

# The Talented Mr. Newman



**Lyn Meehan Research**  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA

# Crome

‘This attention-grabbing name has four possible origins including Scottish subtleties. The first being a metonymic occupational name for a maker or seller of hooks, deriving from the medieval English "crome" or "cromb," coming from the Olde English pre-7th century "crumb" meaning "bent", or "crooked."

"Crome" possibly was given as a surname/nickname to identify an individual who was bent, crippled or a stooping person. The surname is first recorded at the end of the 12th Century. One, John Croume and a Maud le Crombe appear in the 1275 Subsidy Rolls of Worcestershire.

A third distinct possibility is that the name is of geographic origin either from Croom in East Yorkshire, (so called from the Olde English "crohum" a narrow valley), or from Croome in Worcestershire, (from the Welsh "crwm" crooked, referring to an old river). One, Simon de (of) Crombe is recorded in the Hundred Rolls of Worcestershire, dated 1275. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Robert le Crumbe which was dated 1199, in the Assize Court Rolls of Staffordshire during the reign of King Richard 1, known as "Richard the Lionheart", 1189 - 1199.

Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England this was known as Poll Tax. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.’<sup>1</sup>

‘Spelling variations for this surname include: Croone, Croon, Croom, Crone, Cron, Croome and others.

First found in Herefordshire where the family held a seat as Lords of the Manor. The Saxon influence of English history diminished after the Battles of Hastings in 1066. The language of



<sup>1</sup> ‘Derivation of the Surname Crome,’ database, *The Internet Surnames Database* (<http://www.surnamedb.com/Surname/Crome> : 19 June 2013).

## Whitechapel

Whitechapel is a district within East London, England, in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. It is located 3.4 miles (5.5 km) east of Charing Cross and roughly bounded by the Bishopsgate thoroughfare on the west, Fashion Street on the north, Brady Street and Cavell Street on the east and The Highway on the south. It has been for a long time a poor and working-class neighborhood notably best known for being the location of the infamous **Jack the Ripper** of the Whitechapel murders in the late 1880s. The murderer was never identified, although rumours suggest over 100 names. Today, its residents are of varied ethnic origin, primarily Bangladeshi Bengali.

## History

Whitechapel's heart is Whitechapel High Street, extending further east as Whitechapel Road, named after a small chapel of ease dedicated to St Mary. The church's earliest known rector was Hugh de Fulbourne in 1329. Around 1338, it became the parish church of Whitechapel, called, for unknown reasons, St Mary Matfelon. The church was destroyed through enemy action in World War II and its location and graveyard is now a public garden on the south side of the road.

By the 1840s, Whitechapel, along with the enclaves of Wapping, Aldgate, Bethnal Green, **Mile End**, Limehouse, **Bow**, Bromley-by-Bow, Poplar, Shadwell and Stepney (collectively known today as "the **East End**"), had evolved, or devolved, into classic "**Dickensian**" London, with problems of poverty and overcrowding. Whitechapel Road itself was not particularly squalid through most of this period—it was the warrens of small dark streets branching from it that contained the greatest suffering, filth and danger, such as Dorset Street (now a private alley but once described as "the worst street in London"), Thrawl Street, Berners Street (renamed Henriques Street), Wentworth Street and others. Poster.<sup>27</sup>

William Booth began his Christian Revival Society, preaching the gospel in a tent, erected in the Friends Burial Ground, Thomas Street, Whitechapel, in 1865. Others joined his Christian Mission, and on 7 August 1878 the Salvation Army was formed at a meeting held at 272 Whitechapel Road. A statue commemorates both his mission and his work in helping the poor.



High Street, Whitechapel, London, 1905

In the **Victorian era** the basal population of poor English country stock was swelled by immigrants from all over, particularly Irish and Jewish. Writing of the period 1883–1884, Yiddish theatre actor Jacob Adler wrote, "The further we penetrated into this Whitechapel, the more our hearts sank. Was this London? Never in Russia, never later in the worst slums of New York, were we to see such poverty as in the London of

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July 1872, page 9 #114; citing London Metropolitan Archives, Berner Street School, "Register for Boys," LCC\EO\DIV05\BER\AD\001, London.

([http://search.lma.gov.uk/scripts/mwimain.dll/144/LMA\\_OPAC/web\\_detail/REFD+SBL?SESSIONSEARCH](http://search.lma.gov.uk/scripts/mwimain.dll/144/LMA_OPAC/web_detail/REFD+SBL?SESSIONSEARCH)).

<sup>27</sup> "Jack the Ripper," database, *Wikipedia* ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack\\_the\\_Ripper](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_the_Ripper) : accessed 21 June 2013).

Inspection Card  
for Steerage  
Passenger on  
board the  
Canadian Pacific  
steamship S.S.  
*Missanabie*  
departing  
Liverpool 13  
March 1915.<sup>80</sup>

(STEEERAGE)

**Inspection Card for Immigration Officer at Port of Arrival in Canada**

Name of Immigrant..... *Tom Guddy*

Name of Ship..... *MISSANABIE*..... Sailing from..... *LIVERPOOL*

Date of sailing..... *13 MAR 1915*..... Country of last permanent residence.....

Name appears on Manifest, page..... *7*..... line..... *26*

Medical Examination Stamp.  	Civil Examination Stamp.  	Inland Exchange Order Reads over..... Ry.
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**VACCINATION PROTECTED**

*W. H. Gale M.D.*  
Ship Surgeon's Signature. (SEE BACK)

The couple arrived in Québec, unfamiliar with the language and destined for Oshawa, Ontario on 1 October 1911. Edith was pregnant, on a new journey... with a new man. What was instored for the new Canadian couple? However, the rhetorical question remains: Why Oshawa? Perhaps by sheer coincidence Frederick could have (1) befriended someone on the docks suggesting possible work in Canada; (2) perhaps a British padrone in Essex assisted Frederick in passage and employment;<sup>81</sup> (3) perhaps the couple saw an Essex or London newspaper advertisement about jobs in Oshawa; (4) or a family member living in Ontario coaxed the couple to migrate there. Whatever the exact reasons, their decision to go to Oshawa was made in England. Normally steamship and train fares are paid at the ticket



<sup>80</sup> "Inspection Card leaving Liverpool and arriving in St. John, New Brunswick in 1915," digital images, *Gjenvick-Gjønvik Archives: Social & Cultural History*

(<http://www.gjenvick.com/Immigration/ImmigrantDocumentation/1915-03-13-InspectionCard-CanadianImmigrant-Missanabie.html#axzz2mSVHkJsc> : accessed 3 December 2013).

<sup>81</sup> "Definition—Padrone," database *The Free Dictionary, Farlex* (<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/padrone> : accessed 20 June 2013), meaning: (1) an owner or manager, especially of an inn; a proprietor; (2) a man who exploitatively employs or finds work for Italian immigrants in America.

purpose of making a synagogue of the Jews". The original synagogue was of Polish timber and brick design.

The record books of the Synagogue, now kept in the special-to-purpose Rochester Archive Study Centre, go back only to 1790 and the earliest decipherable gravestone in the old cemetery behind the building is dated about that time. It is worthy of note that a combination of synagogue and cemetery is rare; it is possible that the original graves predated the first building, possibly indicating Jewish interments from around 1700. Some of the graves are obviously older than 1790 and a clearly incised half stone, dated 1747, is stored in Rochester Museum, having been found in the foundations of an old theatre which was pulled down in the 1930's. An interesting gravestone is of one Abraham Abrahams, who was executed in 1819, for the crime of burglary and a cutting from a contemporary local newspaper mentions that his friends prayed with him all night prior to the execution.<sup>424</sup>



Although the etymology of Isaacs and Abel is only suggestive at this time, the given names: Naphtali, Samuel and Ann Rachel have a Hebrew connotation. With Naphtali born in a high Jewish concentrated area of England, such as Chatham, it does tweak the curiosity to ponder whether or not the family could be Jewish.

During the 1840s and 1850s, Naphtali and wife Louise made their livelihood by making straw bonnets.<sup>425</sup> Naphtali was a presser: an individual who irons and shapes bonnets,<sup>426</sup> with Louise most likely applying the decorative touch. The picture shows an open



<sup>424</sup> "Chatham Jewish Synagogue History," website, *Chatham Memorial Synagogue* (<http://www.chathamshul.org.uk/history.html> : 15 July 2013).

<sup>425</sup> 1851 census of England, Middlesex County, St. George Bloomsbury Civil Parish, ED #12, p. 9, entry for Naphtali Isaacs (age 50), household schedule 33, residence 1 Kingsgate Street; digital image, "1851 English Census," *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 24 June 2013), image 10 of 74; citing Public Records Office, Kew, HO107/1507, folio 436; FHL 87,841.

<sup>426</sup> Peter Lund Simmonds, *The Commercial Dictionary of Trade Products, Manufacturing and Technical...* (-----:G. Routledge and sons, January 1872), page 45.

- Thomas, full age [35], bachelor, engineer, residence 20 Hare Street; Father: John Taylor, dyer
- Eliza, full age [19], spinster, no occupation, residence 16 Hare Street; Father: William Parkes, smith [*Lyn's note*: actually a coppersmith]
- Marriage witnesses were: William Parkes [*Lyn's note*: possibly Eliza's father, who was still living; or eldest brother] and Sarah Nichols (her X mark)
- The married couple could apparently write their names.<sup>443</sup>

Again, the 1861 British census was the only enumeration Thomas could be found in before he died. However, the question still remains: *With such an age difference between the couple, did Thomas marry prior to Eliza Kate?* Prior to the 1861, Thomas cannot be easily identified in the 1841 and 1851 censuses. And during this time period there are too few genealogical cornerstones for researchers to rely on; and too early for

Thomas to be listed in London's Electoral Registers until the *1867 Representation of the People Act* when male urban occupiers, tenants, lodgers, etc. were allowed to vote. Prior to that, only landowners had the privilege. *Ancestry.com* started digitizing the St Mary Stratford Bow Ward, London in 1873. Earlier registers could help pinpoint Thomas in the Bow area using addresses, but do not help establish his origins.

Occupational information from Thomas' children's birth certificates, baptisms and marriages, in addition to his personal marriage record tabulate that Thomas had several occupations: from engineer to general labourer to moulder.

**THE OVER-WORKED ENGINE-DRIVERS.**  
A letter has appeared in the *Times* from certain enginemen belonging to the North-western railway, with reference to their present dispute with the directors. The public have been erroneously led to believe that it is a question of wages which has led to the present misunderstanding. But, from the letter to which we refer, it seems that this is not the case. The men now inform the public, through the medium of the press, that their dispute with their masters relates not to the rate of remuneration which they receive, but to the unreasonable amount of work which they are called upon to perform. The statement is signed by four of the men, and it is of so remarkable a character that the public have a right to ask what explanation, if any, can be given by the managers of the North-western railway upon the subject.

The men inform us that instead of demanding higher they are actually seeking lower wages, upon the reasonable condition that they shall have less work. They inform us further that the tasks now imposed upon them are beyond human endurance; and, to make the matter perfectly intelligible to our readers, we shall

*Lloyd's Weekly London Newspaper*, 13 August 1854, p. 3 col. 2;

London and Northwestern Railway

- 1854 marriage: *engineer*, living at 20 Hare Street, Bethnal Green
- 1854 *Engine Driver's Strike*
- 1856 John Thomas birth: *engine driver*, 3 Catherine Terrace, Bow
- 1856 John Thomas baptism: *labourer*, Bow
- 1861 James birth: general *labourer*, 8 Douro Street, Bow
- 1861 James baptism: *labourer*, Bow



<sup>443</sup> England, Middlesex County, marriage certificate (photocopy of original), entry for Thomas Taylor–Eliza Kate Parkes, married 25 December 1854; citing 1C/616/423, Bethnal Green Registration District, General Register Office, Southport.

cabinetmakers, 'society men' based mostly in Clerkenwell, declined in status in the 1830s, Bethnal Green, with its competitive garret-masters, began to take over. In the early 1830s it had two timber dealers, at least one timber merchant, five chair makers, and ten cabinet makers, all except one dealer to the west of Cambridge Road and most along Hackney Road.

Numbers multiplied, to 26 cabinet making, chair making, and upholstering establishments by 1846, 84 by 1859, and 121 by 1872. Steam saw mills fostered the expansion and by 1851 the industry had spread east of Cambridge Road to the canal, where there were timber yards at Twig Folly Bridge and the proprietor of a steam mill (Richard Tower) lived in Lark Row, probably running the saw mill and yard near Sewardstone Road. Production was still thickest, however, in the west, especially around the Nichol. Although cabinet and chair makers were the most numerous, there were many specialists to make other articles of furniture, frames, or boxes, besides carvers, workers in cane, ivory, bone, willow or veneer, and upholsterers, japanners, and French polishers. The industry was small-scale, in homes or workshops; a chair maker in Clarence Place who employed 8 men was exceptional and there was apparently only one furniture factory, in Hope Street. There were still no large establishments in 1861, when 2,563 people worked in furniture making. By 1872 nearly 700 addresses in Bethnal Green were connected with the industry, compared with 85 in Hackney and 659 in Shoreditch.<sup>556</sup>

This brief article about London's cabinet and chair makers shares some possible motives why the Pinnegar Family migrated slowly eastward from the North Paddington district to the Bethnal Green and later Hackney area—the East End of London.

In the winter of their lives, William and Mary entered the Hackney Union Workhouse. Whether they entered the asylum together is unknown. Family members may ponder if they were ever allowed platonic or conjugal visits, and if so, how often, will remain a mystery. Men and women were separated into different dormitories and yards, each having a cell as the picture on the right depicts.<sup>557</sup> All inmates were bolted in at night for safety from one another and staff. William died at age 83, about ten days after his loving wife, of senility on 27 April 1903 at the Hackney Union Infirmary, Homerton. The report states he was a journeyman



Ripon's Workhouse cell, West Yorkshire.  
Photo courtesy Lyn Meehan, Edmonton, Alberta.

<sup>556</sup> T.F.T. Baker, "A History of the County of Middlesex," v.11, from 'Bethnal Green: Economic History', Stepney, Bethnal Green (1998), pp. 168-190; citing, database, *British History* (<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=22757> accessed: 29 July 2013).

<sup>557</sup> Ripon Workhouse Museum, Yorkshire, museum tour by Genealogist, photographed by Lyn Meehan, Edmonton, Alberta, July 2010.