



**THE
'SLATER'
FAMILY**

from
Mitcham – Surrey
United Kingdom

Including
Mitcham Lavender

and the
Australian
Connection

THE 'SLATER' FAMILY

INTRODUCTION

Believe it or not it was the Christmas of 2011, but it only seems like yesterday that I completed the 'Sheppard' history starting with the 16 'First Cousins' and tracing our roots back through the male line of our Grandfather Arthur Sheppard. But obviously that is only one half of the story as Grandfather had a Wife – Lydia Mary Slater, who, without doubt, features in the 'make-up' of who we are. It is thought that our connections to Mitcham go way back, some 260 years or more and we have always assumed that Mitcham was imprinted through us like the name through a stick of rock. Lydia Slater is part of that connection coming from a large family many of whom were Mitcham Lavender growers – or physic gardeners as they were known.

So the journey began again and the story of our family on the 'Slater' side began to unfold but not without hitting many a brick-wall along the way as what appeared at first to be an exciting lead – lead nowhere! Early census returns were notoriously inaccurate and could not be relied upon and it was discovered that years and ages could be rounded up or down by a considerable amount.

As a child I was brought up knowing that Grandma had some connection to Mitcham Lavender but I didn't know the detail – it was very sketchy. I also knew that a member of Grandma's family emigrated to Australia and we were told that he "put Mitcham on the map out there and grew Lavender". But that is all we knew and had no idea as how accurate this information was.

Having already completed the 'Sheppard' book was a great help - not having to start completely from the beginning. Continuous research gradually filled in the blanks and the jigsaw started to assemble but not without some difficulty as the 'Slater' families were rather large. Birth dates could become confused with christening dates and sometimes they were years apart as children born close together were often christened all at the same time.

However, the 'Lavender Connection' gradually materialised and a wealth of information available on the internet was a great help. The 'Australian Connection' proved somewhat difficult and many a brick-wall surfaced along the way to the point where I just could not find any shipping data to prove that this mysterious family member had actually left England. In fact the research more or less ground to a halt ! But all will be revealed as this has proved to be a fascinating story with many a twist and turn to keep the reader interested to know – what happened next ! As I have already mentioned the 'Slaters' were large families and this book can only concentrate on the connection before and after our Grandma Lydia Mary Sheppard (nee Slater), her links to Mitcham Lavender and the relative who left England for Australia.

I did think that the 'Slater' book would be smaller in content than the 'Sheppard' book but it appears it didn't quite turn out that way as they are almost the same ! Striking a happy medium in deciding what to include and what to leave out is a very difficult balance to achieve. However, it has to be said that absolute accuracy cannot be guaranteed. There are bound to be anomalies and maybe some glaring ones, and trust that the reader will accept that possibility. One can keep searching and searching but it then comes to a point when you have to draw a line and say "this is it".

I do hope you enjoy the journey into our past as much as I have.

Marion Lydia Sheppard-Bond
U.K. - 2014

THE 'SLATER' FAMILY

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Sources of information:

First and foremost the immediate 'Family' and distant relatives both in the UK and Australia who put up with me bombarding them with questions and requests for photographs and as much information as they could provide – I extend my many many thanks. I am also indebted to The Whitehorse Historical Society in Mitcham, Victoria, Australia (in the heart of Slater Country!) for the wealth of information reproduced in this book.).

And:

Census Returns 1841 through to 1911	The Whitehorse Historical Society Australia
Mitcham Parish Church UK	Shipping Records (Australia)
Birth, Death & Marriage Registers UK	Birth / Death / Marriage Records (Australia)
Surrey History Centre UK	Wills (Australia)
Merton Heritage/Local Studies Centre UK	Various Magazines / Newspapers (Aus.)
Various Newspapers UK	Photographic Experts

SLATER

The Origins of the Name

This famous surname is medieval English of early French origins. Introduced by the Norman Invaders of 1066, but quite possibly before the Norman Conquest. It derives from the pre 8th century French word "esclate", meaning slate, with the addition of the Anglo-Saxon agent suffix "-er", meaning "one who works with". Job-descriptive surnames originally denoted the occupation of the name bearer and became hereditary when a son or sometimes a grandson followed the fathers occupation.

The first recorded spelling is shown to be that of Thomas le Sclatere. This was dated 1255, in the "Occupation register of Worcester", during the reign of King Henry III of England, 1216-1272. This is one of the earliest of all surnames, and other examples include: Roger Sclatiere and Walter Sclatter, recorded respectively in the Hundred Rolls of Oxfordshire and Berkshire in 1279, and that of Thomas Slater entered in the Subsidy Tax rolls of Yorkshire, in 1297. Later examples include George Slater and Jone Umfrey who were married at St. Margaret's, Westminster, London on January 29th 1542.



One of the earliest settlers in the New Colonies of America was John Slater, aged 22 years, who was recorded in an original muster of the inhabitants of the colony of Virginia formed in 1607. He had arrived there on the ship "George" in 1617, which was three years prior to the arrival of the Pilgrim Fathers on the "Mayflower". John and Anne Slater settled in Virginia in 1622 and Joshua Slater settled in Barbados in 1675.

Spelling variations include: Slator, Sclater, Slatter, Sklater and Slater.

Motto:

Crescit sub pondere virtus.

Motto translation:

Virtue thrives under oppression.

Crest:

An arm in armour holding a sword.

Coat of arms:

Gold, and a red chevron between three green trefoils.



MITCHAM - Surrey - England

A brief history:

Mitcham in the Domesday Book of 1086 is called Michelham, Anglo Saxon in origin meaning *big settlement* or *great dwelling*. It was listed as a small farming community, with 250 people living in two hamlets; Mitcham, an area known today as Upper Mitcham; and Whitford, today known as the Lower Green area. In all the early records, and in many of a more recent date, it is written Miccham, Micham, Mecham, Meecham; the present mode of spelling, was not universally adopted before this century.

Even before the Romans and Saxons were present, there was a Celtic settlement in the area, with evidence of a fort being located in the Pollards Hill area. The discovery of Roman-era graves and a well on the site of the Mitcham gas works evince a Roman settlement. The Saxon graveyard, located on the North bank of the Wandle is the largest discovered to date, and many of the finds therein are on display in the British Museum. The area is a possible location for the Battle of Merton, 871, in which King Ethelred of Wessex was either mortally wounded or killed outright.

During her reign Queen Elizabeth I made at least five visits to the area. John Donne and Sir Walter Raleigh also had residences here in this era - a house and estate at Mitcham in right of his wife, who was a daughter of Sir Nicholas Throgmorton, and had been maid of honour to Queen Elizabeth 1. A house there is still called Raleigh House. It was at this time that Mitcham became gentrified, as due to the abundance of lavender fields Mitcham became renowned for its soothing air. This air also led people to settle in the area during times of plague. It is also believed that Mitcham Fair is the oldest fair in England believing it to have been granted a charter by Queen Elizabeth I.

At one time the River Wandle, which flows through Mitcham, had 90 mills along its 11-mile length. These mills produced everything from snuff, flour, iron, dyes, gunpowder and Mr. Rucker's and Mr. Fenning's factories for printing calico, a trade which features in the 'Sheppard' family history. Nearby Merton Abbey, became the calico cloth printing centre of England by 1750. William Morris opened a factory on the River Wandle at Merton Abbey. And notably the famous Pains Fireworks Company were located in Mitcham in 1872 until 1965 when they moved to Salisbury, where they still exist.

The activity along the River Wandle led to the construction of the Surrey Iron Railway, the world's first public railway in 1803. The collapse of the railway in the 1840s also heralded a change in industry, as horticulture gradually gave way to manufacturing, with paint, varnish, linoleum and firework manufacturers moving into the area. The work provided and migratory patterns eventually resulted in a doubling of the population between the years 1900 and 1910.

The parish church dedicated to St Peter and St Paul dates back to the Saxon era. Although it was mostly rebuilt in 1819–1821, the current building still incorporates the original Saxon tower. The parish register commenced in the year 1650. It appears nevertheless that the village was not free from the plague. A Sunday School was built in 1788 which became a National School in 1812, an elementary school 1870-97, and parish rooms until 1987. A large workhouse was built in the year 1782 on the side of Mitcham Common.

MITCHAM - Surrey - England

A brief history *continued*:

Mitcham became home to many lavender fields, an association reflected today in Merton Borough Coat of Arms and the badge of the local football team, Tooting & Mitcham United F.C., as well as the name of a local council ward, Lavender Field.



Merton Borough Coat of Arms from 1965. Behind the bird are three sprigs of lavender. A reminder of the lavender fields of



Mitcham's Coat of Arms before the merger of Merton, Mitcham, Morden and Wimbledon to form the present Borough of Merton in



Tooting & Mitcham United

Lavender Fields



Note:

To the interested reader more information on Lavender can be obtained from the following web sites: <http://www.carshaltonlavender.org/> Who still have an annual community lavender harvest. The date each year is posted on their web site.

And: <http://www.mayfieldlavender.com/>

MITCHAM LAVENDER

POTTER & MOORE

The name that comes to mind with **Mitcham Lavender** is Potter & Moore. John Potter, born in 1688 and William Moore a few years later, both descendants of well-known Mitcham families, became associated and founded the business of Potter and Moore in the year 1749. They were known at that time as physic gardeners and their operations included the cultivation of herbs and flowers. Lavender was their speciality.

John and William took their knowledge and expertise in working with natural ingredients and applied it to creating fine bath, body and beauty products. They believed that personal individuality is created by the harmonious use of a fragrance that will blend with every mood and need. Their reputation for fine beauty products flourished and made them a success.

Throughout time Potter and Moore have been revered by the famous, the celebrated and the discerning. Gracie Fields, to speak of one opened their new factory on July 4th 1937. Celebrating the bicentenary of Potter and Moore Ltd in 1949, the then Chairman, Arthur E Pitt made the following statement:

“The success of an undertaking does not depend upon its buildings, location or age, but on the loyalty, intelligence, good will and cooperation of those to whom the fortunes of the company are entrusted from time to time.... countless loyal hearts have played their part and the tradition which has been established and which those assembled today have so gallantly carried on, should be an example to those that come after”.



The Potter & Moore's float taking part in the Charter Day procession in Mitcham

MITCHAM LAVENDER

POTTER & MOORE

When James Moore died in 1851, the business went to James Bridger, James Moore's illegitimate son, who ran the business very successfully until his death in 1885. The business was bought by **W.J. Bush**, who was pleased to take over the goodwill earned by Potter & Moore. In 1968, Bush's company merged with two other companies to form Bush Boake Allen, the world's largest supplier of flavours and perfumes. In 1968 the Potter & Moore section of the business was sold to E.C. De Witt & Co Ltd, part of the De Witt International Organization. However, it hasn't disappeared, for the company's headed writing paper proudly bears witness to the fact that they have incorporated a firm established in 1749.

SOURCE UNKNOWN



The caption below the photograph reads:

Destruction to the houses on the east side of Belgrave Road caused by an explosion at the essential oils distillery of Messrs Bush & Co on 30 March 1933.

Destruction to the houses on the east side of Belgrave Road caused by an explosion at the essential oils distillery of Messrs Bush & Co. on 30 March, 1933.



To the right:

The Writer's collection of Potter & Moore Mitcham Lavender Bottles.



MITCHAM LAVENDER

PHOTOGRAPHS – could well be some of the ancestors !



Two exceptional photographs of a bygone era. Lavender was the principal industry at Mitcham in Surrey. The flowers were gathered in August and taken to distilleries for the extraction of the oil which was then used in the preparation of the perfume, lavender water and in pharmacology. For a rather grubby, dust laden industry the pristine white shirts are



MITCHAM LAVENDER

Advertisements

Genuine Mitcham Lavender Water.

Distilled from the freshly-gathered Lavender Flowers by
JOHN JAKSON & Co.
(of MITCHAM),

Who have obtained the highest awards at all the great Exhibitions of Europe for the purity of their productions.

A one shilling Bottle of this Perfume guaranteed to contain more value in Lavender than a pint of that as usually sold.

If once tried, no other will ever be used.

In order to make sure of obtaining this delicious scent of the freshly-gathered Lavender Flowers, ask for **JOHN JAKSON & CO.'S MITCHAM LAVENDER WATER**, and see that each bottle bears the seal and signature of the Growers and Distillers,
JOHN JAKSON & CO., MITCHAM.

Prices 2/6, 3/6, 5/-, 7/-, 14/- a bottle.
Sold by all Chemists, Drug Stores, Hosiers, Fancy Stationers, etc.
Wholesale at 17, PHILPOT LANE, LONDON, E.C.



You Get BOTH for 50c

MITCHAM LAVENDER PERFUME 25c
CRÉMPACT 50c
75c

FREE

— a regular 25c perfume flask of

Potter & Moore's MITCHAM LAVENDER PERFUME

— given free with each purchase of POTTER & MOORE'S

Crémpact POWDER & CREAM in ONE

The "crémpact" of powder and cream in one— with a mirror outside—is a complete complexion make-up for any occasion. Applied like face cream, it gives a perfect mat powder finish— that fresh, youthful complexion that every woman wants. Scented with Mitcham Lavender and its powder shades.

The Crémpact has a mirror outside.

In an attractive gift box **50c**

Ask about P & M Beauty Cream (Rouge).
N. S. Wright & Co. Ltd., Toronto, Sales Agts.



The above advertisement is believed to be circa. 1895. Jakson's was started by a Frenchman, Monsier Lelasseur, who wanted the company to have a very English name. Unfortunately, he spelt it wrongly. This didn't stop the company becoming very successful. Jakson's oils were



To the left is an advertisement which appeared in a newspaper: The Evening Citizen, Ontario, Canada. The date is Friday 15 May 1936. It appears that the 'buy-one-get-one-free' (or similar) is nothing new!

TIME LINE

1770 - 1827

~ some known and not-so-well-known dates in history ~

Year	Event
1770	Captain James Cook discovers Australia reaching south-eastern coast on 19 Apr 1770. On 29 Apr 1770 Cook and his crew made their first landfall on the mainland of the continent at a place now known as the Kurnell Peninsula.
1775	American Revolution began first military engagement 19 April. Jane Austen born 16 Dec. English novelist.
1780	Great Hurricane flattens Barbados, Martinique & St. Eustatius: 22,000 dead. c.9 million population Britain.
1785	The dollar chosen money unit USA. Coal gas first used for illumination. Louis XVII France born Mar.27.
1790	First boat specialised as rescue lifeboat tested on River Tyne in England. USA patent system established.
1794	Horatio Nelson loses sight in his right eye. Coffee is forbidden by royal decree in Sweden.
1795	The <i>Battle of Richmond Hill</i> fought in New South Wales, between the Darug people and Colonial forces.
1796	Legacy Tax on sums over £20 excluding those to wives, children, parents and grandparents.
1797	England in Crisis, Bank of England suspends cash payments. First £1 (and £2) notes issued by Bank of England. First copper pennies produced 'cartwheels' by application of steam power to the coining press.
1798	The Irish Rebellion; 100,000 peasants' revolt; approximately 25,000 die – Irish Parliament abolished. Battle of the Nile won by Nelson. First human experiment with vaccination, to test theories of E. Jenner.
1799	10% income tax wartime financial measure. Foundation Royal Military College Sandhurst by Duke of York.
1800	Herbert Strudwick, English cricketer born. Electric light first produced. Volta makes first electrical battery. Royal College Surgeons founded. Herschel discovers infra-red light. Tom Wills , Australian cricketer died.
1801	Union Jack official British flag. Grand Union Canal opens. Elgin Marbles brought to London.
1802	First British Factory Act. Regular mail service started between England and India.
1803	First public railway (Surrey Iron Railway, Wandsworth to Croydon, horse-drawn). Semaphore perfected.
1804	John Wedgwood (son of potter Josiah Wedgwood) founds The Royal Horticultural Society. Napoleon declares himself Emperor of the French. Spain declares war on Britain. New Holland, renamed "Australia".
1805	Nelson's victory at Trafalgar. Official opening Telford's Pontcysyllte Aqueduct. London docks opened.
1806	Nelson buried St Paul's Cathedral. Dartmoor Prison opened (built French prisoners). Carbon paper invented.
1807	Parliament passes Act prohibiting slavery. Temp.of 101°F recorded London. Gas lighting in London streets.
1808	Fourdrinier brothers set up first paper-making machine in England (at St Neots). Beethoven premieres his <i>Fifth Symphony</i> , <i>Sixth Symphony</i> , <i>Fourth Piano Concerto</i> and <i>Choral Fantasy</i> together in Vienna.
1809	The 2,000 Guineas Stakes horse race first run in UK. Birth Charles Darwin. Royal Opera House opens. Whangaroa Māori people kill and eat 66 crew and passengers of the Brigantine <i>Boyd</i> in New Zealand.
1810	John McAdam begins road construction in England, giving his name to the process of road metalling.
1811	Jane Austen <i>Sense & Sensibility</i> . Great Comet discovered by Honoré Flaugergues .
1812	Prime Minister, Spencer Perceval, assassinated – shot as entered House of Commons by bankrupt Liverpool broker, John Bellingham, subsequently hanged. Start of American war against England & Canada.
1813	Ireland: First recorded "12th of July" sectarian riots in Belfast. Rose's Act (1812) established a printed format for baptism & burial registers. Jane Austen <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> .
1814	Napoleon abdicates and is exiled to Elba. The British burn the White House. <i>The Times</i> first printed by a 'mechanical apparatus' (at 1,100 sheets per hour). Sugar prices reach record heights.

1815	Napoleon escapes Elba; arrives in France. Battle of Waterloo: Napoleon defeated exiled to St. Helena. Corn Law passed. Trial by Jury established in Scotland. Davy develops miner's safety lamp.
1816	Income tax abolished. Excise tax payable on paper production. Large scale emigration to North America.
1817	Johnstone's London Directory printed. Habeas Corpus suspended. Constable painted <i>Flatford Mill</i> .
1818	Convention of 1818 signed between the United States and the United Kingdom which, among other things, settled the US-Canada border on the 49th parallel for most of its length. Mary Shelley <i>Frankenstein</i> .
1819	<i>Savannah</i> first steamship to cross Atlantic, reaching Liverpool in 26 days, mostly under sail.
1820	Regent's Canal in London opens. Trial of Queen Caroline to prove her infidelities so George IV can divorce her. Whaling ship <i>Essex</i> attacked sunk by a sperm whale in the Pacific, leading to the story of Moby Dick.
1821	Napoleon Bonaparte dies on St Helena. Third census of England & Wales. Constable <i>The Hay Wain</i> .
1822	Caledonian canal opened. Augustin Fresnel perfects lenses for lighthouses. Schubert <i>Unfinished Symphony</i> .
1823	Rugby Football 'invented' at Rugby School. Rubberised waterproof material produced by MacIntosh.
1824	Royal National Lifeboat Institution founded. RSPCA established. Portland cement patented.
1825	Stockton-Darlington Railway opens world's first locomotive-hauled passenger trains. <i>Pepys Diary</i> pubs.
1826	Telford's Menai Straits Bridge opened – first modern suspension bridge. University College, London established. Royal Zoological Society established in London. The French newspaper Le Figaro published.
1827	First recorded sale of matches, from the store of John Walker of Stockton-on-Tees.

MITCHAM LAVENDER

The Lydia Sheppard (nee Slater) connection

The 'Sheppard' family has a strong connection with Mitcham Lavender through Lydia Sheppard (nee Slater). Arthur Sheppard, (the paternal grandfather of the author) married Lydia Slater. **The Slater** family was so involved in the industry that when the last of the Mitcham growers, **Steward Slater**, died in 1943 aged 91, his family had been in the business for over 200 years living for the last century in a wood-framed cottage in Love Lane.

Extract below from Sally Festing's book – The Story of Lavender:

*“One of the **Slater brothers, William, emigrated to Australia, where he built a still for extracting lavender and eucalyptus oil; another Benjamin, wrote a booklet about the Mitcham herb gardens.**”and..... “As, one by one, they aged and died, the passing of each old grower sparked off a flurry of nostalgia. Henry Flower, William Mitchell, **the Slater brothers** and Augustus Stanley, all born in the heyday of lavender; men who had spent their school holidays in the chamomile fields,*”

Once world famous for its farms growing lavender, Mitcham became an important industrial centre from the end of the 18th century until the 1960's. In fact, Lavender was one of the herbs listed as being grown at Merton Abbey, Mitcham which was to become the centre of lavender production in England. Lavender is first mentioned in 1301 in the records of Merton Priory as being used to raise money for King Edward I.

Mitcham soil consisted principally of a rich black mould. About 250 acres were occupied by the physic gardeners, who cultivated lavender, wormwood, chamomile, aniseed, rhubarb, liquorice, and many other medicinal plants, in great abundance; but principally peppermint, of which there were above 100 acres.

From the 18th to the early 20th centuries the North Downs of Surrey, with its chalky free-draining soil, ideal for lavender growing, were at the centre of worldwide production of lavender. Blue fields could be seen all over Mitcham, Croydon, Wallington, Banstead, Carshalton and Sutton. Merton played its part in the industrial expansion and leading figures such as William Morris and Arthur Liberty set up famous craft workshops in the Merton Abbey area. Perfume oils such as peppermint and lavender were produced at the Figges Marsh distillery owned by Ephraim Potter and William Moore. Lavender covered many acres of Mitcham in the 19th century and Mitcham oil was considered the finest in the world.

At beginning of 19th century the population of Mitcham was 3466. Within 50 years this had quadrupled and within 100 years what was once a quiet rural village became a modern suburb, carrying the pros and cons of metropolitan life. In the 1920's and 30's traditional lavender farmland gave way to a sharp rise in the development of residential properties. This combined with increasing cheap imports from France, Holland and Japan led to the decline in lavender growing. To remain competitive the majority of lavender growers were forced to either abandon lavender farming or switch to industrial farming, making the availability of organic UK grown lavender a scarcity.

SLATER FAMILY TREE

James & Mary Slater ?

William & Sarah Summers ?

Note:

It is surmised that there were many more children but not all had survived childhood.

DANIEL SLATER married in 1831 **Elizabeth Betsy Summers**
 b.1806 d.1873 b. 1812 d. 1897

William	Sarah	Mary	Susan	Benjamin	Lydia	Harry	Henry	Susanna	Robert	Daniel	Samuel	Steward	JOHN	Rosetta
b.1832	b.1834	b.1835	b.1838	b.1839	b.1841	b.1844 ?	b.??	b.??	b.1846	b.1849	b.1850	b.1852	b.1854	b.1857
c.1832	c.1834	c.1835	↑ ↑	c.1845	c.1845		c.1845	c.1845	c.1855	c.1855↓	c.1855	c.1855	c.1855	c.1857
Emigrated to Australia 1858			↑ ↑			same child ?		↑ ↑		emigrated to join			d.1920	
d. 1894			1841					not on census		William in 1874			married in 1874	
			census	← assumed to be the same child - see ** →				census		d. 1876			Mary Knapp	b.1853 d.1929

JOHN SUMMERS SLATER

Lydia Mary Slater

b.1885 married in 1905
 d.1960 Arthur Sheppard
 b.1885 d.1947

Note:

There were 10 children but 3 had died sometime between 1875-1911.

Alfred	Rose(tta)	Elizabeth	Unclear ?					Robert	Maud
b.1875	b.1878	b.1881	b.1882-4?					b.1887	b.1897
			Son age 9 1891 census						
		William	Robert	Lillian	Winifred	Percy	Olive	Albert	Ronald
		b.1906	b.1908	b.1910	b.1912	b.1915	b.1918	b.1920	b.1924
		d.1982	d.1972	d.1996	d.1949	d.1996	d.1974	d.1976	d. 2006
		↓	↓	↓		↓	↓	↓	
		Roger William	Michael	Pauline		David	Daphne	Angela	
		Marion Lydia		Brian		Jenny	Gordon	Roberta	
		Rosemary				Terry	Wendy	Anthony	
								Victoria	

**

Note: The birth year of a child and the christening/baptism year could very often be years apart especially in the 1800's when families were quite large. Therefore, children born in different years were very often christened/baptised together.

First Cousins GRANDPARENTS

Arthur married
b. 1885 Lydia Slater d. 1960
d. 1947 b. 1885

William b.1906 d.1982 age 76
married in 1932 Violet Graham b.1908 d.1975 age 67

Robert b. 1908 d. 19??
Lillian b. 1910 d. 1996
Winnifred b. 1912 d. 1949

Percy b. 1915 d. 1996
Olive b. 1918 d. 1974

Albert b. 1920 d. 1976

Ronald b. 1924 d. 2008

married in N.Z. Christina divorced Christina d.2009 married Adele in NZ Apr-08 New Zealand

Roger William b.1938 James b. 23.10.?

Marion Lydia b.1942 Rosemary b.1946

married Molly

married George

died age 37 road accident

married Ivy

married Frank

married Joyce

partner Peggy

Roger emigrated when he was 21

FIRST COUSINS

Roger 1938 Marion 1942 Rosemary 1946

Michael Pauline 1930 d. 2008

David 1938 lives in Thames Ditton with his wife

Daphne 1943 married to Tom lives in Cambs.

Angela 1959

Roberta 1963

Anthony 1965

Victoria 1969

Gordon 1949 lives with Partner Rita in Mitcham

Jenny 1941 lives in Crawley with husband
Terry 1944 lives in Scotland with partner

Wendy 1951 lives in South Benfleet

Joyce other children
Michelle Stahl ?
Georgina Stahl ?
(name changed Sheppard ?)
Tracy Ellinor b. 1974

Lives in New Zealand with wife Adele
Lives in Devon with husband Charles
Lives in Norfolk with partner Ian

Lives in South Croydon with wife Sharon
Lives in Wales with wife Diane

b. 1885

d. 1947



ARTHUR and LYDIA SHEPPARD (nee Slater)

their Children and Grandchildren – (the 'First' Cousins)



b. 1885

d. 1960



William

Robert

Lillian

Winifred

Percy

Olive

Albert

Ronald

b. 1906

b. 1908

b. 1910

b. 1912

b. 1915

b. 1918

b. 1920

b. 1924

d. 1982

d. 1972

d. 1996

d. 1949

d. 1996

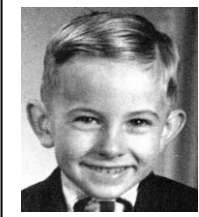
d. 1974

d. 1976

d. 2006



Roger b. 1938



Michael b. 1945



Pauline b. 1930
d. 2008

No children



David b. 1937



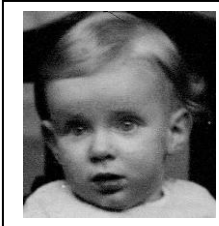
Daphne b. 1943

Unavailable

Angela b. 1959



Marion b. 1942



Brian b. 1937



Jenny b. 1940



Gordon b. 1949



Roberta b. 1963



Rosemary b. 1946



Terry b. 1944



Wendy b. 1951



Anthony b. 1965



Victoria b. 1969

No children

LYDIA SHEPPARD (nee Slater)

b. 1885 – d. 1960



Brief Biography:

Lydia was born in Mitcham, Surrey in 1885. The Slater family tree indicates that Lydia was most probably the fourth child of John Summers Slater and Mary Slater (nee Knapp) as there were 10 children in all but not all survived.

The 1891 census was very difficult to research but eventually with the help of 'Ancestry' it was discovered that the name had been incorrectly transcribed as 'Kater'. Along with many other strange entries then.

At the age of 5 Lydia is listed as a 'scholar' on this census and the family were living in Prussia Place, Nursery Road, Lower Green, Mitcham.

Lydia is on the 1901 census at the age of 15 working at the Firework Factory. The place of residence is Prussia Place, Nursery Road, Lower Green, Mitcham.

Lydia married Arthur Sheppard in December 1905. Their eldest son William was born in 1906. Their address on William's birth certificate is 11 Hardy Road, Wimbledon and Arthur's occupation as India Rubber Worker. His occupation on the 1911 census is given as Assistant to a Balata* Belt Maker. * (*Balata is the familiar name for a bully tree whose gum is used in golf balls and machinery belts*).

The 1911 census also shows that they were then living at 16 Church Place, Love Lane, Mitcham together with their first son William, second son Robert and first daughter Lillian. Arthur and Lydia had a large family of eight, 5 sons and 3 daughters all of whom are referenced in this book.

Lydia passed away in 1960 at the age of 75 having been a wife, mother and homemaker for many years and was much missed by all the family and a great favourite with the grandchildren. Christmases at Grandma's were not to be missed and the introduction to Grandmas home pickled walnuts at a young age (for the author at least !) continues to this day. Christmas without pickled walnuts is unheard of.

One of the objectives of this book is to explore Lydia's connections to Mitcham Lavender and particularly one of her very interesting relatives, William Slater who was her Uncle. William Slater sailed to Australia in September 1858 arriving in December. The Slater family tree below will show where he fits into the family history.

Daniel Slater b.1806 d.1873 married Elizabeth Betsy Summers in 1831 b.1812 d.1897													
William	Sara	Mary	Susa	Benjamin	Lydia	Harry	Robert	Danie	Samue	Stewar	Joh	Rosett	
1832	1835	1835	1838	1839	1841	1844	1846	1849	1850	1852	1854	1857	
								Uncle			Fathe		
Alfred		Rosetta		Elizabeth		Unclear		Lydia Mary		Robert	Maud		
1875		1878		1881		1882-4 ?		1885		1887	1897		

LYDIA SHEPPARD (nee Slater)

b. 1885 – d. 1960

Certificates – Birth and Marriage

Lydia's Birth Certificate: 19 October 1885

CB 876683

[Printed by Authority of the Registrar-General]
B. Cert.
S.R.

CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF BIRTH
Pursuant to the Births and Deaths Registration Acts, 1836 to 1929.

Registration District *London*

1885. Birth in the Sub-District of *Mitcham* in the County of *Surrey*

Column	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.
412	<i>November 1885 3 Church Buildings Mitcham P. S. D.</i>	<i>Lydia Mary</i>	<i>Girl</i>	<i>John Slater</i>	<i>Mary Slater formerly Knapp</i>	<i>Manhat Gardener</i>	<i>X the mark of Mary Slater Mother 3 Church Buildings Mitcham</i>		<i>Rowland Ardenio Deaneley 1885 Elliott Registrar.</i>	

1. HEDLEY JAMES WYATT, Superintendent Registrar for the District of **SURREY MID-EASTERN** in the **COUNTY OF SURREY**, do hereby certify that this is a true copy of the Entry No. *412* in the Register Book of Births No. *24* for the above-named Sub-District and that such Register Book is now legally in my custody.

WITNESS MY HAND this *28th* day of *October*, 1946.

H. J. Wyatt
Superintendent Registrar

CAUTION.—Any person who (1) falsifies any of the particulars on this Certificate, or (2) uses it as true, knowing it to be falsified, is liable to Prosecution.

Lydia & Arthur's Marriage Certificate: 25 December 1905

1905

Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church, in the Parish of MITCHAM, in the County of Surrey.

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.
<i>287</i>	<i>December 25th 1905.</i>	<i>Arthur Sheppard</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Rubber Washer</i>	<i>Causeway</i>	<i>William Debit Sheppard</i>	<i>Driver</i>
		<i>Lydia Mary Slater</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Spinster</i>		<i>29 Mildgate</i>	<i>John Slater</i>	<i>Labourer</i>

Married in the Parish Church, according to the rites and ceremonies of the Established Church.

After Banns

By me, *J. W. Williams (Curate)*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *Arthur Sheppard* and *Lydia Mary Slater* In the presence of us, *Henry W. Evans* and *Nellie E. Howlett*

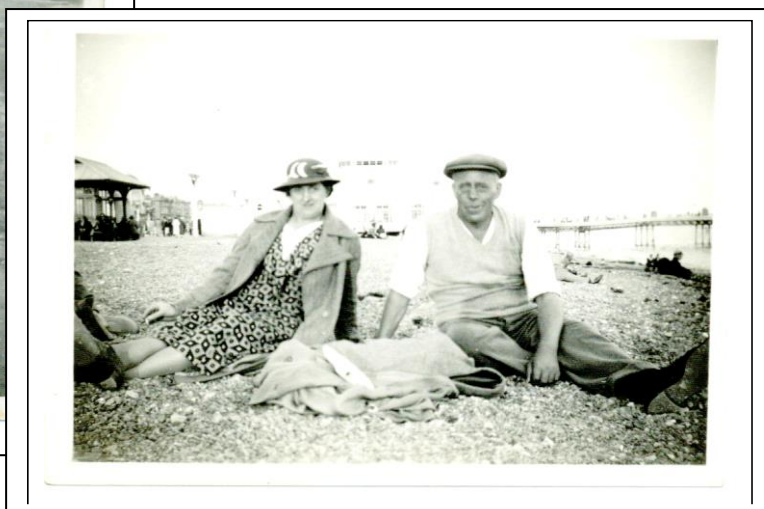
I hereby certify the above to be a true extract from the Register of the Parish Church of Mitcham, in the County of Surrey.

Witness my hand this *25* day of *December*

J. W. Williams

LYDIA MARY SHEPPARD (nee Slater)
b. 1885 – d. 1960

Lydia and her Husband, Arthur Sheppard:



LYDIA MARY SHEPPARD (nee Slater)

b. 1885 – d. 1960

Early Photographs:

In 1905 Lydia Mary Slater married Arthur Sheppard. The 'Slater' family were well known lavender growers in Mitcham. Photographs of Lydia in later years are included in this book.



On the **left** is thought to be an early picture of Lydia (standing). The other lady in the photograph cannot be established but it could be a friend or either her sister or Arthur's sister. (see mystery photographs on the following page). Researching the photographer's Merton Studio, Wimbledon enabled the photograph to be dated between 1900-1912. The style of dress is 1900-1914. On the back of the photograph is the name Mrs Sheppard and the address 11 Prussia Place, Mitcham. In 1901 at aged about 15/16 Lydia lived at No. 5 Prussia Place with her parents. A birth certificate for Arthur and Lydia's daughter Winifred identifies that they were living at 11 Prussia Place, Mitcham in 1912.

The photograph **below** of Lydia with two young children are most probably the first born William born in 1906 (sitting on the chair) and Robert born in 1908. Babies tended to be dressed as girls whether they were boys or girls.



The photograph **above** shows Lydia with two other children and it would seem to indicate that they are possibly Albert on the left born in 1920 and Percy on the right born in 1915. Again research of the photographer gives clues to the date. The photographer was at the Wimbledon Studio from 1901 and the Tooting Studio between 1913-1927 which would match the dates above.

LYDIA MARY SHEPPARD (nee Slater)

b. 1885 – d. 1960

Mystery Photographs:

Some 'mystery' photographs that have turned up in the archives and they have been included in this section on Lydia as there is possibly a link to her. What follows is purely speculation as no real evidence can be found other than dates. Also an anomaly on the ****1911** Census shows Sarah Ann Slater as Arthur Sheppard's sister (but should be sister-in-law) as research has established that Robert Slater married a Sarah Ann Cross (not a Sheppard).

Photograph below left no later than 1904/05. Speculation - Lydia and a relative / friend / in-law ? Notably the 1911 Census, shows that on the day the census was

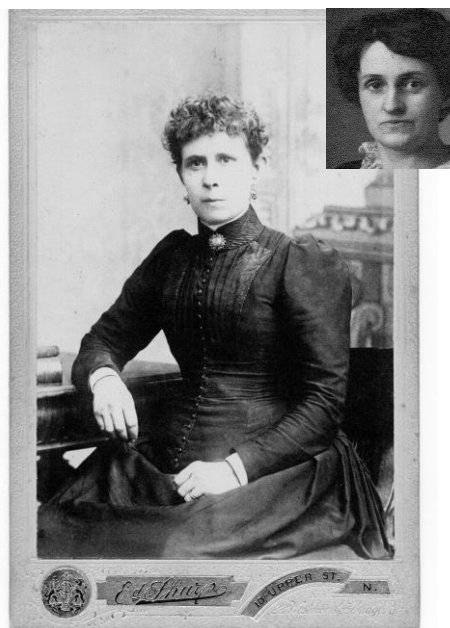


had three lodgers or visitors, Lydia's brother Robert and his wife Sarah Ann. Sarah Ann maybe the lady in the photo. Robert & Sarah Ann had a son b.1910 which would make him about 8'ish by the time WW1 had finished. Could he possibly be the

Photograph above right - could this be the same lady (similar hair style) as in the photograph above left ? Uniform dated 1902-1920. If the photograph was taken during WW1 then it is possible that the 5 children could have been born in the time



Two mystery photos. Photographer's date range 1892-1914. Dress date for the lady on the right is c.1900 and about the same for the man on the left it. Could he possibly be the same person in uniform above – Lydia's brother ? And perhaps the lady on the right her mother, who




LYDIA SHEPPARD (nee Slater)

b. 1885 – d. 1960

Death Certificate: 6 November 1960

IX 799785

CERTIFIED COPY of an  ENTRY OF DEATH
Pursuant to the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1953

[Printed by authority of the Registrar General.]
D. Cert.
R.B.D.

The statutory fee for this certificate is 3s. 9d.
Where a search is necessary to find the entry,
a search fee is payable in addition.

Registration District									
SURREY NORTH-EASTERN									
1960. Death in the Sub-district of MITCHAM AND BEDDINGTON in the COUNTY OF SURREY									
Columns:—									
No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description, and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
	6th Nov 1960 Hospital Keston	Lydia Mary Sheppard	Female	75	Housewife	Arteriosclerosis Heart disease Died peacefully at home	R. Sheppard 6 St. Ann Keston Surrey	6th Nov 1960	J. O. Bass Registrar.

I, **LESLIE O. BASS**, Registrar of Births and Deaths for the Sub-district of MITCHAM AND BEDDINGTON, in the COUNTY OF SURREY do hereby certify that this is a true copy of Entry No. 487 in the Register Book of Deaths for the said Sub-district, and that such Register Book is now legally in my custody.

WITNESS MY HAND this 7 day of Nov, 1960. *J. O. Bass*
Registrar of Births and Deaths.

CAUTION.—Any person who (1) falsifies any of the particulars on this certificate, or (2) uses a falsified certificate as true, knowing it to be false, is liable to prosecution.

Memorial Card:

In Loving Memory

+

Sweet the sleep you so much needed,
Free from suffering, care and pain,
Looking on thy face so peaceful,
Could we wish you back again.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR
DEAR MOTHER
LYDIA MARY SHEPPARD
who fell asleep
6th. November, 1960
Aged 75 years

Laid to Rest at Mitcham Cemetery
Grave No. 1584, Plot 33.

A. J. Springer & Co. Ltd., 122, London Road, Mitcham

JOHN SUMMERS SLATER

b. 1854 – d. 1920

Biography:

John Summers Slater was born in Mitcham, Surrey in 1854 believed to be the last but one child of Daniel and Elizabeth Slater. John's middle name of 'Summers' was his mother's maiden name. She was called Elizabeth Betsy Summers. The following chart shows the various stages in John's life from his birth in 1854.

Year	Age		Address
1854	Birth	Oct/Nov/Dec quarter	Lees Cottages, Love Lane, Mitcham
1855	Christening	8 April 1855	Mitcham, Surrey
		Occupation	
1861	7	Scholar	Lees Cottages, Love Lane, Mitcham
1871	17	Labourer on farm	Lees Cottages, Love Lane, Mitcham
1874	20	Married Mary Knapp on 2 May 1874	
1881	27	Agricultural Labourer	Church House, Church Buildings, Mitcham
1891	37	Gardener	Prussia Place, Nursery Road, Mitcham
1901	47	Market Gardener	Prussia Place, Nursery Road, Mitcham
1911	57	Jobbing Gardener	4 Belgrave Road, Mitcham (Boarder)
1920	66	Deceased	
1929		John's wife Mary Slater (nee Knapp) passed away at the age of 76	

John was married to Mary Knapp in the Parish of Streatham and at that time, 2 May 1874 his father Daniel Slater has already passed away the year before in 1873. His father is listed as a Labourer and one would assume this to be in the Lavender trade. Mary Knapp's father Alfred Knapp was a painter. Witnesses to the wedding were R Corke and Amy Knapp.

According to the 1911 census John & Mary had 10 children but by the time this census was carried out 3 of those children had already passed away. The census records that 10 children were born alive, 7 children were still living and 3 children had died. It has been difficult to establish who they were as research has shown that many children with the surname of Slater in the Mitcham area had died either within the first year of their birth or not much older, the oldest being about six years of age. Without individual death certificates the on-line records do not show the name of the parent(s).

John first appears on the 1861 census living with his parents at Lees Cottages, Love Lane, Mitcham. The 1871 census reveals the use of his middle name 'Summers' as he is recorded as John Summers Slater. By the 1881 census John had by that time married Mary Knapp in 1874 and they were living at Church House, Church Buildings, Mitcham with their children Alfred, Rosetta and Elizabeth.

Then the writer hit the proverbial 'brick wall'. No record of the family on the 1891 census could be found despite intensive research. Eventually with the help of 'Ancestry' they were discovered but the name had been recorded as 'Kater' – Jno Kater and with a very odd assortment of other names which were almost indecipherable on the actual census and the transcription to the printed version was not much better. However, it is believed to be the right family.

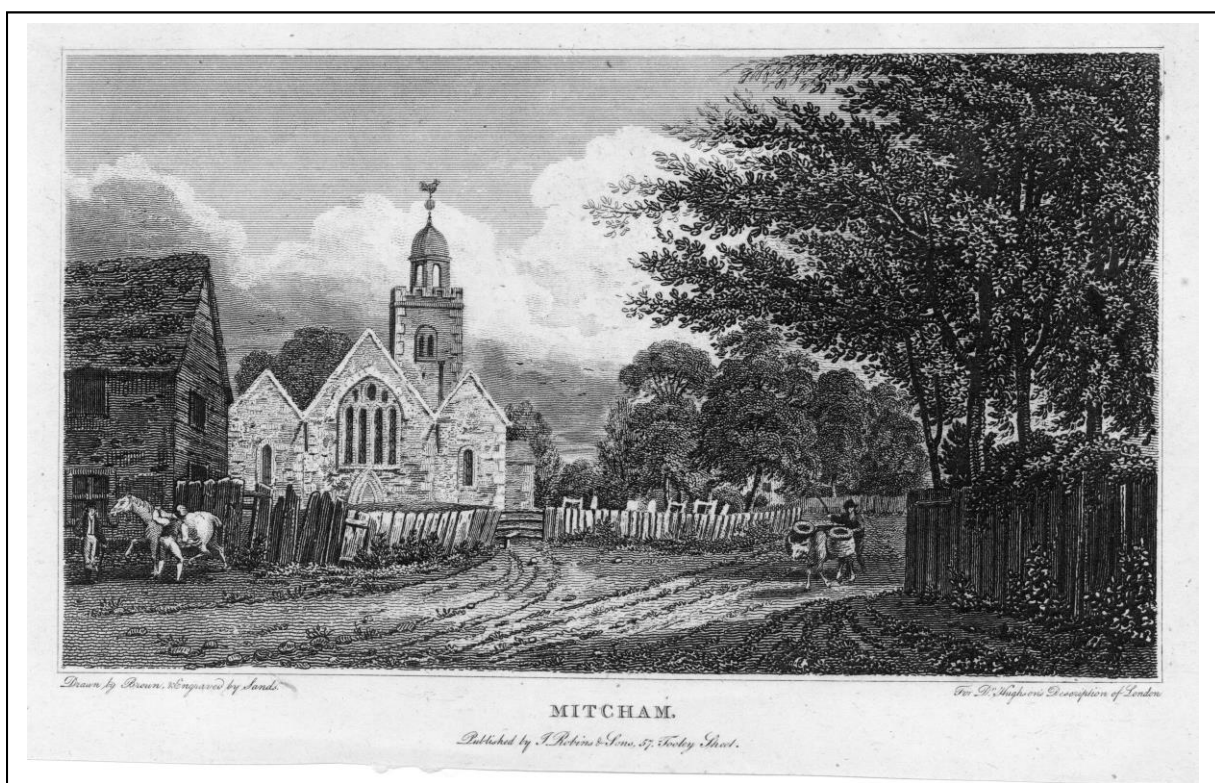
DANIEL SLATER

b. 1806 – d. 1873

Biography *continued*:

Part of an interesting page from The Reverend Herbert Randolph's Notebook (Parishioners of Mitcham) December 1837 to January 1838 contains a fascinating insight into the life at that time and which mentions Daniel Slater. For clarity the entry is as follows:

No. 24 below - Daniel Slater, wife and 4 children, benefit subscriber 1d per week. Have a Bible but wish for a Prayer book. 1 child not christened. (Note: this fact gives further credence to the idea that the fourth child is Susan b.1838 but was not christened until 1845 as Susanna).

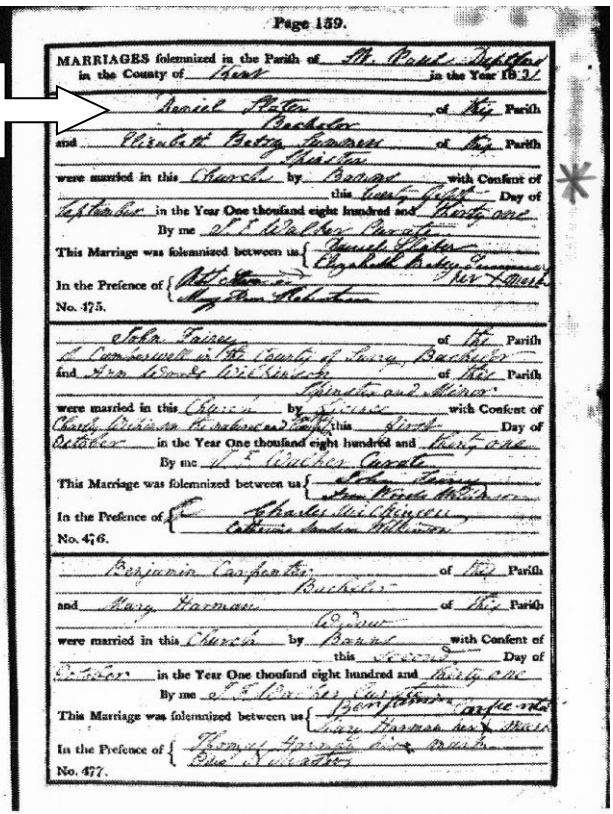
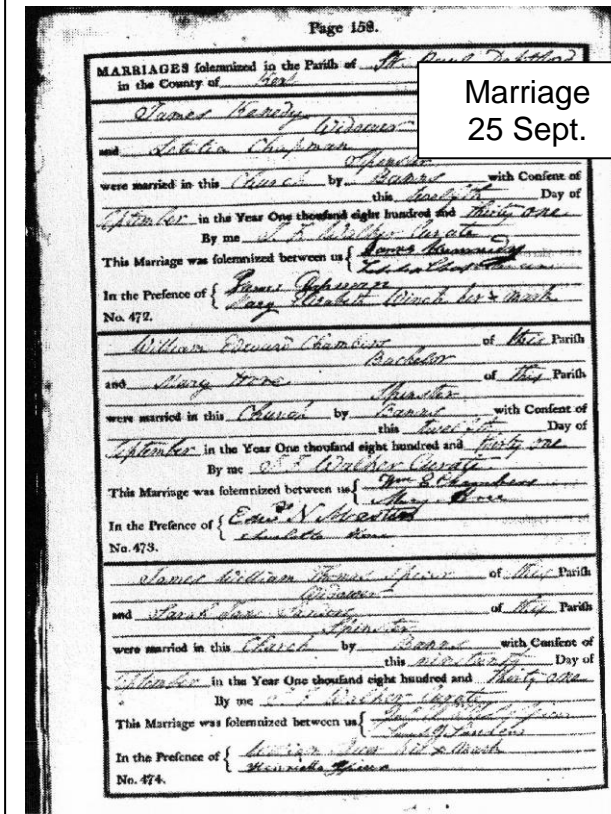
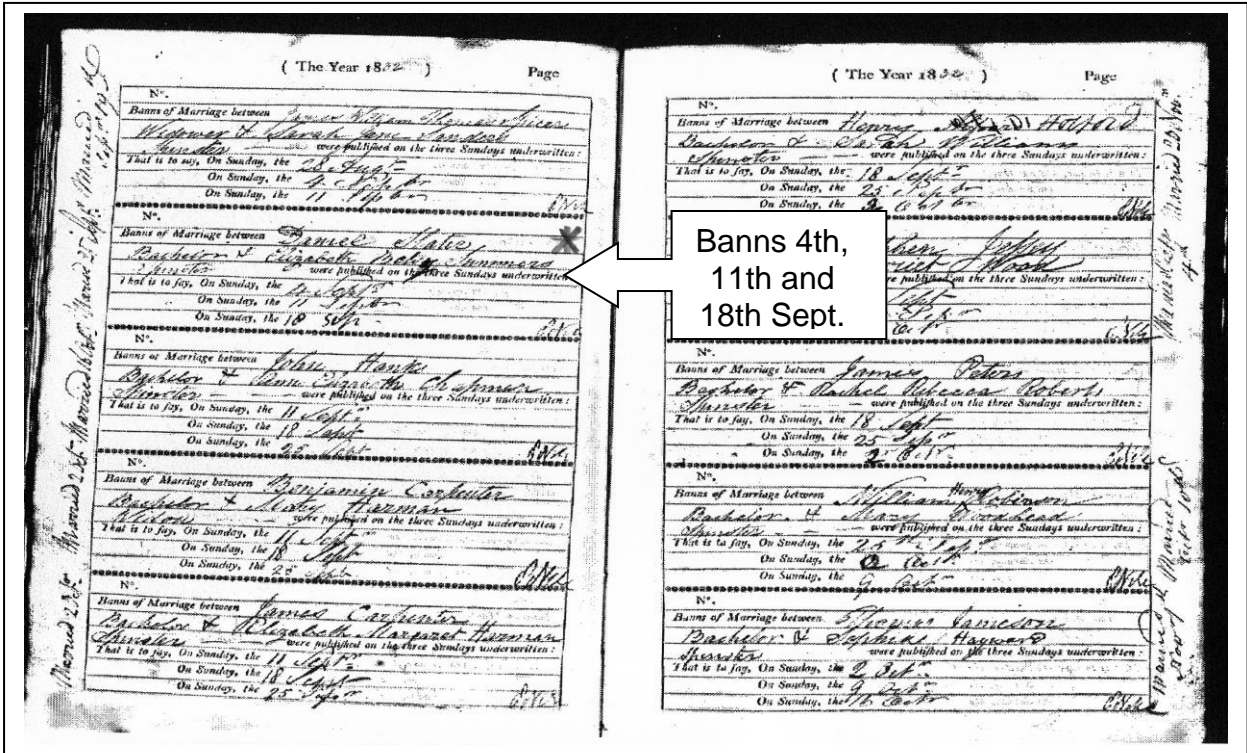


21	Charles BECK, he has been ill for some months, honorary subscriber 1 ^d per week, his wife not in good health & they are in distress, as he has not been able to work for some months.	627
22	William GARNER his family - going to leave Mitcham.	[627]
23	Widow SMALE not a subscriber.	627
24	Daniel SLATER, wife & 4 children, benefit subscriber 1 ^d per week, have a Bible but wish for a Prayer book. 1 child not christened.	628
25	William SIMMONS, not a subscriber, has a Bible & Prayer book.	628
26	Joseph LACK, wife & 3 children, benefit sub ^{ber} 1 ^d per week, have a Bible but wish for one for their eldest child.	629
27	Widow FLETCHER not a subscriber	629
28	Mrs CARR	629
29	Empty	[629]
30	HALL, wife & 3 children, they have Bibles & Prayer books, can't afford to become honorary sub ^{bers}	629
31	FAUN [?] 5 children, they are very poor	[631]
32	Thos. BINGHAM & wife, have an aged Father to support, can't afford to subs ^{be} , have Bible & Prayer Book.	
33	Daniel MEERS, a wife & 3 children, have a Bible & Prayer Book, but can't afford to sub ^{be}	
34	CUMMINS a wife & children, they have neither Bible or Prayer Book, the children can't read.	632
35	Widow CORNISH wishes to have a Bible with large print, but can't afford to subscribe.	632

DANIEL SLATER

b. 1806 – d. 1873

Daniel's marriage to Elizabeth Betsy Summers in 1831:

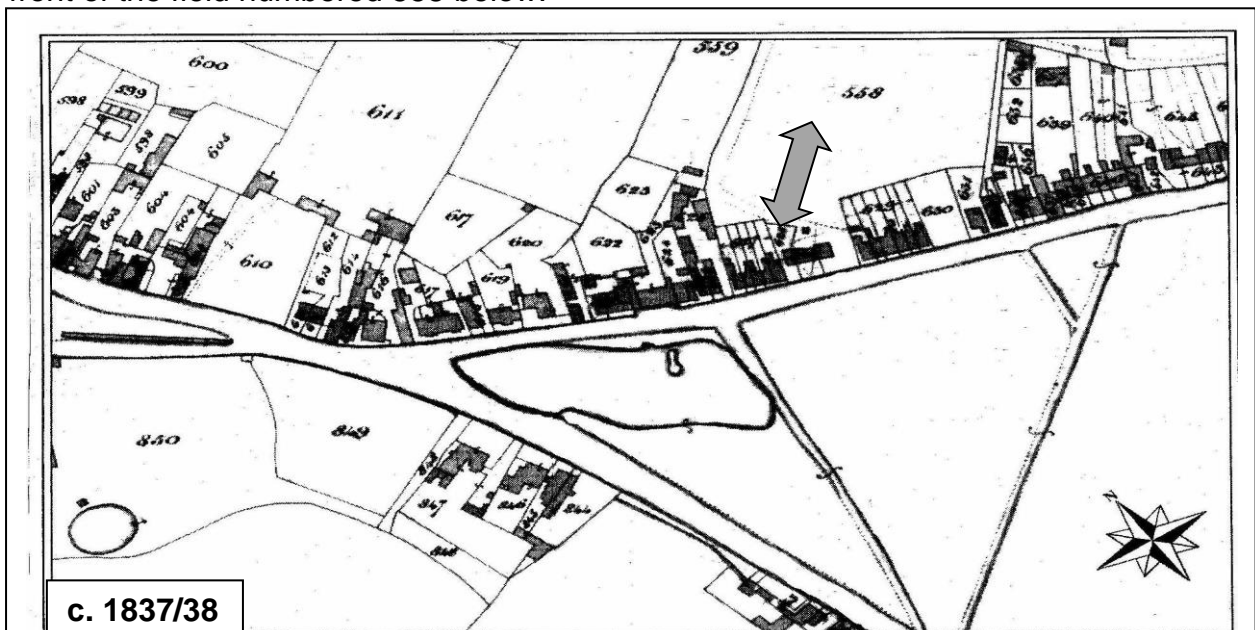


DANIEL SLATER

b. 1806 – d. 1873

Where Daniel lived *continued:*

Referring back to Daniel's Biography The Sutton Local Studies Centre advises that there is a map and a list of the Parishioners of Mitcham 1837/38 by the Reverend Herbert Randolph. The Reverend Herbert Randolph divided his list of parishioners into five districts and allocated each one to notable ladies of the parish. Miss Goad whose name appears on this map was presumably related to William Thomas Goad of Tamworth Lodge, Commonside or to his neighbour George. On the right hand side of the list which is included in the 'biography' there is the number 628 where it is assumed that Daniel and his family were living, as this corresponds with a block of dwellings in front of the field numbered 558 below.



Miss Goad's District included shops and houses from Upper Green to Three Kings Pond.
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