

Profile of the Gillam and Bell Families

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Version dated 29/08/2026
(amended Silhouette & Clark Family Tree)
Assembled by Stephen Gillam-Smith

[1] Introduction to the Family Lines

This family profile provides an introduction to the ancestors and relatives of Alice Gillam Bell who married Charles Todd, best known for his management and leadership of the Overland Telegraph Line constructed through the centre of Australia in 1872. The town of Alice Springs was named in her honour :

Alice Gillam was the eighth child of Edward Bell and Charlotte, née Clark. Edward's mother was Susannah Gillam. Alice's maternal aunt Sarah married Samuel Squires.

With the exception of Charles Todd all the families (Bell, Gillam, Squires and Clark) had strong links with Cambridge and the surrounding area.

This profile focuses largely on the immediate Bell family members and introduces published articles about a few individuals.

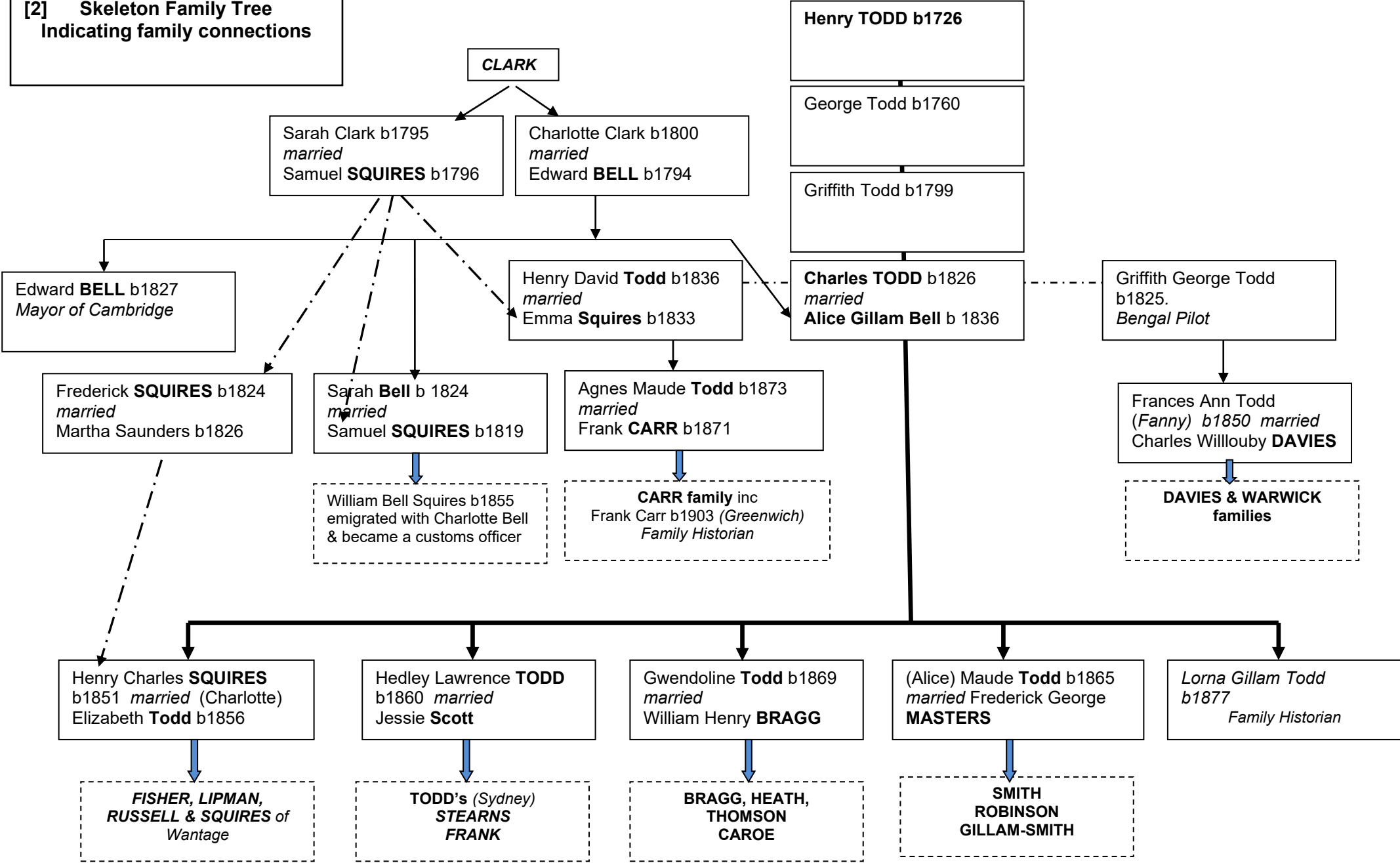
Alice's father was a Corn and Seed Merchant in Cambridge, Alice's brother, also named Edward Bell born in 1827 joined the business and later inherited it from his father. Edward (b1827) became the Mayor of Cambridge in the last two years of his life.

Alice's mother Charlotte née Clark and her grandson (ie Alice's nephew) William Bell Squires emigrated to Adelaide after Alice's father and elder sister died.

The skeleton family trees below only shows the 'interconnections' and not the whole family but help to identify 'who's who'.

The Todd and Squires lines are the subject of separate 'Profile' documents.

[2] Skeleton Family Tree
Indicating family connections



[3] Edward Bell's Family

Bell family lived in a house at 3 Free School Lane which is a passage in the centre of Cambridge within walking distance of Peas Hill where the corn and seed business was located.



Number 3 Free School Lane,
Home of Edward and Charlotte
Bell

Charlotte and Edward had 11 children however, as happened frequently at that date, not all survived to middle age.

In 1841, the year before the Bell Silhouette' was created, the census records that there were 10 children living at home (Henry was born the next year). But by the time of Alice's marriage only 4 siblings were alive.

In addition to the family of 12 the Census of 1841 records that they had two live- in female servants.

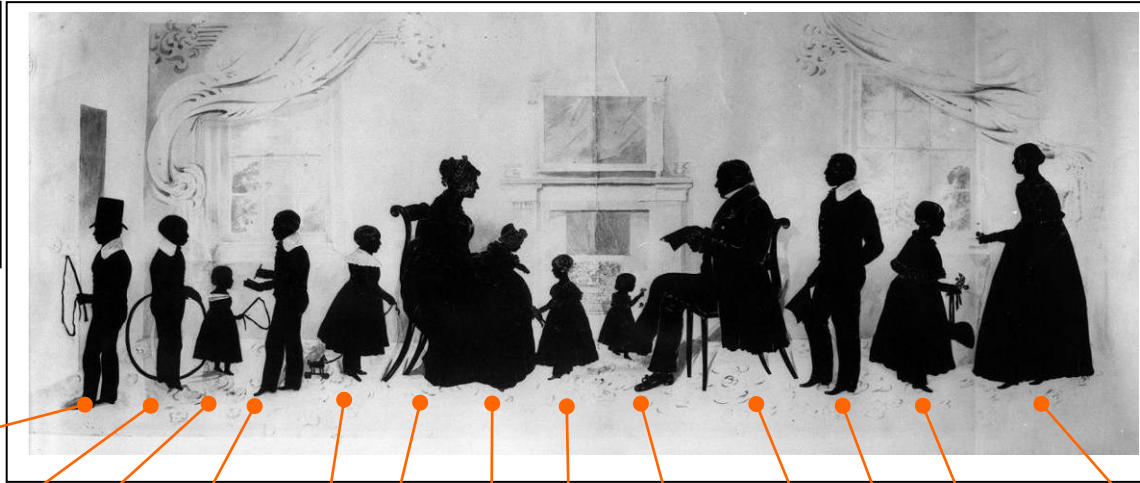
Charles Todd stayed with the Bells at this address (for at least one night) according 1851 census while working at the Observatory in Cambridge, Alice was not at home that night. (There is a census entry suggesting that she was with other scholars of a similar age in Blackheath, near Greenwich. (The reference is not definitive)).

The frequently recounted story of how Alice met Charles relate to this house.

In addition to Edward and Charlotte's immediate family there were relatives living nearby.

**[4] Silhouette of the family
of Edward Bell, Corn and
Seed Merchant of
Cambridge
Christmas 1842**

Based on list of births and deaths



James Clark
Bell
b. 3.8.1828
d. 6.8.1847
died aged 19yrs

John Gillam Bell
b. 23.5.1830
d. 1886 *3rd quarter*
died aged 56

Charles Mark
Gillam Bell
b. 28.3.1839
d. 18.6.1844
died aged 5yrs

Edward Bell
b. 5.1.1827
d. 20.3.1889
died aged 62yrs

Alfred
Gillam Bell
b.
23.12.1833
d. 2.1.1866
died aged

Henry Bell
b. 22.9.1842
d. 10.3.1843
died aged 6mths

Charlotte Bell
née Charlotte
Clark
b. 10.11.1800
d. 20.1.1875
Adelaide
died aged 74yrs

Alice Gillam Bell
b. 7.8.1836
m. Charles Todd
1855
d. 9.8.1898
died aged 62yrs

Eliza Bell
b. 1.9.1840
d. 3.8.1845
died aged 5yrs

Sarah Bell
b. 22.10.1824
m. .. Henry C. Squires
d. 10.5.1868
died aged 43yrs

Charlotte Diana Bell
b. 27.3.1832
d. 14.9.1851
died aged 19 yrs

William Bell
b. 21.2.1823
d. 19.11.1843
died aged 20yrs

Edward Bell
b. 27.2.1794
d. 10.6.1865
at St Johns Wood, London
died aged 71yrs

**[5] Births and Deaths record
dated July 1864 prepared by
Edward & Charlotte Bell**

This was pasted inside a small
family bible inherited from
Maude Masters née Bell

[Annex 1 Transcription of Birth & Death
Record](#)

Mr E Bell
July. 1864

Edward Bell born Feb. 24/1864
Charlotte Bell born Nov 10 1860

" "

William Bell son of E. & C. Bell born Feb. 21/23.
Sarah Bell " " " " born Oct. 22/24.
Edward Bell " " " " Jan. 5/27.
James Clark Bell " " " " Aug. 3/28.
John Gillam Bell " " " " May 25/30.
Charlotte Diana Bell " " " " Nov. 24/32.
Alfred Gillam Bell " " " " Dec. 23/33.
Alice Gillam Bell " " " " Aug. 4/36.
Charles Mark Gillam Bell " " " " Mar. 28/39.
Eliza Bell " " " " " " Sept. 1/40.
Henry Bell " " " " " " Sept. 22/42.

" "

Henry Bell died Mar. 10/43 Friday 6.50 morning.
William Bell died Nov. 14/43 Sunday 4.50 afternoon.
C. M. G. Bell died June 18/44 Tuesday 3.15 morning.
Eliza Bell died Aug. 3/45 Sunday 5.40 morning.
James C. Bell died Aug. 6/47 Friday 4.9 evening.
Charlotte Bell died Feb. 14/51 Sunday 3.15 morning.
Alfred G. Bell died Jan. 2/66 Tuesday 2.30 afternoon.
Sarah Squires died May 19/68 Sunday 5.20 morning.

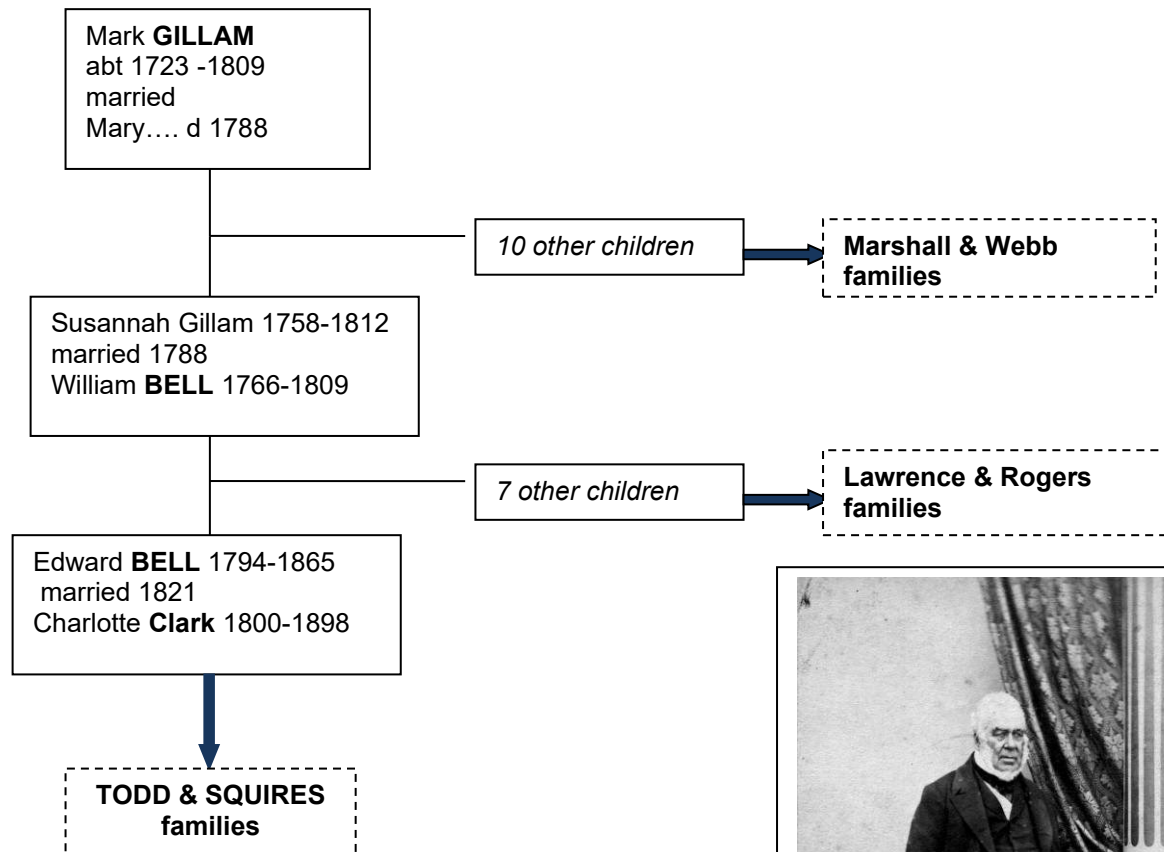
Edward Bell died at 3 Eaton Terrace, St John's
Wood London June 10/65 Saturday 4.50 after

The last date recorded is June
1868, the death of Sarah
Squires née Bell (b1824)

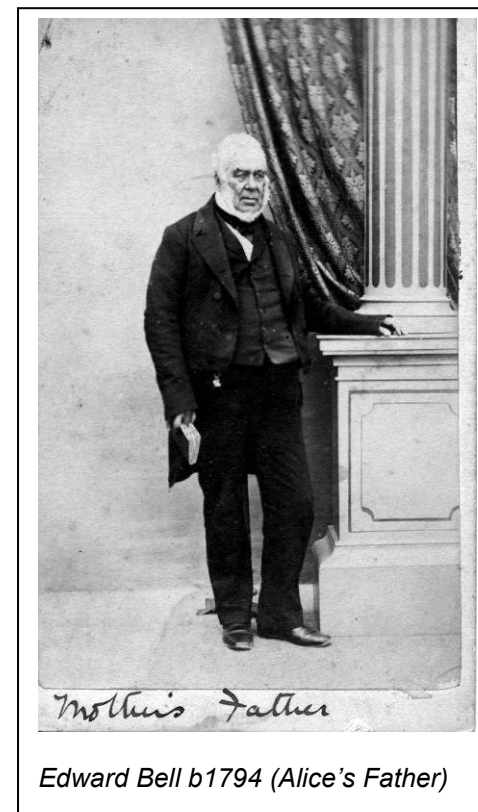
Subsequent events are:
~ Charlotte Bell née Clark died
at the Observatory in Adelaide
Jan. 20/1875
~ John Gillam Bell is
understood to have died in
Cambridge in 1886 (to be
confirmed)
~ Edward Bell (b1827) died in
Chesterton, Cambridge
March 20/1889
~ Alice Gillam Todd died at
the Observatory Aug 9/1898

Also of note (to avoid confusion):
~ Sarah Squires née Clark
(Charlotte's sister) died
Feb 10/1878

**[6] Skeleton Family Tree
indicating
Gillam, Bell & Clark
relationships**



Click on this link to [Annex 2. Family Tree of the Gillam and Bell families](#) for more detail.



[7] The siblings of Alice Gillam Todd née Bell

As shown above Alice was one of 11 children. At the time of her marriage in 1855 she had experienced the death of:

William `	aged 20
James	aged 19
Charlotte	aged 19
Charles	aged 5
Eliza	aged 5
Henry	aged 6 months

Her remaining siblings were:

~Edward born 1827 died 1889

~Sarah born 1824 who married Samuel Squires died 1868

~John Gillam born 1830 date of death 1886 *to be confirmed*. His occupation in 1861 census was: ' Merchant Clerk'

(John does not feature in any census records after 1861; note is that his uncle b1792 was also named John Gillam Bell and also described as Corn and Seed Merchant)

~Alfred born 1833 died 1866. His occupation in 1861 census was: ' Merchant Clerk'

To the editor's knowledge the only record of contact with her siblings is a [letter written by Alice to Sarah in about 1857 or 8](#). Sarah Squires her elder sister.

[8] Edward Bell (b1827) [Alice's brother]

The best documented life of Alice's siblings is that of her brother Edward. This is recorded in his published obituary.

Edward joined his father's Corn and Seed business in Cambridge.

He married Rebecca A. in the 1850s however she died abt 1863

He married Louisa Weldon Litchfield in 1865 (Her mother's name was also Louisa)

Their children were :

Flora Bell 1866 Married twice (see Flora Bell and the Tate Baby House below)

Bertrice A Bell 1868abt

Margaret Louisa Bell 1870

Mary R (Rosalind?) Clark (née Bell) 1871 (she and presumably her son Anthony Dalzell Clark are recorded as 'Bell' in the census of 1911. Rosalind Mary Clark died in 1968)

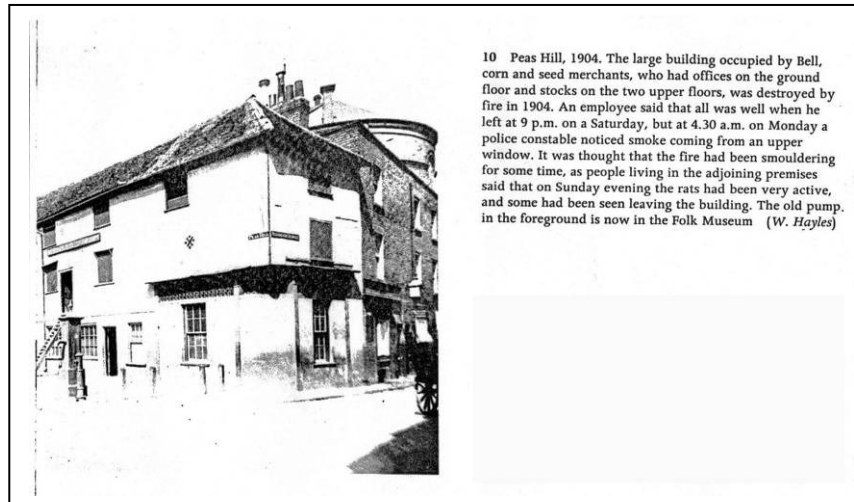
Edward Gillam Bell 1873 abt (He married Norah Emily Willson (b1881abt) in 1904 and had a son John Gillam Bell and a daughter Flora Gillam Bell who died in 1909)

In 1887 Edward Bell was elected the Mayor of Cambridge however he died in office in 1889. His [Obituary](#) and a detailed account of his [Funeral](#) were published in the Cambridge Chronicle and Cambridgeshire Weekly News and his [Will and Codicils](#) details how his estate is to be distributed. The Will and Codicils refer to James Lawrence who was a relation

[9] The Bell Corn and Seed Merchant Business.

The record in the Cambridgeshire Archive (see below) and the Obituary of Edward Bell (b1827) suggest that the Corn and Seed business was established in mid 1700 before Alice's father Edward (b1794) was born.

Corn and Seed Merchants on the corner of Peas Hill and Wheeler Street .



The Obituary of Edward (b1827) states that his 'elder' brother joined the firm before him and died in 1885. From the family records it appears that it may have been his 'younger' brother John Gillam Bell (b1830) See notes above about John as his death is not recorded in the family's list of Births and Deaths.

In the Census of 1901 Edward Gillam Bell (b1873) states his occupation to be 'Corn Merchant'

The business in Peas Hill suffered a fire in 1904 and subsequently moved to Chesterton High Street.



The following item from the Cambridgeshire Archives records the final days of the business:

Cambridgeshire Archives	
Creator_Name	Edward Bell and Son Ltd of Cambridge and Chesterton, corn and seed merchants
CalmRefNo	K650
Reference Number	650
Title	Edward Bell and Son Ltd of Cambridge and Chesterton, corn and seed merchants
Level	Collection
Date	1896-1946
Admin_History	Corn merchants of the Bell family are known to have been trading in Cambridge since the mid 18th century. The business was developed substantially under the alderman and mayor Edward Bell (1823-1889), who expanded operations from retail into wholesale. The company originally traded from no.12 Peas Hill, with additional premises off Bridge Street acquired by the 1860s. By 1912 Bell & Son had moved to premises on the north side of Chesterton High Street, and are also briefly listed as operating from Parsons Court, Wheeler Street (Kelly's Directory, 1908, 1916). Bell & Son continued trading from Chesterton until being wound up in 1980.

Editors Note: The date of Birth of Edward Bell is incorrect in the 'Admin History' above.

[10] Flora Bell born 1866 [Alice's niece] and the Tate Baby House



As the eldest daughter Flora of Edward Bell (b1827) (*Mayor of Cambridge*) and Louise Litchfield, née Weldon. Flora was born in 1866. She was given the Weldon family dolls house which by tradition was passed down from mother to daughter.

Flora married Walter Tate but sadly their daughter died and, as explained in the [V&A's Museum of Childhood article](#), the Tate Baby House, as it is now known, was loaned and later acquired by the Victoria and Albert Museum and is (periodically) on display in the Museum of Childhood at Bethnal Green in London (Adjacent to the underground station).

Flora was the niece of Alice Todd (after whom Alice is named) but was born 4 years after Alice made her return visit to England. Her grandmother Charlotte emigrated when she was a baby but it is probable that Flora met the children of Alice and Charles Todd when they visited England.

[11] Charlotte Bell née Clark (Alice's mother)

At the time of the 1861 census Sarah Squires (Alice's elder sister) and her son William Bell Squires were apparently living with Edward and Charlotte in Free School Lane. The next year Alice and 5 year old Lizzie (Charlotte) Todd visited from Adelaide, a trip that took 10 months in all.

In 1865 Charlotte's husband Edward died while in London, the following year 1866 her son Alfred Gillam Bell died and then in May 1868 her only daughter in England, Sarah Squires died leaving her with her 14 year old grandson.

Following Sarah's death Charlotte, then aged 68 and William Bell Squires emigrated to join Alice and Charles at the Observatory in Adelaide where she died in 1875. [William's life is documented with that of the Squires family, however it is worth noting that his obituary records that he and Charlotte travelled out together in about 1868]

One letter home to her sister Sarah Squires (née Clark) exists as transcript (*in the editor's archive*). From its contents the year can be determined as 1872. Charlotte enquires about her nieces and nephews and records the extreme Christmas-time heat. It also highlights the remoteness of Australia and the unreliable communications of that time [Letter from Charlotte Bell to her sister Sarah Squires](#)

Charlotte died in January 1875 and was buried in West Terrace Cemetery in Adelaide.

Photograph sought



The headstone of Charlotte Bell's grave in West Terrace, Adelaide.

Note that the infant twin daughters of Frances Ann Davies née Todd and Charles Willoughby Davies are buried in the same plot

Annex 1

Transcription of Document dated July 1864 prepared by Mr & Mrs Edward Bell

Edward Bell	<i>born</i>	24 th Feb	1794 (>1865)
Charlotte Bell	<i>born</i>	10 th Nov	1800 (>1875)

William Bell	son of E&C Bell	<i>born</i>	21 st Feb	1823 (>1843)
Sarah Bell	daughter of E&C Bell	<i>born</i>	22 nd Oct	1824 (>1868)
Edward Bell	son of E&C Bell	<i>born</i>	5 th Jan	1827 (>1889)
James Clark Bell	son of E&C Bell	<i>born</i>	3 rd Aug	1828 (>1847)
John Gillam Bell	son of E&C Bell	<i>born</i>	23 rd May	1830
Charlotte Diana Bell	daughter of E&C Bell	<i>born</i>	27 th March	1832 (>1851)
Alfred Gillam Bell	son of E&C Bell	<i>born</i>	23 rd Dec	1833 (>1866)
Alice Gillam Bell	daughter of E&C Bell	<i>born</i>	7 th Aug	1836 (>1898)
Charles Mark Gillam Bell	son of E&C Bell	<i>born</i>	28 th Mar	1839 (>1844)
Eliza Bell	daughter of E&C Bell	<i>born</i>	1 st Sept	1840 (>1845)
Henry Bell	son of E&C Bell	<i>born</i>	22 Sept	1842 (>1843)

Henry Bell	<i>died</i>	10 th Mar 1843	Friday 6.50 morning
William Bell	<i>died</i>	19 th Nov 1843	Sunday 4.50 afternoon
C.M.G Bell (<i>Charles Mark</i>)	<i>died</i>	18 th June 1844	Tuesday 3.15 morning
Eliza Bell	<i>died</i>	3 rd Aug 1845	Sunday 5.40 morning
James C. Bell	<i>died</i>	6 th Aug 1847	Friday 7.9 evening
Charlotte D. Bell	<i>died</i>	14 th Sept 1851	Sunday 3.15 morning
Alfred G Bell	<i>died</i>	2 nd Jan 1866	Tuesday 4.30 afternoon
Sarah Squires	<i>died</i>	10 th May 1868	Sunday 5.20 morning

Edward Bell (*Father*) died at 3 Eaton Terrace, St Johns Wood, London, 10th June 1865 Saturday 4.50 Afternoon.

Charlotte Bell died on 20th January 1875 at the Observatory Adelaide and is buried in West Terrace Cemetery

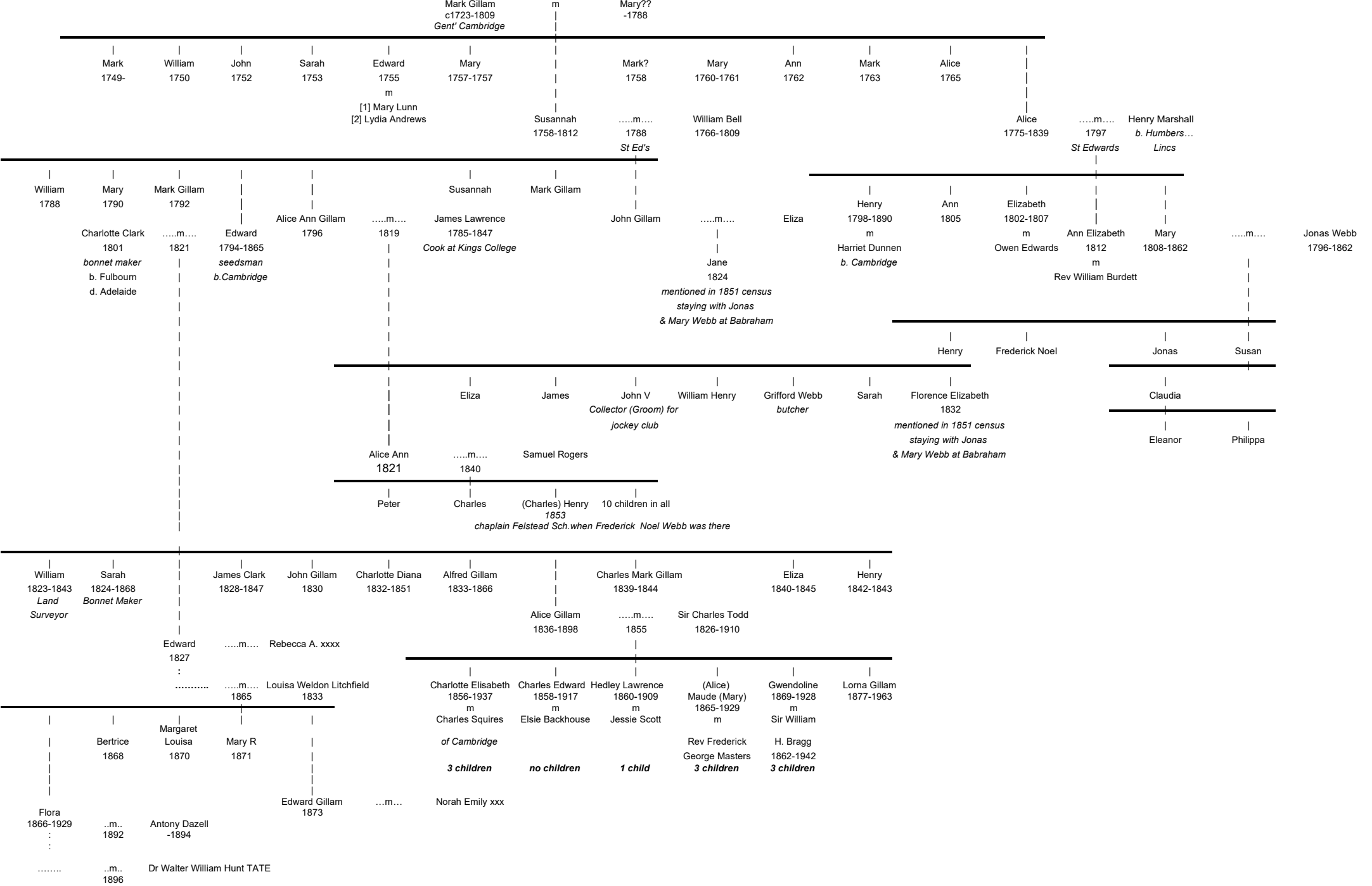
Edward Bell (*Son*) (Mayor of Cambridge) Died at Old Chesterton Wednesday evening 20th March 1889 (*from obituary in Cambridge Chronicle*)

John Gillam Bell born in 1830 is not recorded in the UK census of 1871 or 1881 however there is a death record in 1886 that matches (*to be confirmed*).

[Note that John's paternal uncle John Gillam Bell was born in abt. 1792 and died in 1863 (*to be confirmed*). He described himself as a Corn and Seed Merchant and held a joint lease for a building known as Purgolds in Peas Hill with a cheesemonger].

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Annex 2 Gillam and Bell Family Tree



Annex 3
Letter from ALICE GILLAM TODD née BELL to her sister Sarah Squires (b.1824-d.1868)

Undated, but from content : 1857/8

Location of the original letter is not known; this is a retyped copy of the transcription made by Frank Carr (family historian and former Director of the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich) in 1963

Adelaide

My very dear Sister,

The Mail leaves tomorrow and I am hurrying to get a letter written to send as I know you all like to hear from us as often as you can. Caroline is very anxious that I should say a deal about our girl. She grows a great old fat thing & when I call her so she says "No not Mamma." "No not Mamma". She is a fair pretty pet and has such a pair of legs. She is quite her Nanny's girl, & I sometimes think that she loves her Nanny more than her Mamma – but it is a very good thing for it relieves me very much. I scarcely know I have a dear Child. She is such a comfort to me, I often go out the whole day and leave the little creature. Baby has taken such a fancy to the Book "Peter Parley's Tales about Animals"- she looks for the pictures - she knows the Bear Horse, Puppy, Ants, Cuckoo, finds them for me and calls them all by name, that book amuses her for an hour. She is very fond of the portrait of dear Grandma, yourself and the two dear children. She says Mamma, Sally, Billy, dear Sally and at night Caroline has to sing about Sally & Billy- she cannot say William.

About 3 wks since the Darling was vaccinated and Oh what a good girl she was. She had a dreadful arm but yet a very healthy one and instead of scratching it when irritable would come to myself or Caroline and point to her little arm & say "Some Some" which meant that she wanted us to put some oil on to allay the irritation, she did not scratch herself at all. She is such a healthy little pet. She cut 2 teeth at the same time. The arm is now nearly well. She is a healthy little pet. When her arm was being done, she neither cried or flinched and the Doctor said she was such a sweet girl d he must give her a flower. Her Papa took her into the garden this morning, and noticing the unripe fruit laying under the trees, he said, "Oh what a pity" so Baby came in and said "Mamma pity" & pointed to the trees. Every Sunday morning we get up early and I help Caroline as much as possible, send the dinner to the Bake-House and we all get off to Chapel by 10 o'clock. I generally make my bed and wash up the breakfast things and get the Child ready and myself whilst Caroline sends off the dinner, tidied the rooms, and her kitchen, for we never leave anything to be done when we return with us the Sunday is a day of rest. Caroline enjoys going to a Chapel near us, the ministers are good, plain men and she seems to understand everything they say. The tears stood in her eyes one Sunday when she said to me "Oh I do like that gentleman he preaches so that it seems really to cut my feelings." I think there is something good in Caroline, we are all very fond of her, and she is a general favourite. Her dear girl always goes with her and there is always a long tale from Caroline of what a beauty she has been and what a good girl too. She never speaks a word, but sits as still as a mouse – everyone notices because she is so good. When I say to her on Sunday morning "Now my Darling you must not be in the Bath long because you are going to church and I must make haste, & what do you do at church" she begins to sing and "Huth Huth" – i.e. she must be quiet. One day we said to her "What does the gentleman say, Charlotte" – "O Lord Amen." Oh how we did laugh because we had never heard her say so before. On Sunday afternoon when fine we generally sit and read in our lovely garden. I wish my very dear sister you should see us all, and bring your precious children to play in the garden with my dear girl, but yet my dear sister neither Mr Todd or myself would like you to come out here. I do not like the place myself at all and I should not be happy if I thought we should always be here. I would rather

have 300£ a year in England than 800£ here. I have xx a few very dear friends here whom I love very much but the society here is so stuck-up. They think of nothing but dress and going bout and giving parties. They dress here very extravagantly - nothing is too grand & really going out is very expensive work. I love the dear quiet life of old Cambridge much better than the one I am now leading – don't mistake me and imagine I am not happy and comfortable. – I like my Australian life in every particular but the parties – and you know that I don't care in the least for gaiety and much prefer being at home than going to these grand affairs at Government House. Yet I must be just and say that it is a great compliment paid to us to be invited to the "At Homes" which certainly are most agreeable sociable parties. There is a large suite of rooms, opening the one into the other. 1st there is the card room, where you may see old gentlemen very busy playing. Then the drawing room, in which are placed books with illustrations, chess tables, and everything to interest visitors. Next comes the ante room, splendidly furnished, chairs all round & in the middle a splendid ottoman piled up with lovely cushions. The billiard room. Then the tea room, where you can procure the whole evening a nice cup of coffee or tea & hot rolls. And last though not least comes the immense dancing room. 50ft. long & 36 wide. A brass band is playing in that room all the evening. The rooms upstairs in which ladies take off their cloaks are comfortably furnished with fires, 2 or three ladies-maids are always in waiting to assist in taking off the things and arranging your dress. It is a splendid House and everything is done in the first style. I must tell our mother about the dining room. And now my very dear sister accept very much love from one who does not forget the loved ones at home and often wishes she were with them.

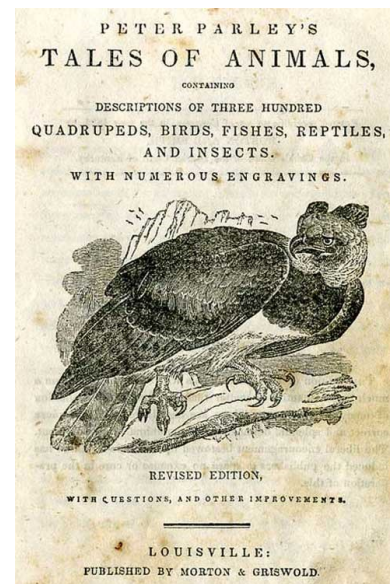
Alice G. Todd

Give my very kind love to dear Alice & lots of kisses for herself and her precious brother

Editors notes:

[1] Charlotte (Lizzie) was born 12th March 1856

[2] The Book referred to is :



[3] Sarah's daughter Alice, mentioned at the end of the letter, was born in 1851

[4] The 'Precious brother' was William Bell Squires b.1855. He emigrated to Australia and worked for Charles Todd at the Observatory in Adelaide

[5] Sarah Bell was married to Samuel Squires (b 1819 at St Albans d 1888) he was a 'Chemist and Druggist' (They were first cousins).

[6] The census taken on 7th April 1861 records Sarah and children Alice and William staying with Edward and Charlotte Bell in Cambridge

[7] The Governor's House 1845 from Views of Old Adelaide. (Note the Emu on the lawn!)



Letter retyped with additional notes by Stephen Gillam-Smith in May 2018

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Annex 4
Obituary and Funeral of Edward Bell

Alderman Edward BELL JP (1827-1889) *[Alice's brother]*

Newspaper Cutting (Cambridge Chronicle) 22/3/1889:

'DEATH OF THE MAYOR OF CAMBRIDGE.

It is with the profoundest regret that we announce the death of Mr Ald. Edward Bell, the Mayor of Cambridge, who expired at his residence at Old Chesterton, on Wednesday evening. As we have previously stated, the deceased gentleman had been in ill-health for a considerable time past, and the sad event was by no means unexpected. He had been attended by Dr. Bradbury since the beginning of December last, though, since that time, he has been able to attend to the duties connected with his municipal office as well as his business. In the month of January he appeared to be improving in health, but another change in his condition soon occurred, and since the first of February he has been confined to his house, while he has not been able to leave his bed since last Monday week. He received continual medical attention subsequent to that, but it soon became known that he was never likely to leave his house again, and, between nine and ten on Wednesday evening, he passed away, peacefully and painlessly, in the presence of his family - Mrs Bell, her son and four daughters.

Mr Bell was 62 years of age, having been born in Cambridge in the month of January, 1827. He may be said to have commenced his business career at the age of twelve, and all through that career he has displayed those qualities of tact, energy, and perseverance which have justly earned for him the position of a successful merchant, besides making him thoroughly popular and respected among a wide circle both in his native town and the county in which it is situate; Mr Bell seized every opportunity for self-advancement and self-improvement during his life, and he applied himself with great zeal and determination to the development of the corn merchant's and maltster's business with which his lineal predecessors had been connected during upwards of 150 years. The deceased gentleman joined his father as a partner in that business, on Peas Hill, in 1847, at which time it was not nearly as extensive as at the present, being principally confined to retail trade. Shortly after this the wholesale branch was added and Mr Bell and his father attended markets in the metropolis as well as in this district - notably those of Cambridge and St. Ives. This branch continued to prosper under dual management until 1885, when the elder partner died. This did not, however, affect the prosperity of the business, for Mr Edward Bell continued to conduct it upon the lines previously laid down, and which had been proved, by experience, to be the best. But Mr Bell's energies were not confined to commercial avocations. For twenty years he represented the Market Ward in the Town Council, and, during the last seven or eight years, he held the position of an Alderman. As Mayor of the Borough, to which office he was elected in November 1887, and which he held till the time of his death, he was, as in other capacities, very successful, being greatly respected by his fellow-townsmen as Chief Magistrate of Cambridge. Besides being punctual in his attendance at the meetings of the Council and the Bench, he was always ready and willing to lend his aid both by his patronage and presence to any institution which he considered to be beneficial to his native town or the community at large. Though having his business in the borough, his residence was at Chesterton; and the ratepayers of this parish he represented on the Local Board, every year, with the exception of one since its formation, and occupied the presidential chair of that body for five years. Besides holding these offices, he was a Conservator of the Cam, an Income Tax Commissioner, and a Trustee of all the Town Charities which are connected with the Corporation.

Such an event as the decease of a Mayor while in office has not, we believe, within present memory occurred; and, according to the Municipal Corporations Act of 1882, the appointment of the Deputy-Mayor in such a case lapses, and the succeeding Mayor must be appointed at a meeting of the Town Council held within 14 days after formal notice has been received from burgesses by the Town Clerk.

At the meeting of the Town Council, at which Mr Bell was re-elected on the 9th of November last, Mr Wace, in proposing the resolution, said that during the past year he had perhaps more opportunity than any other member of the Council of seeing how carefully Mr Bell had discharged the duties of the Mayoralty. Mr Bell was always anxious that the dignity of the office should not suffer while he held it, and he knew how willing that gentleman had been to ask the advice of his friends whenever any case of doubt or difficulty arose, and how willing he had shown himself to take the advice which was given to him. When elected last year, Mr Bell had

had no experience of the office, but he (Mr Wace) thought that from what the members of the Council had seen of him during the past year, the out-going Mayor had more than justified the good opinions of his friends who appointed him. while the experience he had gained would be of great assistance to him in the performance of his duties during another year of office. Mr Aid. Lyon, in seconding the motion, said he thought Mr Bell had given great satisfaction, generally by the efficient way in which he had acted as Mayor during the past year, and he (Mr Lyon) was sure that the outgoing Mayor was deeply interested in the welfare and prosperity of his native town. He hoped that that gentleman would again accept the office, and that no opposition would be offered to his appointment, for he was sure the townsmen were much indebted to Mr Bell for the services he had rendered to the borough, as that gentleman was anxious to increase the trade of the borough, and to benefit it in any way in which he could.

Public References To The Death.

As a tribute of respect to the memory of the deceased gentleman, the flags on the Guildhall and the church of St. Mary the Great were yesterday and are today floated half-mast high. At the Borough Police Court, yesterday morning, the Chairman (Mr Charles Balls) said, inasmuch as he occupied the chair that morning, it was his painful duty to announce the decease of the respected Mayor of the Borough. He believed the case was very rare, it certainly had not occurred during the present century, that a Mayor of Cambridge had died during his year of office. That was a very striking incident. Mr Bell had been a most kind-hearted, generous, and, he thought, honest man. He had held the office of Mayor for one year with such satisfaction to his fellow-townsmen that he was re-elected, and, now, he was struck down by the hand of death. He (Mr Balls) was sure he was expressing the feelings of his fellow-townsmen when he said how deeply he regretted the loss of one of the most respected inhabitants of the town. At the meeting of the County Council, yesterday afternoon, too, the Chairman (Mr Arthur Sperling) spoke of the sorrow with which all must have heard of the death of Mr Bell, and proposed a vote of condolence with the deceased gentleman's family, to which the members of the Council instantly agreed. Reference to the death of the Mayor was also made at the annual meeting of the Cambs. Permanent Benefit Building Society, last night, and a vote of sympathy with the deceased gentleman's family was passed.

The Funeral.

The interment will take place on Monday next, at 2.30 p.m., in Old Chesterton Churchyard; and of course it will be attended by members and officers of the Corporation, the Improvement Commissioners, and representatives of public bodies in Cambridge and Chesterton. Directions have been given for the tolling of Great Saint Mary's (Cambridge) bell, and for a dumb peal in the evening; and it is suggested to the inhabitants that, during the funeral, they should have shop-shutters raised, blinds drawn, and other marks of respect offered.

Any further particulars which may be desired will be obtained on application to Messrs. W.E. Lilley and Co., of Market Street, who will be the undertakers.'

Newspaper Cutting (Cambridgeshire Weekly News) 23/3/1889: THE LATE ALDERMAN

EDWARD BELL, MAYOR OF CAMBRIDGE.

After lingering between life and death for many weeks, during which period it has frequently been reported that his worship's illness had terminated fatally, it is now our painful duty to record the fact that such is indeed the case at last. The melancholy event occurred on Wednesday evening, at a quarter past nine o'clock, in the presence of his wife and family. Alderman Bell's health has been of anything but a satisfactory character since October last and he has been compelled to husband his strength as much as possible. Notwithstanding his efforts to combat the illness, which was slowly but surely developing, Mr Bell was obliged a few weeks since to leave his desk, and has been confined to his house for some weeks, during which his complaints gradually assumed more serious phases, and gave rise to considerable anxiety to his relatives and friends. As far back as the beginning of December Mr Bell considered it necessary to seek medical advice, and Dr. Bradbury was according called in. From that time Mr Bell gradually became worse, although (as an instance of his perseverance) we may state that he had attended the borough bench and other municipal duties since that time. During the last fortnight he had been confined to his bed, and was at times unconscious; indeed we are assured that he has hardly uttered a word since Monday last. The exact nature of the disease to which Mr Bell has succumbed has not been conveyed to us, but we understand that it

really consisted of a combination of ailments including disease of the kidneys and an affection of the heart. It is stated, as perhaps an interesting fact, that no mayor of Cambridge in the present century has died during his term of office. Nothing definite has at the time of writing been fixed with reference to the funeral arrangements. **Mr Bell has left a widow, four daughters and one son.**

The following biographical sketch of the deceased gentleman appeared in the **Cambridgeshire Weekly News for February 8th**: -

In commencing our series of portraits of local personages, we have considered it eminently fitting that Alderman Edward Bell, the present chief magistrate of the town we live in, justly claimed priority of position. Accordingly, we herewith present an excellent likeness of his worship from a photograph by Messrs. Scott and Wilkinson, of Cambridge. It will probably be assumed, from the portrait, that Mr Bell has those "grey hairs" which "are honourable;" and such is indeed the case, for he was born in January, 1827, and is therefore 62 years of age this year. A well-known writer has said that "every man is the architect of his own fortune," and Mr Bell may be numbered amongst those who have recognised and acted up to the spirit of the truism, for from a very early age he has been a plodding, persevering, hard-working man, and his present position as a successful merchant, and his undoubted popularity amongst not only his fellow-townsmen, but also amongst a large circle of friends, throughout the county, may justly be attributed to a general recognition of those sterling qualities which he has consistently exhibited throughout a business career which really commenced when he was only twelve years old. Mr Bell was born in Cambridge, in which town he has spent the whole of his days. He can boast of no great academical distinctions, for he left school many years before our present great system of national education, and the many other "higher grade" educational agencies which have sprung up of late years, were probably even dreamed of. He did not, however, fail to improve all suitable opportunities of self-advancement after he had entered the world's stage, and appears early to have recognised that industry was one of the conditions of industrial success, by applying himself zealously to the development of the corn and seed merchant and maltster's business on Peas-hill, which has now been established upwards of 150 years, during the whole of which long period members of Mr Bell's family have been identified with its fortunes. Mr Bell's father carried on the business as "Edward Bell and Son," but his brother had preceded him in the business, and the present head of the firm joined it in a subordinate capacity, on leaving school some fifty years ago. He joined his father in partnership in 1847, when the business was of much less magnitude than at present. They then embarked upon an extensive wholesale business, and attended all the county and metropolitan markets, thereby obtaining a greatly-extended circle of clients. This partnership existed until 1885, when the elder partner died, but the business has continued to be a successful one nevertheless, as its present head has carried it on upon the methods which had been adopted long since, which ripened experience had confirmed as the most approved. Mr Bell also early took great personal interest in the affairs of his native town, and his municipal life has been a long one. He has been a member of the Corporation, representing Market Ward, in which his business is situated, for about twenty years, of which period he has been an alderman for seven or eight years. Amongst other public offices at present held by him are those of a conservator of the Cam, a member of the Chesterton Local Board (since its formation, with the exception of one year, and chairman five or six years), an income tax commissioner, a trustee of all the town charities which are connected with the Corporation, and a borough and county magistrate. He is also mayor of his native town again this year, having been unanimously re-elected last November. Mr Bell has during his mayoralty been a punctual and regular attendant upon the Bench daily, and has in every way in his power endeavoured to promote the welfare of the various institutions of the town by granting his patronage or presence to all deserving objects. His extensive business connection has made him well known amongst farmers and others in the county, and he is by no means the least conspicuous figure at St. Ives market, or at the Corn Exchange, Cambridge, on Saturdays.

REFERENCE At The CAMBRIDGE BOROUGH POLICE COURT.

Previous to the commencement of the business of the Court on Thursday, Mr C. Balls said inasmuch as he occupied the chair that morning it was his painful duty to announce the decease of their respected mayor. He believed the case was very rare, certainly it had not occurred during the present century that a mayor of Cambridge had died during his year of office. That was a very striking incident. With reference to their late mayor, he was a most kind-hearted, generous, and he though honest man. He had held the office of mayor for one year, and had done so with such satisfaction to his fellow-townsmen that he was re-elected, and now he was struck down by the hand of death. He (Mr Balls) was sure he was expressing the feelings of his fellow-townsmen when he said how deeply he regretted the loss of one of the most respected inhabitants of the town.

THE COUNTY COUNCIL AND THE MAYOR.

The Chairman, before proceeding to the business upon the agenda at the County Council on Thursday, remarked that as a matter of respect to the memory of the mayor of Cambridge, that the County Council should express its sympathy and condolence with the town. They all knew how much respected the mayor was, and

how suddenly he had been called away, so far as that council was concerned. He thought it was only due to the mayor's friends and to the corporation that they should express their sympathy with them in their present misfortune. He should also like to add the thanks of the council for the use of the chamber, in which they were at present meeting. He was sure that the council would agree to both suggestions he had made.

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FUNERAL CEREMONY

Newspaper Cutting (Cambridge Chronicle) 29/3/1889:

THE LATE MAYOR OF CAMBRIDGE. FUNERAL CEREMONY AT CHESTERTON.

The body of the late Mayor of Cambridge, Mr Alderman Edward Bell, who died at his residence, at Chesterton, on Wednesday week, after a protracted illness, was interred in the churchyard of Old Chesterton, with due civic honours and ceremony, and amid the outward expressions of deep regret of all in Cambridge and the neighbourhood. In Cambridge and Chesterton the public offices were closed in the afternoon, and the shutters of business places were put up during the ceremony, while in many of the private houses the blinds were drawn. From the tower of St. Mary's a muffled peal was rung during the time of the funeral, and again in the evening. The weather was fine and spring-like. The hour fixed for the funeral was half past two. Before that time, however, the chief mourners, the members of the Corporation and other public bodies, and all who had been invited to attend, assembled at the house, while in and around the churchyard the general public thronged in hundreds. Along the approaches from every hand to the place of burial, those anxious to be present streamed for over an hour before the ceremony took place, and by half past two, probably four or five thousand persons had gathered together. The sight was a unique one in Chesterton churchyard, and will be remembered in the history of the parish. The crowd patiently awaited the appearance of the funeral cortege, and looked on with respectful interest as it emerged from the house.

THE ORDER OF PROCESSION

was as follows: -

Churchwardens.

Mr A.T. Cross and Mr D. Bland.

Choir.

Rev. S.E. Perry, Archdeacon Emery and Rev. H.C. Craddock.

Town Crier.

Chief Mace Bearer.

Two Mace Bearers. Two Mace Bearers.

Mr Charles Stretton, Chief Constable of the County, and Mr W.E. Lilley.

Bearers. BODY. Bearers.

Chief Mourners:

Mrs Bell, Mr G. Bell/Miss Bell, Miss B. Bell, Miss M. Bell, Miss R. Bell, James Lawrence, Esq., Rev. A. Roberts, Mr H. Roberts, Miss Webster, Mr and Mrs E. Headly, Mr Squires, Mr Watney, Mr Todd, Mr H.F. Baxter, Mr Rose, Mr LARBALSTIER, M.A., Corpus Christi, Mr J.H. Robinson, Mr F.W. Kett, Mr W. Robinson, Mr Williams and Mr Owen.

Members Of Corporation:

Aldermen Death, Lyon, Deck, Reed, Cooke, Redfarn and Ellis;

Officers:

Mr J.E.L. Whitehead, Town Clerk; Mr G.W. Fitch, Clerk of the Peace; Mr H.J. Whitehead, Borough Treasurer, and Mr H. Gotobed, the Coroner.

Bailiffs:

Mr Clayton, Mr H.T. Hall, Mr Spalding and Mr Cunningham;

Councillors:

Messrs. Leonard, Nichols, Rutter, Moden, Flack, Lee, W. Bell, Bullock, Kett, Banham, E.G. Young, Purchas, Wace, Campkin, Rae, Taylor, Morley, Whitmore, Wootten, Geldard and Lieut.-Colonel Hamilton.

The Borough Organist (Mr F. Dewberry); the Borough Auditor (Mr Jas. Catling); and the Borough Analyst (Mr 3. West Knights.)

The Borough Magistrates:

Messrs. Dennis Adams, G. Ainslie, C.J. Clay, C.F. Foster, Dr. Fawcett, and J.Bennett, clerk.

Mr E.H. Parker, County Treasurer.

Chesterton Local Board:

Messrs. John Bester (chairman), Dr. Ransom, and Messrs. Jack French, Jas. Foster, J.M. Logan, Thos. Wright, M.I. Whibley.

Members Of The University:

The Right Worshipful the Vice-Chancellor (the Rev. Dr. Searle), the Master of St. John's (the Rev. Dr. Taylor), the Master of Corpus (the Rev. Dr. Perowne), the Master of Peterhouse (the Rev. Dr. Porter), the Master of Jesus (the Rev. Dr. Morgan), and the Rev. Prof. G.F. Browne.

Servants Of The Corporation:

Messrs. J. Jacobs, Guildhall keeper; H. List, Inspector of weights and measures; C.H. Ellis, collector of market tolls; J.R. Maze, collector of Corn Exchange dues; J. Pearce, pindar; H.J. Phillips, F.B. Reeve, school attendance officer.
Chief Inspector Turrell and other members of the Borough Police Force.

Amongst others who attended the ceremony were: - Messrs. G. Fulsher, member of the Cambridge Board of Guardians and Improvement Commissioners; B. Gibson, Governor of the Gaol; W.P.I. Rowton; J. Todd; R.C. Burrows, solicitor; F. Waters; and W.R. Bright, station-master.

The coffin, which was made of polished oak with brass fittings, bore the following simple inscription

Edward Bell,

Born 1827,

Died 1888,

Aged 62,

and was thickly covered with wreaths, which were surmounted by one of particular elegance and size, given by members of the family. The wreaths were mostly composed of roses, camellias, lilies, and sprigs of maidenhair fern. In front of the coffin was borne a large and beautiful floral cross, sent by Mr Felton, made up of the same kind of material. Among others who sent the wreaths, and besides the Corporation, the Corporation officers, and Chesterton Local Board, were: Mrs Bell, Chesterton; Miss Bell, do.; Miss B. Bell, do.; Miss M. Bell, do.; Miss R. Bell, do.; Mr G. Bell, do.; Mrs T. Bell, Liverpool; Mr Francis Bell, Liverpool; Miss Rose Brown, Croydon; Mr Charrington, St. Ives; Mrs Dyson, Milton Road; Mr Felton, Chesterton; Col. G. Hall, Ely; Mr and Mrs A. Jones, Trumpington House; Mr and Mrs G. Kett, the Avenue; Mr and Mrs Lynch, Botanical Gardens; Mr Lawrence, King's Lane; Mr and Mrs May, Chesterton; Mr and Mrs Macintosh, the Avenue; Mr S.M. Musehudin, Trinity College; Mrs Nayler, the Avenue; Rev. and Mrs Perry, Chesterton; Nurse Pattison, Mrs S. Rogers, Newmarket; Mr F. Rose, London; Mr Rippmann, Caius College; Mr H.S. Roberts, West Hampstead; Mr and Mrs Squires, Cherryhinton Road; Mr and Mrs Twigg, Liverpool; Mrs Topham, South Hampstead; Mr Nizam Udden Ahmed, Trinity College; Miss Webster, King's Lane; Mr Ward, Miss Wisbey, Cambridge; and Rev. and Mrs Headly Willson, Cherryhinton.

When the cortege had crossed the road from the house the choristers (wearing surplices) along with the clergy - Archdeacon Emery, the Rev. S.E. Perry (the vicar), and the Rev. H.C. Craddock (the curate) - joined and preceded it to the Church. As it moved slowly up the walk, which was lined on both sides by many of the general public, it was a peculiarly picturesque procession, notwithstanding the melancholy reason of its existence. The deep sombre colour of the apparel worn by the mourners and most of the others was relieved not loudly but impressively by the scarlet coat of the Town Crier, who bore the insignia of office, the drab and red robes of the mace-bearers, who each carried a draped mace in his hands, the scarlet robes of the Aldermen, who followed, and the rich varied colours of the wreaths. The church being reached, the coffin was placed on the bier at the entrance to the chancel, and the first part of the burial service was gone through. The Psalms were read by the Rev. H.C. Craddock, and the lesson by Archdeacon Emery, after which the Hymn, commencing: -

"On the Resurrection morning Soul and body meet again,"

was sung, the congregation, which completely filled the large edifice, joining in. Mr H.E. Negus presided at the organ.

At the conclusion of the service in the church, the cortege filed out in the order in which it entered, and marched slowly to the grave, at the south west corner of the churchyard, and there the closing part of the solemn ceremony was conducted, in presence of thousands who had gathered inside and outside the walls, to pay a last tribute to the memory of the late chief magistrate. At the grave the Rev. S.E. Perry officiated, and the hymn beginning -

"Jesus lives! Thy terrors now Can no longer, Death, appal us,"

was sung by the choir. The coffin having been placed in the grave (which was built by Mr Frost, Chesterton, and was walled with brick and lined with choice flowers and grasses), the mourners, preceded by the mace-bearers and the undertakers, slowly retraced their steps to the house. Many of the public loitered about the place for a considerable time to view the coffin as it lay in the grave. Throughout, the people assembled behaved in a most exemplary and respectful manner, and Mr Stretton, Chief Constable of the County, and Supt. Whitechurch, had no occasion to call upon the small body of men that had there to preserve order.

The undertakers were Messrs. W. Eaden Lilley and Company, Market Street, Cambridge, whose arrangements were so well made and calculated that everything was done in a most quiet, unostentatious and becoming manner.

References In Church.

At the church of Great St. Mary's, at the conclusion of the University service, Dr. Garrett, organist to the University, played the "Dead March in Saul," the whole congregation standing with heads bowed; and at St. Edward's, on Sunday evening, funeral hymns were sung, and the "Dead March in Saul" was played on the organ. The "Dead March in Saul" was played at St. Matthew's Church, on Sunday evening, the congregation remaining standing meanwhile.

On Sunday, the members of the Corporation will attend St. Edward's Church, where a funeral sermon will be preached.'

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Annex 5
Will and Codicil of Edward Bell *[Alice's brother]*

Edward Bell's Will:

This is the last Will and Testament of me Edward Bell of Chesterton in the County of Cambridge Merchant I appoint James Lawrence of the Borough of Cambridge *College* Cook Henry John Matthew of Chesterton aforesaid Srocer and my Wife Louisa Welldon Sell Trustees and Executors of this my Will And I bequeath to each of them the said James Lawrence and Henry John Matthew a legacy of Fifty pounds as an acknowledgment of the trouble they will have in the execution of my Will I devise the Messuage or dwelling-house with the buildings gardens and the actual and reputed appurtenances belonging thereto situate at Chesterton aforesaid now in my occupation to my said Wife Louisa Welldon Bell so long as she shall continue my Widow she keeping the same insured against loss by fire to the full value thereof and also keeping the same in good repair and condition (reasonable wear and tear excepted And from and after her death or remarriage I devise the said Messuage or dwelling-house with the buildings gardens and appurtenances belonging thereto To the use of my Son Edward Gillam Bell his heirs and assigns for ever but in case my said Son Edward Gillam Bell shall die under the age of twenty one years then I direct that the said Messuage or dwelling house and premises shall from and after the death or remarriage of my said Wife fall into and form part of my residuary estate I bequeath all the household furniture plate and plated articles jewellery linen glass china pictures prints musical instruments books and other articles of household use or ornament horses carriages saddlery harness and stable furniture tools implements and utensils and wines liquors and household stores and provisions which shall be in or about my said dwelling-house or the stables Coach-houses outbuildings and gardens belonging thereto to my said Wife Louisa Welldon Bell absolutely I devise all the residue of the real estate (except Copyhold or Customary estates) but including Leasehold estates and chattels real and bequeath all the residue of the personal estate of or to which I shall be seised possessed or entitled at my *decease* or over which I shall at that time have any disposing power unto and to the use of the said James Lawrence Henry John Matthew and Louisa Welldon Bell their heirs executors administrators and assigns respectively Upon the trusts hereinafter declared concerning the same respectively And I devise my Copyhold and Customary estates To the use of the said Henry John Matthew his heirs and assigns upon the trusts hereinafter declared concerning the same And I declare that the said James Lawrance Henry John Matthew and Louisa Welldon Bell and the survivors and survivor of them and the heirs executors administrators and assigns respectively of such survivor shall hold my said residuary real and personal estate (including my Copyhold and Customary estates) Upon trust in their his or her discretion so long as my said Wife shall continue my Widow and any child of mine shall be under the age of twenty one years to carry on my business as a Merchant at Cambridge aforesaid or any other business carried on by me at my decease and to employ therein for that purpose such part of my real and personal estate as shall constitute the capital employed therein at my decease with any additional capital which my Trustees shall think requisite with full discretionary powers as to insurance purchase of stock employment of Clerks servants and Labourers and their salaries powers and authorities and the extent of personal superintendence to be exercised by my said Trustees or Trustee And at the discretion of my said Trustees or Trustee to accept a fresh Lease or fresh Leases of any business premises I may occupy at my decease or to hire on Lease any other business premises for such term or terms as they he or she shall think expedient and generally to act in the management of such business and to use my real and personal property therein as if they he or she were the absolute owners thereof And subject to the trusts aforesaid Upon rust in the discretion of my said Trustees or Trustee to sell my said residuary real estate (including my said Copyhold and Customary estates) by public sale or private contract and either together or in parcels and to sell convert and get in such residuary personal estate and do such assurances and acts as may be desirable or necessary for carrying any and every such sale into *effect* And upon further trust to invest the moneys arising under the trust last aforesaid in the names of my said Trustees or Trustee in or upon the public stocks funds or securities of the United Kingdom or on Mortgage of any real or leasehold securities in England or Wales and vary the investments from time to time for any others of the like nature And upon further trust to pay unto or permit my said Wife to receive the yearly produce of the trust fund constituted of such moneys or of the stocks funds or securities whereon the same shall be invested and the profits and income of my said business during the time the same may be carried on as aforesaid so long as she shall continue my Widow But if my said Wife shall marry again whilst any child of mine shall be under the age of twenty one years then Upon trust to pay her my said Wife out of the income of the said trust fund and the profits and income of my said business during the time the same may be carried on as aforesaid the sum of One hundred and fifty pounds per annum by equal half yearly payments until

my youngest child shall attain the age of twenty one years such sum to be paid to my said Wife for her separate use independently of any and every husband with whom she may intermarry and without power of anticipation and her receipts alone shall be good discharges for the same And from and after the death of my said Wife or her remarriage and the attaining by my youngest child of the age of twenty one years then as to the said trust premises and the interest and income thereof In trust for all my children who shall attain the age of twenty one years in equal shares and the issue of such of them as shall be then dead leaving issue such issue nevertheless to take between or among them the share or shares his her or their parent or parents would have taken if living Provided always and I hereby declare that my said Trustees or Trustee may after the death or marriage of my said Wife or previously thereto or if she shall So direct in writing raise any part or parts not exceeding one half of the then expectant presumptive or vested share or fortune of any child under the trusts hereinbefore declared and apply the same for his or her advancement or benefit I empower my Trustees notwithstanding the trusts for sale hereinbefore contained to postpone for such period as they may deem advisable the sale of all or any of the Policies of Assurance on lives which may belong to me at my death and to pay the premiums on such Policies respectively out of the annual income of my residuary estate and to receive in cash the bonuses already accrued or hereafter to accrue thereon respectively which when received shall be held and disposed of as part of the corpus of the moneys to arise from the sale of my residuary estate under the trust for sale thereof hereinbefore contained or to surrender such bonuses as aforesaid respectively in consideration of a proportionate decrease in the said annual premiums respectively and in case of a sale or disposition of the said Policies to sell or dispose of the same respectively either by way of surrender to the Office in consideration of a gross sum of money or in the manner hereinbefore directed concerning the sale of my residuary estate And I hereby declare that the receipt of the Trustees or Trustee for the time being acting in the execution of any of the trusts hereof for the purchase money of property sold or for any moneys funds or securities paid or transferred to them or him in pursuance hereof or of any of the trusts hereof shall effectually discharge the purchaser or purchasers or other the person or persons paying or transferring the same there from and from being concerned to see to the application thereof And I hereby declare that the power of appointing a new Trustee or Trustees of this my Will shall be exercisable by my said Wife during her Widowhood and after her death or remarriage by the surviving or continuing Trustees or Trustee for the time being or the acting executors or executor administrators or administrator of the last surviving and continuing Trustee or by the last retiring Trustees or Trustee and upon any such appointment the number of Trustees may be augmented or reduced I devise all estates vested in me Upon trust or by way of mortgage unto the said James Lawrence Henry John Matthew and Louisa Weldon Bell their heirs and assigns Upon the trusts and subject to the equities affecting the same respectively Lastly I revoke all former Wills In witness whereof I the said Edward Bell have to this my Will contained in five sheets of paper set my hand this sixteenth day of January One thousand eight hundred and seventy eight.

Signed by the said Edward Bell as and for his last Will

and Testament in the Ed. Bell presence of us present at

the same time who at his request

in his presence and in the presence of each other have

hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses.

J. Eaden Solr. Cambridge William Rowton

Ironmonger, Cambridge

Codicil

This is a Codicil to the Will of me Edward Bell of the Manor House Chesterton in the County of Cambridge Justice of the Peace Mayor of the Borough of Cambridge which Will bears date the 16th day of January 1878 Whereas by my Will I have appointed certain persons executors or executors and Trustees thereof Now I revoke my said Will so far as such appointment of such persons is concerned and instead thereof I appoint and substitute my Wife Louisa Weldon Bell and my friends Charles Arthur Roberts of St. Johns College Cambridge Clerk in Holy Orders and James Lawrence of the Borough of Cambridge Cook to Kings College there Executors and Trustees of my Will in the place of the persons named in my Will And I declare that my said Will shall take effect in the same manner as if the names of the said Louisa Weldon Bell Charles Arthur Roberts and James Lawrence had been originally inserted throughout the said Will instead of the names of the persons mentioned in my Will as Executors or as Executors and Trustees thereof I further declare that on my said Son Edward Gillam Bell attaining the age of 21 years I appoint him a Trustee of my Will And I direct that my Will shall from the time of his acceptance of the Trusteeship take effect and be construed as to the property remaining Subject to the trusts thereof in the same manner as if my said Son Edward (Sillam Bell had been originally named a Trustee and Executor jointly with the above named Louisa Weldon Bell Charles Arthur Roberts and James Lawrence And I declare that until the said appointment of my Son Edward Sillam Bell shall take effect such appointment shall not fetter or prejudice the exercise of any trusts powers or discretions given to my other executors and trustees And I further declare that as to any devise bequest gift or benefit taken by any woman under my Will the same shall operate entirely to the sole and separate use of such person free from the control of any husband to whom she may at any time be married In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of March 1889.

Signed by the above named Edward Bell as a Codicil to his Will

in the

presence of us present at the same Ed. Bell

time who-in his presence at his

request in the presence of each other

have hereunto set our names as

witnesses

Anne Topham

9 Uppr Avenue Road

London N.W.

HC. Squires

Solicitor, Cambridge

Proved at Peterborough with one Codicil on the 29th day of August 1889 by the Oaths of Louisa Weldon Bell Widow the Relict the Reverend Arthur Charles (in the appointment written "Charles Arthur") Roberts, Clerk, and James Lawrance three of the Executors named in the Codicil to whom administration was granted. Power being reserved of making the like Grant to Edward Gillam Bell the Son the other Executor named in the Codicil on his attaining the age of 21 years. The Testator Edward Bell was late of the Manor House Chesterton in the County of Cambridge Merchant and died on the 20th day of March 1889 at the Manor House Chesterton aforesaid,

Gross £7287 - 16 - 7 Net £2973 - 3 - 5 H.C. Squires, Solr.,

Cambridge

Be It Known that at the date hereunder written the last Will and Testament with one Codicil of Edward Bell late of The Manor House Chesterton in the County of Cambridge, Merchant, deceased, who died on the 20th day of March 1889, at The Manor House Chesterton aforesaid and who at the time of his death had a fixed place of abode at Chesterton aforesaid within the District of Peterborough was proved and registered in the District Probate Registry of Her Majesty's High Court of Justice at Peterborough and that Administration of the personal estate of the said deceased was granted by the aforesaid Court to Louisa Weldon Bell of The Manor House Chesterton aforesaid. Widow, the Relict of the said Deceased, The Reverend Arthur Charles (in the Appointment written "Charles Arthur") Roberts of 18, Lady Margaret Road Kentish Town in the County of Middlesex, Clerk, and James Lawrance of the Borough of Cambridge, College Cook, three of the Executors named in the said Codicil, They having been first sworn well and faithfully to administer the same. Power being reserved of making the like Grant to Edward Gillam Bell the Son of the said Deceased the other Executor named in the Codicil on his attaining the age of Twenty one years.

Dated the 29th day of August 1889.

Gross value of Personal Estate £7,287 - 16 - 7.

Net value £2,973 - 3 - 5.

Extracted by H.C. Squires, Solicitor, Cambridge.

(Stamped) Court of Probate District Registrar Peterborough Registry

C. J. Middleton, Esqre.

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Description and History of Flora Tate's Dolls House *[Flora was Alice's niece]*

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Bell History

Tate Baby House

Tate Baby House, England, 1760

© Victoria and Albert Museum, London

“From the time of its construction in Dorset, it has been handed down from mother to eldest daughter; but Mrs Tate unfortunately lost all her children, and this custom of female inheritance was brought to an end.” – Arthur Sabin, Director of the Bethnal Green Museum, 1930

The Tate Baby House is one of the most famous dolls' houses in the collection. Made in about 1760, over the centuries it has accumulated a variety of furniture and furnishings. Like a real house, it shows the traces of generations of owners: it has been redecorated once or twice, and had new windows installed in the 19th century.

The name 'Baby House' is a reflection of the age and grandeur of this mini mansion. Baby houses are dolls' houses of the 1700s and early 1800s made in realistic architectural styles. They were usually bespoke commissions for wealthy adults.

The Tate Baby House was first displayed in the Museum in 1923. Its owner, Flora Tate, had always refused to show it publicly – but she was eventually convinced by the joint forces of the Museum's director Arthur Sabin, and Mary Greg, a doll collector, member of polite society, and all-round cheerleader for the Museum.

The Tate House was reported a great success with 'thousands of East London children', and Flora Tate gave permission for it to stay on loan. But six years later, on 24 October 1929, she died suddenly, leaving the future of the dolls' house uncertain.

Flora Tate, née Bell

Flora was born in Cambridge in 1866, the first child of Louisa and Edward Bell. They lived in a large house between the colleges and the river. Edward was a corn and seed merchant, continuing a national wholesale business established by his father.

By the time she was five, Flora had three younger sisters, Beatrice, Margaret and Mary. The next year, the family moved to the Manor House, in the nearby village of Chesterton. Their new house offered a bit more space for this young, still growing, family.

“The modern manor house... north-west of the church, was rebuilt in the late 17th century... Its main south-west range in red brick, refaced in the 19th century, was of five bays. A west wing was added after 1800... a two-storeyed 18th century summer house stood in its garden.” Cambridgeshire, Victoria County History, 1989.

Edward Bell – born January 1827

In 1887, Flora’s father Edward Bell was elected mayor of Cambridge, but died after only a year in office. Obituaries described him as ‘a plodding, persevering, hard-working man’¹, with ‘qualities of tact, energy and perseverance... being greatly respected by his fellow townsmen.’²

His funeral was a very public affair, and the local press covered every detail of the solemn occasion, reportedly attended by four thousand mourners. Flora was listed third of the chief mourners, after her mother and brother.

In Spring 1896, Flora married Dr Walter William Hunt Tate. He was a successful surgeon; assistant obstetric physician at St Thomas’s Hospital, London he also worked at the Samaritan Free Hospital for Women and specialised in gynaecology and midwifery. This was actually Flora’s second marriage. Four years earlier, she had married a young surgeon called Antony Dalzell, but he died only two years later, aged 27.

Walter Tate was wealthy. The couple lived in the very salubrious Queen Anne Street, West London, alongside other prominent medicos, and by 1911 were supported by seven servants who helped maintain the six-storey house and associated lifestyle. Walter was a respected and talented obstetrician, who entertained his colleagues and students at his house, and was ‘generous to a fault’ with his female patients.³ When he died in 1916, his obituary described ‘a hospitable man, a lover of music and a regular theatregoer. His outdoor recreations were motoring and archery’.⁴

The same year, Flora’s mother died, and Flora continued to live in Queen Anne Street for the next 13 years, sharing her house throughout the 1920s with four doctors and their wives. This is where the dolls’ house was displayed for visitors like Mary Greg.

The fate of the dolls’ house

When Flora died in 1929, the dolls’ house was still on loan to the V&A, but she left no will. Arthur Sabin was worried. “Mrs Tate repeatedly said to me that she wished the dolls’ house to remain at Bethnal Green, but... she hesitated to take the necessary steps. Furthermore, she did not like letter-writing, and consequently I have no evidence to show of her wish.”

If the dolls’ house was sold on the open market, the Museum might not have the money to compete. ‘An American’ had apparently offered £3,000 for it – a massively inflated sum – and Flora’s brother, who was managing affairs, had ‘no interest in the dolls’ house as such, but merely as a disposable article of the estate’.⁵

The Museum decided to offer £250, hoping that the family would accept this fair valuation – thankfully they did, and the future of this magnificent house was assured. It was accessioned into the museum collection and bestowed with the name ‘Tate Baby House’, in honour of its last owner. But what of its past?

The Weldon – Litchfield – Bell – Tate Baby House

From 1760 to 1923, then, this house had apparently been within one family, moving down the matrilineal line, changing hands and changing names – maybe passing on at moments of birth, marriage or death from one woman to the next. Who were these careful caretakers of the little house?

Records of the family only go back as far as Johanna, wife of Francis Weldon. Tantalisingly, Johanna was born about ten years later than the Baby House is said to have been made, so her mother was probably its first owner.

Johanna and Francis lived in the City of London, married in 1795 and had two daughters. Emma Harriet died while still a baby in 1797, but Louisa was born on 18 January 1799 and lived through childhood. Both girls were christened in All Hallows Church, on Bread Street in the City. This Baroque church was, like so many in the City, built by Christopher Wren and Nicholas Hawksmoor, after the Great Fire. The Weldons must have had a house large enough for the dolls' house, and may have been in the fruit trade.

Louisa, aged 33, married Edward Litchfield on 4 January 1832, at St Botolph-without-Aldersgate. Edward Litchfield was a widower from Cambridge, and a fruiterer himself. His first wife, Mary, had died leaving Edward with five children. So Louisa went to Cambridge (probably taking the dolls' house with her), and moved into a house on All Saints Passage with the large family of step-children. This large house down a narrow alley is tucked away between the river and the colleges.

When her daughter was born in 1833, Louisa named her Louisa Weldon, continuing her own maiden name. Louisa Weldon would be the only child of Edward Litchfield's second marriage. Following her mother's example, she married a merchant called Edward, becoming Louisa Weldon Bell in 1865. Edward Bell, as explained above, was the heir to a national seed wholesalers and a rising figure in Cambridge politics.

When Louisa Weldon and Edward Bell moved to the Manor House in Chesterton, the older Louisa moved in with them, spending the last years of her life with her grandchildren, maybe retaining guard over the fine dolls' house that she had bought all the way up from London as a young woman.

References

1 Cambridgeshire Weekly News, 23 March 1889

2 Cambridge Chronicle, 22 March 1889

3 British Medical Journal obituary

4 Munks Roll, Royal College of Physicians

5 Ibid.

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/moc/small-stories-bigger-histories/tate-baby-house/>

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Annex 7

Letter from CHARLOTTE BELL née Clark to her sister SARAH SQUIRES née Clark

Address ADELAIDE dated 3rd JANUARY Year is not stated but from the text 1872

This is a retyped copy (in MS Word) of the transcription made by Frank G.G. Carr 27th April 1963

Jan^y 3

My Dearest Sister,

I hope this will find you better when ~~when~~ (sic) I last heard from you. I am thankful to say that I have gained strength lately though I cannot walk more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of an hour at a time. I quite long to hear from you all. I have sent a small tin containing some socks which I have made for the dear children. I thought dear baby would spare a little washing if dear Emma would allow him to wear what I have made. I could not get any other cotton here so when the dear children go into town they must put on better ones.

The weather has been 158 in the sun, in the shade 108. On the 18 and 19 of December we were visited with a frightful number of locusts. I cannot compare them to anything in numbers but to a heavy fall of snow there are dark clouds of them. I think that it must be something like Pharaoh's plagues (sic). The destroy the gardens –I hope there will be time to set apart for prayer for man is helpless. I could do little else than watch them, they fly very swiftly and distress (sic) the poor horses. Mr Davis told me that he was obliged to shut them up or they would go mad. So much for the Locus (sic). I am anxiously looking for the mail it is behind and last month it was lost as you know I dare say. I do hope that this will bring me some money. Mr Danagan charged me 6/6 for a box I do not know which it was. Will you give my best love to Mr Todd and tell him I should be very obliged to him to write. I do not wish to trouble him too often. In the tin I have sent back for Mrs Mills of Benet Street a book which has her name on also a little parcel roled (sic) up. I was obliged to undo it or I could not get it into the tin it has been a great trouble to me that neither Mr Todd or myself could find people to whom it was directed all we could learn was that they had gone to the diggers. Should Mr (sic) Mills be moved she is a relation of Mrs Websters she would tell you where to find her.

This week has been frightfully hot the winds were like comming (sic) form a hot oven. William I felt was very anxious about he said it affected his head. As for me I think if it continued long together I must have died. It makes me feel so bad I cannot sleep but through the tender mercy of our Heavenly Father it has not lasted long at a time. Since we have been here three times our paddocks have been on fire and once park land which is close to our paddocks. A great many men were at work and a number of water carts. The fire ran a long (sic) as fast as you could send a football. We think the fire was occasioned by some one smooking (sic). We were thankful it was day time. I fear you will be tired but I thought you would be interested in what I have said.

The letter ends here at the bottom of the last side, with no signature

Editor's Notes.

[1] *The location of the manuscript original is not known*

[2] *Frank Carr transcribed a letter from Alice Gillam Todd, née Bell, at about the same date and would have been able to distinguish between Charlottes and Alice's handwriting.*

The year can be defined accurately as follows:..

[3] Loss of Mail from England: *The RMS Rangoon sank while leaving the harbour at Galle (Sri Lanka then known as Ceylon) on 1st November 1871. It had weighed anchor hoping to depart before dusk but had to wait for the boat bringing the local mail, which was late, when it struck rocks and sank. The passengers and crew were rescued but their baggage was lost
Apart from the mail from Ceylon, all the mail for Australia was lost. {Reports in Bombay and Melbourne newspapers}*

[4] Heatwave: *The maximum temperature in Adelaide on the three days before Christmas 1872 were recorded as over 100°F reaching 111.4°F (44.1°C) on the 23rd (with a minimum of 85.4°F (29.6°C) on that day). It then dropped to under 70°F for Christmas day rising again to over 100°F at the end of the month. {Observatory records}.*

[5] Locusts: *There is a newspaper report of Locusts on 19th December 1870.....{Adelaide Evening Journal of that day}.*

Other background notes

[7] *Charlotte's husband Edward Bell died in June 1865. Charlotte died at the Observatory in Adelaide 20th January 1875.*

[8] *Sarah Squires née Clarke (Charlottes sister) died 10-2-1878*

[9] *'William' was almost certainly William Bell Squires 1855-1895 His obituary states that he travelled out with his grandmother Charlotte Bell 28 years before his death (ie arrival in Adelaide about 1867) and that he became a cadet with the Customs in 1871.*

[10] *Emma Squires: daughter of Sarah née Clark and Samuel Squires*

[11] *Benet Street in Cambridge is very close to where the Bell's lived.*

[12] *Mr Todd in Adelaide= Charles Todd*

[13] *Mr Todd in Cambridge = Henry David Todd (Emma's husband)*

*Retyped and notes added by Stephen Gillam-Smith 8th June 2018
Historical information provided by Martin Walker and Mac Benoy*

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