

ARCHBALD/ARCHIBALD FAMILY

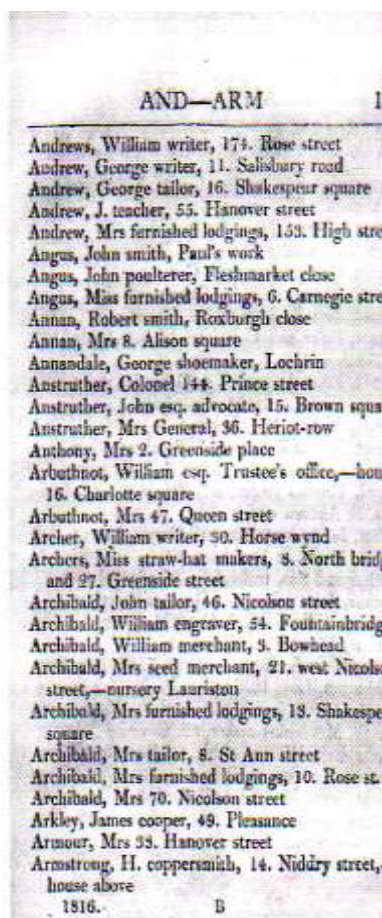
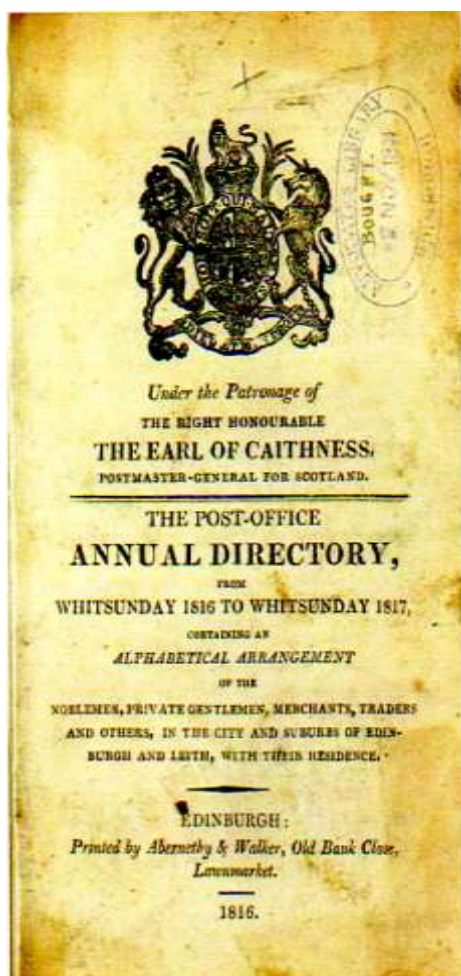
“A surname derived from the personal name Archibald, in Old English Arcebald, Arcenbald or Ercenbold, and doubtfully explained as meaning 'right bold' or 'holy prince'”

At present (March 2011) this line can be traced back to **JOHN ARCHIBALD**, tailor of 46 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh, married to Jean Thomson, both born in the late 1780/1790s. According to the Family Search records of Scotland Births and Baptisms they had two sons, John Thomson Archibald, baptized on 1st January 1813 at St. Cuthberts, (see picture right) and **WILLIAM**, born 5th March 1815, and baptized on 20th March, also at St. Cuthberts in Edinburgh,



In The Post Office Annual Directory of 1816, where I found the above information on **John**, is also listed on the same page a William Archibald, engraver of 54 Fountainbridge.

Obviously, not the son of **John Archibald** above, but possibly his brother? I am interested in this **William**, because our great-great-grandfather **WILLIAM**, gives his surname as Archbald on the birth certificate of **JOHN RENTON ARCHBALD** and his occupation as an engraver. So, was there a disagreement about professions which prompted **WILLIAM** to move to London and change the surname, or just a search for work



WILLIAM and AGNES RENTON **ARCHBALD** are named as the parents of **JOHN RENTON ARCHBALD**. Their marriage certificate however, shows she was the widow of ? Darling. Her father is named as John Renton, a Shepherd (see appendix 1). On the 1841 census **WILLIAM** gives his occupation as a Journeyman Carpenter and there is another son William, aged 4 months. As this census was taken on the 4th June 1841, this would mean he was born in February (see appendix 2).

JOHN RENTON ARCHBALD born 12th April 1839 at 8 Norfolk Street, Marylebone and baptized at All Souls, St. Marylebone on 12th May 1839. This street is adjacent to Kings Cross station, although that didn't open until 1852 and I have a suspicion that it cut that street in half, according to my map of 1863 (see appendix 3). The area was known as Agar Town and is described by Charles Dickens as "a place of bogs, ash-heaps and hovels whose stench could 'knock down a bullock'" in "A History of London", by Simon Inwood. However, there was work in local printing, engraving, furniture & clothing workshops, railways and laundries. **John's** brother, William, was born 15th January, 1841 when their address is given as 25 Norfolk Street. He was also baptized at All Souls.



A possible uncle is Charles Dickson Archibald (wife Bridget) with three sons all baptized at All Souls, St. Marylebone – Edward Stanley Fitzgerald Archibald born 5th December 1846, baptized 11th January 1847; Clarence Holford Archibald born 12th November 1847, baptized 8th December 1847 and Alfred George Archibald, born 6th March 1849, baptized 15th October 1849.



In 1851 the family, now resided, (along with two other families!) at 66 Swinton Street, just off Gray's Inn Road, and still in existence, (also to be seen on the 1863 map in appendix 3). (photo, right, is actually of 51 Swinton Street, the nearest I could find!). **William** is once again listed as an engraver and **John** and his brother William are joined by daughters Jane, Agnes Darling (taken I feel sure from Agnes Renton's first marriage) and a son, George. They also have a 'house servant' Ann Davey aged 16 from Somerset.

JOHN RENTON ARCHBALD married Sophia Gilfoy at Old Church, St. Pancras on 11th May 1859, where John's profession is given as a Railway Clerk. Sophia is the daughter of John Gilfoy, a Carriage Draftsman of Broadway Terrace (?) (see appendix 4).

The 1861 census shows **John**, his wife Sophia and daughter Agnes Letitia, born on the 9th November 1860, living at 129 Great College Street, Marylebone (right) together with his parents, **William** and Agnes. **William** is now described as a 'Writer to Newspaper'. Their other children, Jane, Agnes Darling and George still live with them. **John Renton** and Sophia had another son, William Gilfoy on 23rd February 1862, still at Great College Street,



On 9th October 1863 our grandfather **ERNEST JOHN** was born and their address is now given as 27 Camden Cottages, (left) Camden New Town. In "A History of London", this is described as "as unambitious 'new town' of the 1790s –



between Albany Street and Pancras Road, filled with mediocre housing for clerks, artisans and workmen".

By 1871, Agnes Renton has died (Dec ¼ 1870 at Islington) and her husband **WILLIAM** is living with daughter Jane and her husband Thomas Chalmers at 13 Hungerford Road, Islington, where he is once again described as an Engraver, and at last gives his birthplace as Edinburgh, Scotland (see appendix 5). **William** and Agnes' son William is also living there, described as a Banker's Clerk, but of Agnes Darling and younger brother George, I can find no trace. **JOHN RENTON** and his family have now moved out of London, to 1 Boyden Road, West Ham. Their eldest daughter Agnes Letitia married Harvey Harding on 1st November, 1880 and moved to Finsbury Park. **John Renton** and Sophia's next daughter Beatrice was born on the 17th September 1871, and the family were back in Islington at 9 Harvest Road where their youngest child John Frederick was also born, on 28th March 1875.

WILLIAM ARCHBALD died in the March ¼ of 1880 at Pancras, but without his death certificate there is no address. In 1881 **JOHN RENTON** and Sophia live at 6 Marlborough Terrace, Holloway Road Upper Holloway with Sophia's mother Letitia and sister Victoria. **John** is described as an Accountant. His grandson, John, remembers he worked for sweet manufacturer Callard and Bowser and used to bring home some toffee. John and Sophia's son, William Gilfoy was a compositor. His nephew, John, once met him at a Printer's Union meeting. **ERNEST JOHN** is a Pastry cook, daughter Edith a Stationer's Assistant whilst the youngest two, Beatrice and John were aged 9 and 6 respectively. Also living with them was a nephew Thomas Truman, also aged 6. Although I have searched my 1863 map of London very thoroughly I cannot find Marlborough Terrace on Holloway Road, but the census does describe it as being in the residential parish of St. John's which is a church near to the junction with Highgate Hill, (see appendix 6).

JOHN's brother William has by this time married Elizabeth Low in the June ¼ of 1874. In 1881 they live at 38 Nicholas Lane in the City of London where William is a Bank Cashier. They have four children, William age 5, David aged 4, Ralph age 2 and Kate aged 6 months. Elizabeth's sister Margaret is a visitor there together with Elizabeth Williams a general domestic servant and William Bevan a Bank Porter.

On the 14th January 1883 **JOHN RENTON**, describing himself as a Bachelor, married Louisa Jane Bickmore at the Register Office in Islington (*see appendix 7*). On the marriage certificate **John's** occupation is given as a Journalist, living at 32 Harvest Road, Islington. Louisa is the daughter of Benjamin Bickmore (deceased) a Silk Merchant of 87 Tabley Road and the witnesses are Robert John and Rosa Emily Bickmore. After this I can find no evidence of them in either the 1891 census return, or death records. According to a descendant of his eldest daughter Agnes Letitia, he was still alive at the marriage of his daughter Beatrice and son John in 1896 and 1903 respectively, although **ERNEST JOHN**, on his marriage in 1900 shows him as deceased (*see appendix 8*) and the surname reverting to **ARCHIBALD**. There is no trace in the census returns of 1891 of **ERNEST JOHN** either and, given that the story in the family is that he had a disagreement with his father and ran away to sea, one wonders if this was the reason.

JOHN's brother William meanwhile still lives in St. Nicholas Lane in the City of London with his wife Elizabeth and their four children. His sister Jane, married to Thomas Chalmers, died in the June ¼ 1886 aged 42 years, at Islington. Thomas himself is found in 1891 living at 5 Balfour Terrace in Tottenham, together with their son John and daughter Alice.

John and Sophia's eldest daughter Agnes Letitia and her family live at 165 Willfield Road, Streatham, whilst William Gilfoy married Lucy Bettles in the March ¼ 1887 and in 1891 they live with their only child, Marie age 2 at 182 Stanhope Street, St. Pancras. William is still a Printer's compositor as is their younger brother John Frederick, also living with them. Daughters Edith and Beatrice live at 5 Herbert Road, Islington (*right*) where Edith is a Dressmaker and Beatrice a shop assistant.



ERNEST JOHN ARCHIBALD (*left*) married Louisa Yalland on the 21st April 1900, at the Register office in West Ham. **Ernest** gives his occupation as a Ships Cook living at 12 Ranelagh Road, West Ham, the house belonging to Louisa's parents, John and Selina. From earlier census records of John and Selina Yalland it is seen that they took in lodgers, so I presume this is the case with **Ernest John**. Their first child, Ernest, was born on the 24th May, 1900, so it would seem that Ernest was probably away at sea until April. At the census of 1901 **ERNEST JOHN** is described as a General Labourer.

His elder sister Agnes Letitia and her husband Harvey Harding live with their family at 40 Eardley Road in Streatham. Harvey is a Chef, William Gilfoy and his family live at 15 Hamilton Street, St. Pancras together with younger sister Edith and brother John Frederick. Beatrice married Henry Gibson in the December ¼ 1896, a Railway Clerk and they live with two daughters, Constance Beatrice age 3 and Ethel Kathleen aged 2 at 23 Ashley Road, Altrincham in Cheshire.

The 1911 census shows that Agnes Letitia and her husband Harvey Harding now live at 92 Daloney Road, Streatham with Harvey still working, aged 66, as a Pastry Cook for a Baker and Confectioner. All three children no longer live at home. William Gilfoy Archbald is now aged 49 and he and his wife Elizabeth live at 68 Gaisford Street, St. Pancras with their daughter Maria Sophia aged 23 working as a shorthand typist and William's sister Edith Sophia aged 45 working as a Fitter for a dress manufacturer,

ERNEST JOHN and Louise meanwhile seem to have taken over at 12 Ranelagh Road in West Ham, (*right*) with six of their eventual 10 children living with them as well as Louisa's parents, John and Selina Yalland. Even here, Ernest does not tell the truth about how long they have been married though, stating 12 years, instead of 11. Plus, he states that they have had no children who have died, whereas we now know that there was another son born, William Frederick in the June ¼ 1907 who died two years later in 1909. Was there another one? Frank born and died in the March ¼ 1911? Note the gaps between the births of Ivy and George.



Younger sister Beatrice and her husband Henry Gibson now live at Lorne Grove, Radcliffe-on-Trent in Nottinghamshire – obviously travelling around in his job as a Railway Clerk. Their daughters Constance and Ethel are joined by Dora, although they show that there was also one child who died. Youngest son John Frederick married Alice Hunt in the December ¼ 1903 and in 1911 they live with their son John, aged 5 at 13 Shirlock Road, London N.W. Son John is shown as being born in Hampstead, so that may be where Shirlock Road was located.



All ten children of Ernest and Louisa, together with her parents, John & Selina Yalland, c 1918

During World War 1 (1914-18) Ernest John served in the Merchant Navy. His ship being sunk by enemy action in the Dardenelles. After the war he was landed in Liverpool where Louisa had to go with birth and marriage certificates to prove who he was. Ernest John was then unable to go to sea again because all his papers had been lost at sea. He died on the 1st of May 1952 at 12 Meanley Road, Manor Park, aged 88 years, still described by his daughter Ivy as a Ship's cook (Retired).



Agnes Letitia's husband Harvey Harding died on the 8th November 1924 but Agnes survived another ten years, until 21st January 1935 when she died at 189 Mitcham Lane, Streatham. William Gilfoy Archbald died in the September ¼ 1925 aged 63 at Islington. Edith Sophia Archbald never married and died in the September ¼ 1930 aged 64 at Pancras, Beatrice Gibson died in Barnsley, South Yorkshire in the September ¼ 1938 aged 67 years, whilst the youngest child of John and Sophia, John Frederick, died in the

March ¼ 1945 aged 69 at Eton.

Of all the descendants of **JOHN RENTON ARCHBALD** and his wife Sophia, the only one I have found and have contact with is Agnes Letitia's great-grandson, Malcolm Smith whose website www.14november1940.co.uk is a source of very interesting information and a great help to me in adding detail and pictures to this story.



A photograph of Agnes Letitia Harding, nee Archbald, (*the only one I have!*) taken on a beach with her family.

Marie, Annie, granny Harding, Harry & Annie



Ernest and Louisa with all the family, c 1930s.