

SHEARN FAMILY
OF SOMERSET, ENGLAND

TWO GENERATION
RESEARCH REPORT

PREPARED FOR THE
CHRISTOPHER HALL FAMILY



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GENERATION ONE

Research Objectives – Generation One

Develop an image of the life of Charles Hall Shearn and his family as follows:

- Find where and when Charles Hall Shearn, son of Mark Hall and Sarah Parfitt, was born.
- Determine where he lived throughout his lifetime and when, where, and who he married.
- Determine where and when his wife/wives were born, lived, and died.
- Determine where and when his children were born, married, and died.
- Use archives, libraries, family history societies, gazetteers, census, civil registration, church, non-conformist, probate, parish chest and quarter sessions records as needed.

Background Information – Generation One

According to client research, Charles Hall Shearn was born about 1830 in Somerset, England.¹ His parents were Mark Hall Shearn (1800-1884) and Sarah Ann Parfitt (1800-1856).² He had one brother, Samuel Shearn.³ He had three sisters: Phoebe, Elizabeth, and Mary Shearn.⁴ Charles married three times: Matilda Hart, Arabella Cowley, and Eliza Smith.⁵ All together he

¹ "Register of Baptisms At the Wesleyan Chapel In Midsomer Norton, Somerset From 1801 To 1837," Non-Parochial BMDs, 1581-1970, database, TheGenealogist.co.uk (TheGenealogist.co.uk : 26 May 2020), Charles Orlando Hall Shearn, document 48. The National Archives Vital Records, death certificate, Charles Hall Shearn, 23 December 1921, document 34.

² Birth and death dates for mark hall and Sarah Parfitt. "FreeBMD Entry Information," index database with digital images (https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/information.pl?r=25385957:3095&d=bmd_1588661647 : accessed 15 May 2020), death entry for Sarah Ann Shearn, December, 1856, Clutton, volume 5c, page 412.

³ 1841 census of England, Somersetshire, Midsomer Norton, Enumeration District 1, folio 11, page 14, line 13, Charles Hall Shearn; imaged, "1841 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 May 2020); citing class H0107, piece 939, book 16, GSU roll 474596, 1841 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 1.

⁴ 1841 census of England, Somersetshire, Midsomer Norton, Enumeration District 1, folio 11, page 14, line 13, Charles Hall Shearn; imaged, "1841 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 May 2020); citing class H0107, piece 939, book 16, GSU roll 474596, 1841 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 1. 1841 census of England, Somersetshire, Chewton Mendip, Enumeration District 3, folio 12, page 1, line 19, Phoebe Shearn; imaged, "1841 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 18 June 2020); 1841 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 56.

⁵ "Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1938," database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 22 May 2020), Charles Hall Shearn and Matilda Hart, marriage 15 March 1856, document 44. "London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1932," database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 22 May 2020), Charles Hall Shearn and Eliza Smith, marriage 3 June 1879, document 41.

had five children: Charles James Hall Shearn, James Parfitt Shearn, Robert Austin Shearn, Lilian Shearn, and Albert Henry Shearn.⁶

Research and Analysis – Generation One

Charles Hall Shearn Family

Charles Hall Shearn was born 26 April 1830 in Woodborough, Radstock, Somerset, England.⁷ He died 23 December 1921 in Camberwell, Surrey, England.⁸ He was the son of Mark Hall Shearn born 1800 in Midsomer Norton, Somerset, England died 1886 in Three Rivers, St Joseph, Michigan and Sarah Ann Parfitt born about 1800 in Somerset, England died October 1856 in Somerset, England.⁹ Charles Hall Shearn married Matilda Hart on 15 March 1856 in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England.¹⁰ The couple had two sons Charles James Hall Shearn in 1858 and James Parfitt Shearn in 1862.¹¹ Matilda Hart died in January 1875.¹² Charles Hall Shearn married Arabella Cowley on 27 April 1876 in Fairford, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.¹³

⁶ 1871 census of England, Wiltshire, Calne, Studley, Registration District Calne, Enumeration District 12, folio 78, page 20, household number 111, Matilda Shearn; imaged, "1871 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 May 2020); citing RG10, piece 1902, GSU roll 830866, 1871 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 4. 1881 census of England, London, Hanover, St George, Registration District Chelsea, Enumeration District 4, folio 96, page 46, Eliza Shearn; imaged, "1881 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 May 2020); citing RG 11, piece 95, GSU roll 1341021, 1881 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 6. "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837-1915," index database with digital images, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 20 June 2020), marriage entry for Albert Henry Shearn and Gladys Adalone, volume 1d, page 1623, document 63.

⁷ 1881 census of England, London, Hanover, St Georges, Registration District Chelsea, Enumeration District 3, folio 65, page 33, Charles H. Shearn; imaged, "1881 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 May 2020); citing RG 11, piece 95, 1881 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 5.

⁸ The National Archives Vital Records, death certificate, Charles Hall Shearn, 23 December 1921, document 34.

⁹ 1841 census of England, Somersetshire, Midsomer Norton, Enumeration District 1, folio 11, page 14, line 13, Charles Hall Shearn; imaged, "1841 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 May 2020); citing class H0107, piece 939, book 16, GSU roll 474596, 1841 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 1.

¹⁰ "Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1938," database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 22 May 2020), Charles Hall Shearn and Matilda Hart, marriage 15 March 1856, document 44.

¹¹ 1871 census of England, Wiltshire, Calne, Studley, Registration District Calne, Enumeration District 12, folio 78, page 20, household number 111, Matilda Shearn; imaged, "1871 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 May 2020); citing RG10, piece 1902, GSU roll 830866, 1871 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 4.

¹² "FreeBMD Entry Information," index database with digital images (https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/information.pl?r=55738358:7683&d=bmd_1588661647 : accessed 16 May 2020), death entry for Matilda Shearn, March, 1875, Calne, volume 5a, page 65, document 14.

¹³ "Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1938," database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 22 May 2020), Charles Hall Shearn and Arabella Cowley, document 47.

They had one son, Robert Austin Shearn born about 1877.¹⁴ Arabella died in 1877.¹⁵ Charles Hall Shearn married Eliza Smith on 3 June 1879 in Westminster, St James, Paddington, England. Charles and Eliza had two sons Albert, born about 1883; William; and a daughter Lilian, born about 1881.¹⁶

Charles Hall Shearn and Matilda Hart

Charles Hall Shearn married Matilda Hart on 15 March 1856 in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England.¹⁷ Cheltenham is about 60 miles from Midsomer Norton and about 40 miles from Bristol. According to the marriage record, this was the first marriage for both of them. Charles' residence was Roderic House where he was a servant.¹⁸ Matilda's residence was 6 St. Philip's Street, Cheltenham. She was not working. Charles' father, Mark Shearn, was a yeoman, a free farmer. Matilda's father, John Hart, was a road surveyor. The data in the record comports with known information about the family including Charles' father's name and occupation. The name of the couple's first child helps solidify and accentuates the veracity of these documents and their application to the ancestors.

Charles' and Matilda's first child, Charles James Hall Shearn, was born 9 May 1858.¹⁹ Clearly *Hall* is a commonly passed on name in the Mark Hall Shearn / Charles Hall Shearn families. It was Charles Hall Shearn's paternal grandmother's maiden name, and it was also Charles' father's middle name. Charles and Matilda passed it to their first born. Charles James Hall Shearn was baptized 27 June 1858 at All Souls Church in the Parish of St. Marylebone, Middlesex. By this time Charles' occupation was butler. The Shearn family was living at 20 George St, Marylebone, an area of London just north of Mayfair and east of Paddington, not far

¹⁴ 1881 census of England, London, Hanover, St Georges, ED 3, p. 33, Charles H. Shearn, document 5.

¹⁵ "FreeBMD Entry Information," index database with digital images (https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/information.pl?r=59914800:2499&d=bmd_1588661647 : accessed 15 May 2020), death entry for Arabella Shearn, June, 1877, Hanover Square volume 1a, page 22, document 16.

¹⁶ 1891 census of England, London, Hanover, St George, Registration District Mayfair, Enumeration District Christ Church, folio 131, page 30, Charles H. Shearn; imaged, "1891 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 May 2020); citing RG 12, piece 69, GSU roll 6095179, 1891 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 7.

¹⁷ "Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1938," database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 22 May 2020), Charles Hall Shearn and Matilda Hart, marriage 15 March 1856, document 44.

¹⁸ Roderic House is currently part of Cheltenham Ladies' College (<https://www.cheltladiescollege.org/> : accessed 15 June 2020).

¹⁹ "London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917," database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 22 May 2020), Charles Hall Shearn, document 38.

from Hyde Park, Westminster, Belgravia, and Buckingham Palace. By 1861, according to the census, Charles was working as butler for George Glas Sandeman at 15 Hyde Park Gardens, Paddington.²⁰ His name was listed immediately after the members of the Sandeman family. He was thirty years old. He was still married to Matilda, but he was living in the house at Hyde Park Gardens. In another 1861 census record, Matilda and Charles James Hall were living at 8 Palace Street in Westminster, a thirty minute walk across Hyde Park to 15 Hyde Park Gardens where her husband lived and worked.²¹ Matilda was 34 years old, and Charles James Hall Shearn was 2 years old. The Shearns ran a lodge house because Matilda's occupation was listed as lodging house keeper. On census day they had three lodgers at the home, all male: Henry Read (23), Richard Marsh (19), and J Gray (19).

Charles' and Matilda's second child, son James Parfitt Shearn, was born 1862 in Kensington, Middlesex according to his birth record.²² *Parfitt* was another name passed along from parent to child in the Shearn family. In this case, *Parfitt* is the maiden name of Charles' mother. James was baptized 6 July 1863 at All Saints Parish in Paddington, Middlesex.²³ According to the baptism record, Charles was a butler, but the family had moved to 17 Stanley St, Paddington. Because Charles was still a butler, he was likely living in the home of his employer as he did in the 1861 census, perhaps still at 15 Hyde Park Gardens, though the baptismal record does not specify.

By 1871, according to the census, Matilda Shearn, Charles James Hall Shearn, and James Parfitt Shearn lived at 111 Black Dog Hill, Studly, Calne, Wiltshire.²⁴ Matilda was 41 years old, Charles James Hall was 12 years old, and James was 8 years old. The household was only the

²⁰ 1861 census of England, Middlesex, Paddington, Kensington, Enumeration District 1, folio 8, page 14, Charles H. Shearn; imaged, "1861 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 May 2020); citing RG 9, piece 7, GSU roll 542555, 1861 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 2.

²¹ 1861 census of England, Middlesex, Westminster, St Margaret, Enumeration District 13, folio 35, page 5, Matilda Shearn; imaged, "1861 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 May 2020); citing RG 9, piece 54, GSU roll 542564, 1861 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 3.

²² "FreeBMD Entry Information," index database with digital images (https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/information.pl?r=34268220:3890&d=bmd_1588661647 : accessed 15 May 2020), birth entry for James Parfitt Shearn, September, 1862, Kensington, volume 1a, page 40.

²³ "London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917," database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 22 May 2020), James Parfitt Shearn, document 39.

²⁴ 1871 census of England, Wiltshire, Calne, Studley, Registration District Calne, Enumeration District 12, folio 78, page 20, household number 111, Matilda Shearn; imaged, "1871 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 May 2020); citing RG10, piece 1902, GSU roll 830866, 1871 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 4.

three of them. No occupation was listed for Matilda, though the boys were attending school. A search of 1871 census records for Charles Hall Shearn did not produce any results. However, in 1876 and again in 1881 he was working as a house steward at 54 Berkeley Square, Westminster, also known as Lansdowne House, the home of Henry Fitzmaurice, the 5th Marquess of Lansdowne.²⁵ The Marquess also owned a property in Wiltshire known as Bowood. Matilda and the children were at 111 Black Dog Hill, Studly, Calne, Wiltshire which was directly across the road from the Bowood property. With that in mind, it was not unlikely that in 1871 at least on census day, while Matilda and the children were at Black Dog Hill, Charles was running Bowood for the Marquess. However, if Charles had been at Bowood on census day, he would have been listed there in the census, but he was not on any England census that year. At least no record was located. It is possible that Charles was with the Fitzmaurice family somewhere not in England. A search for the Marquess, Henry Fitzmaurice or Henry Petty-Fitzmaurice born 1845, in the 1871 census, revealed no record from England or Wales. The Marquess held other offices and had other properties. He may have been out of the country on census day and, given other data, it is likely that Charles would have been with him.

Matilda Shearn died in Calne, Wiltshire in 1875.²⁶ She was 48 years old.

²⁵ 1881 census of England, London, Hanover, St George, Registration District Chelsea, Enumeration District 3, folio 65, page 33, Charles H. Shearn; imaged, "1881 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 May 2020); citing RG 11, piece 95, 1881 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 5. House steward is similar to butler in that a house steward and butler both manage the household and staff.

²⁶ "FreeBMD Entry Information," index database with digital images (https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/information.pl?r=55738358:7683&d=bmd_1588661647 : accessed 16 May 2020), death entry for Matilda Shearn, March, 1875, Calne, volume 5a, page 65, document 14.

Charles Hall Shearn and Arabella Cowley

On their marriage record, Arabella Cowley was the daughter of Robert Cowley, cordwainer.²⁷ When Arabella and Charles married on 27 April 1876 in the parish church at Fairford, Gloucestershire, she was 31 years old, born about 1845. Charles was a 45 year old widower working as a house steward at St. Georges, Hanover Square, London, likely in the home of the Marquess of Lansdowne on Berkeley Square. This was the earliest found record that showed Charles worked for the Marquess of Lansdowne. It is further support that Charles did work at Bowood when Matilda passed away. The marriage to Arabella was about two and a half years after the passing of Matilda. Charles and Arabella had one child, Robert Austin Shearn. He was born 29 April 1877 in St Georges, Hanover Square.²⁸ He was baptized 5 November 1877. No England or Wales marriage or death documents were found for Robert Austin Shearn in civil registration or church records.

Robert was born at St. Georges, Hanover Square during the June quarter of 1877.

Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.
Wife of Charles Hall Shearn House Steward	Puerperal Fever 16 days Certified by Barton Smith M.D.

Cause of Death - Arabella Shearn

Arabella died at St. Georges, Hanover Square during the June quarter of 1877.²⁹ It is possible that she died during birth or as a result of giving birth. Her death record should show how, where and when she died. The death certificate was obtained from the British governmental archive. It showed Arabella died of

puerperal fever.³⁰ She died at 5 Carpenter Street, Hanover Square, Middlesex. She was 33 years old. Her occupation was listed as wife of Charles Hall Shearn, House Steward. Charles'

²⁷ "Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1938," database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 22 May 2020), Charles Hall Shearn and Arabella Cowley, document 46.

²⁸ "Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1913," database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 22 May 2020), Robert Austin Shearn, 5 November 1877, document 45.

²⁹ "FreeBMD Entry Information," index database with digital images (https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/information.pl?r=59914800:2499&d=bmd_1588661647 : accessed 15 May 2020), death entry for Arabella Shearn, June, 1877, Hanover Square volume 1a, page 22, document 16.

³⁰ The National Archives Vital Records, death certificate, Arabella Shearn, 14 May 1877, document 88.

signature is on the death document. He was “widower of deceased. Present at the death, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square.” Puerperal fever was also known as childbed fever.³¹ It was caused by an infection in the reproductive organs after childbirth. Arabella died from an infection that she contracted as a result of giving birth to her only child, Robert Austin Shearn.

Charles Hall Shearn and Eliza Smith

Civil registration records showed Eliza Smith was born in late 1843 in Crediton, Devonshire.³² The parish marriage record showed her father was a labourer named Thomas Smith. Eliza and Charles Hall Shearn were married on 3 June 1879 by banns in the parish church of Paddington, Middlesex.³³ Elizabeth Shearn, perhaps Charles sibling or sister-in-law, was a witness. Charles’ father Mark Hall Shearn was listed as a farmer. Charles’ occupation was house steward. His residence was Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square where he still worked for the Marquess of Lansdowne. Eliza’s occupation was not listed, but she was shown living at 15 Hyde Park Gardens, the same house where Charles had been the butler in 1861. If Eliza worked for the Sandemans she was not in the house on census day in 1861. A search for her, and a search for her father in the 1861 census did not return a record. She was found with her father and family in Morchard Bishop, Devonshire in the 1851 census.³⁴ She was 7 years old. The family lived at 32 Sharland. The household included Thomas, born about 1821; Mary, Thomas’ wife, a weaver serge, born about 1820; son George, born about 1840; son John, born about 1842; daughter Jane, born about 1846; and daughter Mary A, born about 1849. It is possible, maybe even likely, that at the age of 17, as Eliza would have been in 1861, she was working. Her connection with the Sandemans or 15 Hyde Park Gardens was unknown. When she began working there, and whether or not she was in the home at any time when Charles was butler, was not determined.

³¹ “Puerperal fever,” Britannica (<https://www.britannica.com/science/puerperal-fever> : accessed 6 July 2020).

³² “FreeBMD Entry Information,” index database with digital images (https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/information.pl?r=7349724:8170&d=bmd_1588661647 : accessed 15 May 2020), birth entry for Eliza Smith, December, 1843, Crediton, volume X, page 90, document 23.

³³ “London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1932,” database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 22 May 2020), Charles Hall Shearn and Eliza Smith, marriage 3 June 1879, document 41.

³⁴ 1851 census of England, Devon, Crediton, reference HO107/1886/F?, Eliza Smith, TheGenealogist.co.uk (thegenealogist.co.uk : accessed 20 June 2020); “HO107 1841/1851 Census Returns,” The National Archives document 60.

Eliza and Charles had two children together daughter Lilian, born 1881; and Albert Henry, born 1882.³⁵ Lilian was baptized 6 August 1881 in the parish of Christ Church, Derry Hill, Wiltshire.³⁶ The family's abode was Bowood and Charles was a steward. Albert Henry Shearn was born 1882 in Hanover Square.³⁷ Albert Henry's baptism record was searched but not found. Lilian died in 1887 in the March quarter in Hanover Square.³⁸

By 1881 Eliza was living with the kids and running a lodging house.³⁹ The house was at 17 Half Moon St, Hanover Square, Middlesex. The members of the household were

Name	Age	Relationship to head of household
Eliza Shearn	37	Head
Charles J. H. Shearn	22	Step-son
Robert A. Shearn	3	Step-son
Joseph Smith	28	Boarder
Fanny Smith	19	Boarder
Eliza J. Skelton	23	Boarder
Patrick Budd	28	Boarder
Florence Budd	19	Boarder
Austin A. Walock	38	Boarder
Charles L. Grard	44	Boarder

³⁵ "Wiltshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1916," database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 22 May 2020), Lilian Shearn, document 43. 1891 census of England, London, Hanover, St George, Registration District Mayfair, Enumeration District Christ Church, folio 131, page 30, Charles H. Shearn; imaged, "1891 England Census," database, Ancestry (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 9 May 2020); citing RG 12, piece 69, GSU roll 6095179, 1891 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 7.

³⁶ "Wiltshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1916," database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 22 May 2020), Lilian Shearn, document 43.

³⁷ "FreeBMD Entry Information," index database with digital images (https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/information.pl?r=69442866:3376&d=bmd_1588661647 : accessed 15 May 2020), birth entry for Albert Henry Shearn, September, 1882, Hanover Square, volume 1a, page 399, document 17.

³⁸ "FreeBMD Entry Information," index database with digital images (https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/information.pl?r=78121456:7926&d=bmd_1588661647 : accessed 15 May 2020), death entry for Lilian Shearn, March, 1887, Hanover Square, volume 1a, page 307, document 28.

³⁹ 1881 census of England, London, Hanover, St George, Registration District Chelsea, Enumeration District 4, folio 96, page 46, Eliza Shearn; imaged, "1881 England Census," database, Ancestry (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 9 May 2020); citing RG 11, piece 95, GSU roll 1341021, 1881 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew document 6.

While Charles was running the house on Berkeley Square, Eliza and Charles James Hall Shearn were maintaining a sizeable boarding house.

By the census of 1891, Charles Hall Shearn was no longer working in service.⁴⁰ Perhaps he had retired. He was 61 years old and a lodging house keeper. Eliza was 47 years old, and Albert Henry was 8 years old. The house was at the same address as the 1881 census, 17 Half Moon Street, St Georges, Hanover Square. While there were seven boarders in 1881, there were no lodgers in the house in 1891, but there were four servants. They were Alice Trope, a 19 year old female; Ada Bibby, a 17 year old female; Henri Lause, a 23 year old male; and Thomas Head, a 14 year old male. There is no indication of the work they were doing.

If Charles owned the property at Half Moon Street he may have paid a poor law rate against it. Poor Law and Parish Chest records were searched for Charles Hall Shearn and the address 17 Half Moon Street. The search resulted in two properties that were owned by Charles. One property was at 17 Half Moon Street, St George, Hanover Square, Westminster.⁴¹ The other property was at 34 Clarges Street, St George, Hanover Square, Westminster.⁴² These properties are both in the same block. They sit basically back to back with Half Moon Street to the east and Clarges Street on the west. The “rateable value” was assessed at 184 each, presumably that was pounds sterling, though the record does not make it clear.

By 1901 the family had moved again.⁴³ What came of the properties on Clarges and Half Moon streets is not mentioned in the census record. Other records may offer some indication. In 1901 they lived at 46 Melford Rd, Camberwell, London. Charles was 68 years old, and Eliza was 57 years old. Albert Henry remained in the household, and he was 18 years old. Charles and Eliza’s niece Edith Smith was also living in the home. She was 15 years old. She was born in

⁴⁰ 1891 census of England, London, Hanover, St George, Registration District Mayfair, Enumeration District Christ Church, folio 131, page 30, Charles H. Shearn; imaged, “1891 England Census,” database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 May 2020); citing RG 12, piece 69, GSU roll 6095179, 1891 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 7.

⁴¹ “Valuation,” Westminster, Poor Law And Parish Administration, database, FindMyPast (findmypast.co.uk : 13 June 2020), Charles Hall Shearn, 17, Half Moon Street, document 54.

⁴² “Valuation,” Westminster, Poor Law And Parish Administration, database, FindMyPast (findmypast.co.uk : 13 June 2020), Charles Hall Shearn, 34, Clarges Street, document 53.

⁴³ 1901 census of England, London, Camberwell, St Peter, Registration District Camberwell, Enumeration District 57, folio 70, page 39, household number 236, Charles H. Shearn; imaged, “1901 England Census,” database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 May 2020); citing RG 13, piece 503, 1901 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 8.

Bath, Somerset. The family was listed as living on their own means, which likely means they were living on savings or other income.

In the census of 1911, the family still lived at 46 Melford Rd, East Dulwich, Camberwell, London.⁴⁴ Charles was 78 years old and had been in his present marriage for 32 years. Eliza was 67 years old. Both were listed as retired. There was a visitor in the home on census day, Linda Newman, who was a 23 year old, single woman working as a shop assistant in a confectionary. She was from Surrey. Charles and Eliza also had a servant girl named Lucy Elizabeth Goldfinch. She was single and 18 years old.

Eliza died about a year after the census in 1912 in Camberwell.⁴⁵ She was 67 years old. Charles Hall Shearn lived another nine years. There was no indication that he married again. He died on 23 December 1921 at 46 Melford Rd, Camberwell.⁴⁶ He was 91 years old. According to the doctor, he died primarily of old age, but he also had bronchitis at the time. The informant on his death certificate was his oldest son, Charles James Hall Shearn who lived at 35B Laudon Road, Forest Hill.

Charles Hall Shearn left a will. His will was probated 23 February 1922 in the amount of £4364 19 shillings 5 pence.⁴⁷ The will was written 17 December 1889. He added a codicil on 12 March 1898. In the will he names his wife Eliza and his oldest son Charles James Hall Shearn as his executors. He left all of his possessions in a trust. Eliza was the primary beneficiary. Charles wanted his real estate to be sold. He determined that his investment returns were not to be directed back into the investments as capital, but to be taken as income into the trust. He named his sons to each receive portions of his estate after Eliza's death based on sixth parts of the trust. Charles James Hall Shearn was to receive one sixth part. Robert Austin Shearn was to receive two sixth parts once he was 21 years old. Albert Henry Shearn was allotted three sixths parts at the age of 21 years. If any of the boys were to die and leave a grandchild, their portions were to be divided equally.

⁴⁴ 1911 census of England, London, Camberwell, Registration District 27, Enumeration District 04, Charles H. Shearn; imaged, "1911 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 May 2020); citing RG 14, piece 2454, 1911 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 9.

⁴⁵ "FreeBMD Entry Information," index database with digital images (https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/information.pl?r=129173735:7755&d=bmd_1588661647 : accessed 15 May 2020), death entry for Eliza Shearn, December, 1912, Camberwell, volume 1d, page 786, document 22.

⁴⁶ The National Archives Vital Records, death certificate, Charles Hall Shearn, 23 December 1921, document 34.

⁴⁷ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1995," database, Ancestry ([ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : 1 June 2020), Charles Hall Shearn, document 51.

In 1898 Charles Hall Shearn made an amendment to his will. The codicil revoked all gifts previously made to Robert Austin Shearn including a watch chain, jewelry, and a silver bowl that was given to Charles by the Marquess of Lansdowne. He gave the watch chain, jewelry, and the silver bowl to Charles James Hall Shearn, and he gave the two sixths parts from the trust fund to Albert Henry Shearn.

Charles' Career

Charles' servant position at Roderic House was not noted in the record of marriage to Matilda Hart, but he must have been a very capable servant because by the 1858 birth of Charles James Hall Shearn, just two years after his marriage, he was running the house as butler at 15 Hyde Park Gardens, Paddington for George Glas Sandeman, a prosperous merchant. By 1881, Charles was house steward in the home of the 5th Marquess of Lansdowne, the pinnacle of his career. According to found records, he worked for the Marquess both in Berkeley Square and in the country estate at Bowood in Wiltshire. He may have also traveled to other properties or on trips with the Marquess as his services were necessary.

Children of Charles Hall Shearn

Charles James Hall Shearn was Charles' oldest son. His mother was Matilda Hart. He married Georgina Cusden in Hanover Square in late 1887.⁴⁸ He worked as a clerk in the House of Commons and may have held other positions there.⁴⁹ He died at a village on the sea, East Preston, West Sussex, on 14 February 1933 at 74 years old.⁵⁰ He left a will in the amount of £1953 11 shillings and 1 penny.⁵¹ The will was written 10 February 1890.⁵² The will was probated 25 April 1933. He lived at Woodville, Eton Road, Worthing, Sussex when he died. Worthing is on the sea just a few miles to the east of East Preston. Before that, and when the will

⁴⁸ "FreeBMD Entry Information," index database with digital images (https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/information.pl?r=79660854:8588&d=bmd_1588661647 : accessed 15 May 2020), marriage entry for Charles James H Shearn, volume 1a, page 707, document 20.

⁴⁹ document

⁵⁰ "FreeBMD Entry Information," index database with digital images (https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/information.pl?r=167152954:1993&d=bmd_1588661647 : accessed 15 May 2020), death entry for Charles J.H. Shearn, March, 1933, E. Preston, volume 2b, page 686, document 21.

⁵¹ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1995," database, Ancestry (ancestry.com : 1 June 2020), Charles James Hall Shearn, document 52.

⁵² The Principal Registry of the Family Division (London, England), Grant of Probate for the estate of Charles James Hall Shearn dated 25 April 1933 with annexed will (copy) for Charles James Hall Shearn dated 10 February 1890, document 58.

was written, he lived at 33 South Audley Street, Grovsnor Square, Middlesex. His widow Georgina Shearn was the sole beneficiary and executrix. No specific property and no children are mentioned in the will.

James Parfitt Shearn the second son of Charles Hall Shearn and Matilda Hart, died at the age of 15 in 1877.⁵³ He died in Axbridge, Somerset.

Robert Austin Shearn was the only child of Charles Hall Shearn and Arabella Cowley. He was born at St George, Hanover Square in 1877.⁵⁴ Marriage, census, and death records were search, but no record was found. Records were found, but based on known information at the time, none was determined to be the Robert Austin Shearn in question. However, based on his father's will and codicil, it was possible that some of the found records were the correct Robert Austin Shearn. Some of the found records indicated a criminal history including a mug shot photograph as well as passage to Australia. If Robert Austin had committed a crime, that might have been sufficient reason for Charles to remove him from his will. There also remained the question of possible animosity that Charles may have harbored against Robert because Robert's mother Arabella died due to an infection which was a result of giving birth to Robert. Currently no records have been uncovered that support the notion. In fact, Robert Austin was in the original will as recipient of three sixths part of his father's trust which was more than his older brother Charles had been allotted and one portion less than his younger brother. In order to determine what came of Robert Austin, United Kingdom military, court, prison, and emigration should be searched. Australian and New Zealand censuses, court, immigration, and other records should also be searched.

Lilian died in 1887 in the March quarter in Hanover Square.⁵⁵

⁵³ "FreeBMD Entry Information," index database with digital images (https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/information.pl?r=59914801:3366&d=bmd_1588661647 : accessed 15 May 2020), death entry for James Parfitt Shearn, June, 1877, Axbridge, volume 5c, page 406, document 26.

⁵⁴ "FreeBMD Entry Information," index database with digital images (https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/information.pl?r=59758130:5714&d=bmd_1588661647 : accessed 15 May 2020), birth entry for Robert Austin Shearn, June, 1877, Hanover Square, volume 1a, page 350, document 29.

⁵⁵ "FreeBMD Entry Information," index database with digital images (https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/information.pl?r=78121456:7926&d=bmd_1588661647 : accessed 15 May 2020), death entry for Lilian Shearn, March, 1887, Hanover Square, volume 1a, page 307, document 28.

Albert Henry Shearn was the youngest child of Charles Hall Shearn.⁵⁶ Albert's mother was Eliza Smith. Albert was born in July 1882.⁵⁷ In the 1891 and 1901 census records Albert was with his parents. Albert was married in April 1907.⁵⁸ He married Gladys Ethel Adalone Newman at Lewisham, London. Gladys was from Brockley, Kent.⁵⁹ By 1911 the pair had a son, Douglas Hall Shearn. The family lived at 16 Market Street, Mayfair. Albert was a stationer. He was also an employer, so he had people working for him. He was 28 years old. Gladys was 24 years old and assisting in the business. Douglas was 14 weeks old. Other household members included Linda Newman, Albert's sister-in-law. She was 23 years old and single. She was also from Brockley, Kent and assisting in the business. Lastly, Lily Brewer, Albert's cousin, was in the home and assisting in the business. She was 16 years old and single. She was from Lapford, Devon. Lapford is quite near Morchard Bishop, Crediton where Eliza Smith, Albert's mother, was born.

A search of the city directory produced a 1910 Electoral Register. The record put Albert Henry Shearn living at 16 Market-street, St George, Hanover Square, Westminster. Given his date of birth and the situation in Europe during Albert's lifetime, a search of military records was completed. Albert served in the 1st Royal Fusiliers.⁶⁰ He entered service on 9 September 1914. He was 32 years and 2 months old. He was a newsagent. He lived at 18 Margaret Street, Mayfair. He was married. He was to serve a term of three years. Albert's death date is unknown. Probate and death record collections were searched. Records of probate and death were found for an Albert Henry Shearn in Nottinghamshire, but the spouse and other named relatives in the records were not Gladys, her family, or Albert's family. No conclusive record of probate or Albert's death was found.

⁵⁶ "FreeBMD Entry Information," index database with digital images (https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/information.pl?r=69442866:3376&d=bmd_1588661647 : accessed 15 May 2020), birth entry for Albert Henry Shearn, September, 1882, Hanover Square, volume 1a, page 399, document 17.

⁵⁷ "British Army WWI Pension Records 1914-1920," Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 6 July 2020), Albert Henry Shearn, 1st Regiment Fusiliers, 1914, Regimental Number 480, WO364, piece 3665, document 90.

⁵⁸ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837-1915," index database with digital images, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 20 June 2020), marriage entry for Albert Henry Shearn and Gladys Adalone Newman, volume 1d, page 1623, document 63.

⁵⁹ 1911 census of England, St George, Hanover Square, Mayfair and Knights Bridge, Enumeration District 06, piece 420, Albert Henry Shearn; imaged, "1911 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 6 July 2020); citing class RG14, piece 420, 1911 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 89.

⁶⁰ "British Army WWI Pension Records 1914-1920," Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 6 July 2020), Albert Henry Shearn, 1st Regiment Fusiliers, 1914, Regimental Number 480, WO364, piece 3665, document 90.

Conclusion of Generation One

Each of the research objectives was completed. Charles Hall Shearn, son of Mark Hall Shearn and Sarah Parfitt, was born in Woodborough, Somerset in 1830. He lived in many places in England during his lifetime. He married three times outliving all three of his wives. He had five children. He lived a life in service primarily as a butler and house steward. His wives helped earn money by running lodging houses while Charles was living in the homes where he was employed. He employed several others within his home. He lived in his retirement by his own means, died and left a somewhat substantial sum including real estate and investments to his sons. Two of his children died in childhood. Two of his other sons lived to marry, though more remains to be researched. A third son's path was unknown and also remains to be further researched.

Recommendations for Future Research – Generation One

- During research many records about a Robert Austin Shearn or Robert Austin McFarlane/Shearn were found suggesting Charles' son may have moved or been moved to Australia or New Zealand. Considering his father's will was changed to remove any gift to Robert Austin Shearn, examine the date of the codicil against the date of the original will verses the records that show Robert Austin as a criminal or otherwise afflicted in order to determine if the New Zealand/Australia man was Charles' son.
- Further research needs to be completed into Charles James Hall Shearn's life including census records, marriage records, and death records. He married, but his will only mentioned his widow, not any children. Did they not have children? Did they have children who died?
- What was Roderic House, who lived there and employed Charles Hall Shearn, and what did he do there?
- Where was Charles Hall Shearn in 1871? Was he with the Marquess of Lansdowne in some other country?
- Further research needs to be completed into Albert Henry Shearn's life including death records. When and where did he die? Did he leave a will?

GENERATION TWO

Research Objectives – Generation Two

Develop an image of the life of Mark Hall Shearn and his family as follows:

- Find where and when Mark Hall Shearn, son of Samuel Shearn and Sarah Hall, was born.
- Determine where he lived throughout his lifetime and when, where, and who he married.
- Determine where and when his wife/wives were born, lived, and died.
- Determine where and when his children were born, married, and died.
- Use archives, libraries, family history societies, gazetteers, census, civil registration, church, non-conformist, probate, parish chest and quarter sessions records as needed.

Background Information – Generation Two

According to client research, Mark Hall Shearn was born in Midsomer Norton, Somerset in 1800.⁶¹ His parents were Samuel Shearn and Sarah Jane Shearn (née Hall). He married Sarah Ann Parfitt by license on 22 April 1823.⁶² The couple lived in Wellow near Radstock in the county of Somerset.⁶³ They had five children Samuel George Shearn, born 1828; Phebe Shearn, born 1829; Charles Hall Shearn, born 1830; Elizabeth Parfitt Shearn, born 1831; and Mary Parfitt Shearn, born 1832.⁶⁴ Client research suggests that before 1832 Mark Hall Shearn left his family, married another woman, and immigrated to the United States about 1836.

Research and Analysis – Generation Two

Mark Hall Shearn was baptized in Midsomer Norton on 2 February 1800.⁶⁵ His baptism record showed he was the son of Samuel and Sarah Shearn. Children were often baptized as soon after birth as was feasible. No birth records were kept at the time, so the baptism record helped define Mark's approximate birth. There were also no census records that contain names of household members until 1841. Therefore, other than the baptism, no records were found that

⁶¹ "Somerset, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1531-1812," database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 6 July 2020), Mark Hall Shearn, baptism 2 Feb 1800, document 69.

⁶² Marriage doc mark hall and sarah

⁶³ Lived in wellow. Charles hall's first (non-con) baptism?

⁶⁴ Births of all 5 kids

⁶⁵ Baptism mark hall document 69.

showed Mark with his parents and siblings. The next records, chronologically, were related to Mark's marriage. Mark Hall Shearn, yeoman, and James Parfitt, yeoman, presumably Sarah Ann Parfitt's father, paid £200 as bond to Richard Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells for the marriage of Mark Hall Shearn and Sarah Ann Parfitt on 18 April 1823.⁶⁶ The couple was married in Midsomer Norton on 22 April 1823.⁶⁷ Mark Hall was a bachelor and Sarah was a spinster. Both were therefore of age to marry, thought they did so, according to the marriage document, by license and consent of their parents. The marriage took place in front of the witnesses John Parfitt and James Walker.

Children of Mark Hall Shearn and Sarah Ann Parfitt

Each child is addressed below. Certain records, particularly censuses, are touched on only briefly for each child in order to show where they were and what they were doing at the time, but not necessarily the entire family in each census all at once. The children, the family, will be addressed separately here, then with their mother later.

- Samuel George Shearn

Samuel George Shearn was baptized in Chewton Mendip, Somerset, England on 30 September 1827.⁶⁸ Chewton Mendip was about five miles west of Midsomer Norton. Because he was baptized there, Samuel may have been born in Chewton Mendip. On the baptism record, his father, Mark Hall Shearn, was said to be a yeoman. In 1841 Samuel George Shearn lived with his maternal grandparents, his mother, and his siblings in Midsomer Norton, Somerset.⁶⁹ He was 13 years old. By 1851 his mother had moved her family to Bristol, about 25 miles from Midsomer Norton.⁷⁰ Samuel's mother, Sarah, was a lodging house keeper at 8 Victoria Street. Samuel was

⁶⁶ "Somerset, England, Marriage Registers, Bonds and Allegations, 1754-1914," database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 6 July 2020), Mark Hall Shearn and Sarah Parfitt, marriage bond, 22 April 1823, document 65.

⁶⁷ "Somerset, England, Marriage Registers, Bonds and Allegations, 1754-1914," database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 6 July 2020), Mark Hall Shearn and Sarah Parfitt, marriage, 22 April 1823, document 64.

⁶⁸ "Somerset, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1914," database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 18 June 2020), Samuel George Shearn, baptism, document 55.

⁶⁹ 1841 census of England, Somersetshire, Midsomer Norton, Enumeration District 1, folio 11, page 14, line 14, Sarah Parfitt, Elizabeth Parfitt Shearn, Charles Hall Shearn, Samuel George Shearn, Mary Shearn, James Parfitt, Mary Parfitt; imaged, "1841 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 18 June 2020); 1841 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 80.

⁷⁰ 1851 census of England, Gloucestershire, Bristol, Enumeration District Bristol, HO107, 1949, Sarah Shearn, Samuel Geo Shearn, Elizabeth Shearn, Mary Shearn, Arthur L Holmes, Emily Gould, John McKenzie; imaged,

23 years old and working as a merchant clerk, probably in the lodging house for his mother. Samuel was not located in the 1861 England census or the 1861 Wales census. However, the *List of Police Officers - 1850 – 1859* from Gloucestershire showed Samuel was a police officer. He joined the force on 10 May 1855.⁷¹ He achieved the rank of sergeant on 17 October 1856. His height was five feet ten and a quarter. He was born in Midsomer Norton. He resigned from the force on 17 May 1864.

Samuel married Frances Grant in Cheltenham, Gloucester on 17 November 1862.⁷² They were married in the parish church, St. Peter, after banns. Samuel George Shearn was of full age, at least 21 years old, and had never been married. He was a police officer. He lived in Townsend Street, Cheltenham. His father, Mark Hall Shearn, was a farmer. Frances Grant was of full age, at least 21 years old. She was a spinster, so this was her first marriage. She lived in Queen Street, Cheltenham. Her father was Samuel Grant, a butcher. Richard Thompson and Mary Ann Russell were witnesses to the marriage.

Within two years, Samuel and Frances had their first child, a daughter. Elizabeth Parfitt Neale Shearn was baptized 9 October 1864 in Cheltenham, Gloucester.⁷³ The family lived in Regent Street, Cheltenham. Samuel's trade was listed as inn keeper. Elizabeth may have been the couple's only child. No other baptism or birth record was found for the couple. In fact, Samuel may have left his wife and daughter, or he may have died. Elizabeth was with someone else in the 1871 census.⁷⁴ She is with her uncle Joseph Dash, aged 64 years; her aunt Elizabeth Dash, aged 55 years; Joseph Dash's granddaughter Emma Jane Dands, aged 15 years. Elizabeth Parfitt Neale Shearn was 7 years old and in school. Joseph Dash was an agricultural labourer. The family lived at 26 Rounceval Street - Hill House, Chipping Sodbury, Gloucestershire. Frances was in the 1871 census at 111 Albion Street, Cheltenham as a 40 year old, tavern keeper. Frances

"1851 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 1 July 2020); 1851 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 75.

⁷¹ "List of Police Officers - 1850 - 1859," Gloucestershire Police Archives (gloucestershirepolicearchives.org.uk : accessed 6 July 2020), Samuel George Shearn, document 85.

⁷² "Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1938," database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 6 July 2020), Samuel George Shearn and Frances Grant, marriage, 17 November 1862, document 70.

⁷³ "Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1913," database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 6 July 2020), Elizabeth Parfitt Neale Shearn, baptism, 9 October 1864, document 71.

⁷⁴ 1871 census of England, Gloucestershire, Chipping Sodbury, Enumeration District 8, folio 33, page 6, Elizabeth Parfitt Neale Shearn; imaged, "1871 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 1 July 2020); 1871 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 72.

was the only resident of the property. The street was shown as 111 Lamb Tap, though 110 and 112 were both on Albion Street. Lamb Tap may have been the name of the tavern. Samuel was nowhere to be found in any census following his marriage to Frances, but while records were searched, none were found. He may have died or he may have left, even perhaps the country.

- ***Phebe Shearn***

Phebe Shearn was born 27 March 1829 and baptized 16th June 1829.⁷⁵ She was baptized at the Wesleyan Chapel in Midsomer Norton, Somerset. She was the daughter of farmer Mark Hall Shearn of Woodborough Farm in the parish of Wellow. Her mother was Sarah, Mark Hall's wife, who was the daughter of James and Mary Parfitt. In 1841, Phebe was found in the census in the home of John Parfitt, a 35 year old farmer, in Chewton Mendip, Somerset.⁷⁶ The others in the household were Hannah Parfitt, aged 30 years; John Parfitt, aged 5 years; Hannah Parfitt, aged 2 years. Phebe was 12 years old. The 1841 census does not show relationship to head of household, but John Parfitt is likely Phebe's uncle.

In 1851, Phebe was again not with her parents on census day.⁷⁷ She was however just down the street. Phebe was in the home of her grandfather James Parfitt. He was a 76 year old builder who was a widower. Phebe was 22 years old. The house was situated at 91 Island, Midsomer Norton, Somerset. Phebe's siblings and her mother Sarah were next door at 93 Island.⁷⁸

On census day in 1861, 32 year old Phebe was with the Jonah Shearn family.⁷⁹ Phebe was listed as a visitor. The address was Woodbine Cottage, Midsomer Norton. Jonah was 55 years old. His wife, Bethia, was 54 years old. Jonah was a pork butcher. Phebe was a dressmaker.

⁷⁵ "Register of Baptisms At the Wesleyan Chapel In Midsomer Norton, Somerset From 1801 To 1837," Non-Parochial BMDs, 1581-1970, database, TheGenealogist.co.uk (TheGenealogist.co.uk : 26 May 2020), Phebe Shearn, baptism 16th June 1829, birth 27th March 1829, document 49.

⁷⁶ 1841 census of England, Somersetshire, Chewton Mendip, Enumeration District 3, folio 12, page 1, line 19, Phoebe Shearn; imaged, "1841 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 18 June 2020); 1841 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 56.

⁷⁷ 1851 census of England, Somersetshire, Midsomer Norton, Enumeration District 4a, folio 329, page 26, GSU roll 221098, Phoebe Shearn; imaged, "1851 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 1 July 2020); 1851 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 74.

⁷⁸ 1851 census of England, Gloucestershire, Bristol, Enumeration District Bristol, HO107, 1949, Sarah Shearn, Samuel Geo Shearn, Elizabeth Shearn, Mary Shearn, Arthur L Holmes, Emily Gould, John McKenzie; imaged, "1851 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 1 July 2020); 1851 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 75.

⁷⁹ 1851 census of England, Somersetshire, Midsomer Norton, Enumeration District 1, folio 7, page 9, Elisha Midde, Jonah Shearn, Bethia Shearn, Phoebe Shearn; imaged, "1851 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 1 July 2020); 1851 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 76.

Phebe's father had a brother named Jonah who married a woman named Bethia. So, this was Phebe's uncle's house. Since she was listed as a visitor, where she lived is unknown.

By 1871 Phebe was in Ontario, Canada.⁸⁰ She was 42 years old. She emigrated from England with her sisters Mary Parfitt Shearn and Elizabeth Parfitt Shearn. Elizabeth had married Arthur Holmes and the couple had three children. The Arthur Holmes home was in Haldimand Township, Ontario. The Township is on the shores of Lake Ontario about 135 kilometers east of Toronto. Religion is a column on the 1871 Canadian census. Phebe and the rest of the family were listed as a Wesleyan Methodist. Phebe never married. She died of arterio sclerosis 15 June 1919 in Parry Sound, Ontario, Canada at the age of 90 years.⁸¹

- ***Charles Hall Shearn***

Charles Hall Shearn was addressed above beginning with his first marriage. This section will begin with his birth and continue through the 1851 census. Charles was born about 1830.⁸² As with all of Mark Hall and Sarah's children, that was before civil registration began in England and Wales in 1837. Therefore the births were not recorded by the government. The church record of Charles' christening showed his birth date was 26 April 1830, and he was christened on 30 November 1830 at the Wesleyan Chapel in Midsomer Norton. The family lived on Woodborough Farm in the parish of Wellow in Somerset. His father, Mark Hall Shearn, was a farmer. Charles' mother was Sarah daughter of James and Mary Parfitt. Charles was christened Charles Orlando Hall Shearn. The Shearn family baptized their child in a Wesleyan chapel which is non-conformist, not Church of England. Interestingly, the search for a christening record

⁸⁰ 1871 Census of Canada, Ontario, Northumberland West, Haldimand, district 54, subdistrict c, division 01, Pheobe Shearn; imaged, "1871 Census of Canada," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 1 July 2020), document 77.

⁸¹ "Ontario, Canada, Deaths and Deaths Overseas, 1869-1947," Ancestry (ancestry.com : accessed 1 July 2020), Parry Sound, Ontario, Canada, Phebe Shearn, death, 15 June 1919, document 78.

⁸² "Register of Baptisms At the Wesleyan Chapel In Midsomer Norton, Somerset From 1801 To 1837," Non-Parochial BMDs, 1581-1970, database, TheGenealogist.co.uk (TheGenealogist.co.uk : 26 May 2020), Charles Orlando Hall Shearn, document 48.

turned up a Church of England baptism for Charles and three of his siblings in 1833, more

Decr 29 th No. 1396.	Shoob son of	Mark Hall 2 Sarah	Shearn
Decr 25 th No. 1397.	Charles son of	Mark Hall 2 Sarah	Shearn
Decr 25 th No. 1398.	Elizabeth son of	Mark Hall 2 Sarah	Shearn
Decr 29 th No. 1399.	Mary son of	Mark Hall 2 Sarah	Shearn

Four Children of Mark Hall and Sarah Shearn Baptized into the Church of England

Roderic House, Hyde Park Gardens, Berkeley Square, and Bowood and the relative nearness of Monmouthshire to Somerset and just across the bay from Bristol, it is not unlikely that this is

discussion on that further on.⁸³

Charles lived with his mother Sarah and three of his siblings in the home of his maternal grandparents James and Mary Parfitt in 1841.⁸⁴ The family lived in Midsomer Norton, Somerset. Charles was 11 years old. Ten years later, in 1851 Charles Hall Shearn was working as a servant in Malpas, Wales in the home of the wife of a nail manufacturer, Mary Cordes.⁸⁵ He was a groom, a stable hand. Charles was 20 years old. Considering his life of service, with the knowledge that he served at

⁸³ "Somerset, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1914," database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 22 May 2020), Charles Shearn, document 42.

⁸⁴ 1841 census of England, Somersetshire, Midsomer Norton, Enumeration District 1, folio 11, page 14, line 14, Sarah Parfitt, Elizabeth Parfitt Shearn, Charles Hall Shearn, Samuel George Shearn, Mary Shearn, James Parfitt, Mary Parfitt; imaged, "1841 England Census," database, Ancestry (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 18 June 2020); 1841 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 80.

⁸⁵ 1851 England, Wales & Scotland Census, Monmouthshire, Newport, Enumeration District 1, folio 215, page 12, Charles Hall Shearn; imaged, "1851 England, Wales & Scotland Census," database, Ancestry (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 6 July 2020); 1851 England, Wales & Scotland Census, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 59.

Charles Hall Shearn son of Mark Hall Shearn and Sarah Parfitt. The members of the Cordes household were

Name	Relationship	Married	Sex	Age	Occ	Birth
Mary Cordes	Head	Married	F	47	Nail Manufacture's Wife	-
Thomas Cordes	Son	Unmarried	M	24	Clarke	Surrey, England
Sarah Turner	Servant	Unmarried	F	22	House Srvt	Somerset, England
Emma Stevans	Servant	Unmarried	F	22	Cook	Gloucestershire, England
Agnes C Shepperd	Servant	Unmarried	F	24	Ladies Maid	Somerset, England
Charles H Shearn	Servant	Unmarried	M	20	Groom	Somerset, England

While this may not have been Charles' first job in service, it is currently the first one for which a record was obtained. The remainder of the record of Charles Hall Shearn and his family has been explored above.

- ***Elizabeth Parfitt Shearn***

Elizabeth Parfitt Shearn was born 1 June 1831 in Midsomer Norton, Somerset.⁸⁶ She was baptized at the Wesleyan Chapel in Midsomer Norton, Somerset on 21st August 1831. She was the daughter of farmer Mark Hall Shearn of Woodborough Farm in the parish of Wellow. Her mother was Sarah, Mark Hall's wife, who was the daughter of James and Mary Parfitt. By 1841, Elizabeth was in the census with her mother and siblings living at her grandparents' home in Midsomer Norton.⁸⁷ Elizabeth was 10 years old. The 1841 and other census records will be addressed in greater detail further on.

⁸⁶ 1841 census of England, Somersetshire, Midsomer Norton, Enumeration District 1, folio 11, page 14, line 14, Sarah Parfitt, Elizabeth Parfitt Shearn, Charles Hall Shearn, Samuel George Shearn, Mary Shearn, James Parfitt, Mary Parfitt; imaged, "1841 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 18 June 2020); 1841 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 80.

⁸⁷ 1841 census of England, Somersetshire, Midsomer Norton, Enumeration District 1, folio 11, page 14, line 14, Sarah Parfitt, Elizabeth Parfitt Shearn, Charles Hall Shearn, Samuel George Shearn, Mary Shearn, James Parfitt, Mary Parfitt; imaged, "1841 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 18 June 2020); 1841 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 80.

In 1851 Elizabeth remained with her mother and siblings in Bristol.⁸⁸ Her mother, Sarah, was keeping a lodging house. Elizabeth was 19 years old and working as a milliner, a hat maker. One of the lodgers was Arthur Holmes. He was 22 years old. In 1852 the pair was married at St Paul, Bristol on 22 May 1852.⁸⁹ Both were of age and lived in the parish. Arthur was a gentleman as was his father Gervas King Holmes. Elizabeth was a spinster, and her father, Mark Shearn, was a farmer. The couple was married by license. Samuel George Shearn, probably Elizabeth's brother, was a witness along with Anne Watson.

By 1856 the couple had their first child, Arthur James Alfred Holmes.⁹⁰ Arthur was baptized in the Anglican Church in Midsomer Norton, Somerset on 27 July 1856. The family lived in Bristol, and Arthur, the child's father, was a grocer. The couple would have at least two more children, but they would do so in Canada. The family emigrated from England to Canada before 1858 because their second and third children, both sons, were born in Canada. Elizabeth and Arthur provided a home for not only their children, but also for Elizabeth's sisters. Elizabeth died of arterio sclercosis and myocarditis in Parry Sound, Ontario on 31 May 1918 at the age of 87 years.⁹¹

- *Mary Parfitt Shearn*

Mary Parfitt Shearn was the youngest child of Mark Hall Shearn and Sarah Ann Parfitt. Mary was baptized in the Church of England in Midsomer Norton, Somerset on 29 December 1833.⁹² The record showed Mark Hall Shearn was a farmer from Wellow, Somerset. In 1841, Mary was with her mother and siblings in the home of her maternal grandparents.⁹³ Mary was 8 years old. In 1851, she was 18 years old living with her mother and siblings in Bristol at the

⁸⁸ 1851 census of England, Gloucestershire, Bristol, Enumeration District Bristol, HO107, 1949, Sarah Shearn, Samuel Geo Shearn, Elizabeth Shearn, Mary Shearn, Arthur L Holmes, Emily Gould, John McKenzie; imaged, "1851 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 1 July 2020); 1851 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 75.

⁸⁹ "Bristol, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1935," database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 6 July 2020), Elizabeth Parfitt Shearn and Arthur Lionel Holmes, marriage, 22 May 1852, document 81.

⁹⁰ "Somerset, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1914," database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 6 July 2020), Arthur James Alfred Holmes, baptism, 27 July 1856, document 82.

⁹¹ "Ontario, Canada, Deaths and Deaths Overseas, 1869-1947," database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 6 July 2020), Elizabeth Shearn Holmes, death, 31 May 1918, Parry Sound, Ontario, Canada, document 83.

⁹² "Somerset, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1914," database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 6 July 2020), Mary Parfitt Shearn, baptism, 29 December 1833, document 84.

⁹³ 1841 census of England, Somersetshire, Midsomer Norton, Enumeration District 1, folio 11, page 14, line 14, Sarah Parfitt, Elizabeth Parfitt Shearn, Charles Hall Shearn, Samuel George Shearn, Mary Shearn, James Parfitt, Mary Parfitt; imaged, "1841 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 18 June 2020); 1841 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 80.

lodging house.⁹⁴ Like her sister Phebe, Mary never married. Mary was not working. In 1861, Mary had left England for Canada where she lived in Cobourg, Northumberland with her sister Elizabeth and Elizabeth's husband and child. Mary died of arterio sclerosis in Parry Sound, Ontario, Canada on 6 November 1917.⁹⁵ She was 86 years old.

The Family Together and The Disappearance of Mark Hall Shearn

Mark Hall Shearn married Sarah Ann Parfitt in 1823. The couple had five children between 1827 and 1833. In 1833, when the youngest child, Mary Parfitt Shearn, was baptized, three of the children, each of whom had already been baptized Wesleyan, were also baptized into the Church of England. Phebe, Charles, and Elizabeth were all baptized again, along with Mary, on 29 December 1833. The record indicated the names of the children and parents, and the occupation of the father. Mark Hall and Sarah Shearn were the parents, and Mark Hall was a farmer. They were all from Wellow. The baptisms took place in the parish of Midsomer Norton, Somerset. Phebe, Charles, and Elizabeth were either re-baptized, or perhaps this was a different Phebe, Charles, and Elizabeth with parents Mark Hall and Sarah Shearn. That was not likely, in fact the very names were what helped provide proper identification in various records. Elizabeth, Charles, and Phebe were first baptized Wesleyan. Samuel George Shearn was first baptized Church of England. Why were four children of varying ages, from the same parents, who had each been baptized before then baptized again on the same day? The following records may help make further sense of this.

As noted with each of the children except Phebe, 41-year-old Sarah Shearn was located living with James and Mary Parfitt in the 1841 census in Midsomer Norton, Somerset.⁹⁶ The Wesleyan christening records said that the children's mother's name was Sarah daughter of James and Mary Parfitt. In 1841 Sarah lived with her parents, two young boys, and two girls. It is certain that these are Sarah's children. "Chas" is Charles Hall Shearn who was 11 years

⁹⁴ 1851 census of England, Gloucestershire, Bristol, Enumeration District Bristol, HO107, 1949, Sarah Shearn, Samuel Geo Shearn, Elizabeth Shearn, Mary Shearn, Arthur L Holmes, Emily Gould, John McKenzie; imaged, "1851 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 1 July 2020); 1851 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 75.

⁹⁵ "Ontario, Canada, Deaths and Deaths Overseas, 1869-1947," database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 6 July 2020), Mary Parfitt Shearn, death, 6 November 1917, document 87.

⁹⁶ 1841 census of England, Somersetshire, Midsomer Norton, Enumeration District 1, folio 11, page 14, line 14, Sarah Parfitt, Elizabeth Parfitt Shearn, Charles Hall Shearn, Samuel George Shearn, Mary Shearn, James Parfitt, Mary Parfitt; imaged, "1841 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 18 June 2020); 1841 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 80.

Name	Sex	Age
James Parfitt	M	66
Mary Parfitt	F	63
Sarah Shearn	F	41
Samuel Shearn	M	13
Chas Shearn	M	11
Elizabeth Shearn	F	10
Mary Shearn	F	8

old in 1841 as was the Chas here in the census. Considering the census date and the age of the person, as noted Samuel was born about 1828, Elizabeth was born about 1831, Mary Shearn was born about 1833, Sarah was born about 1800, James was born about 1775, and Mary Parfitt was born about 1878. Charles, Elizabeth, and Mary were three of the four baptized in 1833. The fourth, Phoebe, was not in the household with the others at the time of the 1841 census. She was in the home of John Parfitt, perhaps her uncle, in

Chewton Mendip, Somerset on census day in 1841.⁹⁷ She was 12 years old, born about 1829. Samuel was a son of Mark Hall and Sarah Shearn.⁹⁸ He was baptized Church of England in Chewton Mendip, Somerset on 30 September 1827. At the time of Samuel's baptism, Mark Hall Shearn was listed as a yeoman which is a free farmer. The 1841 census showed facing pages. Sarah Shearn, Mark's wife, and children were in Sarah's parents' home, on the right hand page. On the left hand page was Mark's mother and siblings. So they were very nearby. It is likely that with Mark gone Sarah Hall Shearn, Mark's mother, and her children helped Sarah, Mark's wife, with her children.

The fact that Mark, Charles' father, was not present in 1841 supports the idea that he left or died before then. The baptisms of the four children all at once in 1833 suggests that perhaps Mark Hall Shearn was gone and Sarah wanted the children to be Anglican, meaning Church of England, instead of Wesleyan. Death record searches turned up no record for Mark Hall Shearn. He did not appear in any England census. Again, ten years later in 1851, the children are with their mother. By then they have moved to Bristol where Sarah ran a lodging house at 8 Victoria

Name	Sex	Age	Relationship	Occupation
Sarah Shearn	F	66	Head	Lodging house keeper
Samuel Geo Shearn	M	23	Son	Merchant Clerk

⁹⁷ 1841 census of England, Somersetshire, Chewton Mendip, Enumeration District 3, folio 12, page 1, line 19, Phoebe Shearn; imaged, "1841 England Census," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 18 June 2020); 1841 Census Returns of England and Wales, The National Archives of England, Kew, document 56.

⁹⁸ "Somerset, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1914," database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 18 June 2020), Samuel George Shearn, baptism, document 55.

Elizabeth Shearn	F	19	Daughter	Milliner
Mary Shearn	F	18	Daughter	
Arthur L Holmes	M	22	Visitor	Land & House Proprietor
Emily Gould	F	22	Visitor	Annuitant
John McKenzie Bruce	M	25	Visitor	Silversmith

Street. Charles is not present, as he was in Wales working as a groom for the Cordes family. Phebe was off visiting another uncle, Jonah. Sarah claimed to be a

widow lending support to the notion that Mark Hall Shearn died. There was no divorce record found. No new marriage was found for Mark Hall Shearn or for Sarah Shearn. No death record was found in England for Mark Hall Shearn.

Mark Hall and Ellen Booth Gittoe

Client research suggested that Mark Hall Shearn left England in 1835 to immigrate to the United States with a young woman named Ellen Booth Gittoe. A ship record was found with Mark Hall and Ellen Hall as passengers.⁹⁹ In an 1835 Bath newspaper the revision of voters said, "Mark Hall Shearn. Left the premises. Struck out."¹⁰⁰ Mark Hall Shearn had left and was no longer on the voter roll. Ellen's obituary fills in a bit of the story, "Mrs. Hall was born in Bristol, England [27 August 1817], and was married before leaving that country, when in her 16th year. She was the mother of 5 children."¹⁰¹ Given the date and age, Mark and Ellen were married in 1832, in England. Though, Mark and Sarah's youngest child, Mary, was born in the 1833. The date of Mary's birth does not preclude Mark from being the father nor does it mean that Ellen and Mark could not have been married in 1832. Still no record was found for the marriage, or for that matter, for a divorce of Mark from Sarah. Mark and Ellen's daughter Marcia was the obituary informant. Anything she knew of her parents' marriage was told to her by someone else, probably her parents. It is possible that she was ill-informed or even lied to. It is also possible that Mark and Ellen were never married.

No records were found in England or Wales for a person named Ellen Booth Gittoe or any combination of the name, including varying spellings. No birth record, no marriage record

⁹⁹ "Ellis Island and Other New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957," MyHeritage (myheritage.com : 6 July 2020), Mark Hall, Ellen Hall, Arrival 1836, New York, New York, United States, Ship Caspian, document 67.

¹⁰⁰ "REVISION OF VOTERS, BOROUGH OF BATH," Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette 08 October 1835, 8 October 1835, page 3, column 3, St James, document 68.

¹⁰¹ "Transcription of Obituary, Ellen Hall," Three Rivers Tribune, 2 November 1883, Ancestry (ancestry.com : accessed 7 July 2020), Peter Clark transcriber, document 93.

was found. With the exception of the ship record with a different last name, there was no found evidence to determine what happened to Mark Hall Shearn. However, recently DNA matching showed that Mark Hall Shearn was Mark Hall. Several individuals had DNA matches with Mark and Ellen Hall's children and Mark Hall and Sarah Shearn's children. Mark Hall Shearn did not die in England. He left his family there and made a new one in Michigan in the United States. Did he know his sisters immigrated to very nearby Ontario, Canada?¹⁰²

Conclusion – Generation Two

The research objectives were completed except for the birth of Sarah Parfitt, her divorce from Mark, if there was one, and the marriage of Mark and Ellen Hall, again if there was one. Mark Hall Shearn was born in 1800, as was his wife, Sarah Ann Parfitt. They married in 1823 and had five children together Samuel George, Phebe, Charles Hall, Elizabeth Parfitt, and Mary Parfitt. Mark Hall was a farmer at Woodborough, Radstock, Somerset. The younger children of Mark Hall and Sarah Shearn grew up without a father. They lived in Wellow, Somerset apparently until Mark Hall Shearn left his family. Sarah and the children managed together with help from Sarah's parents, perhaps Sarah's siblings and other kin, and probably Mark's mother.

Recommendations for Future Research – Generation Two

- Research how did Sarah Ann Parfitt Shearn come to have a boarding house in Bristol?
- It would take some very special documents to prove, but is it likely that Charles Hall Shearn learned to run a boarding house, or the idea to have one, from his mother and whoever taught her?
- Did Mark Hall know his sisters immigrated to Canada?
- Find United States immigration records for Mark and Ellen.
- Did Mark Hall ever really marry Ellen Gittoe? Find a marriage record.
- Who was Ellen Gittoe?
- Find a birth record for Ellen Gittoe.

¹⁰² I intentionally left off the records from the United States of the Mark Hall and Ellen Gittoe family because it is my understanding that the scope of this paper should be as limited as possible to records of England and Wales. I have many census, birth, marriage, and death records for Mark Hall and Ellen and their children. If they should be included with this project, please let me know. I have also left out details, including names and dates, of the DNA matching information, partly for the same reason, but also because it would all be marked as private since the people are still living. I have DNA matches showing connections with BOTH of Mark Hall Shearn's families including my paternal line from Ellen, but also from Mark and Sarah's kids.

- Find a marriage record for Mark Hall and Ellen Hall, or exhaust all options to be sure there was not one, as much as is possible.