

The Rose Howland Story

Prepared for Barbara Hall and her family

Her Marriage

This story is based upon information gleaned from the Marriage Certificate of Rose and Leonard Hinchley. They married on the 18th October 1910 at St. Silas Church on Preston New Road in Blackburn.

Leonard was 24 years old (i.e. born in 1886) and was a Postman living at 74 Dukes Brow. His father, Henry Hinchley, was described as a tailor. The witness from the Hinchley side was George William Hinchley, Leonard's brother.

Rose was 28 years old (i.e. born in 1882) and is not ascribed any occupation. Her address is given as Wynthorpe, Revidge Road, Blackburn. Rose's father, Charles Howland, is described as a 'Chain Maker'. This must be a transcription error. Charles came from High Wycombe. It seems that, at the time, almost every able-bodied male in High Wycombe was a chair maker, and that is how he is described on the few censuses he appears on. Rose's witness was Emily Howland. We have assumed that she is Rose's sister, although the documentary evidence for that is circumstantial but does accord with Barbara's recollection.

The officiating Clergyman was Ernest J Bardsley. On the 1911 census, we find an Emily Howland listed as a Servant in the household of the very same Ernest J Bardsley who lives, of course, in the vicarage: Wynthorpe, Revidge Road. If Rose is giving this as her address on the marriage certificate, it seems likely that Rose was in service to the Rev. Bardsley before her marriage. Perhaps Emily was also in service at the vicarage at the same time, or took over Rose's job when she married.

(As an interesting aside: for a short period in, I think, the late 1960's Bob and Enid lived in a house on Preston New Road only a few hundred yards from where, 50 years earlier, his grandmother worked and was married and round the corner from where his grandfather lived on Dukes Brow.)

Her birth

Rose was born to Charles Howland and his wife Emily (née Chapman) on the 28th August 1882 in Wycombe, although it appears that the birth was not registered until December of the same year (Ref. 3a 580). We know the actual birth date from her Christening record; she was christened in St. Lukes Church in Stepney, London in the registration district of Holborn on the 10th September 1886 – four years after her birth! At the time Charles and his family are recorded as living at 86 Ironmonger Row. He is identified as a chair maker.

From here on the information on Charles, his wife Emily and Rose and her siblings is scarce. We have a story, but we have had to make a few assumptions to put it together.

Her family

Rose's family come from Wycombe in Buckinghamshire. There are many Howlands in Wycombe and, as I suggested above, many chair makers, which makes for confusion and positive identification sometimes difficult. (It is curious to remember that the Chowns family – on your mother's side of the family - also came from Buckinghamshire but we ourselves stem from connections made elsewhere in the country.)

Rose's father, Charles married Emily Chapman in (probably) September 1871 (Ref. 3a 695). We have not positively identified Charles's parents, but we are fairly sure about Emily's parents. They were Enoch Clement Chapman and Emma Harding (married in 1848), both families being based in Wycombe. Enoch and Emma had eight children:

1850 Emily, 1854 Clement Edward, 1856 Selina, 1861 Herbert, 1864 George Enoch, 1867 Ada, 1869 Clara, 1871 Rosa

There is more on the Chapman family tree on the Ancestry website, which I haven't yet looked into in depth, put up by a Dave Cox.

Her Siblings

In the 1881 census, we find Charles and Emily in Wycombe with a 1 year old son, Rupert. In fact, there were three Rupert Howlands born in Wycombe in 1880, two registered in March (Refs. 3a 565 and 3a 568) and another in June (Ref. 3a 569). We aren't sure which of these is 'our' Rupert because the listed records accessible on-line do not give the parent's names.

Families usually call their children after forbears. We can find no reason at all within the family we have unearthed why there should be a rash of Ruperts in the Howland families at that time. Perhaps it was just a fashion of the day. We have followed the trail of two of these Ruperts. One of them turns out to have other Howland parents and therefore not related directly to Rose. The other we can relate to Charles and Emily, tragically, as it happens.

There is a Rupert Howland dies in London (Holborn) in 1886 at the age of 6, the death being registered in September (Ref. 1b 480). This is the same area and same month in which Rose was christened four years after her birth! Did the death of Rupert spur Charles and Emily to have Rose Christened?

In 1888, it would appear that Charles and Emily had a son William, because the 1901 census reveals Charles Howland (aged 52) and William Howland (aged 13, and apprentice upholsterer, and born in London) together in a boarding house in Blackburn. Now, both are labelled as 'Boarders' but it is not too much of a stretch of the imagination to suppose that William is, in fact, Charles's son.

But where are Rose and Emily? Rose is found in service with an Astley family in Spring Hill, Blackburn. In 1901 Charles is noted as a widower and it is probable that

the death of an Emily Howland registered in March of 1898 in Blackburn (Ref. 8e 292) is that of his wife.

But what of Rose's sister, Emily? Unfortunately, we don't have a census record of Emily with her father Charles and mother Emily or any of her siblings. Although we find Charles in the 1881 and 1901 censuses, we cannot find a census record of him, or any of his immediate family, in 1891. That is a crucial missing piece of information: it would put Charles with his wife and children together.

However, while looking for a relevant part of the Chapman family, we find in the 1901 census Selina, Charles's sister-in-law, listed as head of the family, living with her spinster sisters, Emma, Clara and Rosa in Wycombe together with a niece – an 11 year old Emily Howland. There are three Emily Howlands registered as being born in 1889-1890. One of those was born in Wycombe (Ref. 3a 655). In order to be a niece and carry the name Howland, this child Emily can only have been born to one of Selina's sisters who married a Howland – only sister Emily qualifies. Therefore, the 11 year old Emily must be Rose's sister.

So we have Rupert, born in Wycombe (1880), who dies at the age of 6 in London in 1886. We have Rose born in 1882, also in Wycombe, christened in London in 1886 (although on one census she is reported as having been born in London) who ends up in service in Blackburn. There is then William, born in London in 1888, who is also found in Blackburn with his father after the death of his mother in Blackburn in 1898. The last child we know about is Emily born in 1890 in Wycombe. Perhaps the family's move to seek fame and fortune in London turned sour and they returned to Wycombe. In 1901, after the death of his wife, Charles and his son are found in Blackburn, leaving his daughter, Emily, in the care of his sisters-in-law. By 1910, Emily is also in Blackburn. Why Blackburn? What drove a chair maker to move to a cotton town?

Later on

We can trace William further. In 1911 he is boarding with a Webster family in Bold Street Blackburn. He marries Mary Ellen Wilcock in the December of 1915 at Blackburn's Register Office (Ref. 8e 812 and RM/191/153). In late 1916 they have a son, Norman. On the 22nd September 1917, as a private (number 37046) in the 8th Battalion of the East Lancashire Regiment he is killed action somewhere in France or Flanders. Such a short time William and Mary had together. It is possible he never even saw his son.

Charles, did not fare well in Blackburn. In the 1911 census he is reported as an inmate of the Blackburn Union Workhouse in Haslingden Road. He died at the age of 64 three years later in 1914 (Ref. BSE/10/5).

Of Emily, we know nothing for certain beyond that fact that she was in service to the Rev. Bardsley. We cannot find a marriage or death of an Emily Howland in Lancashire, so she may have moved away. There are two marriages registered to an Emily Howland; one to a Jabez Lambourn in Islington (1b 638), another to a Robert Creed in Chelsea (1a 956).

Of Rose herself, you know the end of the story already.

Next...?

There are parts of the story we have had to bridge with logic, rather than paperwork. It would be good, but perhaps not essential, to fill those gaps.

We don't have precise birthdates for Rupert, William and Emily. It would be pleasing to have something definite to relate them all to Charles and Emily. Birth certificates would do that, but, especially in the case of Rupert, it may need more than one to make the right connection.

It would be good to find William Howland's marriage certificate. That would give his father's name and confirm that he was indeed Charles's son. With a bit of luck, one of his sisters might have attended his wedding as a witness, tying up the father and at least two of his children.

And then, if you want to go further back, there is a whole of the families of Enoch Chapman and his wife Emma to be delved into in detail, checking out the available Ancestry information in the Dave Cox tree.

Disclaimers

The story is based on the information we have found on the internet and is subject to the limitations of that information. There are some census returns we can't find. On those we can find there may be transcription errors. Birth, marriage and death records give very little detailed information. London birth records are better. Much of this information could be firmed up by acquiring appropriate certificates.

Prepared by Gordon Gilmore and Topsy Douris
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Timeline

1871	Marriage of Charles Howland and Emily Chapman	Wycombe
1880	March or June, birth of Rupert	Wycombe
1881	Census: Charles, Emily and Rupert	Wycombe
1882	28 August, birth of Rose	Wycombe
1886	Rupert dies 10 September, Rose christened	London
1888	William born	London
1890	Emily born	Wycombe
1901	Census: Emily lodging with Selina Chapman	Wycombe
1901	Census: Charles and William in lodgings	Blackburn
1910	Rose in service at the vicarage Marriage of Rose and Leonard Hinchley Emily witness at wedding	Blackburn
1911	Charles in Blackburn Workhouse Rose and Leonard living in Charlotte Street. William in lodgings Emily in service at the vicarage	Blackburn
1914	Charles dies	Blackburn
1915	William marries Mary Ellen Wilcock	Blackburn
1916	William and Mary's son Norman born	Blackburn
1917	William killed in action in France/Flanders	