

Fact Sheet: George James Stephens

Pensioner Details
<i>Pensioner name:</i> George James Stephens
<i>Person ID:</i> SM1007
<i>Your name:</i> Ian Scruton
<i>U3A group:</i> South West
Part One: Birth and Family
1: When and where was your pensioner born?
George Stephens was born in 1841 in Frome, Somerset. He was baptised on 1 st December 1841 at the Frome Parish Church.
2: Who were your pensioner's parents? Record any details you can find out about them here (e.g. occupation, religious affiliation, whether they could read or write)
<p>George's father, James, was born in about 1807 in Frome. George's mother, Sarah, was born in about 1807, also in Frome.</p> <p>George and Sarah were married on 8th October 1840 in the Parish Church of Frome St John. James signed the Marriage Register but Sarah marked it with an x. George's father was also called George and he was a labourer. Sarah's father (George's father-in-law) was James Stephens and he was a farmer.</p> <p>In 1851 James and Sarah were living at 3 Mount Pleasant, Frome with their son, George, who at that time was a scholar. In 1861 the family were living in Marston Biggot which is a village a few miles outside Frome. George was by now a Cordwainer (a Shoe Maker). His father, James, was a Journeyman Wheelwright. There is no occupation given for his mother, Sarah.</p>
3: Did your pensioner have any siblings? What were their names, and how old were they in relation to your pensioner? Use this space to record anything else you have found out about them (e.g. occupation, later life)
There are no siblings for George shown in the 1851 and 1861 censuses.
Part Two: Marriage and children/ boarders

1: Did your pensioner marry? What was their spouse's name, and when and where did they marry them? Use this space to record any extra details you can find out about their spouse (e.g. when/where they were born, their occupation)

George was married twice. His first marriage, to Mary Ann, took place between the 1861 and 1871 censuses. I have not been able to find any information about the marriage. Mary Ann was born in about 1834 in Frome. There is no occupation shown for her. She died, possibly in 1898. In the 1901 census George is recorded as being a widower.

In 1871 the family together with a lodger, Julia Carrier, were living in Frome. In 1881 the family were living in Sunnyside, Frome. In 1891 the family were living at 65 Keyford Street, Frome. All subsequent references give the address as 64 Keyford Street.

In 1903 George married Amelia Veasey, a widow. She was born in about 1861 in Frome. There is no occupation shown for her. In 1911 George was living at 64 Keyford Street, Frome with Amelia and Minnie Veasey (Amelia's daughter and George's step-daughter)

2: Did your pensioner have any children? What were their names, and when they were born? Use this space to record any extra details you can find out about them (e.g. occupation, where they lived later in life)

George had 3 children: Herbert, Oliver and Walter.

Herbert was born in 1867 in Frome. By 1891 he had moved to Bristol and was employed as a Sorting Clerk and Telegraphist. In 1891 Herbert was single, and living as a boarder at Stanley House, Bristol. He was married twice. His first wife, Annie Louise, died young. I have not been able to find details of the marriage or Annie's death. In 1901 he was recorded as a widower, living with his son, George, and two sisters-in-law, Rose and Sarah ?Singer at Rosemont Villa, Emlyn Road, Bristol. In 1930 at the age of 62 he married Maud ?Stidderd, a 43 year old spinster.

Oliver was born in about 1869 in Frome. In June 1890 he was appointed as a postman in Frome. By the time of the 1901 census he had moved to Swindon and was employed as an electric fitter. He was living at 2 Nelson Street, Swindon. He had married Emily May Coombes in 1897 at St Paul's Church of England church in Swindon. Her father was also a postman. The couple had no children at the time of the 1911 census. Oliver was then described as an electric wireman at the Railway Company Locomotive Department. Oliver died on 16th January 1928. His address was 26 Bristol Street, Swindon.

Walter was born on 21st May 1872 and baptised on 28th July 1872 at St John's Church, Frome. In February 1893 he was appointed as a postman in Frome. He married Agnes Caroline Heath on 15th August 1898 at St Katherine's Church, Frome. In the 1901 census he is shown as being head of the household at 64 Keyford Street, Frome even though his father was still living in the house. There is one child recorded, Winifred, who was born in about 1900. In the 1911 census he was living at 153 The Butts, Frome and was employed as a stone breaker by the Rural Council. His wife was recorded as having 6 children, 3 of whom had died. By the time of the 1939 Register Walter was living at 9 Oxford Street, Swindon and was recorded as a retired linesman.

Part Three: Work

1: What occupation was your pensioner recorded as doing in census years? Please make sure to state clearly which year you are referring to

1851: Listed as Scholar
1861: Listed as ?Master Cordwainer
1871: Listed as Rural Post Messenger
1881: Listed as Rural Postman
1891: Listed as Postman Rural
1901: Listed as Rural Postman
1911: Listed as Retired Postman now Boot Repairer

2: What occupations were people living with your pensioner (e.g. spouse, children, boarders) doing in the census years? Please make sure to state clearly which year you are referring to

1851 Census:
James Stephens (Father) Journeyman Wheelwright
1861 Census:
James Stephens (Father) Journeyman Wheelwright
1871 Census:
Julia Carter (Lodger) Cloth Worker
1881 Census:
Herbert Stephens (Son) Scholar
Oliver Stephens (Son) Scholar
Walter Stephens (Son) Scholar
1891 Census:
Oliver Stephens (Son) Postman Rural
Walter Stephens (Son) Postman Rural
1901 Census:
Walter Stephens (Son) Rural Postman
1911 Census:
Minnie Veasey (Step-daughter) Printing ?Worker Packer

Part Four: Anything Else/Later Life

Please use this space to record anything else you have found out about your pensioner. For example: what do we know about their life after retirement?

George was a cordwainer (ie shoe maker) in 1861. However, he subsequently became a postman. There are 3 entries for a G J Stephens based in Frome in the British Postal Service Appointment Books. An entry in 1872 refers to the place of work as being Frome to Standerwick, then in 1881 Frome to Cloford, and in 1891 Frome to Wanstrow. These are all places near Frome. Perhaps the entries indicate that George was assigned to different rounds.

As mentioned in Part 2, Section 1, George remarried in 1903, after his retirement. In the 1911 census he is recorded as a Retired Postman now Boot Repairer. He had taken up his original employment again.

George's three sons all worked for the Post Office, at least for a time. Herbert was a Sorting Clerk and Telegraphist, and Oliver and Walter were Postmen (see Part 2, Section 2).

George died on 2nd August 1911 of a carcinoma (stomach and liver) and haemorrhage. He was still living at 64 Keyford Street, Frome (see Part 2, Section 1). He died at home and his step-daughter, Minnie Veasey, who also lived at the address was present at his death. He was buried at the Frome Parish Church.

Part Five: Your Sources

Please use this space to record the sources you have used

George Stephens (pensioner)

1841 baptism: Somerset Heritage Service; Taunton, Somerset, England; Reference Number: *D\P\fr.jo/2/1/9*

1851 census: Class: *HO107*; Piece: *1932*; Folio: *561*; Page: *11*; GSU roll: *221090-221091*

1861 census: Class: *RG 9*; Piece: *1655*; Folio: *70*; Page: *14*; GSU roll: *542846*

1871 census: The National Archives; Kew, London, England; *1871 England Census*; Class: *RG10*; Piece: *2432*; Folio: *32*; Page: *16*; GSU roll: *835180*

1872 British Postal Service Appointment Books: British Postal Museum and Archive; Series: *POST 58*; Reference Number: *85* British Postal Museum and Archive; Series: *POST 58*; Reference Number: *85*

1881 census: Class: *RG11*; Piece: *2402*; Folio: *32*; Page: *22*; GSU roll: *1341578*

1881 British Postal Service Appointment Books: British Postal Museum and Archive; Series: *POST 58*; Reference Number: *88*

1891 census: The National Archives of the UK (TNA); Kew, Surrey, England; *Census Returns of England and Wales, 1891*; Class: *RG12*; Piece: *1907*; Folio: *47*; Page: *11*; GSU roll: *6097017*

1891 British Postal Service Appointment Books: British Postal Museum and Archive; Series: *POST 58*; Reference Number: *92*

1901 census: Class: *RG13*; Piece: *2308*; Folio: *195*; Page: *34*

1903 marriage: FreeBMD. *England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837-1915* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.

1911 census: Class: *RG14*; Piece: *14466*; Schedule Number: *273*

1911 burial: Somerset Heritage Service; Taunton, Somerset, England; *Somerset Parish Records, 1538-1914*; Reference Number: *D\P\fr.jo/2/1/35*

Mary Ann Stephens (wife)

1898 death: FreeBMD. *England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837-1915* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.

James Stephens (father)

1840 marriage: Somerset Heritage Service; Taunton, Somerset, England; *Somerset Parish Records, 1538-1914*; Reference Number: *D\P\fr.jo/2/1/24*

Herbert Stephens (son)

1891 census: The National Archives of the UK (TNA); Kew, Surrey, England; *Census Returns of England and Wales, 1891*; Class: *RG12*; Piece: *1971*; Folio: *59*; Page: *32*; GSU roll: *6097081*

1901 census: Class: *RG13*; Piece: *2389*; Folio: *13*; Page: *18*

1930 marriage: Bristol Archives; Bristol, England; *Bristol Church of England Parish Registers*; Reference: *P/Do/R/2/c*

Oliver Stephens (son)

1890 British Postal Service Appointment Books: British Postal Museum and Archive; Series: *POST 58*; Reference Number: *92*

1897 marriage: Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre; Chippenham, Wiltshire, England; Reference Number: *1065/41*

1901 census: Class: *RG13*; Piece: *1906*; Folio: *99*; Page: *10*

1911 census: Class: *RG14*; Piece: *11789*; Schedule Number: *39*

1928 death: Ancestry.com. *England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1995* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.

Walter Stephens (son)

1872 baptism: Somerset Heritage Service; Taunton, Somerset, England; Reference Number: *D\P\fr.jo/2/1/11*

1893 British Postal Service Appointment Books: British Postal Museum and Archive; Series: *POST 58*; Reference Number: *94*

1898 marriage: Somerset Heritage Service; Taunton, Somerset, England; *Somerset Parish Records, 1538-1914*; Reference Number: *D\P\fr.wds/2/1/1*

1911 census: Class: *RG14*; Piece: *14466*; Schedule Number: *84*

1939 register: The National Archives; Kew, London, England; *1939 Register*; Reference: *RG 101/7126G*

George Herbert Stephens (grandson)

1897 baptism: Bristol Archives; Bristol, England; *Bristol Church of England Parish Registers*; Reference: *P/St Ag/R/1/b*