

*ON SEA AND LAND*  
*BY JENNIFER SIMPSON*

When Samuel Ecclestone joined the Post Office in 1886, his mother Rebecca had to make her mark on an official declaration giving his birth date as 24<sup>th</sup> May 1841 at Preston Street in Exeter because he had no birth certificate. The 1841 census was taken less than two weeks later on 6<sup>th</sup> June and Rebecca is listed, but the baby Samuel is not. She is a pipe maker aged twenty-five. About fifty miles away in Plymouth her two older sons --Thomas, five and John, three -- are living in the workhouse in East Stonehouse.

Preston Street Exeter was then at the heart of what had been the medieval city of Exeter and the houses of the Tudor merchants had become tenements densely occupied by the poor. Rebecca's occupation as a pipe maker is something that could be done in a domestic setting and is a skill she used later in her life when she returns to the Stonehouse area of Plymouth. Information given by a member of the [Society for Clay Pipe Research](#) includes Rebecca on his list of the many pipe makers in the Plymouth area.

I found no trace of Rebecca Ecclestone in the 1851 census, but I did find her brother, described as a Labourer of thirty years, also called Samuel, living as a lodger in the house of a retired Greenwich Pensioner called Joseph Carter. This retired naval man was widowed in January 1856 and later the same year married Rebecca. She was 43 and he was 63. Rebecca's father had been a Royal Marine and served in the Navy for fifteen years during the Napoleonic wars.

Rebecca's three sons all joined the Royal Navy, although Thomas had been apprenticed to a gardener and John to a baker. Perhaps these were places found for them by the workhouse, but the lure of the sea was hard to avoid in a place like Plymouth and they followed their younger brother Samuel who had joined as a boy sailor. Thomas worked on land as a Shipwright and Ship's Carpenter but joined the Navy in 1871 aged thirty-five. The naval record gives his birthdate as 1840, but it was 1836. Could he have deliberately taken four years off his age? He had six years at sea and then in 1877 died from asiatic cholera in Japan. Sadly John -- who joined in 1869 -- lost his life at sea and drowned in an accident in Singapore in 1874.

Samuel survived and his full naval record is held at Kew. This says that he joined the Navy on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1855 at the age of fourteen years, as a Boy Seaman, second class. His height is given as four feet 8 eight and a half inches, his weight eight stone and five pounds, his hair brown, and his eyes grey.

On reaching the age of eighteen years he had agreed to signing on for ten years of service. He was re-engaged for a further period of ten years on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1869. The list of ships he served on is also on record. His various ratings list him as Able Seaman from 1862, Cox Launch in 1867 and a Corporal 2nd class from 1870. Apart from his one misdemeanor of

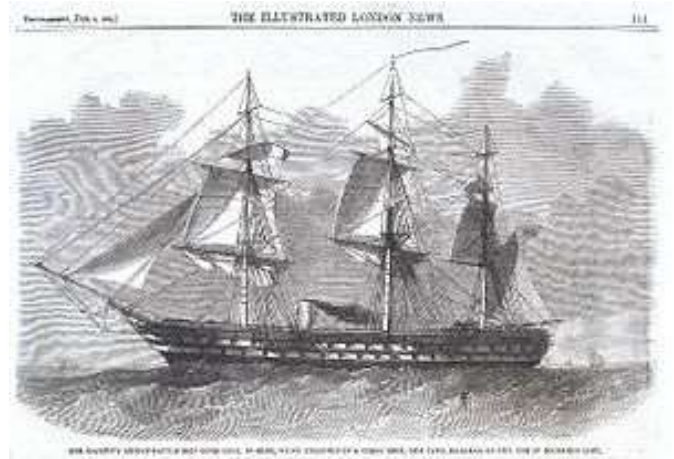
being drunk on duty in 1863 he had a rating of VG for most of his service. Samuel appears to have had an interesting life at sea and travelled to Canada and the Pacific Islands, South America, the East Indies, and China.

He seems to have been conscious of aiming for self-betterment as he joined the Freemasons in 1871, when he was Corporal in the Royal Navy. The Royal Standard Lodge gives its location as Halifax, Nova Scotia. In 1884 giving his occupation as Pensioner, RN he joined Metham Lodge in Stonehouse, Devon.

In the 1861 census taken in April he was serving on HMS Conqueror at the same time as his brother John. The ship was one of the Channel Squadron and in December of that year was engaged in transporting troops to Mexico. On the way back to England in January 1862, HMS Conqueror – a 800 horsepower, 3265 ton ship with 101 guns on board -- was wrecked on rocks off Bermuda: all survived.

The Master and the Captain were court martialled and the crew all eventually got home on other ships.

1861 seems to have been an eventful year for Samuel. He married his first wife Sarah in the autumn and his first daughter Ann Rebecca was born in the last quarter of 1861. Four more daughters were born: Sarah Ann in 1863, Susan Elizabeth in 1864, Rosina Ellen in 1875 and Emily Louisa in 1878.



Whilst Samuel was away at sea the family lived in East Stonehouse, Plymouth where there were many houses in multiple occupation. One of their daughters aged four years died from croup in 1879, a common bronchial ailment affecting many children. A report for East Stonehouse for 1870-2 reported that of 399 deaths, 182 were of children under five. Sarah, his wife, died the following year from heart disease and pneumonia aged thirty six.

The birth of Emily in 1878, the death of Rosina in 1879 and the death of Sarah in 1880 were probably good reasons for Samuel leaving the Navy in 1879 after a period of service lasting for twenty-four years from the age of fourteen to thirty-eight. At the time of the 1881 census, he is described as a Naval Pensioner and a Widower, aged forty. Living with him are two older daughters, Sarah, and Susan both employed as general servants and Emily who is two years old.

Samuel's second wife was Emily Rider, a milliner, and the daughter of a baker. She was twenty-eight when they married in 1884 and he was forty-two. In 1885 she gave birth to twins Beatrice and Clara. It is not known if Samuel had any other occupation between 1879 and 1886 when he joined the Postal Service, but he is described as a Postman in the 1891 census and a Letter Carrier in 1901. The Kelly's Directory for 1902 lists 13 Union Street as the Stonehouse Branch Post Office and this was his residence in the 1901 census, so it is possible that the family were living over the Post Office.

He retired aged sixty in 1901, after fifteen years of service and moved with Emily, to Saltash, just across the water from Plymouth to a terraced villa residence, next door to his married daughter Beatrice, where he enjoyed twelve years of retirement away from his once adventurous life.

## References

- **Websites**
  - “HMS Conqueror (1855)”, *The Victorian Royal Navy*:  
<https://www.pdavis.nl/ShowShip.php?id=46%20The%20Story%20of%20the%20Conqueror>
- **Images**
  - Engraving depicting [HMS Conqueror \(1855\)](#), wrecked off the coast of Rum Cay, Bahamas. Loss of the Conqueror. Illustration for The Illustrated London News, 8 February 1862. <https://www.lookandlearn.com/history-images/U305268/Loss-of-the-Conqueror> Groom and Co. of Plymouth and Exeter.

## Fact Sheet: Samuel Ecclestone

Pensioner Details
<i>Pensioner name:</i>
<i>Person ID:</i>
<i>Your name:</i>
<i>U3A group:</i>
Part One: Birth and Family
1: When and where was your pensioner born?
<p>*1 British Civil Service Evidence of Age There is no Birth Certificate, but there is a declaration dated June 1886 signed with her mark by Rebecca Carter, his Mother, stating that he was born at Preston Street in Exeter, Devon on 22nd May 1841.</p>
2: Who were your pensioners' parents? Record any details you can find out about them here (e.g. occupation, religious affiliation, whether they could read or write)
<p>*2 A Rebecca Izant Eccleston(e) was born in East Stonehouse, Plymouth on 15th August 1813. Her father's occupation is given as Sgt. In Royal Marines.</p> <p>*3 In the 1841 census a Rebecca Ecclestone is found in Preston Street, Exeter. She is described as a Pipe Maker. As this census was on 6th June this would have been just after she gave birth to Samuel. Was he just unrecorded or was he in the local Workhouse?</p> <p>*4 There is no trace of Rebecca in the census of 1851, but there is a Samuel Ecclestone living in the same house as Joseph Robert Carter 58, a Greenwich Pensioner, and his wife Isabella 57. Although Samuel is described as a Labourer aged 30, I think this is a mistake and his age would have been 10yrs. Maybe they said 13 not thirty. In 1856 after the death of Isabella, Joseph Carters wife, he marries Rebecca, Samuel's mother, so this is a definite connection.</p> <p>*5 Burial of Isabelle Carter in January 1856</p> <p>*6 Marriage of Joseph Carter to Rebecca Ecclestone on 30th June 1856</p> <p>*7 1861 census Rebecca and Joseph are living at Water lane in the house of multi-occupation is recorded as age 69 and she is recorded as being 65 but she was in fact aged 45. Also in the house are a Charwoman, her son, a Cork Cutter and another couple, a Labourer and their 4 children.</p> <p>*8 1871 census and they are living at 3 Water Lane another house of multi-occupation.</p> <p>*9 in December 1871 Joseph died</p> <p>*10 1881 census Rebecca is living in the same house as Elizabeth Ecclestone at 9 Water Lane, Rebecca is described as a Widow and a Pipe Maker.</p>

\*11 1891 census Rebecca is at High Street East Stonehouse and described as an "Almswoman" aged 77 years.

\*12

Death of Rebecca in 1894

Samuel Ecclestone's father is not known.

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)

13

Thomas born 1836 and John born 1838 in the Workhouse in East Stonehouse.

\*14

Thomas aged 15 in 1851 census apprenticed to a Gardener in Plymouth.

\*15

John in 1851 census apprenticed to a Baker.

\*16

1862 John marries Elizabeth Cockram born 1839.

\*17

1871 census shows at 22 Fore Street Elizabeth, John's wife born in Crediton in 1839 and her daughter Mary aged 14, listed as a scholar and born in East Stonehouse, son John T born 1863, son Joseph R born 1868 and daughter Ann M born 1866. Elizabeth is described as Wife of a Seaman in Royal Navy.

Living at Water Lane and listed on the same page as it is just around the corner is Samuel. Thomas and John's mother Rebecca and Joseph Carter her husband.

1881 Census see \*10.

Elizabeth Ecclestone at 9 Water Lane, Elizabeth is the widow of John Ecclestone, a seaman who died in an accident in Singapore around 1879

\*18

1861 Census

Thomas Ecclestone is a Ships Carpenter and living at Tavistock street, East Stonehouse in a house of multi-occupation, where the main householder is also a Grocer. Thomas is married to Amy nee Crocker, formerly a Dressmaker and their son Thomas is a year old.

\*19

Marriage in November 1859 of Thomas to Amy Crocker

\*20

1871 Thomas is a Shipwright living in North street, Charles, Plymouth with Amy his wife and they now have 3 sons. Thomas junior is 11 years, Frederick is 8 and Frank is 6. 3 families are living in this house.

### Part Two: Marriage and children

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)

21

Sarah Ann Budd Wakley born 1843 in St/ Helier Jersey Channel Islands

\*22

Married Samuel Ecclestone in 1861

\*23

1861 census before her marriage Sarah Ann Wakley is a servant in the house of a Licensed Victualler at 45 Edgumbe Street in East Stonehouse

\*24

1871 Census Sarah Ann and 3 daughters living at 3 Bridge Cottages, East Stonehouse

\*25

1880 Sarah dies of Heart Disease and Pneumonia on 27th March at Bridge Cottages, East Stonehouse aged 36.

\*26

Second wife Emily Rider born 1856.

\*27

1861 Census Her father is a Baker.

\*28

7th September 1884 Samuel marries Emily Rider. She is 28 and he is 42.

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)

1. **Ann Rebecca born 1861.** \*37

\*38

1881 census she is living in the house of James Wills, a retired Baker at Durnford Street, East Stonehouse and is a general servant.

\*39

1884 Marries Alexander Brown who is a Royal Marine.

\*40

1901 census she is described as a wife and living in Fulham, London, but there are no details of her husband's occupation and I can't find any reference to him.

\*40A

She died in Fulham aged 85

2. **Sarah Ann born 1863.** \*41

\*42 Married in 1882 to James Dunlea, from Cork, Ireland in the 4th quarter of 1887.

\*43 In the 1911 census they are living in Devonport with their children Mary 21, a Dressmaker, Kate 20, James 18, a general labourer, Irene 15, a domestic and Reginald 6. Mary and Reginald were born in Devonport, but Kate was born in Colchester, James in Ireland, and Irene in Bombay India.

James senior is described as a general labourer in 1911.

\*44 This may be because James Dunlea was in the Navy and they travelled around. His Naval record shows he is in the Navy from 1880 until 1903. He reaches the rank of Chief Petty Officer.

3. **Susan Elizabeth born 1864.** \*45

Birth in 2nd quarter of 1864

\*46 Marriage to John Samuel Ross

\*47 1891 census living in Union Place, east Stonehouse with 2 other families at the same address, her husband is a RN Seaman, and they have 2 daughters Beatrice and Annie.

\*48 1901 census living at 30 James Street, Davenport, Susan is 37 and John is aged 42 and a Labourer in the Shipyard and they have 4 daughters and 3 sons, Aged from 1 – 18 years. Also living in the same house is another family called Baron, who is listed as a Crane driver, and their child, also a lodger who is a Stoker and Ann Ross aged 69, a widow who is presumably John's mother.

\*49

There is a picture of the Moravian chapel in James Street in 1954 and the house next door which could be number 30. There are 3 floors, and each family could have occupied a floor.

\*50 1911 census they are living in a better house which has 4 large rooms for the 9 children and their grandmother Ann Ross who is 79. Susan is 47 and John is 52. He is now employed as a Caretaker employed by the local council. Annie Ross is 22 and an assistant in a Drug Store business, Elsie is a factory hand and William is a RN seaman. The younger children at school are Lilian 13, George 11, Rosina 9 (named after Susan's sister who died as a child), Francis 8, Ernest 5, and Albert 4.

\*51 Susan died in 1930 aged 66 years.

#### **4. Rosina Ellen 1874-9 \*52**

Birth in 2nd quarter of 1875

\*53 Baptised 27-4-76 at the Wesleyan Methodist chapel in Dartmouth.

\*54 Buried at Ford Park Cemetery in May 1879 aged 4 years.

#### **5. Emily Louisa born 1878. \*55**

\*56

Marries 1900 John Waldon from Bideford.

\*56A John Waldon is listed on the 1891 census as a Student in Medicine and his father is a Shoemaker/Machinist at Cooper Street, Bideford.

\*57 1901 census living at Well Street, Hackney, London.

John is 24 and Emily is 22. He is a Chemist and Druggist

\*58

1911 census

John and Emily now have 2 children, Harold 9 and Alice 8 and are living at 94 High Street, Strood, Kent

\*59

1939 census they are at 153 Maybury road in Woking and John is a Dispensing Chemist Retail, their son Harold is a commercial Traveller.

#### **6. Beatrice born in 3rd quarter of 1885 \*60.**

\*61

Marries Richard Lynn Knight on 21-8-1902

\*62

1901 Census Samuel, Emily and 2 daughters Clara and Beatrice are living at 10 Union Street, East Stonehouse. Clara is a Milliner and Beatrice a Dressmaker, and Samuel is a Letter Carrier.

\*63

1911 census and Beatrice, Richard and their sons Samuel 8 and Frederick 3 are living at 8 Homer Park, Saltash, Cornwall, next door to her parents who live at number 10. Richard is a Dealer in Watches and Jewellery and Beatrice is assisting him in the business.

\*64

1939 Register they are at 2 Redlands Terrace, Plymouth and Beatrice is Assistant in Retail Jewellery business.

\*65

Beatrice dies in 1953 in Plymouth.

#### 7. Clara born in 3rd quarter of 1885 \*66.

It seems that Beatrice and Clara were twins and although they are both born in the 3rd quarter of 1865, the date of 14-6-1885 is given on the 1939 register for Beatrice.

\*67

1912 Clara marries John F. Ashton

\*68

1939 register living at 9 Tavy Terrace, Saltash, Cornwall. Francis John is a Builder and Contractor, his dob is 19-12-1880.

\*69

Clara dies in Saltash in 1973

### 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 census Samuel may have been a labourer at the age of 10. \*4

\*29

1861 census at the age of 20 he was onboard the Conqueror and an Ordinary seaman.

\*30

1871 census at the age of 30 he is on at sea on the Danai and is a Ships Corporal 2nd class. This may mean he is in the Naval Police.

\*31

1881 census at the age of 40 he is described as a Naval Pensioner.

1886 the Civil Service declaration concerning his birth is signed by his mother and he joins the Post Office. \*1

\*32

1891 census he is described as a Postman.

\*33

1901 census he is described as a Letter Carrier. It is interesting to note that he is living at 10 Union Street and the PO Receiving Office was also on this street.

\*34



1911 census he is a retired Post Office and Naval Pensioner.

\*35

1871 Samuel is a member of a Freemasons Lodge.

\*36

Samuel's full Naval Record is held at Kew and this gives the information that he signed on for 10 years on August 10th, 1855 for a period of 10 years from the age of 18. So, he would have been 14 years old. He was re-engaged for a further period of 10 years on 22nd May 1869. The list of ships he served on is also on record. His various ratings list him as Able Seaman from 1862, Cox Launch in 1867 and a Corporal 2nd class from 1870. (further details in the final section)

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

\*3 and \*10 Rebecca his mother is a Pipe maker in the 1841 and the 1881 census. (see final section).

\*11

Samuel's mother Rebecca is listed as "Almswoman" in the 1891 census. This probably means she was dependent on the Parish, rather than working as a beggar.

\*33

1901 Census Samuel, Emily and 2 daughters Clara and Beatrice are living at 12 Union Street, East Stonehouse. Clara is a Milliner and Beatrice a Dressmaker.

\*34

1911 census Clara is single and living at home with her parents and she is a Milliner.

\*39 Ann Rebecca his daughter is married to a Royal Marine.

\*77

James Alexander Dunlea, husband of Samuel's daughter Sarah Ann WW1 record. He is a Corporal in the Royal Irish regiment. He was also a Chief Petty Officer in the Royal Navy

\*48, \*50 Samuel's daughter Susan Elizabeth is married to another sailor in the RN, John Ross. His father was a Cordwainer and there are 2 other shoemakers living together in one house in the 1871 census. \*50A Later he is a Labourer at the dockyard and others living with him are a Crane Driver and a Stoker also employed in the Dockyard. His last occupation is as a Council Caretaker.

Their daughter Annie is an assistant in a Drugstore, daughter Elsie is a Factory Hand, and their son William is a Seaman.

\*57,8,9

Another daughter Emily Louisa marries John Walden and helps him in his business as a Chemist and Druggist. In the 1939 register they are running a Dispensing Chemist and retail shop and their son is a Commercial Traveller.

\*67\*68

1912 Clara, Samuel's daughter marries John F. Ashton. 1939 register Francis John is a Builder and Contractor.

\*63, 64 Daughter Beatrice marries Richard Lynn, a Dealer in Watches and Jewellery, later he has a Retail Jewellery business,

#### Part Four: Anything Else

Please use this space to record anything else you have found out about your pensioner

Pipe makers in Plymouth

Rebecca his mother is a Pipe maker in the 1841 and the 1881 census. \*3 \*10

Pipe makers were essential to support smokers since tobacco had started to come into the UK from the Americas in the early 17th century. Pipes were easily broken and were freely available. Some were basic, but some were very ornate and used to commemorate people, events and such things as regiments and clubs.

\*73

The Society for Clay Pipe Research

Pipe makers in Plymouth area, many in East Stonehouse, includes an entry for Rebecca Carter.

Research in progress by Reg Jackson

I found the YouTube video showing how to make a clay pipe interesting because clay modelling is one of my hobbies. It would have been possible for this to be carried out as piece work at home using a limited range of materials and equipment and the fact that there are quite a lot of people carrying out this trade in the East Stonehouse area may have meant that people could work on different parts of the process at home. The clay came from Devon and Cornwall, so it is available locally.

The area of East Stonehouse, Devonport and Saltash

\*74 Kelly's directory of Devon 1902

"Devonport is connected with Stonehouse by a bridge crossing Stonehouse Pool to Edgcumbe Street, Stonehouse and thence directly through Union Street to Plymouth. Steamers leave the quay at the end of Cornwall Street, Devonport for Saltash every hour and other steamers daily to various towns and places up the River Tamar and to St. Germans. During the Summer months several of the steamers make daily trips up the Tamar to Weir Head, some 30 miles from Devonport."

\*75

In an article about the policing of East Stonehouse it is reported that

"Only the biggest and strongest men were selected for East Stonehouse as they had to be able to deal with drunken sailors and this resulted in the pick of the Devon County Constabulary being moved to Plymouth."

The houses they lived in and multi-occupation.

The places in Plymouth and Saltash that the family lived in is interesting.

Samuel is born at Preston Street in Exeter, where Rebecca is a Pipe Maker in the 1841 census. Preston Street was one of the medieval streets of Exeter and people were crowded into rooms above and cellars below the shops. Slum clearance took place between 1880 and the 1930s and the WWII bombing finished off the rest.

In East Stonehouse the families were sharing one house and families were either occupying one room or one floor of a house. Certainly, Samuel's mother was always living in shared accommodation.

\*71 Preston Street Exeter where Samuel was born, and Rebecca worked as a Pipe Maker.

Samuel's first wife died at Bridge Cottages East Stonehouse. In the 1871 census there is also a lodger and his wife living in the same house. \*24. His wife died from heart failure and pneumonia in 1880.

His daughter Rosina died at 15 Emma Place in 1879. Here again the family were probably sharing the accommodations with others. She died from croup, common bronchial ailment of childhood and often associated with diphtheria.

\*78

In the Gazetteer for East Stonehouse for 1870-72, 399 deaths were reported of which 182 were children under 5 years.

Bridge Cottages are no longer there, but Emma Place is and here is a picture of the type of houses. It is now partly an area for light industry and both old and new housing.

\*75 from Old East Stonehouse website.

"During the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries the areas of Emma Place and Caroline Place were home to many of the west country's top-ranking admirals, doctors and clergy. Those streets together with Millbay Road used to form Plymouth's red-light district. Union street originally built across marshland, was for almost a century the centre of the city's night life with about a hundred pubs, a music hall, and many other attractions. Much of it was destroyed by bombing in World War II. After the war, the area between Union Street and the dock has been used by small factories, storage, car dealers and repairers. It remains underdeveloped compared with other parts of Plymouth".

In 1901 Samuel and his 2 younger daughters are at 10 Union Street, which was probably the upper part of a shop.

By the time of the 1911 census, they had moved to Saltash and were living in better accommodation. In a terraced villa with their Beatrice daughter living nearby. Samuel died there in 1913, 12 years after his retirement from the Post Office.

\*36

Naval record for Samuel Ecclestone.

He joined the Navy on 17th July 1855 at the age of 14 years, as a Boy Seaman second class and his height is given as 4 feet 8 and a half inches, his weight 8 stone and 5 pounds, his hair brown, and his eyes grey.

The statement says: -

This is to certify that we have examined the before-mentioned boy as to fitness for Her Majesty's Navy and we find as follows: - He is well grown, stout and of perfectly sound and healthy constitution, free from all physical malformation, intelligent and we consider him fit in all respects for Her Majesty's Service.

The consent of his parents or friends has been obtained in writing and they are willing and desirous that the boy should be entered for 10 years continuous and general service from the age of 18 in addition to whatever periods may be necessary until he attains that age and the boy himself is willing and desirous to enter the Royal Navy under these conditions as attested by his signature attached hereto.

In May 1869 he signs on for another 10 years.

His conduct must have improved because he is promoted to Corporal 2nd class in 1870. There are also, listed under rank "Cox Launch" and "Caps Miz".

The rank of corporal 2nd class

This is puzzling, and it is possible he could have been part of the Naval Police as described below:-

\*72

Admiralty, 19th December 1873

(MASTERS-AT-ARMS AND SHIPS' CORPORALS.)

The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having had under their consideration the subject of the Organisation of the Ships' Police, are pleased to issue the following Regulations: -

1. The Naval Police will consist of 3 Ratings: -
  - a. Master-at-Arms.
  - b. Ship's Corporal, 1st Class.
  - c. Ship's' Corporal, 2nd Class.

1. Men will be entered for the rating of Ship's Corporal 2nd Class, in the Depot Flagships at Sheerness, Portsmouth and Devonport, upon passing an Examination before the Captain and Naval Instructor, showing their ability to read and write and keep accounts correctly, and upon satisfying the following conditions: -

- a. Age not less than 25, nor more than 30.
- b. Height not less than 5 feet 7 inches.
- c. Service of 3 years in one or more of H.M.'s Ships as Seaman or Marine.
- d. Very good character for 3 years immediately preceding the Examination.
- e. Continuous Service engagement.

Samuel would have fulfilled all these provisos and must have grown a foot since the age of 14. Apart from his one misdemeanour of being drunk on duty in 1863 he had a rating of VG for most of his service.

The final notation on his record.

The final notation says 10 years 48 days and 3 badges. So, he must have left the Navy in 1879 after 2 periods of 10 years and 4 years as a Boy Sailor before he reached the age of 18, a total of 24 years from the age of 14 to the age of 38.

Ships he served on

1855 July – October on the “Royal William”.

1855-9 on the “Havannah” at the Pacific Station. I think this means that the ship was patrolling the waters of the Pacific Ocean between British Columbia in Canada and Hawaii. This is during the period of the Crimean War.

He becomes an Ordinary Seaman.

1859 November on the “Impregnable”

1859 December on the “Conqueror” (see below)

1862 March – September 63 on the “Cambridge”

He becomes an Able Seaman.

1863-68 on the “Pelorus”. Serving in the East Indies and China.

During this time his conduct, previously described as VG or Fine is interrupted by “being drunk on duty” in 1863.

1868 April he joins the “Cambrian”.

1869 July he is on the “Royal Alfred”.

1869- Sept 1870 on the “Royal Alfred” again

"HMS Royal Alfred, Halifax Harbour, NS", ca1870

On the “Conqueror”.

At the time of the census in 1861 Samuel is an Ordinary Seaman aged 20 on the Conqueror. The census is taken at Holyhead and Samuel is one of 102 men all aged between 20 and 55. Men in their 20s are in the majority, only 13 are over 30. Edward Southwell Sotheby is the Captain, and the ship is one of the Channel Squadron, engaged in transporting troops to Mexico.

\*79

“On 31 October 1861, France, the United Kingdom, and Spain agreed to the Convention of London, a joint effort to ensure that debt repayments from Mexico would be forthcoming. On 8 December 1861, the three navies disembarked their troops at the port city of Veracruz, on the Gulf of Mexico. When the British and the Spanish discovered that France had an ulterior motive and unilaterally planned to seize Mexico, they peacefully negotiated an agreement with Mexico to settle the debt issues. Simultaneously, Britain and Spain withdrew from the military coalition agreed to in London and recalled their forces from Mexico.”

\*80

“further details respecting the loss of Her Majesty's ship Conqueror, 101, 3,265 tons, 800-horsepower, Capt. E. S. Sotheby C.B. The Conqueror was wrecked on the morning of the 30th of December 1861, on a rock known as the Rum Crag, on her way to Bermuda, from Port Royal, which she had left but a few days. The pinnacle of the Conqueror with some of the officers and crew, arrived at Port Royal, Jamaica, on the 8th inst.”

The Master and the Captain were courts martialled and fully reprimanded. The crew all eventually got home on other ships. Meanwhile at home, Samuel's first daughter Ann Rebecca was born in the last quarter of 1861.

Samuel appears to have had an interesting life at sea and travelled to Canada and the Pacific islands, South America, the East Indies, and China.

I would like to believe that Joseph Carter was an important person in his life and the lives of his mother and brothers. Joseph was a Greenwich Pensioner, which just meant he was retired from the Royal Navy. Perhaps it was him who encouraged the three brothers to join the Navy. One of the brothers named a child after him and after his first wife died, he married Samuel's mother Rebecca.

Considering Samuel was born to a single mother and his brothers were in the Workhouse, he managed somehow to educate himself enough to enter the Royal Navy and become a Corporal 2nd class, a Freemason and a Postman. He had two wives and 7 daughters and lived to the age of 73.

#### Part Five: Your Sources

Please use this space to record the sources you have used

1 <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBOR%2FCSEOA%2F00017196>  
British Civil Service Evidence of Age

\*2 <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBPRS%2FB%2F501098175%2F1>  
Birth Record for Rebecca Izant Eccleston

\*3 <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBC%2F1841%2F0000836106>  
1841 Census, Rebecca is a Pipemaker.

\*4  
1851 census Samuel Ecclestone and Joseph Carter

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/record?id=GBC%2F1851%2F4355408%2F00239&parentid=GBC%2F1851%2F0009035345>

\*5  
Burial of Isabella Carter wife of Joseph  
<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBPRS%2FFHS%2FDEV-BUR9%2F0026432>

\*6  
Marriage of Rebecca Ecclestone to Joseph Carter  
<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBPRS%2FM%2F35138336%2F2>

\*7  
Census 1861 and living at 4 Water Lane, E. Stonehouse  
<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBC%2F1861%2F0008222592>

\*8  
Census 1871 and living at 3 Water Lane  
<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/record/browse?id=GBC/1871/2125/0024>

\*9  
Burial record for Joseph Carter  
<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBPRS%2FFHS%2FDEV-BUR9%2F0046517>

\*10

Census 1881 Rebecca Carter and Elizabeth Ecclestone

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/record/browse?id=gbc%2f1881%2f4314979%2f00756>

\*11

Census 1891 Rebecca described as "Almswoman" at High Street, East Stonehouse.

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/record?id=GBC%2F1891%2F1738%2F0085&parentid=GBC%2F1891%2F0012338646>

\*12

Rebecca's Death in 1894

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=BMD%2FD%2F1894%2F2%2FAZ%2F000053%2F124>

\*13

Thomas and John Ecclestone aged 5 years and 3 years in East Stonehouse Workhouse

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBC%2F1841%2F0000936099>

\*14

Thomas aged 15 in 1851 census apprenticed to a Gardener in Plymouth.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBC%2F1851%2F0008988774>

\*15

John in 1851 census apprenticed to a Baker.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBC%2F1851%2F0009017174>

\*16

1862 John marries Elizabeth Cockram born 1839.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBPRS%2FM%2F514354597%2F1>

\*17

1871 census Elizabeth wife of John a Seaman in Royal Navy and 4 children

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBC%2F1871%2F0004834348>

\*18

1861 census for Thomas Ecclestone

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBC/1861/0008175704>

\*19

Marriage of Thomas to Amy Crocker 1859

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBPRS%2FM%2F35129972%2F1>

\*20

Thomas and family in 1871 census

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBC%2F1871%2F0004781099>

\*21

1843 Birth Sarah Ann Budd Wakley

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBPRS%2FJERSEY-BAP%2F200861>

\*22

Married Samuel Ecclestone in 1861

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=BMD%2FM%2F1861%2F4%2FRZ%2F000384%2F015>

\*23

1861 census Sarah Ann Wakley

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBC%2F1861%2F0008223242>

\*24

1871 Census Sarah Ann and 3 daughters

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBC%2F1871%2F0004834067>

\*25

1880 Sarah dies aged 36.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=BMD%2FD%2F1880%2F1%2FAZ%2F000113%2F160>

\*26

Emily Rider born 1856.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=BMD%2FB%2F1856%2F4%2FPZ%2F000197%2F027>

\*27

1861 Census Emily Rider's father is a Baker.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBC%2F1861%2F0008234787>

\*28

7th September 1884 Samuel marries Emily Rider.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBPRS%2FM%2F514318615%2F3>

\*29

1861 census Samuel on Conqueror as Ordinary Seaman

[https://search.ancestry.co.uk/cgi-](https://search.ancestry.co.uk/cgi-bin/sse.dll?dbid=8767&h=14017781&indiv=try&o_vc=Record:OtherRecord&rhSource=70684)

[bin/sse.dll?dbid=8767&h=14017781&indiv=try&o\\_vc=Record:OtherRecord&rhSource=70684](https://search.ancestry.co.uk/cgi-bin/sse.dll?dbid=8767&h=14017781&indiv=try&o_vc=Record:OtherRecord&rhSource=70684)



\*30

1871 Census Samuel is Corporal 2nd class on the Danae.

<https://tinyurl.com/ynupn6k9>

\*31

1881 Census Samuel is a naval Pensioner.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBC%2F1881%2F0010024435>

\*32

1891 census he is described as a Postman.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBC/1891/0012348953>

\*33

1901 census he is described as a Letter Carrier.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBC/1901/0017916698>

\*34

1911 census living in Saltash, Cornwall.

<https://tinyurl.com/ns395mfb>

\*35

1871 Samuel is a member of a Freemasons Lodge.

<https://tinyurl.com/ak33exnn>

\*36

Naval career records held at Kew.

National Archives reference ADM 139/235/23413

\*37

Birth of Ann Rebecca 1861

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=BMD%2FB%2F1861%2F4%2FAZ%2F000336%2F042>

\*38

1881 census Ann Rebecca is a general servant.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBC%2F1881%2F0010030903>

\*39

1884 Marries Alexander Brown

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=BMD/M/1884/2/AZ/000086/327>

\*40

1901 census she is a wife and living in Fulham, London.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBC%2F1901%2F0001580937>

\*40A

Death in 1947 in Fulham, London

<https://tinyurl.com/kt5n9sc7>

\*41

Sarah Ann born 1863.

[https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-](https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/110197340/person/182000476833/facts)

[tree/person/tree/110197340/person/182000476833/facts](https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/110197340/person/182000476833/facts)

\*42 Married James Dunlea, from Cork, Ireland in the 4th quarter of 1887.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=BMD%2FM%2F1887%2F4%2FAZ%2F000092%2F056>

\*43 In the 1911 census they are living in Devonport with their children Mary 21, a Dressmaker, Kate 20, James 18, a general labourer, Irene 15, a domestic and Reginald 6. Mary and Reginald were born in Devonport, but Kate was born in Colchester, James in Ireland, and Irene in Bombay India.

James senior is described as a general labourer in 1911.

<https://tinyurl.com/hy7zhuxu>

\*44 This may be because James Dunlea was in the Navy and they travelled around. His Naval record shows he is in the Navy from 1880 until 1903.

<https://tinyurl.com/z25vawc>

\*45 Susan Elizabeth born 1864.

Birth in 2nd quarter of 1864

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=BMD%2FB%2F1864%2F2%2FAZ%2F000367%2F116>

\*46 Susan's Marriage to John Samuel Ross

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=BMD/M/1882/3/AZ/000084/251>

\*47 1891 census

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBC%2F1891%2F0012347189>

\*48 1901 census

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBC/1901/0018407197>

\*49

picture of the Moravian chapel in James Street in 1954

<https://web.plymouth.gov.uk/plymouthreconstruction/notice133.html>

\*50 1911 census

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBC%2F1911%2FRG14%2F13052%2F0065%2F2>

\*50A

<https://tinyurl.com/ps7za57a>

\*51 Susan died in 1930 aged 66 years.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=BMD%2FD%2F1930%2F1%2FAZ%2F000885%2F040>

\*52 Birth of Rosina Ellen in 2nd quarter of 1875

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=BMD/B/1875/2/AZ/000165/067>

\*53 Baptised 27-4-76 at the Wesleyan Methodist chapel in Dartmouth.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=XAUTO%2FFHS%2FDEVON%2FBAP%2F00029861>

\*54 Buried at Ford Park Cemetery in May 1879 aged 4 years.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBPRS%2FFHS%2FDEV-BUR9%2F0060544>

\*55 Birth of Emily Louisa

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=BMD%2FB%2F1878%2F4%2FAZ%2F000168%2F173>

\*56

Emily Marries 1900 John Waldon

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=BMD/M/1900/1/AZ/000074/112>

\*56A John Waldon is listed on the 1891 census as a Student in Medicine.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBC/1891/0012591271>

\*57

Emily and John 1901 census living at Well Street, Hackney, London.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBC%2F1901%2F0005615744>

\*58

Emily and John 1911 census living in Strood, Kent .

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBC%2F1911%2FRG14%2F03871%2F0085%2F1>

\*59

Emily and John 1939 census Maybury Road Woking.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=TNA/R39/1928/1928G/002/10>

\*60

Beatrice born on 14-6- 1885.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=BMD%2FB%2F1885%2F3%2FAZ%2F000167%2F130>

\*61

Beatrice marries Richard Lynn Knight on 21-8-1902

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBPRS/M/35143206/2>

\*62

1901 Census Samuel, Emily and 2 daughters Clara and Beatrice are living at 10 Union Street, East Stonehouse.

<https://tinyurl.com/4dfvr54j>

\*63

1911 census and Beatrice, Richard and their sons Samuel 8 and Frederick 3 are living at 8 Homer Park, Saltash, Cornwall.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBC/1911/RG14/13612/0015/2>

\*64

Beatrice 1939 Register they are at 2 Redlands Terrace, Plymouth.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=TNA%2FR39%2F6780%2F6780A%2F017%2F17>

\*65

Beatrice dies in 1953 in Plymouth.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=BMD/D/1953/2/AZ/000550/001>

\*66.

Clara born in 3rd quarter of 1885.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=BMD%2FB%2F1885%2F3%2FAZ%2F000167%2F131>

\*67

1912 Clara marries John F. Ashton

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=BMD%2FM%2F1912%2F3%2FAZ%2F000316%2F109>

\*68

1939 register for Clara and John

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=TNA/R39/6707/6707B/011/13>

\*69

Clara dies in Saltash in 1973.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBOR%2FGOVPROBATE%2FC%2F1973-1973%2F00006010>

\*70

Businesses in Union Street Plymouth in 1852

<http://www.oldplymouth.uk/Roads%20and%20Streets%20in%20Old%20Plymouth-Union%20Street-Occupants%201852.htm>

\*71

Preston Street, Exeter.

<http://demolition-exeter.blogspot.com/2010/12/preston-street-demolished.html>

\*72

Rank of ship's Corporal 2nd class.

[http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~pbtyc/genealogy/Navy\\_List\\_1879/Ships\\_Police.html](http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~pbtyc/genealogy/Navy_List_1879/Ships_Police.html)

\*73

Pipe maker's information

<file:///C:/Users/Dell%20User/Downloads/Jackson%202019%20-%20Plymouth%20Pipemakers.pdf>

YouTube video showing how to make a clay pipe.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vlnpvT2GYU>

\*74

East Stonehouse, Devonport and Saltash. Kelly's directory of Devon 1902

<https://forebears.io/england/devon/plymouth/devonport>

\*75

Descriptions of East Stonehouse and the old Police Station.

<https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/news/history/people-living-old-police-station-3440486>

Old East Stonehouse website

<http://www.oldeaststonehouse.uk/East%20Stonehouse.htm>

\*76

Emma Place and Union street.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stonehouse,\\_Plymouth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stonehouse,_Plymouth)

\*77

James Alexander Dunlea WW1 record

<https://tinyurl.com/rts2cpk7>

\*78 extract from Imperial Gazeteer 1870-72.

<https://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/descriptions/921020>

\*79 Second French Intervention in Mexico

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second\\_French\\_intervention\\_in\\_Mexico](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_French_intervention_in_Mexico)

\*80 Wreck of the Conqueror

<https://www.pdavis.nl/ShowShip.php?id=46>

\*81 Picture of Royal Alfred 1872

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS\\_Royal\\_Alfred\\_\(1864\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Royal_Alfred_(1864))