

Notes about the Rowland, Mallett,
and Netherclift families and some
relations and friends

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In
memoriam
Catharine Rowland

PREFACE

HAVE often pondered over the question, what would be the most lasting memorial to any one whose memory it was desired to commemorate.

A look round our cathedrals and churches will show how monuments are removed or destroyed. I came to the conclusion that paper will last longer than either.

I then thought that a short account would suffice for Catharine Rowland, but I found that Mrs John Rowland had done something which might lead a biographer of patentees, should one ever arise, to enquire who she was.

Another object was to convey some memento to the numerous kind friends and correspondents who have alleviated the loneliness of the last ten years of Miss Rowland's life. She was most grateful to them and corresponded with them in all parts of the world notwithstanding years of absence.

I now have much of the information and many of the original documents required for an accurate piece of biography and therefore take the opportunity of recording some of the facts contained in them. Thus for one reason or another I have been led on to compile these notes.

RALPH THOMAS

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CATHARINE ROWLAND

was the eldest child of John Rowland and Maria Bounsall Mallett, who were married by license on 19 july 1824, at St James's church Piccadilly where he was clerk or registrar. He was born 7 december 1802 and died 21 september 1847. His Will leaving everything to his widow was not proved by her until the 30 december 1856.

Mr and Mrs Rowland had three children Catharine, Richard, and Fanny (Mrs Netherclift).

For some years previous to her husband's death and almost until her own death Mrs Rowland carried on a school.

In 1857 was advertised 'Rowlands patent magic soap for instantaneously washing without rubbing.' Who of the public would not at once conclude this was a product of the world renowned advertiser of 'Rowland's macassar oil'? It was not, but was the discovery of Mrs M. B. Rowland. I have a copy of the quarto printed circular, probably the only one that has survived, with a page of testimonials. I also have the 'Letters patent' a large circular tin box with a great seal in wax, and fine effigy of Queen Victoria on her throne inside, attached to a long uselessly wordy rigmarole on two skins of parchment: the whole enclosed in a wooden box. Mrs Rowland had several good offers for her invention, but she thought it was going to make her fortune and refused them all, eventually she never made anything but lost upwards of a hundred pounds. The stamp alone was £5. The soap was manufactured by or for her at Acton Green, and E. B. Kent & Co of 11 Great Marlborough street were the agents.

At the Patent Office Library I inspected the specification. On taking down No 1410 to my surprise it was a patent of

someone else's for 'washing and bleaching clothes' but not Rowland's ! Looking at date I found I had the box for 1856 instead of 1857, in which Mrs Rowland's specification No 1410 is preserved.

Twenty one years later in 1878 she took out a patent No 4673 for a 'combined needle and thread holder.' This time the Patent Office presented her with no box or big seal, though still a long rigmarole on parchment bearing a five pound stamp. The specification has a page of drawings illustrating the invention. For this invention she also had a very good offer to purchase, but like the first she thought it was going to make her fortune. Alas ! she never made anything by it : such things require capital to work and knowledge of business, neither of which she had.

Unlike the celebrated schoolmistress Hannah More, Mrs Rowland did not realise 'an independence by an honourable profession' and was not able to leave a competence to her unmarried daughter. She died at the house of her daughter Mrs Netherclift at Kensington on the 9th january 1882 and was buried in Brompton Cemetery.

Catharine Rowland was born 14 november 1825 and baptised 17 february 1826 almost needless to say at St James's Piccadilly. She assisted her mother in the school from a very early age.

When her mother died, both were residing with Mr and Mrs Netherclift. After the death of the latter she continued to reside with Netherclift. He would not allow her to continue the teaching as he considered she had not sufficient health ! She always was the invalid of the family !

She published two songs. 'Our Volunteers, words and music by C. Rowland, dedicated by permission to lieut. colonel Rimington, late 2nd City of London R.V. Ent. Sta. Hall, copyright, price 4s. The London music publishing and general agency co. limited, 54 Great Marlborough street,' folio pp 5.

The other song was

'Heavenward, words and music by Catherine [sic] Rowland'

dedicated to Miss Florence Venner. Ent. Sta. Hall, price 4s.' same publishers) folio pp 5. Both were published in 1884.

Words of 'Heavenward.'

Only in heaven soul is thy rest, here, heavy laden, thou art oppressed, Life's weary burthen, fain would'st thou fly: Oh! may the angels hear thy sad cry. Take, oh! take, take a soul distressed, where bruised hearts are healed and weary spirits rest! Rush'd is the mourner, free from earth's clay. Gone are the shadows in heaven's bright day. There holy angels to Him ever pray, who soothes all our sorrows, and wipes our tears away!

From the words of this very beautiful song, it might be imagined that she was ready to die! No such thought had entered her head, in fact, notwithstanding her great sufferings she clung to life to the last.

She was very fond of animals and nearly lost her life in trying to save a dog from being run over in 1894, resulting in her being run over herself by a carriage. She had her nose, left arm and right collar bones broken; and was black with bruises and so terribly injured that for a time she was partially paralysed. She was weeks in bed. She got over it all however. The owner of the carriage gave her £40 compensation which seems a small amount, but Miss Rowland was probably as much if not more to blame than the coachman.

Her brother and sister both died after only a few days illness, whereas she was ailing for two years and for the last three months was bedridden and suffered greatly, three times I was summoned as she was thought to be dying.

We are told that fresh air and exercise are necessary for us, but here was this tiny little specimen of humanity (she took twos in boots!) who never was out of England, except one year at about the age of 17, when she went to her aunt Jacquin in Paris. Who practically took no exercise, was more or less an invalid all her life, for the latter part of her life may be said to have lived indoors, who habitually got up at midday and retired at midnight, and who nevertheless outlived generations of athletes.

Miss Rowland proved E. A. Netherclift's Will leaving her everything he had on 25th october 1897 at £277. 12. 5 all of which Netherclift got through his wife. Of this sum £100 was absorbed by the funeral and other expenses doctors nurses &c. The funeral expenses were too large a sum but as usual she wished to honor the dead. She was then greatly dependent on the kindness of two ladies who subscribed and collected money for her, not only in consideration of her want of means but in remembrance of her sister Fanny. For many years the annual coming to her of these ladies was the event of her life. Among her papers I find the following memorandum 'I feel the deepest gratitude to my kind benefactresses the misses Beatrix and Eva FitzClarence, without whose kind help my old age would have been spent in need and misery.'

With much regret I have to record the death of Miss Beatrix FitzClarence on 13 march 1909; she was younger daughter of the late lady Augustus FitzClarence (see Lodge's Peerage 1909 p 1344).

Dr W. H. Netherclift of Canterbury a cousin of E. A. Netherclift was most kind to her, he paid her a visit a short time before his death, when he was very ill. He told her he did not want to die, but he was ready to go. He died at the age of sixty years on 28 december 1906, and at the end of the following year Miss Rowland received fifty pounds he had generously left her.

A window to his memory was unveiled by the Dean of Canterbury in the crypt of the Cathedral on the 7th july 1907

This legacy was a source of very great comfort to her as she felt that in case of a long illness she had something to fall back upon for expenses.

On the 18th january 1907 she wrote to an old friend that she had been ill all the last year having influenza, then pleurisy, double pneumonia, lumbago and sciatica. She had all her faculties almost to the end, except hearing, but never wore glasses and could see to read the most minute print. Five persons (assistants and friends) were in attendance upon her day and night during the week previous to her death. She

died 11th and was buried 16 July 1908 at Kensal Green in the grave she bought for Netherclift.

She had all her life a fear lest she might be buried alive. Among her papers I found a cutting from a newspaper about 'The society for the prevention of premature burial' whose office was at 12 London street. In her Will she desired her 'body to be kept until unmistakeable signs of mortification appear' and that two medical practitioners attend and certify this. Though it was manifestly unnecessary I obtained the certificates in accordance with her Will.

I then had the task of reading about one thousand letters dating back from 1846 to the present time, which were placed about in every drawer or in portfolios or between books &c. &c. In her solitary vigils she would read through old letters, look at photographs of old friends and live again in the past.

Among these old friends were the families of the Keeleys and the Farrens: William Farren (iii) who was about the same age died about three months after her. W. T. Best the organist and his wife Maria Bellini. The misses Bassano presently mentioned and many others. Then one of her earliest and latest friends was Kate Loder singer and composer (afterwards lady wife of sir Henry Thompson bart.) Mrs William Edward Newton wife of the patent agent of Chancery Lane and her family were great friends.

Mrs W. E. Newton published some thirty pieces of music all of which are under the pseudonym of Mirana, with the exception of 'A welcome to our Danish bride, by Mrs W. E. Newton, words by Mrs A. V. Newton' [1863]. Only some half dozen of these compositions have got to our National Library. Mirana is an anagram of her christian names Mary Ann.

I give the next title as it enables me to reveal another pseudonym 'Little maid Marion, ballad, the words written by Rona Lee, music composed by Mirana. London G. Emery' [1868]. I may also mention 'Love's welcome, ballad written by Kate Rowland, composed by Mirana. London, Metzler' [1869]. Mirana's husband William Edward Newton son of William (see

Boase's Modern English Biography ii. 1129) wrote with his father 'A list of patents 1845-6': W. E. N. was born 23 january 1818, d. 1 april 1879.

Rona Lee was the pseudonym of Mirana's sister in law, Emily the wife of Alfred Vincent Newton (b. 24 april 1820 d. 19 june 1900). He wrote 'Patent law and practice,' under the pseudonym of 'a practitioner' 1871, and other books on patent law. Emily died 3 november 1896 aged 77.

Another old friend and frequent correspondent was her cousin the rev. James Rowland rector of Llanbedrog, near Pwllheli, and canon of Bangor Cathedral. He died 19 april 1901 at the age of 77 years.

Kate had a weakness for writing verses to the King and the Queen on their birthdays, or the new year, and it gave her infinite pleasure to receive the usual official acknowledgment from Buckingham Palace, or Sandringham from whence the last is dated 1st january 1908. She was of a most kindly nature. I never knew her out of temper. I do not believe in her long life she ever did a soul harm or ever had an evil thought of any one. But she was very obstinate, especially at last when nothing would induce her day or night to lie in bed. She would lie on the floor or on the sofa.

RICHARD ROWLAND

was born 2 february 1828. In 1852 he married Maria Chapman. He took out his certificate to practice as a solicitor in London in 1854 & 5, but his name never got into 'The Law List' as each year he was late in paying the certificate duty.

I find from letters written to his sister in 1865, he was at 23 Liberty street New York; in 1882 he was at 86 Court street Brooklyn as 'attorney and councillor at law.' In 1887 he migrated to Denver, Colorado, a three days and nights journey by rail, he practiced there until his death, which occurred after three days illness on the 11 december 1890.

As a young man he was a great trouble to his mother and sisters, so it is satisfactory to learn by the letter from his widow

announcing his death, that he was beloved by everybody and that he was not only a good man but a good Christian and good husband. They had one child only, she died some years before her father at the age of seventeen.

About his widow I have no information except that in a letter dated 12 march 1900 to Miss Rowland she says she had received a letter from her sister Louisa at Macclesfield, Cheshire, informing her that their sister Jane Chapman was dead at nearly eighty years of age. She also says that Jane once sent her a book of sermons by the vicar of St. Paul's who married their sister Sarah in 1846.

Henry Briant was vicar of St. Paul's Macclesfield his name last appears in The Clergy List and Crockford's Clerical Directory in 1884, as having been vicar 1844-1883.

Mrs Richard Rowland died at Denver 4 march 1901.

FANNY ROWLAND

(Mrs E. A. Netherclift) was born on the 1st and baptised 26 november 1829. She became a student at the Royal Academy of Music 29 march 1852, and a fellow 28 september 1862, but she was also a pupil of the well known Italian teacher of singing Luigi Negri and of (sir) G. A. Macfarren. Negri was a great friend of the Rowland family; he died about 1855, but his widow survived him some forty years.

Fanny had the faculty of being able to play any of the airs from an opera she had heard for the first time.

It is curious that the two sisters each thought their mother made a mistake in their education: for Kate considered she ought to have been the singer and Fanny that nature intended her for a pianist. Fanny began to sing (soprano) in public in 1851. One of the earliest press notices I have is from The Morning Post march 1853 of The Harmonic Union concert. I have the program of The Sacred Harmonic Society concert of 10 june 1853 in which 'Miss F. Rowland and Miss Bassano' sing several times together. Miss Bassano was a favorite with Queen Victoria.

Oddly enough 'Miss Bassano' was a friend of ours, though quite independently of my cousins Kate and Fanny and not until many years after Fanny's death, so that I am able to give some particulars about her which will not be found anywhere else.

Louisa Bassano (Mrs Frederic Boddy) was second daughter of Clementi Bassano of Venezia, his wife Elizabeth was born 17 march 1800 and died at Tooting 20 may 1893. Mrs Boddy was born 11 february 1819 and died at Tooting 20 august 1908.

The following song in the National Library is by Mrs Bassano's sister :—The northern wind, song written by Arthur J[ohn] H[orsford] composed for Miss Teresa Bassano by Josephine M[aud] Horsford. London Cramer [1864].

Mrs Horsford also composed a 'Mazurka for the piano, neither of these have got to the National Library.

'Teresa' is the wife of Mr John Boyd Kinneir, English and Scotch barrister and M.P. for East Fifeshire in 1886.

General Alfred Bassano C.B. (see Boase's Modern English Biography) to whose memory a tablet is erected in Fulham Church was no relation.

In a notice in The Athenæum 23 january 1858, Fanny's name is coupled with that of 'Mr Thomas' who was no relation to the present writer. I presume he was Lewis William Thomas (see Boase's Modern English Biography). At a concert 'Miss A. Thomas' was one of the singers with Fanny, she was no relation.

I attended the Monday Popular Concerts from the first. I have the program for that of the 26th march 1860, second season. 'Miss Fanny Rowland' was the lady singer. She was accompanied on the piano by her great friend G. A. Macfarren. During the interval she introduced me to Miss Arabella Goddard one of the most popular pianists England has ever had.

Fanny gave her first Concert at Willis's Rooms on the 31 may 1883, tickets one guinea. She had then practically retired. The patrons numbering among them some thirty

embers of the aristocracy, showing the extensive connection he had acquired for teaching.

At her second concert 13 may 1884 her sister's song 'Heavenward' was sung.

Among the performers at a Charity Concert got up by Mrs Netherclift, I notice the names of the misses FitzClarence singing duets and singing several songs and among them 'Heavenward.'

Mrs Netherclift died after four days illness on 6 july, and was buried at Brompton Cemetery on the ninth, and her husband took out Letters of administration to her property on 6 july 1886.

HUGH MALLET

was born (1779?) at Liskeard, married Mary Bounsall (1770-1835). He afterwards went to Plymouth, but settled in London about 1825 : he died of cholera at Greenwich in 1849. He had four daughters Maria Bounsall married John Rowland, Elizabeth (died Paris 1882?), married in London Pierre Jacquin (1795-1870) of Paris no issue surviving. Ann (1808-1887) married Ralph Thomas (1803-1862) barrister afterwards serjeant at law, their eldest son is Catharine Rowland's executor. Jane born 9th April 1813 married in London Richard T. Skinner (b. 1815? d. 14 july 1897) of Tavistock : he died 5 march 1887 leaving issue, Marian b. 1849, Frank b. 1852, Alfred b. 1858. Miss Rowland had not heard of or from the Skinners for seven years previous to her death.

For serjeant Thomas and family the following books can be consulted. There are others too numerous to mention here.

The Handbook of fictitious names by O. Hamst 1868, pp. 19, 110, 217.

Encyclopædia Britannica 1875 vol. iii p 658 col. 2; and 1902 vol. 28 p. 263 col. 2 as to Percy Thomas.

Lives of eminent serjeants by H. W. Woolrych 1869, ii, 88

Allibone's Dictionary of English literature 1871, p. 238 and many other pages, and supplement by Kirk vol. p. 1430.

Bibliotheca Cornubiensis by G. C. Boase and W. I. Courtney 1878, pp. 712, 715.

Collectanea Cornubiensia by G. C. Boase 1890, pp. 98-1399.

Sixty years of an agitators life by G. J. Holyoake 189 vol. i, p. 158.

Oxford University Calendar for 1899 pp. 307, 403, 637-40 (Aubrey Ralph Thomas).

Modern English Biography by F. Boase 1892, vol. i, p. v 1901 vol. iii, pp. 286, 930, 1280, and there are numerous other references in volume iv 1908.

Serjeant Thomas and sir J. E. Millais, bart. P.R.A. by Ralph Thomas, with four portraits, including (1) one of sir J. E. Millais by himself, with (2) Ralph Thomas as a boy and (3) an etched portrait of the serjeant by his son Percy Thomas and the fourth Miss Thomas. London A. Russe Smith 1901, 8°, pp. 43, price five shillings.

The best books, by Swan Sonnenschein, 1903 pp 697, 703-704.

Swimming with list of books published in English, German, French, and other European languages, and critical remarks on the theory and practice of swimming and resuscitation biography, history, and bibliography by Ralph Thomas 1904.

While this book was being printed, Miss Rowland checked the thousands of dates and figures contained in its five hundred pages.

A Register of national bibliography by W. P. Courtney 1904, see index.

The Royal Academy of arts, by Algernon Graves 1906 vol. vii. under Florence E. Thomas (Mrs Williams) (p. 357) and Percy Thomas (p. 362).

The secrets of our national literature, by W. P. Courtney 1908, pp. 9, 15, 32. Notes and Queries 24 september 1887 p. 260 and from 1866 to the present day.

For Edmund Thomas, second son of the serjeant, barrister at law (b. 1842, d. 1882) see The Law Times, vol. 74 p. 148. Edmund's youngest son S. Joyce Thomas is at the English Bar, and is joint author of The law relating to the registration of clubs [1902].

I may also mention Edmund's daughter Rebecca Crews Thomas as I am enabled to disclose another assumed name, that of 'Lester Carew' under which she has published a number of songs and recitations. Copies will be found in the National Library.

Ada youngest daughter of the serjeant (Mrs T. Chapman Taylor) has contributed to various publications in England and New Zealand of which country her children and grandchildren may all be considered natives.

She is also well known as an enthusiastic esperantist having obtained the Diploma of the British Esperanto Association with distinction, and has in hand a translation into esperanto of Chamisso's Peter Schlemihl the shadowless man.

EDMUND ALLEN NETHERCLIFT

was ninth child of Joseph Netherclift (1792-1863) a notice of Joseph will be found in Boase's Modern English Biography. Joseph was a lithographer and amateur musician and composer of Tell me, tell me, charming creature, glee [1838]. Clara is sleeping, madrigal [1840?]. Twenty four psalms [1842]. If my dear maid, madrigal [18]. We happy shepherd swains, madrigal [18]. The angler's glee [18]. No original edition of the last three is in our National Library. He was the first expert in handwriting, which his son Frederick George (1817-1892—see Boase M. E. B.) followed as a profession for forty years. F. G. N. published a song, Bend thy sail mariner [1868]. F. G. N's son Frederick Theodore has composed and

published, Dedication, song and words by [Frederick] Theodore Netherclift [1894] and other songs.

E. A. Netherclift's mother Louisa (1797-1873) was a sister of William Birkett Allen D.C.L. of St. John's college Oxford hon. canon of Bristol, rural dean and rector of Winterbourne (St. Michael), near Bristol, the income then being about £1000 a year and a house and the population about the same number. He died in 1862 aged sixty five.

E. A. N. was born at Putney 22 november 1830, and apprenticed for seven years to T. R. Harrison of St Martin's Lane 'citizen and stationer' 2 december 1845, when he resided with his father at 23 King William Street. He was with Harrisons until 1853, so that his father gave him a good start in life. From being musical and playing the violin, he became acquainted with Fanny Rowland, and was married to her by license 13 december 1859.

In 1868 he gave up printing: he never was fitted to be a master though he made a good clerk. The only thing so far as I know that he printed in book form was a pamphlet for me entitled 'A martyr to bibliography... J. M. Quérard' in 1867; and his name is chronicled for this in the 'Manuel de l'amateur de livres du XIX^e siècle, par Georges Vicaire. Paris 1907,' vol. vi p 896.

But he had not the type or machinery for such work. Ultimately he settled down to a more suitable occupation as a clerk in the Church Missionary Society, where he was very much liked. He was there for about twenty five years, until his death on the 5th august 1897. By his Will dated 27 july 1886 he left everything to Kate. On the tombstone over his grave at Kensal Green Miss Rowland had inscribed

DEAR KIND BROTHER

FAREWELL