

## James Bernard King and his two families

James Bernard King was born 23 Apr 1856 at the family home which was his father's grocery shop in the High Street in Spilsby, Lincolnshire. He was the son of Henry and Caroline King who originated from London but who moved to Spilsby probably around 1849/1850; he was the middle child of seven. The story of James Bernard is a fascinating one, over the years he had a variety of occupations, had at least six children from his marriage to Eliza Ann Everitt. He had a second relationship with Emily Jane Coates whilst his wife was still alive and this relationship produced at least six children. At times he was estranged from both his 'wives' and some of his later children were either fostered out or taken into 'care'. Two, maybe three, of his children emigrated to Canada and took with them stories of their father's accidental death around 1902 but James Bernard in fact died in 1923 of natural causes in Grimsby, Lincolnshire.

James Bernard, his parents and siblings were recorded as living in Pallinson's Yard, Spilsby, Lincolnshire in the 1861 census but in the 1871 census he had moved away to Northgate Street, Oakham, Rutland, where he was listed as being age 14 and a grocery apprentice. By 1878 he, his parents and most of his siblings, had moved to Grimsby in Lincolnshire where his father had become an insurance agent. From here on in his family life gets very complicated so I have produced a table to show the timeline of events that I have uncovered during the research.

27 Nov 1878	James Bernard age 22 marries Eliza Ann Everitt age 17 in Grimsby, Lincolnshire. Eliza's father was an Ale and Porter Merchant. A quick check of the date of birth for their first child gives a good reason why she married so young. The marriage produced seven children at regular intervals all of whom were born in Grimsby.
25 Jun 1879	James Everitt King born.
22 Oct 1880	Lily Eliza King born.
3 Apr 1881	Census - James Bernard, Eliza Ann and two children living at 29 Fotherby St, Grimsby with Eliza's parents.
12 Oct 1881	Rose Ethel King born.
19 Feb 1883	Violet Annie King born.
15 Sep 1885	Daisy Mabel King born.
19 Jun 1887	Thomas Henry King born but died 24 Jul age just 5 weeks.
?	Unknown – declared by Eliza Ann in the 1911 Census as being deceased.
5 Apr 1891	Census – James Bernard (age 34) and four of his children recorded as living at 8 Oxford Place, Oxford St, Grimsby but this time his 'wife' is shown as Emily J (Emily Jane Coates). Emily Jane was just sixteen and a half years old at the time of this Census. Eliza Ann and her youngest daughter, Daisy Mabel, are missing – where are they?

Somewhere between 1887 and 1891 James Bernard's family life changed completely. In the 1891 census Emily Jane is now listed as his wife and although shown as age 19 she was in fact just sixteen, James Bernard was therefore more than twice her age. I have not found a marriage between James Bernard and Emily Jane. At first I assumed that Eliza (his real wife) had died however I had been unable to prove her death date nor had I found a second marriage record; she had gone missing. I had not found her in the 1891 and 1901 censuses but then came the publication of the 1911 census, more of this later.

Between 1892 and 1900 James Bernard and Emily Jane had six children; the family appear to have been rather nomadic, moving between Lincolnshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire before returning to Grimsby. Emily Jane also seems to have used two maiden names, one her real name of Coates, and strangely, she also used Harley which was the maiden name of her paternal Grandmother!

A timeline of events for this second family is as follows.

13 Feb 1892	Bernard King born in Grimsby – mother's maiden name given as Coates.
25 Jul 1893	Emily Caroline King born in Grimsby – mother's maiden name given as Coates.
5 Nov 1894	Sarah Ann King born in Bolsover, Derbyshire – mother's maiden name given as Harley.
6 May 1896	George Henry King born Newark, Nottinghamshire – mother's maiden name Harley.

11 Sep 1898	Fred Arthur King born in Balderston, Nottinghamshire – mother’s maiden name given as Harley.
18 Dec 1900	Robert James King born in Newark, Nottinghamshire – mother’s maiden name reverts back to Coates.
31 Mar 1901	Census – James Bernard, Emily Jane and five of their children are recorded as living at 1 Britannia Buildings, Newark. Eldest son Bernard (age 9) is missing from the family and has so far not been traced in the 1901 Census.

The move away from Grimsby may well have been work related but why Emily Jane chose to switch maiden names will forever remain a mystery, perhaps the move was necessary for entirely different reasons than work. Throughout the censuses they had been ‘economical’ with the truth regarding her real age presumably to try to disguise some of the large age difference.

James Bernard, Emily Jane and five of their children were together in Newark for the 1901 census but sometime between then and the 1911 census they also were living apart, he was living in a shared house in Grimsby. But where was Emily Jane? After a bit of name juggling I found her in 1911, she was back to using Harley as her surname and age 37 (for a change this was only overstated by a few months). Now she was living in Birmingham and working as a pinafore presser.

The result of my rather hopeful further search for the missing wife Eliza Ann using the 1911 census did surprise me and threw a spanner into the works, she was still alive, still living in Grimsby and describing herself as married using her married name of King. She had been ‘missing’ for twenty years since I have not been able to find her in the 1891 and 1901 censuses. Her daughter, Daisy Mabel had also re-surfaced but in the 1901 census. Now it was time to ask the same question of Eliza Ann - where had she been? I have carried out fairly detailed searches in the two censuses but have so far failed to locate her, my suspicion is that she had probably eventually moved in with someone else and was using his surname but I can find no one listed with enough of the correct personal details to support this theory.

2 Apr 1911	Census – James Bernard and five of his children from his first wife were recorded as living at 7 Montague Street, Grimsby, Lincolnshire. He is shown as married but neither ‘wife’ is with him. Incidentally, the householder had incorrectly included James Bernard’s married children in the census return, they were more properly listed with their families elsewhere around the town.
	Census – Eliza Ann King recorded as living at 29 East Marsh Street, Grimsby, shown as married, none of her children were with her. She was still using her married status.
	Census - Emily Harley recorded as living as a boarder at 184 Bishop Street, Birmingham, shown as single.

The 1911 census had a requirement to declare the number of children born to the marriage and also to declare the number of children that were deceased. James Bernard and Eliza Ann were living apart therefore they had two separate declarations in the 1911 census. Interestingly, James Bernard declared that there were six children born with one deceased, Eliza Ann however declared seven children born with two deceased. Emily Jane having declared herself as single (strictly speaking this seems to be true) so the number of her children is not recorded.

James Bernard has been documented as having an eclectic mix of occupations firstly a grocer’s apprentice in 1871, then an aerated water manufacturer followed by work for the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway Company as a Parcel Van man, then elsewhere as a labourer and in 1885 he was described as an insurance agent. Between 1891 and his death in 1923 James Bernard was again shown with a variety of jobs including fish labourer, fish carter, plaster pit labourer, general labourer, fisherman and finally steam trawler cook. Surprisingly amongst these jobs he was shown on the birth certificate of one of his children to be a Vocalist, for his next child he was shown as a Comedian! Obviously he was a man of many talents.

What of the children of his two relationships? There were at least six from his marriage to Eliza and from his relationship with Emily Jane there were another six children. I have not found an ‘overlap’ with the children’s

births indeed there was a four year gap between births in the two families. Nor have I seen any evidence of the children of the two families living together although the children of his first marriage were aware of Emily Jane because they were together in the 1891 census in Grimsby. What became of his children? It appears that his first family were relatively stable with five of the six remaining in Grimsby with only one spending a short time working away from home. One of these five, Lily Eliza King was my paternal grandmother. It was a different story altogether for his second family.

First Family – Mother - Eliza Ann

James Everitt King	Married twice and remained in Grimsby, was a Railway Fitter's Labourer and unusually for the time was divorced from his first wife. Four children known. Died 1964 age 84.
Lily Eliza King	Married and remained in Grimsby, six children known. Died 1941 age 60. My paternal Grandmother.
Rose Ethel King	Married and remained in Grimsby, six children known.
Violet Annie King	Married and remained in Grimsby except for a short spell in Rotherham, Yorkshire as a Domestic Servant, five children known.
Daisy Mabel King	Unaccounted for in the 1891 census as is her Mother, they were probably together since Daisy was the youngest child however she was back in Grimsby for the 1901 census. Married twice and remained in Grimsby, no children known.
Thomas Henry	Died in Grimsby age five weeks.
unknown	Possibly another child, not yet traced.

Second Family – Mother Emily Jane Coates

<p>Bernard King (also known as Coates)</p> <p>Probably took Coates surname. He is not with his parents and siblings in the 1901 Census (he would have been age 9) and has not been located elsewhere. Believed fostered out and brought up in Birmingham, Warwickshire, employed as a Butcher. Emigrated initially to Canada but in 1911 to USA. Probably had no contact with his siblings.</p>	
	<p>Emily Caroline King (also known as Coates)</p> <p>Probably also fostered out shortly after 1901 and lived in Coddington, Nottinghamshire. In 1911 she is working as a live-in Domestic Servant, age 19, in Coddington. She is now using Coates as her surname. Whereabouts not yet traced after 1911 and a marriage not found. It is possible that this photo (and the one of Sarah below) were taken at a Country Fair or a Fun Fair.</p>
<p>Sarah Anne King (also known as Coates)</p> <p>Probably also fostered out shortly after 1901 and lived in Nottinghamshire. In 1911 she is working as a live-in Domestic Servant, age 16, in Stapleford, Nottinghamshire. She is now also using Coates as her surname. Probably married later.</p>	

### George Henry King

Fostered out to and raised by Walter Embrey Davies (a cycle agent and repairer) and his wife Ellen. Recorded (age 14 as Coates surname) in the 1911 Census as a boarder with them in Collingham, Nottinghamshire, working as a Gardener. Married Mabel Ask in 1914 (using his King surname) and lived in Collingham and they had at least one child. Believed joined the Army in WWI (Sherwood Foresters) and became an Officer.



### Fred Arthur King

Retained his King surname. Again raised by a foster family and also joined the Army and became an Officer. In 1919 he married Lucy Maryam Avery in Newark, Nottinghamshire. Gained an Accounting Degree. In 1948 he emigrated to Canada sponsored by his younger brother, Robert James. Died in 1970 in British Columbia.

### Robert James King

(Known as Jim in Canada)

Used Coates surname when fostered out to George and Elizabeth Hodgkinson in Collingham, Nottinghamshire. He was educated at a Grammar School and held a Trade Certificate in Painting and Decorating. Emigrated to Canada in 1922 and it is believed that he then lost contact with his sisters.

He became a successful businessman after initial difficulties caused by weather, ill-health and the 1929 Stock Market. He was at various time a farmer, milk delivery man and a painter and decorator. In 1937 he married Marjorie Jane Bartlett, they had six children. He moved away from farming and for twenty years concentrated on a painting and decorating business. He and his wife became pillars of the community becoming very active in many areas of the community. Robert James died in November 2000 and his wife Marjorie died just four months later.



James Bernard King died in Grimsby in 1923 age 66 of bronchitis, asthma and cardiac failure, the informant of his death was his eldest daughter Lily Eliza Tappin (my grandmother). I have not yet found the death of his wife Eliza Ann nor that of Emily Jane Coates.

The six children of James Bernard's relationship with Emily Jane on the face of it seemed to have initially fared very badly with the family being split and put into foster care. There is a suggestion that the girls eventually returned to their mother at least until they were of working age but I have seen no evidence that this happened. There is however much evidence that the children appear to have fared well in foster care. There is more work to do on the two families who have turned out to be fascinating branches within our tree. I am especially intrigued to know what became of Eliza Ann and Emily Jane after 1911.

As a result of finding our family genealogy website one of the Jim's children emailed me to confirm that we were distantly related and now I am in contact with two of our half-cousins in Canada who have been able to add some very, very interesting information (including the photos) on James Bernard King and his second family that I most probably would not otherwise have been able to discover. I am therefore very grateful for their help. One of the interesting aspects that came light was that the families in Canada had no knowledge whatsoever about the first family of James Bernard King, and the story that was taken to Canada was that he had died around 1901 in an accident outside a pub. Looks like a story told to his children to explain his absence.

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