

WILLIAM AND CAROLINE BAKER CROUCH



William Crouch
Born - 12 October 1821
Brede, Sussex, England
Died - 17 November 1899
Salt Lake City, Utah

Caroline Baker Crouch
Born - 13 March 1824
Icklesham, Sussex, England
Died - 23 February 1904
Salt Lake City, Utah

Married - 7 June 1850 - Sussex County, England
Endowed - 8 March 1875 - Endowment House, Salt Lake City, Utah

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF WILLIAM CROUCH

Record of William Crouch, Elder in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

I, William Crouch, was born in the parish of Brede, in the county of Sussex, England 12th of October 1821.

My parents were honest, industrious, devout and Godfearing. My father, very poor, a farm labourer, his wages seldom exceeded half a dollar a day. And I was taken from school at 11 years of age, and by my father taught nothing but hard work. My mother, though in poverty and hardship, was a woman of refinement. And I was her boy. So that I learned my prayers, my letters and general behavior at my mother's knee. When ten years old I could read and write pretty well. I remember that our library consisted of the Holy Bible, Bunyan's Pilgrims Progress, and Life of John Nelson and little books and leaflets I had won as prizes at the Sunday School. For I had the privilege in my childhood and youth of attending Sunday School. I walked with others, and we carried our dinner, for our Sunday School was three miles away, at a place called Staple Cross. Good old Mr. Boots was superintendent.

I was nearing twenty years of age, when I was put to greater hardships than ever and made to work beyond my strength. I prayed to God for deliverance, left home abruptly, walked all day and all night, to a distant city, and enlisted for a soldier. Hard as a soldier's lot is supposed to be I may safely say, that here ended the hardships of my early life. I took well to military duties and discipline, and soon found myself among friends, with books and opportunities to study and learn and store my mind with useful knowledge. I spent more than seven years in the British Army. It was a time of peace, so that I never fired a shot at an enemy. I was duly promoted, got good experience, and had the satisfaction of a well spent life. For in all times of temptation I was under religious restraint.

I left the army in the spring of 1850 in Ireland, and returned to England, and married Caroline Baker, daughter of Thomas and

Ann Baker of Icklesham, Sussex. Henceforth we were as one, and our lives ran together. We had loved each other from early youth. Had corresponded all those years and good woman that she is she saved her money and purchased my discharge. We began our married life in London, at a wage of 9 shillings a week, four of that to be paid for rent, and that only one room. Our time was not all occupied so we hunted around and got odd jobs.

We attended the Great Exhibition of 1851, the first of the kind, I had helped to fit it up.

In the summer of 1853 a change came over us, which proved to be the greatest blessing of our lives. We entertained a poor girl in trouble, which turned out like entertaining an angel unawares. A servant girl of our acquaintance from the country, brought another girl of her acquaintance to our home. She was 50 miles away from home and in trouble, and appealed to us for shelter. The case was one of old Babylon's abominations which I think proper to mention here. The young woman born and brought up in the country 50 miles from London, wishing to go into service, had answered an advertisement in the "Times" and obtained a situation in London, where eleven servants were kept. She slept with the cook. About daylight on the third morning, she found herself improperly handled in bed. Springing out of bed, she saw the coachman on the other side. He had been reaching over the cook to her. Exclaiming against the outrage, the cook tried to hush her, saying if she complained she would be dismissed in disgrace, for it was like that all through the house, and the Master and Mistress were as bad as any of them. Poor girl, she did the best thing she could do. Packer her trunk, dragged it to the door, hailed a cab, and away!

The only person she knew in all London was this poor girl in service, and she having no means of entertaining her, brought her to us. I knew, alas! too much of the tricks of London. And lest our visitor should be a deceiver, I looked straight into her countenance, and read truth and honesty there. So we agreed she might remain with us till she could get another place.

In discoursing with her we found her intelligent and religious. Saturday evening, we were sitting at the table talking and I said, "We have just removed from a distant part of London, and we don't know where to go and worship tomorrow. I should like to go and hear some good eloquent minister." The maiden answered, "You had better go and hear the Latter-day Saints." O dear! O dear! This went like a dagger to my heart! And I felt mad! Real mad! For I had never heard anything but what was bad of them. And I expressed myself accordingly. I noticed the poor girl's feelings were hurt. And being of a gentlemanly turn of mind I apologized and said, "If she had anything to say in favor of those people, I would listen to her, and not again say anything offensive." And good girl that she was--she bore a humble and faithful testimony of the truth of the Gospel of Salvation by Jesus Christ, as revealed anew from heaven, for the benefit of the world, through the Prophet Joseph Smith.

But I was terribly disturbed in mind. I thought it all **delusion**. I was such a staunch Methodist. And was in **very bad condition of mind** for about three days. I felt like taking the broom of **destruction** and sweeping all the Mormons from the face of the earth. In my foolish rage I stopped short and asked myself this question. Is it the Holy Ghost that I have been praying for all these years, that is prompting in me all this bitterness and hate against a people I know nothing of? Common sense answered "No, verily, no." Then I began to pray; and the light of truth began to dawn upon me. I went and heard them, but I didn't like them.

The young woman took service again, but left behind her, some Stars and tracts, and the Book of Mormon. I prayed and read and read and prayed but my prejudice and conceit was hard to overcome. Little more than two weeks from the time we first heard the Gospel, we were both convinced of its truth, and baptized, have held on to the truth, and been greatly blessed by it ever since. And our belief in the truth has been graciously turned to knowledge, by the revelation of the Spirit of Truth from the Lord. And now we know that this divine knowledge of the truth of the Gospel, is the privilege of all saints who believe and obey the same.

We were baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-

day Saints on the first day of August 1853, confirmed same day. I see by the record, I was ordained Priest 12 March 1854; Elder 23rd April 1854 and shortly after called to preside over the Branch. Then known as the Walworth Branch, in the London conference. Thrown out of work we had to move away and seek employment elsewhere, and again I was called to preside, at Cambden Town. But was released at my own request.

In 1857 I joined the police (Mestipolitan) very much against my wish. I would much rather have worked hard all the time. But at that time could get no work to do. And was getting a family around me. I got on well in the police, remained in the service nearly 17 years. Then left to come to Zion, bringing the remainder of our family with us. Three having been sent on in advance. We were generously assisted by a loan from the T. E. fund.

We arrived in Salt Lake City in the fall of 1873, 4th of November, could obtain but little employment, though always seeking it. And **our children and kind friends sustained us best they could**. But we **wrestled till we obtained employment, much of the first year without wages**, but on brilliant hopes, that ended in disappointment. For I took services in a gentile firm. Got a little of my wages, but the great bulk was never paid. Having no trade in our hands, we seldom had regular employment but picked up a job here and there. So doing a little of everything, in the school, in the store, in the factory, in the house, the garden and farm. We did all things that came to hand, and did them well, for we tried our best and gave general satisfaction.

Part of our religious duties in the church have been Sunday School and visiting teachers, and we were always there on time, never absent, never late. And have the satisfaction of knowing that we were greatly blest and made a blessing. In the great year of the Church's Jubilee, our indebtedness was forgiven us, -- a goodly sum. We beg our descendants to hold a grateful remembrance of this, show to the poor Saints abroad, and help gather them home. Our habit of life has been like our parents before us -- to rise early in the morning, without being called. Before leaving our room we always knelt down, prayed and gave thanks to God. Our children were brought up in the habit of private prayer, and family worship. And to ask a blessing at the table. We remembered the Sabbath Day to keep it

holy, and regularly worshipped the Lord in the assembly of the Saints. We guarded against the danger of being late for duty, by always being there before time. We paid our tithes and offerings (sometimes delinquent, that is matter of regret). Saved and deposited money for our emigration; kept out of debt, so that the little we had was our own, for we never borrowed. If we had any pride, it was to do without such things as we could not honestly get. Many years ago we obeyed the council to quit smoking. Since then we have not used tobacco in any form, and am much cleaner, and better without it. Your mother in her old age, drinks no tea. And we have proved self denial a blessing.

Now children, you have our example before you, please honor it, and improve upon it. Your Father is nearly 74 years

of age, and your Mother 72 years, we are nearing the end. And we are happy in the hope of the future. We know that we are objects of Divine Mercy. Our sins are forgiven us, and we are being prepared for usefulness in the life to come.

My heart is full of gratitude to God for His goodness to myself, and my family. And for the good hope I have through Grace, of eternal life.

Signed: William Crouch
1045 Fullers Hill Avenue
10th Ward, Salt Lake City
11 March 1899

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
(The above and the foregoing pages were copies from an account written in William Crouch's own hand writing.)

CAROLINE BAKER CROUCH

(By a granddaughter -- Edith Crouch Casper)

Tham's 1824 Caroline Baker Crouch was born on Saturday, March 13, 1824, in Ickham, Sussex, England. She was the daughter of John and Ann Heasman Baker.

She worked for quite a number of years at house work. The man where she worked was a bookbinder. He had his work shop in his home. At five every morning he would arise and have breakfast about 7 o'clock. Dinner would be served at noon, teas at 5 o'clock, and supper two hours later. Making four meals a day and a good deal of work for his hired people. Caroline milked six cows every morning and evening. The man had a large farm so he hired people to do the farm work while he attended to his book bindery.

Caroline lived in the country almost all her life and probably this accounts for her not having an education. At this time the laws of England did not require children to go to school. Later, laws were passed which required the people of England to send their children to school. Caroline was quite a slim girl. She could jump any ditch around the country. If other girls tried,

they usually fell in. But there was not a ditch that Caroline could not jump.

Natural, in all young people's lives, Caroline met a young man and they became sweethearts. Sometime during this courtship they had a misunderstanding. Her sweetheart William Crouch joined the army for spite. You can't keep true love separated and they patched it up, but still William was in the army and couldn't get out. The only way was to buy him out. To do this Caroline did house work and saved her wages. After working for about four years, she had enough to buy him out, which she did.

Caroline could neither read nor write before she started to work to buy William out of the army. When William wrote her she would have to get someone to read it to her and also to write back to him for her. This became so serious that the following method was resorted to -- William wrote out both the alphabet, that is small and capital letters, from this she copied until she learned to write. She would spell or write out the words as they sounded to her. (I have read a letter that she wrote to my father Franklin Ernest

Crouch, while he was in Montana, and it was a very sweet interesting letter of a devoted mother to her son.) This method of learning to read and write proved very successful to the young sweethearts and their correspondence was their own affair, after the mastering of the arts of reading, writing, and spelling. So this is how Caroline learned to read and write. I think this shows what determination she had to accomplish something when it seemed almost impossible. It also shows she was always willing to learn and to be taught.

Caroline was married to William Crouch in 1850 on June the 7th. They received their endowments and were sealed in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah on March 8, 1875.

William Crouch died 17 November 1899, in Salt Lake City, Utah, just eight months after he wrote his autobiography. Caroline Baker Crouch died 23 February 1904, at the home of her daughter Emma Crouch Burgon, at Union, Utah, four years and three months after William's death. They were buried in Salt Lake City Cemetery.

They were the parents of eight children:

1. William John
2. Thomas Henry
3. Caroline Ann
4. Emma Firetem
5. Clara Josephine
6. Marion Elizabeth
7. Charles David
8. Franklin Ernest

THE FLAME OF LOVE

By William Crouch

(Written in a dark room with phosphorus)

Start not fair maid at this strange sight
The love that you inspire
Induces me my thoughts to write
In characters of fire.

In us let genuine virtue shine
In fortunes darkest hour
And love's pure flame forever burn
To cheer but not devour.

Long may I live to love you, and
Rejoice to call you mine
And you have cause to bless the hand
That wrote these blessing lines.

And may the love of God in us
Be ever shed abroad
That we may love as angels love
Love each, and each love God.

Quench hurtful lust O, God, I pray
Base passions far remove
Of nature's fires let none prevail
But the pure flame of Love.

Some additions submitted by the daughter of Caroline Ann Crouch Stringham and granddaughter of William and Caroline Crouch.

The letter mentioned in the account written by Edith Crouch Casper was composed by grandmother when she was 71 years of age as you will note the date of the letter is 71 years after the date of grandmother's birth and 45 years after her marriage to grandfather. Grandfather stated that he was nearing 20 years of age when he went into the army, which would make grandmother about 17 years of age. So grandmother could have been 18 or more when grandfather sent her the alphabet from which she taught herself to write. By the time she wrote the following letter she had had considerable training and experience. Thus in the light of this letter that she wrote some 54 years after her first lesson, it would be interesting indeed to have a copy of her first phonetic attempt.

23 July salt lake c
1895

Dear Earnent

we received your kind letter last wensday 16 and was pleased to hear that you were all well and that you like the place. pleas to give ny kind love to Dear Charley and family. now Dear Earnest I must tell you that your Dear father and I went with Emma to sea her mother lass sunday and had a good time took the half past 9 car and got home at half past 8 in the Evening verry tird. your dear mary and her mother caled in to Emmas as they went home from meeting to sea us, so we saw the little we baby thay ware all well thay invited father and me to go and sea them but I think we will watte till you come home I have not seen nor receaved any thing from Ackeman so Dear Earnest if you could send us a little I will thank you and god will Bless you

I do not think that I have any more to say this time ask dear Charly and Bulah to write to us all the same for you being there now Dear son adue god bless you from your loving Mother

-C-Crouch

One envelope may do for both (you know) your dear mother has said it all so it ought to be easey for me to say the rest, I jst manage to do the chores, and hope to live and do so till you return our little garden grows amazingly, and crops to our entire satisfaction, we have actually sold beens to the amount of 60¢ sixty cents, what do you think of that now, and more a growing-lots of them, peas are nearly done, have done well, and the Sunflowers they are grand,

8 feet high and more, and flowering good. There now! so mush for our estate. Corn and Squash included.

I have had to prop the peash tree, the peashes are looking tempting,
You dear mother attends faithfully to the flowers
love to all from your affectional Father

W. Crouch

Feeling that it would be an appropriate time to investigate more of grandmother's life while many of her grandchildren are living, I, Beatrice Stringham and granddaughter of William and Caroline Crouch, submit the following:

By visiting and phoning to those mentioned below, little human touches of grandmother's life were brought to light.

The Burgon brothers, sons of Aunt Emma Crouch Burgon, recalled various incidents.

Charles Burgon told of riding two hours in a buggy to go from Union (East Midvale) to Salt Lake City to visit grandmother and grandfather Crouch. One of the things he remembered was the rabbits they raised for food and how he and Clair Westover went to Liberty Park for clover etc. to feed the rabits. He remembered the sad incident told them of little Marion Elizabeth, Grandmother's three year old daughter, having choked on a date stone before they left England.

Heber Burgon remembered that the Crouch grandparents lived in a stone or dobie house when they first visited them and of how grandmother Crouch came to live with his mother after grandfather died. He remembered that grandmother used to give the children a little card sometimes for a keepsake. When he was sent on a mission to Great Britian and Ireland he recalls bidding her goodbye for the last time, as she passed away while he was away.

Albert (Bert) Burgon recalled that grandmother had great faith and during times of illness called her grandsons and others in to administer to the sick. Bert also recalled that grandmother had a calm unruffled nature and that although they were somewhat poor and had hardships grandmother never complained.

He remembers how grandfather in his declining years sat in a rocker in a corner and how grandmother waited on him patiently.

Oral Greenwood Bateman and greatgranddaughter and oldest child of grandmother's daughter, Emma Burgon Greenwood, remembers how when grandmother visited them she wore her best black bonnet-hat with long wide black ribbons tied in a neat bow under her chin and how she rolled each streamer neatly and laid them in the crown of the bonnet before laying it away.

Grace Greenwood Thornton, Oral's sister, said her mother told her how grandmother folded her dish towels and laid them straight under the cushion of her rocking chair, so that when she was resting the dish towels were ironed quite flatly. Grace understood that grandmother was very neat and meticulous in all that she did.

Edith Crouch Casper was told that when her father Ernest was born grandmother had the smallpox and that their family all seemed to be immune to smallpox as none of the vaccinations they had taken for smallpox had any effect. Edith had a few humorous things in her Treasures of Truth Book. When grandfather and grandmother were coming to Utah in 1873 - grandfather had commented after they had crossed the Mississippi river and came to the Missouri river, "They said when we crossed the first river it was the Mississippi so I thought the next one would be the Mr. Sippi and I called it such." "On the Southeast corner of 6th East and 7th So. stood a vacant two story house which many people said was haunted. This did not hinder grandpa and grandma from renting it." Of course the girls were very frightened of the place and in the night Ernest heard a groaning sound. On telling grandfather about it, he investigated and found a limb of the apple tree resting on the roof which rubbed back and forth in the breeze and made the groaning sound. When it was sawed off the house lost its ghost.

At Christmas time grandmother made a number of English plum puddings and one she hung up above the stairway and said shaking her finger at it, "You stay there until the 15th of June." (That was Ernest's birthday.) On the fifteenth the pudding seemed to remember, so it fell and broke the bowl it was in. The pudding was regained, cooked and made a real treat for Ernest's birthday.

Edith's book told of the motherly concern that grandmother had for her children. Ernest fell from a merry-go-round and was knocked unconscious. He

did not regain consciousness for 6 weeks. When he would relate this experience to his children he always stated that " - My poor old mother never had her clothes off for all those weeks. She was so anxious about me."

Ireen Crouch Bawden, daughter of Ernest Crouch recalled that when her brother Milne was a baby they had a wicker straw baby buggy that they pushed all the way to grandmother's. While there they saw a large lizard coming. The children were afraid of it so grandmother put a cover over the buggy to prevent it from harming the baby. She recalled how after grandfather's death grandmother lived alone and because of her age, her father Ernest, went to grandmother's home each morning and called, "Good Morning, Mother," and made her fire in the stove before going on to work.

Susie Crouch Ensign, second daughter of Ernest, remembered being told by an understudy of an actress who played at the Salt Lake Theater, that Wm. Crouch, grandmother's oldest son, used to take a fresh bouquet each morning from grandmother's lovely flower garden, to an actress with whom he had fallen in love. (Incidentally our father Philip Stringham was an usher in the Salt Lake Theater and Uncle Ernest used to sing in a Quartet between curtains. Uncle Wm. Crouch who was 6 feet 3 inches tall and weighed 200 pounds used to clown on the stage). Susie said that grandmother made beautiful hooked rugs from strips of calico and other materials of the day. She, Susie, has a stamped piece of burlap that grandmother did not get made up.

Can't you see grandmother sitting in her rocker on her folded dish towels hooking rugs?

Our family, the children of Caroline Crouch Stringham, had very little contact with grandmother as we lived in Ashley Valley - 180 miles away from Salt Lake. However, in 1878 while mother and father were living in Salt Lake, they received word of mother's sister Clara, who had gone to Ashley Valley with a family, as a hired girl, having lost her life at the birth of her first child. Mother and father took their family of three to get the baby boy. After taking him back to Salt Lake for grandmother and grandfather to raise, they returned to Ashley Valley where they made their home. Grandmother kept him, Clair Westover (by the way he was called Clair Crouch while living with his grandparents), until after he had learned the painting trade.

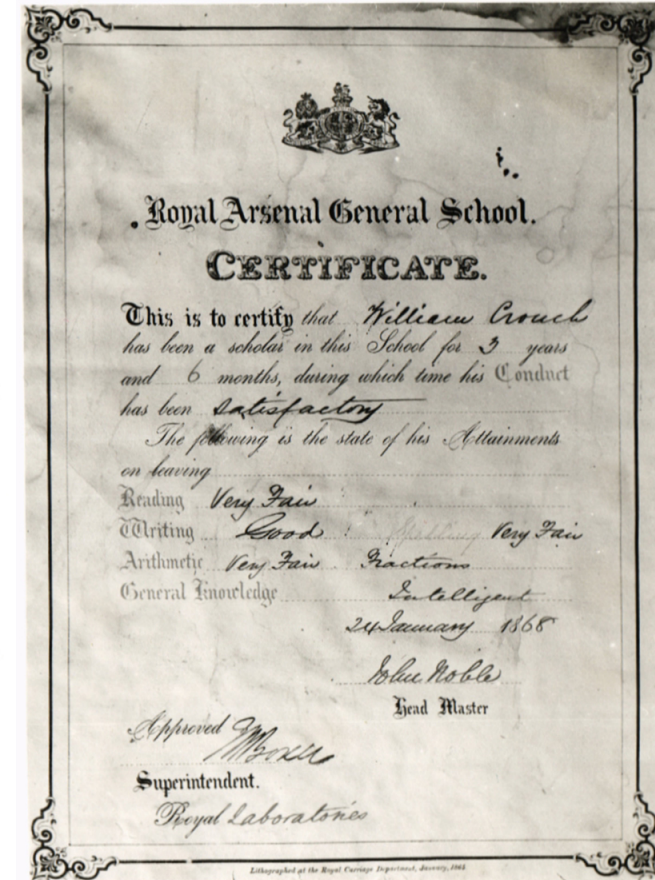
Clair Westover lived for a time with Father and me in Vernal in the later part of his life. On Sunday I would try to get him to go to Sunday School and Meeting with us but he always said that Grandmother Crouch had had him go to church so much that it would last the rest of his life.

One other little incident in connection with grandmother and our family happened when brother Phil was a boy. He had come to Salt Lake with mother where they stayed at Grandmother's. The English people love smoked herring fish for breakfast. They are also called bloaters. Grandmother with her English accent asked Phil to go to the store and buy so many bloaters. Phil wasn't used to grandmother's way of speech and he came home with the right amount but instead of fish he had ink blotters.

Grace who was mother's baby when they went to Ashley Valley to get Clair Westover, and who had to share her baby meals with Clair, remembers when the family lived in Salt Lake one winter when she was going to school. She said that she used to like to drop in and visit our grandparents as she passed their home. She remembers how neat and clean the house was and how they were sometimes eating when she stopped by.

Susan went with mother to Aunt Emma's home, at Union, when they received word of grandmother's last sickness. She said that she had sat up with grandmother the first part of the night and after grandmother's granddaughter Minnie came to relieve her, she heard them say that grandmother had passed away.

If there is anyone who knows other incidents not mentioned here I'm sure that the descendants of this noble couple would be happy to receive your contributions.



Heber Burgon, the ^{2nd} oldest grandson, has the original of the certificate photographed here. It appears to have been presented to grandfather on completion of 3-years and 6-months schooling while in the police force.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE

The statutory fee for this certificate is 3s. 9d.
Where a search is necessary to find the entry,
a search fee is payable in addition.



Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON

Application Number 380498

Registration District <u>ISLINGTON</u>								
1850 . Marriage solemnized at <u>S. James Church</u>								
in the <u>Parish</u> of <u>Islington</u> in the <u>County of Middlesex</u>								
No.	(1) When married	(2) Name and surname	(3) Age	(4) Condition	(5) Rank or profession	(6) Residence at the time of marriage	(7) Father's name and surname	(8) Rank or profession of father
96	June 7th	William Crouch	full age	Bachelor	Laborer	Islington	Paul Crouch	Laborer
		Caroline Baker	Do	Spinster	—	Islington	Thomas Baker	Laborer
Married in the <u>Church of S. James Holloway</u> according to the <u>Rites and Ceremonies</u> of the <u>Established Church</u> by Banns by me								
This marriage was solemnized between us,		<u>William Crouch</u>	in the presence of us,		<u>John Crosbie</u>	<u>W.B. Mackenzie</u>		
		<u>Caroline Baker</u>			<u>Mary Crosbie</u>			

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Marriages in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office, the 30th day of August 1962.

MA 661509

This certificate is issued in pursuance of section 65 of the Act 12 & 13 Geo. 6, c. 76 (Marriage Act, 1949). Section 65 (3) provides that any certified copy of an entry purporting to be sealed or stamped with the seal of the General Register Office shall be received as evidence of the marriage to which it relates without any further or other proof of the entry, and no certified copy purporting to have been given in the said Office shall be of any force or effect unless it is sealed or stamped as aforesaid.

CAUTION.—Any person who (1) falsifies any of the particulars on this certificate, or (2) uses a falsified certificate as true, knowing it to be false, is liable to prosecution.

Donna Bird, a great great granddaughter of William Crouch and Caroline Baker Crouch visited Somerset House, London, England, August 1962, and purchased this certified copy.



CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH

The statutory fee for this certificate is 3s. 9d.
Where a search is necessary to find the entry,
a search fee is payable in addition.



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON.

Application Number..... 020325

REGISTRATION DISTRICT SAINT PANCRAS										
1855. BIRTH in the Sub-district of <u>Camden Town</u> in the <u>County of Middlesex</u>										
Columns:—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10*
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name, and surname of father	Name, surname, and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description, and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
401	Seventh February 1855 16 Salisbury Place	Caroline Ann	Girl	William Crouch	Caroline Crouch formerly Baker	Painters Labourer	W.Crouch Father 16 Salisbury Place Pancras Road	Tenth March 1855	William Lance Registrar	---

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office, the 30th day of August 19 62.

*See note overleaf.

BC 316558

This certificate is issued in pursuance of the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1953 (1 & 2 Eliz. 2, c. 20).

Section 34 provides that any certified copy of an entry purporting to be sealed or stamped with the seal of the General Register Office shall be received as evidence of the birth or death to which it relates without any further or other proof of the entry, and no certified copy purporting to be given in the said Office shall be of any force or effect unless it is sealed or stamped as aforesaid.

CAUTION.—Any person who (1) falsifies any of the particulars on this certificate, or (2) uses a falsified certificate as true, knowing it to be false, is liable to prosecution.

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