

## Mary Knollys (and Edward?) (185?–187?)

The earliest certain resident of 7 Victoria Road (as the house was when built)<sup>1</sup> was **Mary Knollys**, who appears at this address in street directories for 1862 and 1867.<sup>2</sup> She may have moved in as early as 1856, and she remained no later than 1874. Also, by 1862 she was a widow, so it's impossible to be sure whether her husband ever lived in the house.

**Knollys Mrs. Mary, 7 Victoria road,  
Old Charlton**

*1862: The first known mention of the house in print.*

Mary had been born **Mary Bastard**, the daughter of James Stokes Bastard and his wife Mary (née Smith) and she was baptised in All Saints, Newcastle-upon-Tyne on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1813.<sup>3</sup> James was an officer in the Royal Artillery, rising to the rank of Major-General.<sup>4</sup> The 1851 census finds the family living in Woolwich, in a house on Kempt Terrace, which was opposite the Common (where Watling House and Siedle House are now on the A205).<sup>5</sup>

Five years later, on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1856, at the age of 43, Mary married **Edward Knollys** in St Luke's, the parish church of Charlton.<sup>6</sup> The service was conducted by the groom's younger brother, Rev. Erskine Knollys. Mary's parents were by this time living nearby on Charlton Road (then called Blackheath Road), her father now a retired General, and no doubt she had been living there before the wedding.<sup>7</sup>

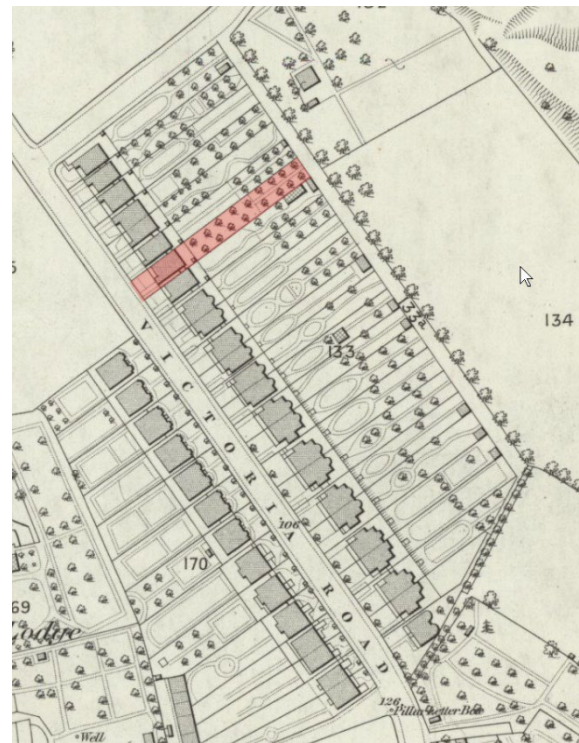
Edward had been born on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1810 and baptised on 11<sup>th</sup> May at St Mary, Ealing, the second son of William Knollys, titular 8<sup>th</sup> Earl of Banbury.<sup>8,9</sup> On 18<sup>th</sup> October 1827, at the age of seventeen, Edward purchased a commission as an Ensign in the 75<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, and he was to remain with the regiment until his death.<sup>10,11</sup>

*Majors.—Edward Knollys, Ens. p18 Oct. 27; Lt. p2 Nov. 30; Capt. p17 Feb. 37; Brev.Maj. 11 Nov. 51; Maj. 2 June 57; Brevet Lt.Col. 11 Jan. 58.*

*Edward Knollys's military career<sup>11</sup>*

Edward was a Freemason, joining the local lodge wherever he was stationed. The earliest membership records show him serving in Scotland (1844), Ireland (1846, 1847), and South Africa (1848).<sup>12</sup>

In 1849 the 75<sup>th</sup> Foot was posted to India, and Captain Edward Knollys landed in Calcutta with the regiment on 18<sup>th</sup> August that year.<sup>13</sup> The Freemasonry records show him active in Bengal and the Peshawar. However, early in 1856 he returned to England "for the recovery of his health",<sup>14</sup>



*Victoria Road in 1866.  
(House numbers run uphill from Wellington Road.)*

and it was during this stay that he married Mary. At the time of the marriage he was a Brevet-Major,<sup>15</sup> and notice of the marriage was recorded in many newspapers:<sup>16</sup>

**Aug. 27, at Charlton, by the Rev. Erskine Knollys, Major Knollys, of the 75th Regt., to Mary, only daughter of Major General Bastard, Royal Artillery.**

*Marriage notice in the St James's Chronicle, 30<sup>th</sup> August 1856*

How soon after the wedding Edward returned to India is not clear, but on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1857 he was promoted to Major, a promotion that would be implausible if he had not returned to the regiment.<sup>11</sup> He was therefore almost certainly present at the outbreak of the Indian Mutiny of 1857–1858.

It is doubtful whether he ever returned to England, and four years later, on 8<sup>th</sup> March 1861, at the age of 50 and with the rank now of Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel, he died of cholera in India.<sup>17</sup>

**75th—Brev. Lieut.-Col. Edward Knollys died on 8th March, at Raneegunge, near Calcutta, of cholera, in the fiftieth year of his age. He was second surviving son of the late General William Knollys, Earl of Banbury, and had been thirty-four years in the Service.**

*Death notice in the Naval and Military Gazette, 20th April 1861.*

The following July the *Freemasons Magazine and Masonic Mirror* carried a fulsome tribute to him, which shows him to have been a very active member during his time in India, serving as Master in several lodges. It concluded that he was “a zealous, and distinguished Mason, a sincere friend, and a thoroughly good man”.<sup>18</sup>

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**WILLS. 1861.**

**KNOLLYS Edward.**

Effects under £3,000.

4 June.

The Will of Edward Knollys late of Raneegunge in the East Indies a Major in Her Majesty's 75th Regiment of Foot and a Brevet-Lieutenant-Colonel in Her Majesty's Army deceased who died 8 March 1861 at Raneegunge aforesaid was proved at the Principal Registry by the oath of Mary Knollys of Old Charlton in the County of Kent Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

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*Edward's entry in the Probate Calendar for 1861*

His will was proved in London three months later.<sup>19</sup> In addition to her husband's estate, Mary benefited from a rank-related Widow's Pension from the Army of £70 a year, paid quarterly.<sup>20,21</sup>

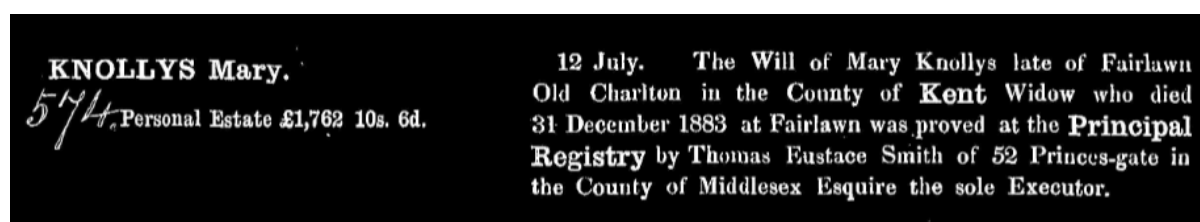
<i>Knollys</i>		<i>9.3.67 70</i>	April		
<i>Mary</i>			May	<i>7 10 -</i>	<i>3289</i>
Army Rank	<i>Major</i>		June		
Regiment, &c.	<i>75 Foot.</i>		July		
Regd. Papers	<i>32821/4</i>	<i>Knollys next page</i>	August		<i>5335</i>
			Sept.		
			October		
			Nov.		<i>7949</i>
			Dec.		
			January		
			February		<i>1334</i>
			March		

Register of Pension Payments to Mary, 1882

We can't know whether or not Edward and Mary moved into 7 Victoria Road on their marriage, but the alternative seems unlikely — that, after her husband's death, a childless widow would move to such a large house. That they had no children is not surprising considering Mary's age and Edward's return to India. However, without the 1861 Census, which has not survived for Charlton, we cannot tell exactly who else was living in the house with Mary. Evidence of later residents suggests a cook and a housemaid made up the usual complement of live-in servants at this period. While we do not know exactly when the house was built, there is a good chance that Edward and Mary were its first residents.

It's not clear exactly how long after 1867 Mary continued to live in Victoria Road, but by 1874 she had certainly moved, as the house had a new resident, Henry Bridges.<sup>22</sup> In the 1871 census the house is unoccupied,<sup>23</sup> and Mary is listed at the home of Edward and Emma St Aubyn in Eaton Place, Knightsbridge.<sup>24</sup> St Aubyn was 1st Baronet St Aubyn of St Michael's Mount, and Emma (née Knollys) was the older sister of Edward Knollys.<sup>8</sup> But Mary was a *visitor* in that household, not a *boarder*, so she had not necessarily moved from Victoria Road; she was simply paying a visit to her in-laws.

Later records show that Mary moved to an address given as "Fair lawn, Old Charlton" (the current road Fairlawn, though, did not exist at this date).<sup>25</sup> It was there that she died on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1883, age 70, leaving an estate worth £1,762.<sup>26</sup> On 4<sup>th</sup> January 1884 she was buried in Charlton Cemetery in the same grave as her father, who had died, age 88, twelve years earlier.<sup>27,28</sup>



Mary's entry in the Probate Calendar for 1883

## Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Ordnance Survey 25" Map, 1st edition, Sheet LIX ([maps.nls.uk/view/103313090](https://maps.nls.uk/view/103313090))
- <sup>2</sup> Post Office Directory of Essex, Herts, Middlesex, Kent, London 1862, p. 776.
- <sup>3</sup> Parish Register, All Saints, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (England, Northumberland, Parish Registers, 1538-1950, [www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QLY2-B8LJ](https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QLY2-B8LJ))
- <sup>4</sup> London Gazette, 4<sup>th</sup> July 1865, p.3356 (with honorary rank of Lieutenant-General).
- <sup>5</sup> 1851 Census, HO 107/1589, fol. 313, p. 13. I have been unable to find the family in the 1841 Census, but it is not unlikely that James had been posted to Ireland or overseas.
- <sup>6</sup> GRO Marriage Index, Q3 1856, Lewisham 1d 957.
- <sup>7</sup> Melville & Co.'s Directory & Gazetteer of Kent, 1858, p. 512.  
([specialcollections.le.ac.uk/digital/collection/p16445coll4/id/190682/rec/7](https://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/digital/collection/p16445coll4/id/190682/rec/7))
- <sup>8</sup> William Knollys, FamilySearch ([www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LH7Q-VDL](https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LH7Q-VDL)). "He was forced to discontinue the use of the title in 1813, after the House of Lords passed a resolution rejecting his claim." ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earl\\_of\\_Banbury](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earl_of_Banbury)),
- <sup>9</sup> *Hampshire Telegraph and Naval Chronicle*, Sat, 20 Apr 1861 ·Page 5 Col. 6. ([www.newspapers.com](https://www.newspapers.com))
- <sup>10</sup> The cost of an Ensign's Commission in 1854 was £1,200 (Anthony Bruce, *The Purchase System In The British Army 1660-1871*, Royal Historical Society, 1985, p. 177)
- <sup>11</sup> Army List 1861, p. 356 (75<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot).
- <sup>12</sup> Freemasonry Membership Registers ([www.ancestry.co.uk/search/categories/freemason\\_registers/](https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/categories/freemason_registers/)).
- <sup>13</sup> *Daily News* (London) Mon, 29 Oct 1849, Page 6, Col. 4
- <sup>14</sup> *The Freemasons' Monthly Magazine*, 1<sup>st</sup> October 1856, p.741.  
([masonicperiodicals.org/periodicals/mmr/issues/frm\\_01101856/page/67/articles/ar06700/](https://masonicperiodicals.org/periodicals/mmr/issues/frm_01101856/page/67/articles/ar06700/))
- <sup>15</sup> Army List 1856, p. 278 (75<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot).
- <sup>16</sup> *St James's Chronicle*, 30<sup>th</sup> August 1856, p. 4, col. 6. ([www.findmypast.co.uk/search-newspapers](https://www.findmypast.co.uk/search-newspapers))
- <sup>17</sup> *Naval and Military Gazette*, 20<sup>th</sup> April 1862, p. 245, col, 3
- <sup>18</sup> *Freemasons Magazine and Masonic Mirror*, 13th July 1861, p.38  
([masonicperiodicals.org/static/media/periodicals/119-MMR-1861-07-13-001-SINGLE.pdf](https://masonicperiodicals.org/static/media/periodicals/119-MMR-1861-07-13-001-SINGLE.pdf)).
- <sup>19</sup> England & Wales, National Probate Calendar, 1861, p. 216
- <sup>20</sup> The National Archives, WO 23/111, Royal Hospital Chelsea: Admission Books, Registers, And Papers — Widows' Pensions: Register of Entitlement..
- <sup>21</sup> The National Archives, WO 23/110, Royal Hospital Chelsea: Admission Books, Registers and Papers — Widows' Pensions: Register of Payments.
- <sup>22</sup> Information supplied by Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust from a street directory in their collection.
- <sup>23</sup> 1871 Census, RG10/774, fol.117, p.29.
- <sup>24</sup> 1871 Census, RG10/114, fol.51, p.10.
- <sup>25</sup> Kelly's Directory of Kent 1882, p. 114  
([specialcollections.le.ac.uk/iiif/2/p16445coll4:278596/full/730,/0/default.jpg?page=132](https://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/iiif/2/p16445coll4:278596/full/730,/0/default.jpg?page=132))
- <sup>26</sup> England & Wales, National Probate Calendar, 1883, p. 216
- <sup>27</sup> Royal Borough of Greenwich, Charlton Cemetery, Grave B/CON/225 ([www.deceasedonline.com](https://www.deceasedonline.com)).
- <sup>28</sup> *Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper*, 18<sup>th</sup> June 1871, p.11, col.5.