

## Mary Isabella Rayner

**1848** born 19 Jan 1848 in London, Middlesex, England Sent for her birth registration. The first attempt came back saying I didn't send enough money. I had requested her record based on information from the London Index for Births at <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com> of an Isabella Rayner year 1848, Mar Quarter, District of West London, Vol 2, page 270. The next time I called them direct so as to give them a credit card number in hopes that it would expedite the adventure. The number was successfully reached by calling **011 44 870 243 7788**. At this time I gave them the same information for the lookup and this time a letter came saying no Isabella Rayner listed with that information. So a third attempt was made in Oct. This time I found on the bmd that the quarter would have been June, same Vol 2, page 270. Am now waiting to hear back. The bmd listed her as Isabella not Mary, if there is a next time I will try harder for a Mary. Too bad they wouldn't look her up with both names.

(London Index for Births <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com>, lists an Isabel Rayner registered birth mar 1848, West London, Vol 2, p. 270. TO DO: It also lists the volunteer transcriber as Angela Riley and suggests she be contacted at [angela@transcripts.freeseerve.co.uk](mailto:angela@transcripts.freeseerve.co.uk) as she may be a relative to Isabel and have further information.

We (Joseph and I) found Isabel Rayner on a micro fiche index , Fiche 6,101,956 this gave us the city of North London, Vol 2, p. 270, having this information was important for sending for a birth registration certificate from England. )

**1866** Married 19 Aug 1866 to George Townley White in St. John's Church, Parish of St. John, Stratford, Essex, England. Have marriage certif. Gives Father's name Charles Isaac Rayner a victullar. Has Mary living in Stratford at time of marriage. She gave her age as 21 to be able to marry when she was actually 17, George also gave 21 years when he was actually 19. This was told by Frances Irene White their daughter.

**1869** on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May son Charles William George White was born in London. He was left in England when Mary and George emigrated to Ontario in 1870. She planned to send for him later but was never able to and this grieved her the rest of her life. Son Charles died 19 Mar 1940 in Surrey, England.

**1870** Daughter Frances Isabella White was born 12 Dec 1870 living at 3 Grove Road Holloway, Islington, Islington East, Middlesex, England. The birth was registered the 12<sup>th</sup> of Jan. 1871. Which means their immigration to Ontario must have been in 1871. They must have just rounded off the year to 1870.

**1870/1** Immigrated with baby Frances Isabella and husband to Ontario, Canada. A newspaper

article printed at the time of her death states that she immigrated with her parents. I think this is in error as I think they meant her daughter Frances Isabella White Irvine was the one who immigrated with her parents in 1870. (Must prove that out.) As the story was that she left her son home which would probably would have been with her parents.

**1872** Her son John White was born, the birth year calculated.

**1874** Her son Thomas K. White was born 1 Nov 1874.

**1881** CENSUS: 1881 Canadian Census of Chatham, Kent, Ontario, FHL film #1375916, NA film # C-13280, District 180, Sub-district 1, Division 1, page # 48, Household # 231.

Notes: Marital Status-Gender-Ethnic Orig-Age-Birthplace-Occupation-Religion.

George White	M	M	English	35	England	Carpenter	Church of Eng
Mary White	M	F	English	38	England		Church of Eng
Isabella White		F	English	10	England		Church of Eng
John White		M	English	9	Ontario		Church of Eng
Thomas White		M	English	7	Ontario		Church of Eng

**1888** Immigration - Immigration papers describe Mary as a small lady of 4'10" weighing 120 lbs. having brown eyes. She immigrated to America from Chatham, (Ontario), Canada on the Grand Trunk Railroad, arriving in Michigan the 14th of September 1888. She had lived for some while in Chatham. On the 20th of Jan. 1908 she filed Naturalization papers.

**1908** Filed for a Declaration of Intention for Naturalization in Fresno on January 20<sup>th</sup>. This was for the purpose of getting Social Security benefits. The form showed her as being 60 years old of fair complexion, 4ft. 10 inches tall weighing 120 lbs. Resided at 2545 White Ave., Fresno, having come from Chatham, Ontario, Canada.. Crossed on the Grand Trunk Railroad and arrived at the port of Detroit, Michigan on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September, 1888 and was listed as not being an anarchist.

**1909** Bought property in Phoenix, Arizona.

**1910** She came to Fresno, California in 1888 residing there until going to Phoenix, Arizona in 1910 with her husband. (From a Fresno newspaper at the time of her death.)

**1913** George Townley White died on 26 Feb 1913 in Fresno. Mary had become physically and mentally unable to care for herself so she lived with daughter Isabelle. Apparently George preferred to live in Fresno maybe he had business there. (Need to check on that more)

**1938** Mary died on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August at the home of her daughter Isabelle, in Phoenix, and is buried in the Greenwood Memorial Cemetery. A Phoenix newspaper also carried an article about her death giving her address as 2901 West Polk St.(the home of her daughter) where she died at age 90 after a long illness. Before her illness she was active in the Episcopal Church. Besides the surviving children mentioned in the Fresno article this one adds the son left in England, Charles W. G. White. Two of her five grandchildren , Lewis and John Irvine, reside in Phoenix.

A newspaper clipping appearing in the Fresno paper at her time of death states that

she crossed the ocean in 1870 with her parents, to Ontario, Canada. She came to Fresno, California in 1888 residing there until going to Phoenix, Arizona in 1910 with her husband. She was the mother of the late John White, former business partner of L.P. Neil in the Neil-White Shoe Company. Surviving were a daughter, Mrs. T. E. Irvine of Phoenix and a son, Thomas White, and several grandchildren.

Mary mentioned in a letter an Aunt Marcia who gave her a book and a nephew of her husband had a Bible that she gave him and his last name was Short. Short was the name of man to whom George T. White was apprenticed to as a youth.