

The Collier Family

William Collier, whose will dated 16.2.1788 was proved on 1.10.1789, the year of the French Revolution, was a gentleman of Chester. He had two sons who lived in London.

1. Matthew is described as of Westminster; he married Frances, and died in 1807.
2. William was born around 1742. He lived at New Inn Yard and Holywell Street in Shoreditch from 1779 –1875, and in St John Spitalfields from 1799 –1808, where his trade was Fringe, Ferrit and Velvet Ribbon Maker (1799), Narrow Velvet Maker (1802) and Weaver (1808). He married Phoebe Booth of John Street by licence on 3.9.1782; she was born around 1747. Both were buried at Christchurch Spitalfields, William on 20.12.1808 and Phoebe on 7.2.1812.

William and Phoebe had six children. We descend from the eldest, William Delves Collier, born around 1773. He lived in Spencer Street and Bateman's Row Shoreditch from 1798 - 1804, where he was a weaver, before moving to the White Horse, Hare Street, Bethnal Green where he was a victualler (1806 – 1808). He later moved to St John Street Bethnal Green where he was again a weaver and silk manufacturer (1814 - 1816). By 1835 he was living in Anchor Street Bethnal Green. He married Eleanor Evitt, daughter of William Evitt a weaver and Lydia nee Day on 9.11.1795; Eleanor had been baptised at St Saviour's Southwark on 3.3.1776. They were to have twelve children.

Linda Sullivan writes, "Either this William or his father was involved in a scandal when he was sacked or forced to resign from the Bethnal Green Vestry, a body which ran local government and many of which were notoriously corrupt. He was involved with the Board of Guardians which administered the Poor Law and Workhouse, which is reminiscent of Oliver Twist."

William's five siblings were

1. Ann (c 1777) who married William Kemp,
2. Thomas, a weaver, Brewer's servant, and later gentleman, who married Mary Kemp,
3. Matthew,
4. Sarah Delves, and
5. Phoebe who married John Smithers.

Ann, from whom we descend, was the third child of William and Eleanor, and was born on 31.10.1802, and baptised 29.11.1802 at St Leonard, Shoreditch. She married William Stainer at Christchurch Spitalfields on 9.11.1823.

Ann's eleven siblings were

1. Matthew,
2. Sarah Delves,
3. Eleanor who married William Kemp the son of William Kemp and Ann nee Collier,
4. John,
5. Amelia Ann,
6. James,
7. Thomas,
8. George,
9. Caroline,
10. Jane and

11. Henry Delves, a French Polisher of St Pancras, who married Mary Ann Westlake.