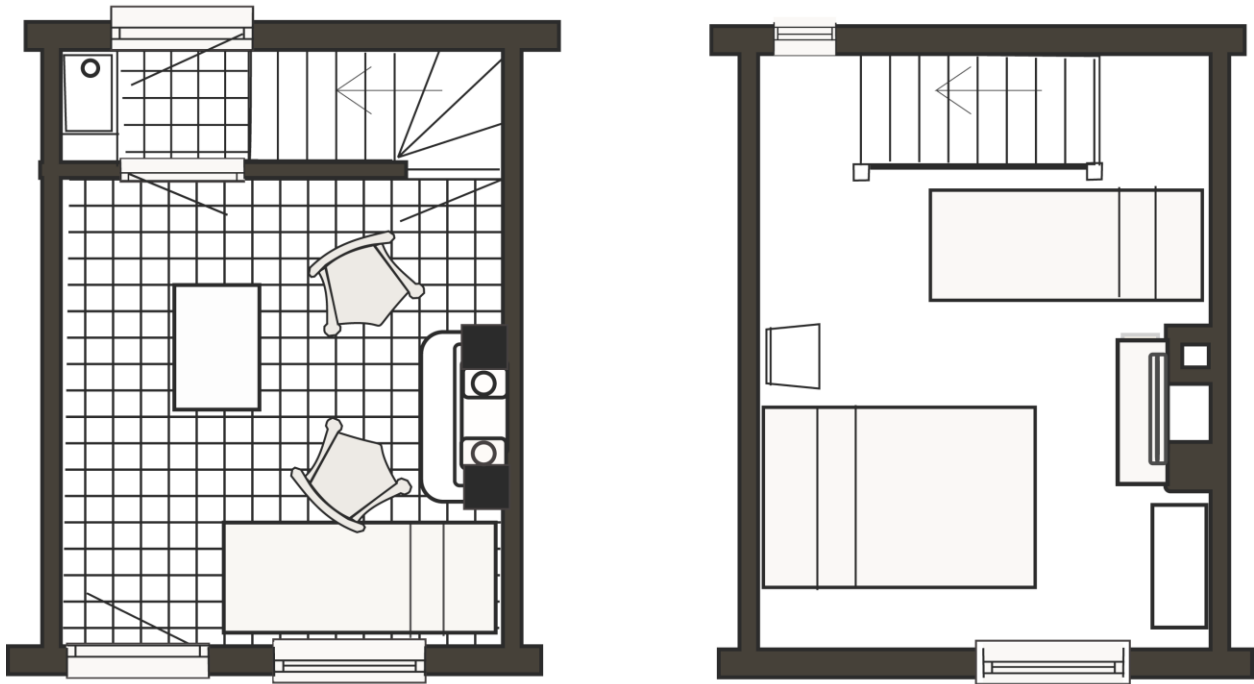


**1913**  
**Left:** Florence Road in a 1913 ordnance survey



**2023**  
**Right:** Showing where Florence Road would exist in 2023

The houses of Florence Road were simple “one-up one-down” style brick, terraced buildings. These small homes would have a single room upstairs for sleeping and a living kitchen on the ground floor. There was no washroom or toilet inside the home.



*An illustration depicting the common layout for a “one-up one-down” style home constructed in the 1800s*

Florence Road was demolished in the 1960s as part of the ‘Cathall Estate’ council housing development, a social housing complex of multiple apartment towers connected by common courtyards. Many of the families from Florence Road were relocated to these new high-rises.



**Left:** Cathall Estate from Hollydown Way in 1988



**Right:** View of Leytonstone from a Cathall Estate tower

No photographs of Florence Road are known to exist publicly. There are however multiple photos from the 1940s showing the homes of Lascelles Road, which was adjacent to Florence and developed during the same time. These photos depict what the homes of Ellen and Mary Ann Harrington would have looked like when they lived there.



Late 1940s photographs of Lascelles Road showing V.E. Day celebrations. Florence Road is visible in the background, left

## Ellen Harrington moves to Florence Road in 1886

Prior to 1885 Ellen Harrington and her husband William Edward Green, a journeyman Baker, lived in the area of Kennington, South London. They had three boys while living in Kennington, William (b.1877), Thomas (b.1883) and John (b.1884). By 1886 they had moved to #7 Florence Road, Leytonstone where they first appeared on the 1885-6 electoral register.

Columns:—	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
No.	When and Where Born.	Name if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth.
B35	Twelfth June 1877 26 Little Bolton Street	William Edward	Boy	William Edward formerly Green	Ellen Green formerly Harrington	a Baker	Ellen Green Mother 26 Little Bolton Street Leytonstone	Twenty third July 1877	Thos Wm Boulton Registrar	

Birth registration for Ellen Harrington's son William Green in Kennington, South London on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1877

24 Harrow Green Polling District. 1885-6		PARISH OF LEYTON—HARROW GREEN DISTRICT—continued.			
OCCUPATION Voters (other than Lodgers).					
Number.	Name of each Voter at full length, the Surname being first.	Place of Abode.	Nature of Qualification.	Description of Qualifying Property.	
A 746	Green, Edward	7, Florence road, Leytonstone	Dwelling house	7, Florence road, Leytonstone	

Edward Green in the 1885-1886 Leytonstone electoral register living at #7 Florence Road

Ellen Harrington and Edward Green had three more children, all girls, while living at #7 Florence Road, Ellen "Nellie" (b.1887), Rosa Emma "Rose" (b.1888) and Fanny (b.1891).

Superintendent Registrar's District <i>West Ham</i>										
Registrar's Sub-District <i>Leyton</i>										
1887. BIRTHS in the Sub-District of <i>Leyton</i> in the County of <i>Essex</i> .										
Columns—										
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	
No.	When and Where Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth.
391	<i>Twenty Fourth April 1887</i> <i>7 Florence Road Leytonstone U. S. D.</i>	<i>Ellen</i>	<i>Girl</i>	<i>William Edward Green</i>	<i>Ellen Green formerly Harrington</i>	<i>Baker</i>	<i>X The Mark of Ellen Green Mother 7 Florence Road Leytonstone</i>	<i>Third June 1887</i>	<i>J. Miller Registrar</i>	

Birth registration for Ellen "Nellie" Green born 24<sup>th</sup> April 1887 at #7 Florence Road, Leytonstone

Superintendent Registrar's District <i>West Ham</i>										
Registrar's Sub-District <i>Leyton</i>										
1889. BIRTHS in the Sub-District of <i>Leyton</i> in the County of <i>Essex</i> .										
Columns—										
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	
No.	When and Where Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth.
66	<i>Twenty Third December 1888</i> <i>7 Florence Road Leytonstone U. S. D.</i>	<i>Rosa Emma</i>	<i>Girl</i>	<i>William Edward Green</i>	<i>Ellen Green formerly Harrington</i>	<i>Baker</i>	<i>X The Mark of Ellen Green Mother 7 Florence Road Leytonstone</i>	<i>First February 1889</i>	<i>J. Miller Registrar</i>	

Birth registration for Rosa Emma "Rose" Green born 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1888 at #7 Florence Road, Leytonstone

At this time a birth registration for Fanny Green cannot be found.

## John Wright arrives at Florence Road by 1887

The first record of John Wright living on Florence Road occurs when John R. Wright appears at #30 in the 1887 electoral register for Leytonstone. By the 1888 register John R. Wright was shown to reside at #1 Florence Road where he would remain until at least 1891.

47

PARISH OF LEYTON—HARROW GREEN DISTRICT—continued. Harrow Green Polling District.  
1887

**OCCUPATION Voters (other than Lodgers).**

Number.	Name of each Voter at full length, the Surname being first.	Place of Abode.	Nature of Qualification.	Description of Qualifying Property.
A 1515	Wright, John R.	30, Florence road, Leytonstone	Dwelling house	30, Florence road, Leytonstone

John R. Wright living at #30 Florence Road, Leytonstone in the 1887 electoral register

OCCUPATION Voters (other than Lodgers).

Number.	Name of each Voter at full length, the Surname being first.	Place of Abode.	Nature of Qualification.	Description of Qualifying Property.
A 1689	Wright, John R.	1, Florence road, Leytonstone	Dwelling house	1, Florence road, Leytonstone

John R. Wright living at #1 Florence Road, Leytonstone in the 1888 electoral register

OCCUPATION Electors (other than Lodgers).  
DIVISION ONE.—Parliamentary Electors and County Electors.

Number.	Names of Electors in full, Surname being first.	Place of Abode.	Nature of Qualification.	Description of Qualifying Property.
A 2346	Wright, John	1, Florence road, Leytonstone	Dwelling house	1, Florence road

John Wright still living at #1 Florence Road, Leytonstone in the 1891 electoral register

In the 5<sup>th</sup> of July 1890 edition of the Leytonstone Express and Independent Newspaper, an article appeared with reference to John Wright of #1 Florence Road. He was arrested for being drunk and disorderly as well as assaulting a police officer in the Leytonstone High Road. John apologized to the court and was fined 20 shillings (\$183 Canadian dollars in 2023).

**WRIGHT TIGHT.**—John Wright, 40, a baker, of 1, Florence-road, Leytonstone, was charged at the Stratford Petty Sessions, on Saturday, with being drunk and disorderly in the Leytonstone-road, and with assaulting Constable Burdon, 170 P.—The evidence shewed that at about quarter past 3 o'clock on Thursday afternoon the prisoner was found in the Leytonstone-road drunk and making use of very bad language. He was surrounded by a crowd, and when requested to get away home he began to abuse the officer. He declined to go, and at last was taken into custody. Then he became very violent, threw the constable to the ground, and was only got to the station after much difficulty.—He now pleaded guilty, and said he was very sorry.—He was fined 20s. and the costs of the court.

The 5<sup>th</sup> July 1890 edition of the Leytonstone Express and Independent newspaper on the arrest of John Wright

## Mary Ann Harrington and John Wright meet

The first record of Mary Ann Harrington on Florence Road is with the birth of her daughter, Elizabeth Wright, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July 1891. Elizabeth's birth registration states she was born at #2 Florence Road with her father listed as being John Wright, General Labourer.

Victorian era birth registrations for a child of an unwed mother would not include the father's name, it would intentionally be left blank. This insinuates the couple had married before this date however a record has not yet been found.

Mary Ann Harrington denied that she and John Wright were ever married in a statement to a Barnardo's Home representative, although her story is not entirely factual. It's possible they were married at some point, as her actions after separating from Wright would suggest.

Superintendent Registrar's District <u>WEST HAM</u>										
Registrar's Sub-District <u>Leyton</u>										
1891. BIRTHS in the Sub-District of <u>Leyton</u> in the County of <u>Essex</u>										
Columns —	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
No.	When and Where Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth.
67	Tenth July 1891. 2 Florence Road Leytonstone Leyton. U. S. D.	Elizabeth	Girl	John Wright	Mary Ann Wright formerly Harrington	General Labourer	M. A. Wright Mother 2 Florence Road Leytonstone	Tenth First August 1891.	W. Miller Deputy Registrar	

Birth registration for Elizabeth Wright born 10<sup>th</sup> July 1891 at #2 Florence Road, Leytonstone

At this time, it's unknown what the fate of Elizabeth Wright was. She possibly died as an infant or child as no further record of Elizabeth exists with the family in any form.

## The new family moves to Upper Clapton

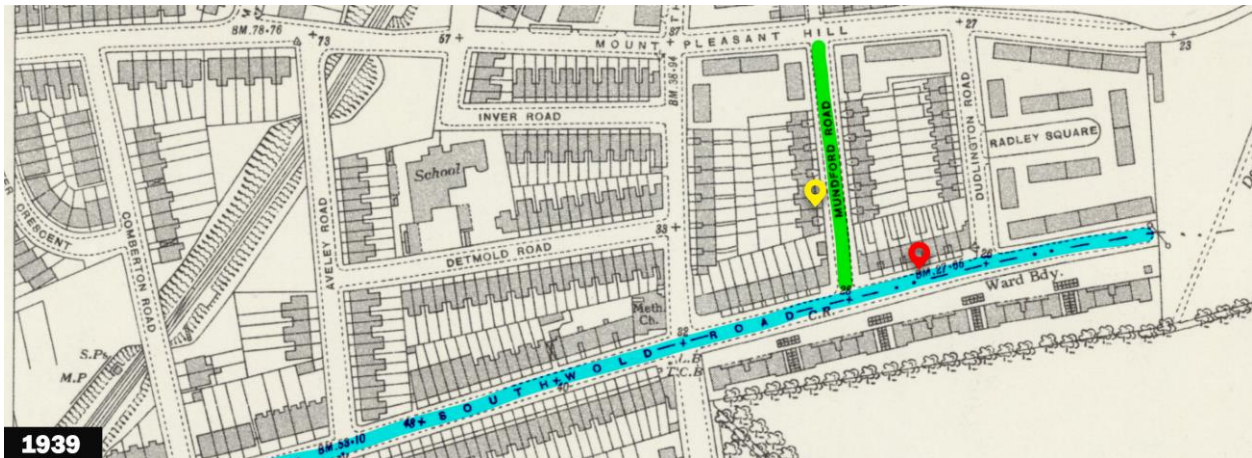
Between 1891 and the summer of 1894, John and Mary Ann moved four miles west across the River Lea from Leytonstone to Upper Clapton, still in East London. There they had a son, John Wright, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 1894. John's surname would become Harrington in 1901. He was born at #6 Southwold Terrace, Upper Clapton where the family would live until 1897.

Superintendent Registrar's District <u>Hackney</u>										
Registrar's Sub-District <u>Hackney</u>										
1894. BIRTHS in the Sub-District of <u>Hackney</u> in the County of <u>London</u>										
Columns —	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
No.	When and Where Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth.
1806	Second July 1894 6 Southwold Terrace	John	Boy	John Wright	Mary Ann Wright formerly Harrington	General Labourer	M. A. Wright Mother 6 Southwold Terrace Upper Clapton	Fifteenth August 1894	J. Coates Registrar	

Birth registration for John Wright born 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1894 at #6 Southwold Terrace, Upper Clapton

In the early part of 1897 John and Mary Ann, along with their son John, moved from #6 Southwold Terrace a short distance around the corner to #19 Mundford Road.

Southwold Road and Mundford Road intersect directly opposite of the North Millfields recreation grounds, a short walk from the Lea River Dockyards. A red pin shows where #6 Southwold Terrace existed and a yellow pin illustrates the location of #19 Mundford Road.



Map showing Southwold Road (horizontal) and Mundford road (vertical) in Upper Clapton circa 1939

184 No. 1. NORTH DIVISION.—8. Upper Clapton (East) Polling District.—Div. I.			
6951	Wright, John	19 Mundford-road	dwelling house 19 Mundford-road ; (successive) 6 Southwold-terrace

John Wright at #19 Mundford Road, Leytonstone in the 1898 Upper Clapton electoral register

After moving to Mundford Road, Mary Ann Harrington and John Wright had twin girls on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 1897. Gertrude Blanch Wright was born 6:30 a.m. and Grace Mabel Wright arrived 15 minutes later at 6:45 a.m. John Wright worked as a builder's labourer at this time.

Superintendent Registrar's District <u>Hackney</u>										
Registrar's Sub-District <u>Hackney</u>										
1897. BIRTHS in the Sub-District of <u>Hackney</u> in the County of <u>London</u>										
No.	When and Where Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth.
390	Eighth May 6-30 a.m. 19 Mundford Road	Gertrude Blanch	Girl	John Wright	Mary Ann Wright formerly Harrington	Builders Labourer	John Wright Father 19 Mundford Road Upper Clapton	Eighteenth June 1897	J. Coates Registrar	
391	Eighth May 6-45 a.m. 19 Mundford Road	Grace Mabel	Girl	John Wright	Mary Ann Wright formerly Harrington	Builders Labourer	John Wright Father 19 Mundford Road Upper Clapton	Eighteenth June 1897	J. Coates Registrar	

Consecutive birth registrations for Gertrude Blanch Wright and Grace Mabel Wright on 8th May 1897



At only three months of age, Grace Mabel Wright died at home on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 1897, very likely due to what is known as Summer Diarrhea or at the time “Cholera Infantum”. This illness affected infants who did not have a strong immune system and was largely solved with the implementation of modern public health measures by the 1930s.

Superintendent Registrar's District <i>Hackney</i>									
Registrar's Sub-District <i>Hackney</i>									
1897. DEATHS in the Sub-District of <i>Hackney</i> in the County of <i>London</i>									
Columns — 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9.									
No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When registered.	Signature of Registrar.
14	<i>Second September 1897 19 Mundford Road</i>	<i>Grace Mabel Wright</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>3 months</i>	<i>Daughter of John Wright General Labourer</i>	<i>Diarrhoea Marasmus Exhaustion certified by N. S. Powell M.D.</i>	<i>M. A. Wright Mother present at the Death 19 Mundford Road Upper Clapton</i>	<i>Third September 1897</i>	<i>J. Coates Registrar</i>

Death registration for Grace Mabel Wright on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1897 at #19 Mundford Road, Upper Clapton

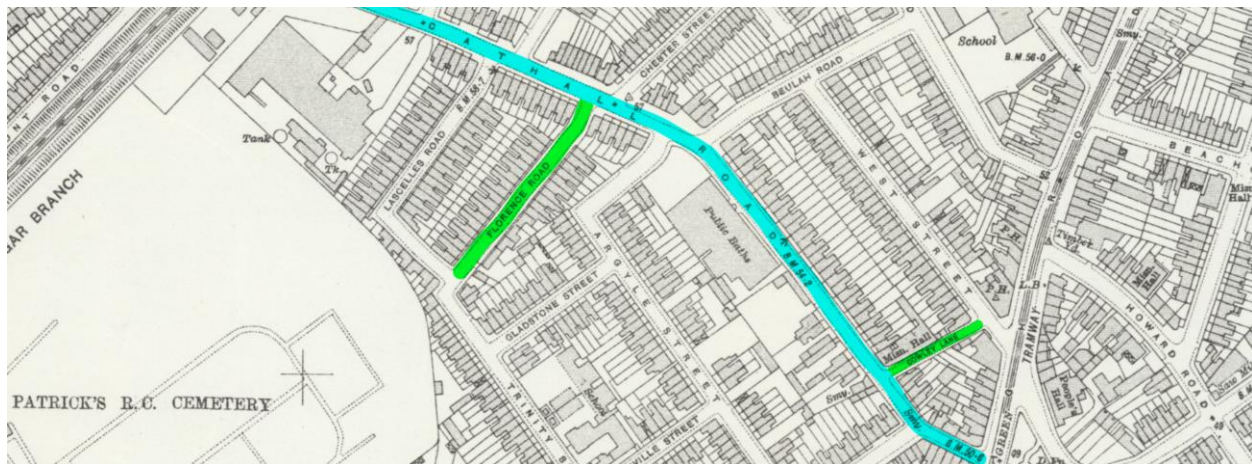
According to Mary Ann Harrington’s statement to a Barnardo’s representative, she and John Wright separated some time around 1899. This statement which was given in 1901 reads:

“They went to reside at 6 Southall (sic) Terrace, Lea Bridge Road, Clapton and until two years ago they continued to cohabit. The man then left her, at 19 Mountford (sic) Road, Upper Clapton, and he has not been seen or heard of since”

### Mary Ann Harrington returns to Florence Road, Leytonstone

After separating from John Wright, Mary Ann returned to Florence Road with her children John and Gertrude. At this time her sister Ellen and family were still residing at house #7.

It’s likely here where Mary Ann met George Bradd (1856-1924) who in 1898 moved to #3 Cowley Terrace in Leytonstone after the death of his wife, Sarah. Located a short walk away, Cowley Terrace is about 500 meters from Florence Road via Cathall Road.



Florence Road and Cowley Terrace in green, connected by Cathall Road in Blue on the 1913 Ordnance Survey

George was employed at a number of heavy labour jobs around London including brick making which was his father's line of work. In the 1891 census he worked as a gas stoker and by 1921 as an excavator for the West Ham Borough Council.

George Bradd and Sarah Emma George had 8 children:

George (1875-1953), Emma (1877-1968), Charles (1879-1881), Caroline (1881-1956), William (1884-1909), Charles Henry (1886-1887) Benjamin (1888-1965) and Henry (1891-1891).

It's clear at some point after the death of his wife, George Bradd had lost contact with some of his adult children. Whether this was by his actions or theirs is unclear. On the marriage certificate for his daughter Caroline in 1904 she stated he was deceased, which was untrue.

1904. Marriage solemnized at The Parish Church in the Parish of Plaxton in the County of Westham

Column No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
367	Feb. 21 1904	William Leach	27	Bachelor	Bachelor	36 labourer Cherston Rd	James Leach	Engineer
		Caroline Bradd	22	Spinster	Spinster	36 Cherston Rd	George Bradd (decd)	labourer

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the established church by Henry R. D. D. D. or after Banns by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { William Leach } in the Presence of us, { J. H. Clark }  
 { Caroline Bradd } { H. Roberts }

The marriage registration for Caroline Bradd on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1904 stating her father George Bradd was deceased

The Bradd family has deep ties to the same area of Southern Essex surrounding Orsett and Horndon-On-The-Hill where the family of John Wright originates from. They were like many others who left the farms of rural Essex for London seeking stable employment as industrial farming took over in the 19th century.

The family of Laurence Sadler (1901-1979), the future spouse of Gertrude Wright, made the same path from the farms of Belchamp St. Paul, Essex to London in the 1880s.



Left: A sign for C. Wright, Horndon-on-the-Hill, 1910s



Right: A Map of East London and Southern Essex

# Collins or Bradd? Examining the 1901 Census

In the 1901 census Mary Ann Harrington and George Bradd were living next door to Ellen Harrington and her family at #8 Florence Road under the assumed last name "Collins".

It's unclear why or how "Collins" became the surname they were going by, whether it's a family name or just a common enough name they thought could pass. It's quite clear one, if not both, of George and Mary Ann were trying not to be found under their real names.

Administrative County		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the													Page 10	
Civil Parish		Ecclesiastical Parish		County, Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District			Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District			Borough or Division		Parliamentary Borough or Division			Town or Village or Hamlet	
of <i>London</i>		of <i>St. Andrew's</i>		of <i>London</i>			of <i>St. Andrew's</i>			of <i>St. Andrew's</i>		of <i>St. Andrew's</i>			of <i>St. Andrew's</i>	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
House No.	ROAD, STREET, No. and No. of NAME of HOUSE	Uninhabited	Inhabited	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Sex	Age last Birthday	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lame (4) Inebriate, feeble, or idiotic				
56	7 Florence Rd	1	*	Edward Green	Head	M	57	Bread Maker	Own account		Cambs Maner					
				Ellen	Wife	F	48				London Borough					
				Thomas	Son	M	14	Handwriting	do		do					
				John	Son	M	14	do	do		do					
				Ellen	Daughter	F	12	do	do		do					
				George	Son	M	10	do	do		do					
				John	Son	M	10	do	do		do					
				Gertrude	Daughter	F	11	do	do		do					
				George	Son	M	11	do	do		do					
				John	Son	M	11	do	do		do					
				George	Son	M	11	do	do		do					
				Mary Ann	Daughter	F	13	do	do		do					
				John	Son	M	4	do	do		do					
				Gertrude	Daughter	F	4	do	do		do					
Total of Inhabitants of Houses with less than Five Rooms																
Total of Males and of Females																

The 1901 census record for #7 and #8 Florence Road showing the families of Ellen and Mary Ann Harrington

The top record for #7 Florence Road shows Edward Green, 54, a Bread Maker of Manea, Cambridgeshire and his wife Ellen Harrington of Borough, London.

Borough is a historical area of South London surrounding Borough High Street in Southwark, mere steps from the London Bridge along the river Thames. Mary Ann Harrington also stated she was born in Borough, London in the 1911 census.

1	George Bradd	Head	54	Maner	10	Maner	10	Maner	10	Maner	10	Maner	10
2	Mary Ann Bradd	Wife	48	Maner	10	Maner	10	Maner	10	Maner	10	Maner	10
3	John Bradd	Son	14	Maner	10	Maner	10	Maner	10	Maner	10	Maner	10
4	John Bradd	Son	14	Maner	10	Maner	10	Maner	10	Maner	10	Maner	10

The 1911 census record for Mary Ann Harrington, then Bradd, showing she was born in Borough, London



Left: A photograph of Borough High Road taken in 1898



Right: Blackman Street, Borough photographed in 1886

Living with Ellen Harrington and Edward Green on the 1901 census were their children:

Thomas (b.1883), John (b.1884), Ellen “Nellie” (1887-1949), Rose (1889-1983) and Fanny (1891-1976). Their oldest son William (b.1877) was serving in South Africa with the British Army.

Taking a closer look at the home next door to Ellen’s family, #8 Florence Road shows a “Collins” family consisting of George (46), Mary Ann (36), Benjamin (13), John (7) and Gertrude (4). This is the blended family of George Bradd and Mary Ann Harrington.

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Profession	Signature	When Registered	Signature of Registrar	Baptismal Name
3	George Collins	Head	46	Bricklayer	[Signature]			
	Mary Ann do	Wife	36					
	Benjamin do	Son	13					
	John do	Son	7					
	Gertrude do	Daughter	4					

A zoomed in look at #8 Florence Road showing the families of Mary Ann Harrington and George Bradd

“George Collins”, the head of the household, said he was a 46-year-old Bricklayer from Maidstone, Kent. This matches George Bradd’s age as being born in 1855 and as a young boy he lived in Aylesford, a town surrounding Maidstone as noted in the 1861 census.

His wife “Mary Ann Collins” is listed as being 10 years younger than George, which may or may not be true as women’s ages on census records of this time were quite variable, on account of vanity. Mary Ann described herself being born anywhere between 1859 and 1865.

The first son “Benjamin Collins” is Benjamin Bradd, 13, the youngest living son of George Bradd and his late wife Sarah. All of George’s other children were living on their own at this time. Benjamin was born on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 1888, making him 13 years old in 1901.

Columns—	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
No.	When and Where Born.	Name if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth.
218	Leyton, U.S.D. Upper Clapton Kent April 1888. 1/2 Louisa Terrace Woodhouse Road Mansstead London, U.S.D.	Benjamin Bray	Boy	George Bradd	Sarah Bradd formerly George	Brick Maker	[Signature] S. Bradd Mother 1/2 Louisa Terrace Woodhouse Road Mansstead	Upper Clapton Kent May 1888	[Signature] J. Mills Registrar	

The birth registration for Benjamin Bradd, son of George Bradd on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1888

Listed next on the census record is “John Collins”, Mary Ann Harrington’s son John Wright, who would later become John Harrington. John was born in Upper Clapton near Leytonstone on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 1894, making him 7 years of age at this time.

The last entry is a “Gertrude Collins”, Mary Ann Harrington’s daughter Gertrude Wright, who was also born in Upper Clapton near Leytonstone on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 1897. This would make Gertrude 4 years old in 1901 which aligns with the census record.

The proximity of the “Collins” family to Ellen Harrington’s family and the striking similarities in their names and ages are compelling, but not enough evidence on their own.

Thankfully there are three additional first-hand documents which establish concretely that Mary Ann Harrington and George Bradd were living with their combined families under the assumed surname "Collins" in 1901 at #8 Florence Road, Leytonstone.

The first piece of evidence is an excerpt from a statement Mary Ann Harrington gave to a Barnardo's representative upon admittance of John Harrington, which was in July of 1901. Mary Ann gave her residence as "8 Florence Road, Leytonstone, E". This would have happened only a couple of months after the census was taken on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 1901.

**Relatives :—**

**Mother—**Mary Ann Harrington (38), single woman, does washing and charring, 8, Florence Road, Leytonstone, E.

**Sister—**Gertrude (4), with mother.

[De. O. 2,294. Admission, 25,504.]

An excerpt from John Harrington's admission to Barnardo's showing Mary Ann at #8 Florence Road, Leytonstone

The next item which supports this census entry being Mary Ann and George Bradd is in the 1902 electoral register for Leytonstone, which was compiled before the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 1901.

This electoral record shows George Bradd as the registered voter at #8 Florence Road, located below Ellen Harrington's husband William Edward Green who was at house #7.

105  
Harrow Green Polling District,  
1902.

PARISH OF LEYTON—Harrow Green Ward—Harrow Green Electoral Division—  
continued.  
**OCCUPATION Electors (other than Lodgers).**  
**DIVISION ONE.—Persons entitled to vote as Parliamentary Electors, County Electors and Parochial Electors.**

To Poll at.	Number.	Name of each Elector at full length, Surname being first.	Place of Abode.	Nature of Qualification.	Description of Qualifying Property.
	A 3100	Green, William Edward	7, Florence road, Leytonstone	Dwelling house (part)	7, Florence road
	A 3101	Bradd, George	8, Florence road, Leytonstone	Dwelling house (part)	8, Florence road

The 1902 electoral register for Leytonstone showing George Bradd living at #8 Florence Road

The final piece supporting this 1901 census entry is the marriage registration for Mary Ann Harrington and George Bradd from the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 1904. Mary Ann again used the assumed last name Collins, yet described her fathers name as James Harrington.

1904. Marriage solemnized at the Registrar office in the District of West Ham in the County of West Ham Essex

Column:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
90	6th February 1904	George Bradd	49 years	Widower	Labourer	Osquires Cottages George Lane West Ham	George Bradd	Labourer
		Mary Ann Collins	43 years	Widow	—	Osquires Cottages George Lane West Ham	James Harrington Deceased	Labourer

Marrried in the Registrar office according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the — by certificate before me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, George Bradd in the Presence of us, Thomas Mottley Mary Ann Collins R. J. Goodrich W. J. Mottley

A marriage registration for George Bradd and Mary Ann Harrington from 6<sup>th</sup> February, 1904 in Wanstead

It's possible Mary Ann is trying to allude that she was married to a man with the surname Collins and that he had died, leaving her a widow. This would allow her to marry again without ever legally divorcing John Wright, which would have been a nearly impossible task for a woman of her status and means in the early 1900s.

## The death of Ellen Harrington in summer of 1901

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 1901 Ellen Harrington died at home at #7 Florence Road, Leytonstone. Her cause of death was listed as "Bronchitis", a pulmonary illness. It's unclear whether this was an acute illness or chronic one but Ellen was certainly far too young at less than 50 years old.

After Ellen's death her widower, Edward Green, and their children moved to Holly Terrace, a side street off of Harrow Road in Leytonstone. In 1906 Edward was remarried to Agnes Toms, also a widow who was 18 years younger than himself.

Superintendent Registrar's District <u>West Ham</u>									
Registrar's Sub-District <u>South Leyton</u>									
18901. DEATHS in the Sub-District of <u>South Leyton</u> in the County of <u>Essex</u>									
Columns:—	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When registered.	Signature of Registrar.
450	<u>Fifteenth July, 1901.</u> <u>7 Florence Road, Leytonstone.</u>	<u>Ellen Green.</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>47 years.</u>	<u>Wife of Edward Green a Journeyman Baker.</u>	<u>Bronchitis</u> <u>Certified by</u> <u>C. Smyth</u> <u>L.R.C.P.</u>	<u>E. Green.</u> <u>Widower of deceased</u> <u>present at the death.</u> <u>7 Florence Road</u> <u>Leytonstone.</u>	<u>Fifteenth July 1901.</u>	<u>Edw. Hall</u> <u>Registrar</u>

The death registration for Ellen Harrington on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1901 at #7 Florence Road, Leytonstone



## John Harrington is admitted to Barnardo's 9 days later

Mary Ann Harrington's son John Harrington was admitted to Dr. Barnardo's Homes orphanage on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July, 1901.

Though the name he was given at birth was John Wright, Mary Ann gave her son's name to Barnardo's as John Harrington.

This was perhaps due to her negative feelings towards her former spouse John Wright, or to portray that she and Wright never married and therefore her children would not have taken his name.

Photograph of John Harrington, age 7, on his admission to Dr. Barnardo's Homes in 1901

It seems likely that the death of Ellen Harrington only nine days before, and the loss of stability Mary Ann would have felt, contributed to the tough decision to bring John to Dr. Barnardo's Homes. With quite a large family of her own, Ellen would have been a support for Mary Ann and contributed to providing care for her children.

In her statement to Barnardo's Mary Ann offers many details on herself, some true and some not. She gave John's year of birth as 1893 but in fact it should be one year later in 1894.

She described her living situation as being a single mother with children, however she was already living with her future husband George Bradd while giving this statement.

The dyer who Mary Ann was allegedly placed to live and work with, Mrs. Hester Longman, was indeed a real person. She did not die in 1884 as stated but lived until 1905.

Mary Ann also said that this occurred at #43 Great Dover St, Borough in the period from 1877 to 1884, however this address appears to be a rooming house on the 1881 census.

She was then sent to service, by the Guardians with a Mrs. Longman, who was carrying on the business of a dyer, at 43, Great Dover Street, Borough, S.E. The mother remained in that situation for seven years, until the death of Mrs. Longman, which took place in January, 1884.

An excerpt from the statement Mary Ann Harrington gave to a Barnardo's representative in 1901

Page 10]												
The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the												
Civil Parish [or Township] of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town or Village or Hamlet of	Urban Sanitary District of	Rural Sanitary District of	Ecclesiastical Parish or District of					
St. Mary, Newington												
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited (1), or (2)	NAME and Surnames of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	II			
									Males	Females	(1) Deaf-Blind	(2) Dumb
73	" " #43	1	Mrs. Harpoe	Head	Wid	27	Widow	West Hamstead				
			Charles Day	Son	Wid	24	Widow	West Hamstead				
			Rosa Botani	"	"	29	Widow	West Hamstead				
			Laura Morni	"	"	23	Widow	West Hamstead				
			Charles "	"	"	31	Widow	West Hamstead				
74	" " "		Henry Clayton	Head	"	29	Widow	West Hamstead				
			Margaret "	Wife	"	29	Widow	West Hamstead				
			Henry J "	Son	"	7	Widow	West Hamstead				
			William J "	Son	"	5	Widow	West Hamstead				
75	" " #43	1	John Rendle	Head	Wid	37	Widow	West Hamstead				
8	Total of Houses...	4	Total of Males and Females...			15	14					

The 1881 census record for #43 Great Dover St, Borough showing a rooming house of young adults

With the sudden loss of her sister, the financial struggle of being able to support her children during this time undoubtedly would have become a reality for Mary Ann Harrington.

Barnardo's agents would actively campaign to mothers in the poorest of London's neighbourhoods, selling them on the often misleading benefits Dr. Barnardo's Homes could provide. Children were told of Cowboy fantasies in Canada, and mothers were told their children may eventually be able to return home at some point in the future.

For the next 14 months John stayed at The Children's Fold, a Barnardo's Home in Bow, East London. He became one of the 30,000 Barnardo's children who left their homes for Canada to work on farms and homesteads. In exchange these young children would receive a place to live with the family, who became the child's employer until at least the age of 14.



Photographs of The Children's Fold, along with a plaque commemorating its historical location at 182 Grove Road, Bow

## John Harrington comes to Canada at only 8 years old

At only 8 years of age John sailed to Canada on the 'Colonian', departing from Liverpool on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 1902. He was part of Dr. Barnardo's 3<sup>rd</sup> group of children that year.

Since it was Barnardo's who had given John's name to the Canadian immigration officials, once landing in Canada he would have become both a Canadian citizen and legally named John Harrington, per his immigration record.

Arriving in the autumn of 1902, John was placed on the homestead of Walter C. Mason in Port Sydney, part of Ontario's rural Muskoka region about 200 kilometers north of Toronto. As a boy in Port Sydney he worked on the Mason family farm and attended some schooling.



Postcards depicting the scenery John Harrington would have experienced in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Muskoka

John's original contract with Walter C. Mason of Port Sydney, Muskoka ended in 1909, when he was 15 years of age. He was then placed with the family of John and Jessie Henderson, of Dover Centre, about 500 kilometers south near Chatham, Ontario. A positive influence, John would remain in contact with the Henderson family throughout his life.



Dr. Barnardo's Homes considered itself and its children "the largest family in the world". They published the 'Ups and Downs' Magazine from 1895-1949, a quarterly morale-boosting publication distributed to their orphan children who were placed around the world.

In the May 1910 issue of 'Ups and Downs', John Harrington had his photograph and letter published, talking about his recent move from Muskoka to Dover Centre. It's quite sweet imagining one of the Henderson's assisting John with writing this letter.



We publish a photograph of Master John Harrington, whose home is with Mr. John Henderson, of Dover Centre. John bears the character of being a good worker and a boy who is walking generally in the way he should go. In sending us his photo he writes :

I like this country a lot better than Muskoka. It is a better farming country, too. Everything is up-to-date here. It is also a good hog-raising country, and there is a lot of corn grown here, and the hogs soon get fat on it. Now I must tell you about myself. Well, I am not doing much this winter, as there is not much to do in the winter. I like my new home fine, and I think I shall be able to keep it if I behave myself, and I think I can do that.

1910

*A photograph and letter from John Harrington which was published in the May 1910 issue of 'Ups and Downs'*

## John Harrington returns to England during World War I

In 1917 John was conscripted into the Canadian Army, serving with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the Canadian Machine Gun Company. He attested in London, Ontario on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 1918 at which point he was prepared to be sent overseas.

John Harrington returned to England one month later, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April 1918, training at Seaford Camp in Sussex before being sent out to the front lines in France.

John fought in the Battle of Canal du Nord, near Cambrai, where he was wounded on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 1918. He was hit with shrapnel shells in his head and back, then transported to the Herne Bay Railway Men's Convalescent Home in Kent, England. He would remain in hospital for the duration of the war, which was not far away at this time.

During this period John had been sending letters and photographs to his sister Gertrude, very likely arranging plans to connect in East London while she was attending Nurses schooling at the Queen's District Training Home, #4 Beachcroft Road, Leytonstone.



Photographs of John Harrington's time in the Canadian Army during the First World War, circa 1918

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 1918, John changed his next of kin from "Mary Harrington, 44 Ward Hackney, Homerton" to "Miss Gertie Harrington, 3 Slatters Cottage, Wanstead".

Form R 122. 9353-100M-9-12-16.			
Rank	Name	HARRINGTON, John	Reg'l No. 3132740
5th Dft. WEST ONT Unit	If in perm. Corps, What Unit?		Married or Single Single.
Place and Date of Enlistment	London, March 4th, 1918.	Place of Birth	<del>Leyton</del> Leyton-LONDON. stone. (auth. G. P.)
Name and Address, Next-of-Kin	MISS GERTIE Mary Harrington.	AUTH 29/10 24-10-18	England.
	3 SLATTERS COTTAGE WANSTEAD <del>44 Ward Hackney, Homerton, Essex</del>	Relationship	Mother.

An excerpt from John Harrington's military documents showing the change of his next of kin in October 1918

## The Harrington cousins are reunited in East London

While recovering at the Military hospital in Herne Bay, the local Angling Society organized a fishing derby at the Herne Bay Pier as a morale booster for the wounded soldiers. An avid fisherman himself John entered the competition, and although a porpoise arrived on the scene scaring the fish away, it would have been a great break from the reality of the War.

Each of the wounded soldiers who participated in the fishing derby received a small black notebook as a prize. This is the notebook which John Harrington used to keep his names and addresses while he was still in England in during the war, as well as for a period of time afterwards. The notebook is still in the possession of John's family today.

On the first page of this notebook there are two entries: 'Cousin, Miss Fannie Green, 76 Woodhouse Road, Leytonstone' and 'Mrs. Toms, 35 Lansdowne Rd, Leytonstone'. These are John's cousins Fanny and Rose Green, now Toms, who he grew up with on Florence Road. He was able to reconnect and visit them in East London as an adult over 15 years later.

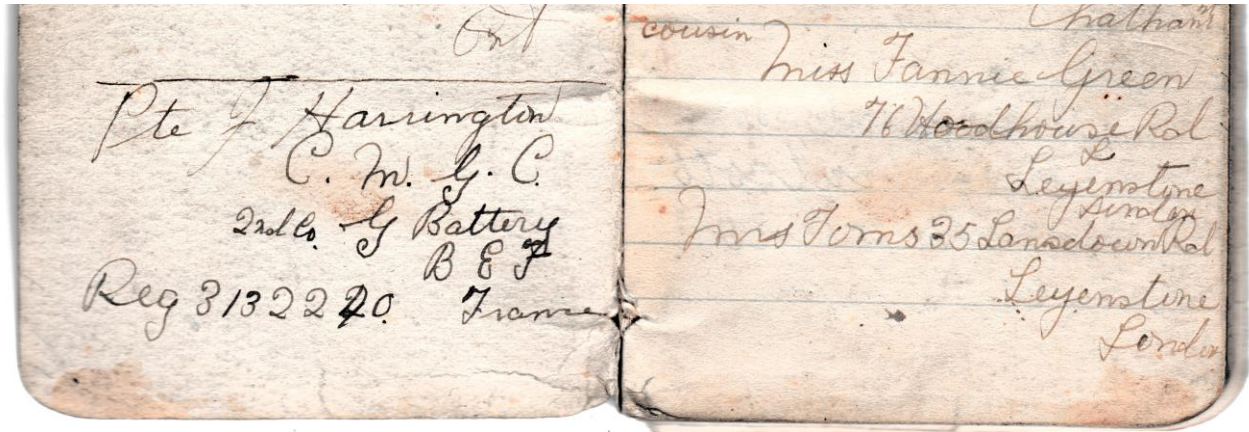


Left: The military hospital John Harrington was at in 1918



Right: A postcard of the Herne Bay Pier

Though John only had the details for two of his cousins, this was only for practical reasons as all five of Ellen Harrington's living children stayed between these two addresses.



The notebook that John Harrington received at Herne Bay with addresses for Fanny and Rose Green (Toms)

#76 Woodhouse Road, Leytonstone was the home of John's cousin Ellen "Nellie" Green and her husband William Taylor, who Fanny lived with at this time. Living with Nellie and Fanny was their brother, William Green, who served with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Essex Regiment.

Columns —	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
No.	When and Where Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name if added after Registration.
323	Dewald March 1921 76 Woodhouse Road 110	Florence Phyllis	Girl	William Thomas Taylor	Ellen Taylor formerly Green	Printer composer	L. Taylor Mother 76 Woodhouse Road Leytonstone	Nineteenth April 1921	Alfred Mell Registrar.	

A birth registration for Florence Phyllis Taylor, daughter of Ellen Green and William Taylor at #76 Woodhouse Road

At #35 Lansdowne Road was the family of John Harrington's cousin Rose Green and her husband Arthur Toms. Staying with the Toms family at this time was Rose's brother, Thomas Green, who had also been serving in the First World War.

It's very heartwarming to know that John Harrington was able to remain in contact with his sister and cousins, and that they were reunited in East London once more. This adds a layer of hope to the sad picture painted of John's early life as documented by Barnardo's.

## JOHN HARRINGTON.

*Admitted—24th July, 1901.*

*Age—8 years.*

*Date and Place of Birth—2nd July, 1893, at Clapton, N.E.*

*Religious Denom<sup>n</sup>. of Father—*

*„ „ Mother—Church of England.*

*If Baptized—No.*

*Full Agreement, with Canada Clauses, signed by mother.*

### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION.

*Colour of Hair—Brown.*

*Complexion—Fair.*

*„ Eyes—Grey.*

*Vacc<sup>n</sup>. Marks—None.*

*Height—3 ft. 8 in.*

*Weight—48 lbs.*

*Chest Measure<sup>m</sup>.—23½ in.*

*Condition of Body—*

*Remarks by Medical Officer—Vermin bites on body.*

The mother came to our general offices and sought the admission of this illegitimate child. One of our enquiry-officers found, upon investigation, that her statement was quite correct. The facts of the case are as follows:—

The parents of the mother died when she was only two years old, leaving her totally unprovided for. She was then admitted into the St. George's Workhouse Schools, at Mitcham, Surrey, where she remained until she was fourteen years of age. She was then sent to service, by the Guardians with a Mrs. Longman, who was carrying on the business of a dyer, at 43, Great Dover Street, Borough, S.E. The mother remained in that situation for seven years, until the death of Mrs. Longman, which took place in January, 1884.

Since that date the mother had no regular place. In the year 1892, she was at the house of a friend named Jones, living at 2, Florence Road, Leytonstone, and there met the reputed father, a labourer named John Wright, who prevailed upon her to live with him as his wife. They went to reside at 6, Southall Terrace, Lea Bridge Road, Clapton, and, until two years ago, they continued to cohabit. The man then left her, at 19, Mountford Road, Upper Clapton, and he has not been seen or heard of since. He appears to have been a lazy, drunken fellow, who would do nothing, and made the mother go out to work and keep him. Two children were born to these parents, viz., John and Gertrude.

The mother then removed to her present address at Leytonstone, and has since gone out washing and charing at Mrs. Steele's, Sheridan House, Maybank Road, Woodford, where she earns 10s. a week and part of her food. She has to pay 2s. a week rent for one room, and she stated that she was unable to provide for John. She also mentioned that she was suffering from housemaid's knee.

Mrs. Steele, who has known the mother for some years, gives her a very good character. She was under the impression that the mother was married to Wright. John is a fine healthy boy.

Relatives:—

Mother—Mary Ann Harrington (38), single woman, does washing and charing, 8, Florence Road, Leytonstone, E.

Sister—Gertrude (4), with mother.

[De. O. 2,294. Admission, 25,604.]