

Fact Sheet: Thomas Luke Terrill

Pensioner Details
<i>Pensioner name:</i> Thomas Luke Terrill
<i>Person ID:</i> DV1018
<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?
Thomas Luke Terrill was born on 23 rd June 1842 in Exeter. He was baptised on 10 th July 1842 in the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Exeter.
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>Thomas' father was George Terrill, born in 1811 in Redruth, Cornwall. In the 1851 and 1861 censuses he was a Hotel Clerk. In 1864 George was appointed as a clerk by the Bristol and Exeter Railway Company. The company amalgamated with the Great Western Railway in 1876 at which time George's salary was £60.</p> <p>Thomas' mother, Elizabeth, was born in about 1815, also in Redruth. She was a Dress Maker. George and Elizabeth were married in 1838. Although both were born in Redruth, the couple had moved to Exeter by at least 1840 as their first child, Elizabeth (Thomas' sister) was born in Exeter (see Part One, Section 3). In 1851 the family were living in Magdalen Street, Exeter. By 1861 they had moved to St Clement Street, Truro but by 1871 they were living in the Exeter area again at Cowick Cottage, Cowick, Exeter.</p> <p>George died in 1885 at the age of 73.</p> <p>The family were Wesleyan Methodists (see Part 4).</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)

Thomas had at least 7 siblings. They were all born in Exeter. They were:

- Elizabeth -born about 1840
- George – born about 1841
- Mary – born about 1845
- William – born about 1847
- Samuel – born about 1849
- Stephen – born about 1850
- Jabez – born about 1855

Elizabeth was described as a Milliner in 1861 and as a Dressmaker in 1871. In 1911 she was living with her brother, Thomas, at 4 Queensdale Road, Bristol and was his housekeeper

In 1861 George and William were both Printers' Apprentices

Samuel was a Corn Merchant's Clerk in 1871. He became a Wesleyan Minister and in 1896 officiated at the wedding of Thomas' eldest daughter, Edith, at the Southernhay Wesleyan Church. He was also due to officiate at the double wedding of Thomas' daughters, Augusta and Maria, in 1905 in the Wesleyan Church at Exmouth but he died shortly beforehand.

Stephen was a photographer in 1871.

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). **Note:** *You can also use this space to record any details about people your pensioner boarded with.*

Thomas married Mary Jane in Bristol in 1866. Mary Jane was born in Bristol in about 1845. I have not been able to find a record of her birth. There is no occupation given for her in the censuses. She died on 7th October, 1910 (see Section 4).

In 1871 the family were living in Regent Street, Exeter. In 1881 they were living at 8 Roseland Crescent, Exeter. In 1891 they were living at 46 Black Boy Road, Exeter. By 1894 they were living at 21 Polsoe Road, Exeter. By the time of Mary's death in 1910 Thomas and Mary were living at 4 Queensdale Road, Knowle, Bristol (see Section 4).

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)

Thomas and Mary had at least 6 children: Francis, Edith, William, Augusta, Maria, and Ethel.

Francis was born in 1868 in Camborne. In July 1884 he was appointed by the GPO as a clerk and telephonist. In the 1891 census he was described as a Telegraph Clerk GPO, as was his father. Also in 1891 he passed the City and Guilds exam in telegraphy in the class at the Exeter Post Office which was run by his father (see Part 4). He married Eva in Tiverton in 1895. By 1901 they were living at 31 Venn Street, Clapham and Francis was a Telegraphist with the GPO. By 1911 Francis and Eva had 3 children. They were living in Wallington, Surrey and Francis was described as a clerk in Supt Engineers Office, employed in the Civil Service. Francis died on 19th December 1946 by which time he was living in St Mabyn near Bodmin.

Edith was born in 1869 in the Bedminster area of Bristol. In 1894 she is recorded in Besley's Post Office Directory of Exeter as being a Teacher of Music, living at 21 Polsoe Road, Exeter, as was her father. A news article in The Western Times of 6th June 1896 reported on her marriage to John Cooper at the Southernhay Wesleyan Church. A Death Notice in The Western Times of 8th September 1900 stated that Archibald Terrill Cooper, Thomas' grandson, had died on 20th August in Concepcion, Mexico aged one. I have not been able to find any more information about how the family came to be in Mexico. It was not a permanent move because Edith was present at Thomas' death in 1924 (see Part Four) and her address was 4 North Avenue, Heavitree, Exeter.

William was born in 1872 in the St Thomas district of Exeter. In 1891 he was an apprentice to a wholesale draper. A Death Notice in The Western Times of 2nd February 1900 stated that he had died at Penrith, near Sydney, Australia on 23rd December 1899. I have not been able to find any more information about him being in Australia.

Augusta was born in 1874 in the Bedminster area of Bristol. In 1891 she was a School Governess. In the Exeter Trades Directory of 1895 she is recorded as being a Music Teacher living at 21 Polsoe Road, Exeter. A news article in The Western Times of 9th September 1905 reported that she had married Herbert Drummond in the Wesleyan Church, Exmouth. By that time, she was Night Superintendent at the Tunbridge Wells General Hospital. In 1911 Augusta and Herbert were living in Southampton.

Maria was born in 1877 in the St Thomas district of Exeter. In 1893 she was appointed by the GPO as a telephonist in Exeter. She married Walter Dicker at a joint ceremony with her sister, Augusta, in 1905 (see above paragraph). In 1911 Maria and Walter were living at 263 Monks Road, Exeter and had no children. They were still living in Exeter in 1939. Maria died in Exeter on 20th May 1954.

Ethel was born in 1880 in the St Thomas district of Exeter. A news article in The Western Times of 5th July 1906 reported that she had gained a first-class certificate in an

examination of nurses at Portsmouth Hospital. Prior to commencing her general training at Portsmouth, she had obtained a first-class certificate for fever training at the Exeter sanatorium. She was described as “an old Southernhay Wesleyan scholar”. She was enrolled as a midwife in 1910 and registered as a nurse in 1923. In 1915 she was living in Widnes. By 1928 she was living in Exeter again.

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 Railway Cl

1871: Listed as Postal Telegraph Clerk

1881: Listed as Civil Service Clerk ? Tel Dept

1891: Listed as Telegraph Clerk GPO

1901: Listed as Supt Telegraph Dept GPO

1911: Listed as Pensioner Superintendent Post Office Telegraph

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

George (father) – Hotel Clerk
Elizabeth (mother) – Dress Maker
Elizabeth (sister) – Scholar
George (brother) – Scholar
Mary (sister) – Scholar

1861 Census

George (father) – Hotel Clerk
Elizabeth (sister) – Milliner
George (brother) – Printer Ap
Mary (sister) – Scholar
William (brother) – Printer Ap
Samuel (brother) – Scholar
Stephen (brother) – Scholar
Jabez (brother) - Scholar

1881 Census

Francis (son) – Scholar
Edith (daughter) – Scholar
William (son) – Scholar
Augusta (daughter) – Scholar

1891 Census

Francis (son) – Telegraph Clerk GPO
Augusta (daughter) – School Governess
William (son) – Apprentice to Wholesale Draper
Blanche (daughter) – Scholar
Ethel (daughter) – Scholar
Gwladys Terrill (niece) – Scholar

1901 Census

Thomas and Mary were recorded as visitors at Church Terrace, Tiverton, at the home of Elizabeth Burrige. Elizabeth's niece, Edith Pitt, was also there and was a Scholar

1911 Census

Elizabeth Terrill (sister) – Housekeeper for brother

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?

Based on where their children were born, Thomas and Mary moved home several times between Camborne, Bristol and Exeter. They finally moved to Bristol after Thomas' retirement.

Thomas was recorded as a Railway Clerk in 1861. By 1871 he was a Postal Telegraph Clerk even though he does not appear in the British Postal Service Appointment Books until 1872. In 1881 he is described as a Civil Service Clerk Telegraph Dept. In 1891 he was a Telegraph Clerk GPO. By 1901 he was a Superintendent in the GPO Telegraph Department.

He studied Magnetism and Electricity at the Exeter Science School. He passed an elementary stage exam in 1873 (reported in a news article in The Western Times of 23rd July 1873) and an advanced stage exam in 1875 (a news article in The Western Times of 31 August 1875). In 1891, when he was about 48, a news article in The Western Times of 24th July 1891 reported that he had conducted a City and Guilds course in telegraphy at the Exeter Post Office. He passed the exam himself with a 2nd class honours grade.

In 1895 a news article in The Devon and Exeter Daily Gazette reported that he had passed "the telegraphic technical examination prescribed by the Postal Authorities in the case of officials posting to a higher grade". He was promoted to the post of Assistant Superintendent.

A news article in The Western Times of 18th October 1901 said he was leaving the service "to enjoy a well-earned pension". He was presented with "a handsome cruet stand".

The family were Wesleyan Methodists. Thomas was baptised in the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Exeter and his brother, Samuel, became a minister in the church. A news article in The Western Times of 14th January 1891 reported that Thomas performed a recitation at a social evening held by the Exeter Wesleyan Mutual Improvement Society.

A death notice in The Western Times of 14th October 1910 recorded that Thomas' wife, Mary Jane, had died on 7th October at 4 Queensdale Road, Knowle, Bristol. In 1911 his sister, Elizabeth, was living with him at 4 Queensdale Road and was described as his housekeeper.

Thomas' Death Certificate recorded that he died on 22nd February 1924 at the age of 81. The cause of death was given as morbus cordis, cystitis and nephritis. His address was given as 4 Queensdale Road, Bristol but he actually died at 42 Monks Road. I have not been able to find out why he was at a different address. His daughter, Edith Cooper, of 4 North Road, Heavitree, Exeter was present at his death.

Part Five: Your Sources

Please use this space to record the sources you have used

Thomas Luke Terrill (pensioner)

1842 Civil Registration Birth Index: [England & Wales births 1837-2006 Image | findmypast.co.uk](#)

1842 Baptism: Record Transcription: Devon Baptisms | findmypast.co.uk

1851 Census: Class: *HO107*; Piece: *1868*; Folio: *450*; Page: *2*; GSU roll: *221016*

1861 Census: Class: *RG 9*; Piece: *1557*; Folio: *68*; Page: *22*; GSU roll: *542831*

1866 Civil Registration Marriage Index: FreeBMD. *England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837-1915* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.

1871 Census: The National Archives; Kew, London, England; *1871 England Census*; Class: *RG10*; Piece: *2054*; Folio: *30*; Page: *13*; GSU roll: *831770*

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

1873 Newspaper news article: Exeter Science School, The Western Times, 23 July 1873, Page 3

1875 Newspaper news article: Exeter Science School, The Western Times, 31 August 1875, Page 7

1881 Census: Class: *RG11*; Piece: *2143*; Folio: *74*; Page: *30*; GSU roll: *1341517*

1891 Census: The National Archives of the UK (TNA); Kew, Surrey, England; *Census Returns of England and Wales, 1891*; Class: *RG12*; Piece: *1688*; Folio: *74*; Page: *27*; GSU roll: *6096798*

1891 Newspaper news article: Local News, The Western Times, 14 January 1891, Page 2

1891 Newspaper news article: Untitled, The Western Times, 24 July 1891, Page 5

1895 Newspaper news article: Untitled, The Devon and Exeter Daily Gazette, 17 October 1895, Page ?

1901 Census: Class: *RG13*; Piece: *2040*; Folio: *64*; Page: *3*

1901 Newspaper news article: Exeter Day By Day, The Western Times, 18 October 1901, Page 5

1911 Census: Class: *RG14*; Piece: *14936*; Schedule Number: *39*

1924 Death Certificate

Mary Terrill (wife)

1910 Newspaper death notice: Deaths, The Western Times, 14 October 1910, Page 5

George Terrill (father)

1838 Civil Registration Marriage: FreeBMD. *England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837-1915* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.

1871 Census: The National Archives; Kew, London, England; *1871 England Census*; Class: *RG10*; Piece: *2055*; Folio: *10*; Page: *11*; GSU roll: *831770*

1876 Register of Great Western Railway Clerks: The National Archives of the UK; Kew, Surrey, England; Collection: *Great Western Railway Company: Staff Records*; Class: *RAIL264*; Piece: *6*

Francis Terrill (son)

1868 Civil Registration Birth Index: [England & Wales births 1837-2006 Image | findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

1884 British Postal Service Appointment Books: British Postal Museum and Archive; Series: *POST 58*; Reference Number: *90*

1895 Civil Registration Marriage Index: FreeBMD. *England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837-1915* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006

1901 Census: Class: *RG13*; Piece: *464*; Folio: *80*; Page: *26*

1911 Census: The National Archives of the UK (TNA); Kew, Surrey, England; *Census Returns of England and Wales, 1911*

1947 Probate Calendar: 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.

Edith Terrill (daughter)

1869 Civil Registration Birth Index: FreeBMD. *England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.

1894 Directory: *1894-1895 Besley's Post Office Directory of Exeter & Suburbs*; Publisher: *H. Besley & Co.*

1896 Newspaper news article: Local News, The Western Times, 6 June 1896, Page 2

William Terrill (son)

1872 Civil Registration Birth index: FreeBMD. *England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.

1900A Newspaper Death Notice: Deaths, The Western Times, 2 February 1900, Page 5

Augusta Terrill/Drummond (daughter)

1874 Civil Registration Birth Index: FreeBMD. *England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.

1895 Directory: *1895-1896 Post Office Directory of Exeter*; Publisher: *H. Besley & Son*

1905 Newspaper news article: Double Wedding at Exmouth, The Western Times, 9 September, Page 2

1911 Census: The National Archives of the UK (TNA); Kew, Surrey, England; *Census Returns of England and Wales, 1911*

Maria Blanche Terrill/Dicker (daughter)

1877 Civil Registration Birth Index: FreeBMD. *England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.

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

1905 Newspaper news article: Double Wedding at Exmouth, The Western Times, 9 September, Page 2

1911 Census: The National Archives of the UK (TNA); Kew, Surrey, England; *Census Returns of England and Wales, 1911*

1939 Register for Maria Dicker: The National Archives; Kew, London, England; *1939 Register*; Reference: *RG 101/6756D*

1954 Probate Calendar: 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.

Ethel Terrill (daughter)

1880 Civil Registration Birth Index: FreeBMD. *England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.

1906 Newspaper news article: Exeter Day By Day, The Western Times, 5 July 1906, Page 2

1915 The Midwives Roll: The Wellcome Trust; London, England; *The Midwives Roll*; Reference: *b24389596_i13779540*

1928 Register of Nurses: Ancestry.com. *UK & Ireland, Nursing Registers, 1898-1968* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2016.

1937 The Midwives Roll: The Wellcome Trust; London, England; *The Midwives Roll*; Reference: *b24744475_i13779230*

Archibald Terrill Cooper (grandson)

1900B Newspaper Death Notice: Deaths, The Western Times, 8 September 1900, Page 1