

~ Last to Leave ~

Louisa Peterson was the 3rd child of Louisa Ker and Peter Peterson, and the last to leave London for Australia.

Daughter Louisa's life in London has been tricky to fully clarify. We know she had a late baptism at St George in the East when she was 16 years old. It was on the same day as her sister Mary Louisa. The date on the top of the page says 1822. Their birth dates are in the right-hand margin.

London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1920 for Louisa Peterson

Tower Hamlets > St George in the East > 1815-1826

No. 1694.	Mary	Peter	Peterson	born in London	Slop Seller	The Rector	12 th of August 1803
No. 1695.	Louisa	Peter	Peterson	born in London	Slop Seller	The Rector	1 st of May 1806
No. 1696.	Louisa	Peter	Peterson	born in London	Slop Seller	The Rector	

Their father Peter's occupation was a Slop Seller – someone who sold cheap, premade clothing. The address they were both born at says London St, Ratcliff, Stepney. Lockies website says - London Street, Queen Street, Ratcliffe, the first on the Left east, a few doors from Ratcliffe cross, it extends to Rose Lane.

This address has been added to the [Interactive London Map](#) in Resources on this website. It's east of the church – St George in the East. They lived there from at least 1803 to 1806.



The next known address was Ratcliffe Highway, South East, for the years 1807 to 1808. This is found in rent books which look very different to those of Cannon St Rd. (See article [Cannon St Rd Conundrum](#)).

1809 they are found at Cannon St Rd, where Louisa remained until her marriage to George Shephard less than 2 months after her baptism. Their marriage was at St George in the East on 13 Feb 1823.

These late baptisms for the rush marriages of the girls as minors, may suggest things weren't well financially in the Cannon St Rd home. Could step father Johan have taken ill, or even be off the scene in one form or another at this stage?

Jumping ahead to Louisa's death certificate, it says that two of her children from her marriage to George were still alive – Edmund Christopher 53, and Elizabeth Mary 40. Note that Elizabeth was the informant and this age would make her birth year about 1841 which conflicts with the census age given in 1841 as four.

It also notes her daughter Mary Louisa from her 2nd marriage – but we'll get to all that.

What's of interest is that it says, 10 deceased children of sex unknown, to George.

IF DECEASED WAS MARRIED.	
(1) Where, and at what (2) Age, and to (3) Whom.	Issue, in order of Birth, their Names and Ages.
1 st London England (1) Sydney Mrs South Wales 1 st 18 years (2) 2 nd 41 years 1 st George (3) Shephard 2 nd Edward McRoberts	Living 1 st Edmund Christopher 53 ^{yr} Elizabeth Mary 40 2 nd Mary Louisa 33 ^{yr} Dead 1 st 10 children sex unknown 2 nd none

So, the hunt begins to find these 10 children. In their residential address order, the first found is Julia baptised 27 March 1829 at St Mary, Whitechapel.

London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1920 for Julia Shepherd							
Tower Hamlets > St Mary, Whitechapel > 1823-1832							
No.	27	Julia	George	Shepherd	Berner St	Teacher	27 Feb 1829
No.	28	Louisa	George	Shepherd	Berner St	Teacher	28 Feb 1829

Pay no heed to the spelling of Shephard, the consistency of names was of little consequence before the 1860's and sometimes for many years afterward.

Julia was born 26 February of the same year, which was a very short period of time between birth and baptism for this family, so possibly she was sickly. So far, no death document has been found.

George is listed as a teacher, and they were living at Berner St, not far from Cannon St Rd. (Incidentally, this is the same street the possible boarder of mother Louisa – August Bertold moved to in 1835) (See article [Cannon St Rd Conundrum](#)).

This is six years after Louisa and George's marriage. Louisa would have been 23, plenty of time for other births before, yet nothing sooner has been found.

Next, we find the baptism of Maria Louisa at St Pancras Old Church, located in St Pancras Gardens. This was on 3 April 1835, roughly two weeks after her birth on 16 March.

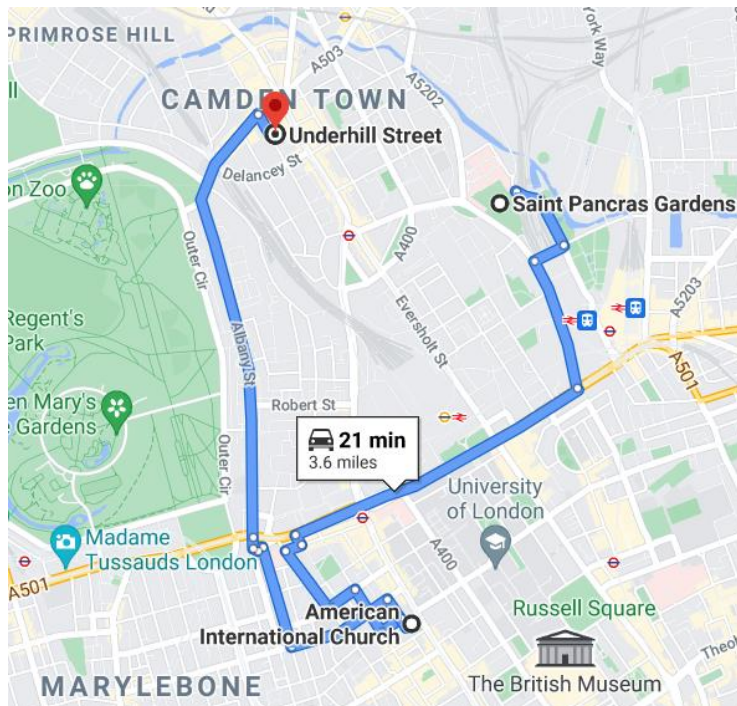
London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1920 for Maria Louisa Shephard							
Camden > St Pancras > 1834-1838							
No.	473	Maria	George	Shephard	Clarendon	School	16 March 1835
No.	494	Louisa	Louisa	Shephard	Clarendon	School	3 April 1835

George is listed as a School Master, and their abode says Clarendon Street at the time of the baptism.

Maria Louisa's burial was on 28 January 1839, at Whitefield's Memorial Church, St Pancras, aged 4 years. The church is now called American International Church.

London, England, Non-conformist Registers, 1694-1931 for Maria Louisa Shepherd				
Camden > Whitefield's Memorial Church				
..	4332	Maria Louisa Shepherd	4 Years	St Pancras
				Best Ground

The original chapel stood on the west side of Tottenham Court Road, between Tottenham Street and Howland Street. On Palm Sunday 1945 the church building was destroyed by the last V-2 rocket to fall on London. A new chapel was built in 1957, and the grounds became a public thoroughfare. It's doubtful any headstone would ever be found.



One question is, if the family had stayed in this vicinity between 1835 and 1839, why was Louisa Shephard's address listed as 15 Oxford St near Cannon St Rd on her mother's death duty index in 1837? (See articles [Cannon St Rd Conundrum](#) and [Mother Louisa](#)).

Perhaps it was a friend's address, or she was renting in a boarding house whilst attending to her mother Louisa before she passed in 1837.

It's not till 29 January 1840 that we find the baptism of George Robert Peterson Shephard at St John the Evangelist in Lambeth.

London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1920
Lambeth > St John the Evangelist, Lambeth > 1839-1846

April 21 1833	Jan 29 No. 557.	George Robert Peterson son of	George Louisa	Shephard	17 Frances St	Accountant	A. W. H. Rose M.A.
---------------------	-----------------------	--	------------------	----------	---------------------	------------	-----------------------

They're living at 17 Frances St, Surrey, and this time George is said to be an accountant. This may have been a fancy term for a bookkeeper. Note that in the margin, George Robert was born 21 April 1833. He would have been nearly seven when they had him baptised.

Less than six months later, Edmund Christopher Peterson Shephard was baptised on 28 June 1840, also at St John the Evangelist in Lambeth. He's nine years old with the birth date of 17 May 1831. It begs the question of why they didn't baptise both boys at the same time?

London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1920 for Edmund Christopher Peterson Shephard
Lambeth > St John the Evangelist, Lambeth > 1839-1846

May 17 1831	June 28 No. 994.	Edmund Christopher Peterson son of	George Louisa	Shephard	42 Queen's Row Walworth	Gentleman	A. W. H. Rose M.A.
-------------------	------------------------	---	------------------	----------	----------------------------------	-----------	-----------------------

George is said to be a Gentleman, and they're living at 42 Queen's Row, Walworth. This is (at the time) the outer edges of London, about 2 miles south from that church.

No baptism has yet been found for daughter Elizabeth Mary Shephard. There are some possible civil registrations, but nothing confirmed. As civil registration started in the UK on the 1st of July 1837, there's a chance she is recorded there as well as for a baptism.

Narrowing down her birth has found no headstone, a search through newspapers proved not to mention her age at death, in fact, apart from her mother's death cert above, the only place is on the 1841 census. As census ages weren't 'rounded down' for those under 15, and she was listed as age four, making her birth around 1837. It's unlikely they would mistake the age of a new born with a four-year-old.

The 1841 census was taken on June the 6th. We again find Louisa Shephard at 42 Queen's Row, Walworth. She has with her children – young Edmund aged 10, Elizabeth Mary aged four, and her half-brother John James Uhr visiting from Australia. Continued on the next page is a female servant by the name of Julia Pugh, suggesting they had lived with a good income, and she was 'Ind' – Independent means. No sign of husband George or son George. This only means they weren't at their home on the said 6 June, but where were they?

1841 England Census for Elizabeth Shephard
Surrey > St Mary Newington > St Peters > District 12

do	Louisa Shephard	30	Ind	2	✓
	Edmund do	10		2	✓
	Elizabeth do	4		2	✓
	John Uhr	25	Ind	2	✓
TOTAL in 3					

1841 England Census
Surrey > St Mary Newington > St Peters > District 12

Borough of Lambeth 43
Parish of St Mary Newington

PLACE	HOUSES		NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born	
	Uninhabited or Building	Inhabited		Males	Females		Whether Born in same County	Whether Born in Scotland, Ireland, or Foreign Parts.
Queen's Row			Julia Pugh		15	Ind	2	
			William Brunson		25	Ind	2	

So out of the 12 children Louisa was noted to have had with George (on her death cert.), only five have been located. Due to the high infant death rate, and succession of late baptisms the Peterson and Shephard family was known for, there's a good chance they were simply never recorded. Yet one would think their deaths would have been.

Or there could be another explanation (See article [Was it Bigamy?](#)).

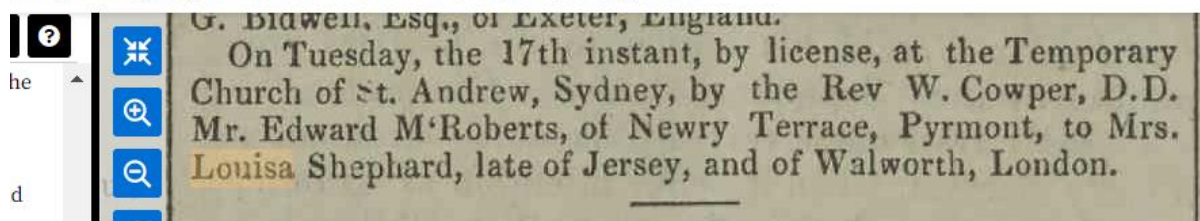
Order of births are Julia 1829; Edmund 1831; George 1833; Maria 1835; Elizabeth 1837.

Louisa and brother John Uhr were also in the Channel Islands after the 1841 census.

Firstly, two of John's brothers, Edmund and Daniel had written to him in London about his sheep etc. It was postmarked Sydney 1843. Originally sent to a contact's address in London, it was then redirected to First Tower, St Aubin's Road, St Helier, Jersey.

Secondly, Louisa's marriage notice in an Australian newspaper says "...late of Jersey and of Walworth, London."

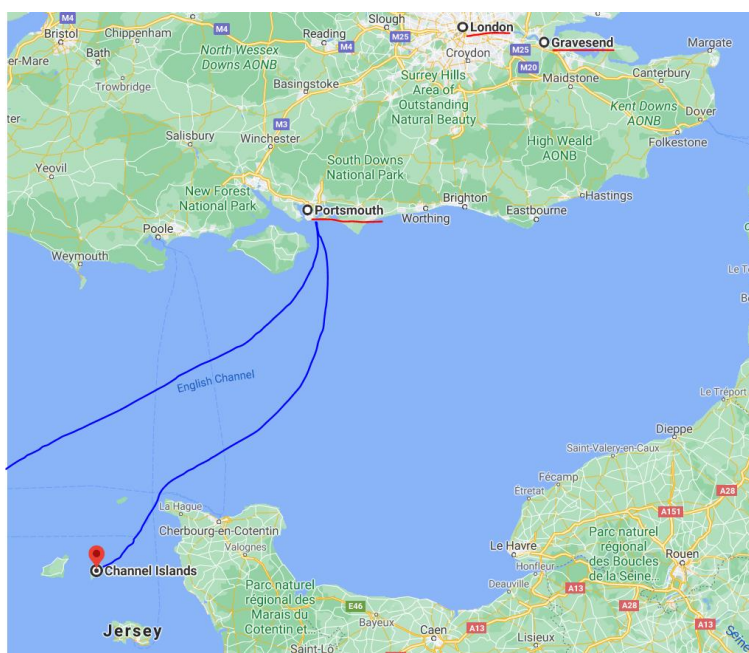
The Spectator (Sydney, NSW : 1846) / Sat 21 Mar 1846 / Page 106 / Family Notices



This would hardly be mentioned if it were just a holiday to Jersey. Nor would John have asked for his mail to be directed if it was simply a quick jaunt. What were they doing in Jersey?

Perhaps John was looking at Jersey cows? Probably not. One thing's for sure, there were a few other families with the name Shephard living there in the 1851 census.

After Jersey, John heads back to Australia on the barque *Georgetown*. It left London 1 March 1844, arriving in Sydney on June 22nd.

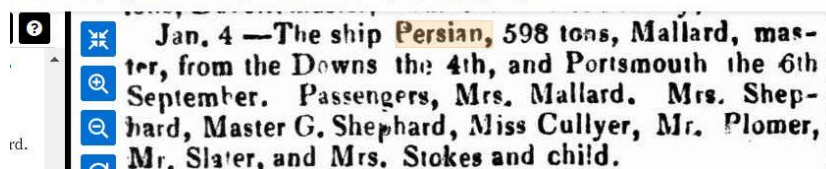


Louisa leaves 6 September 1845 on the ship *Persian*. She'd boarded at Portsmouth, Hampshire, instead of Gravesend, London. We have to consider that she never returned to London after Jersey.

Louisa arrives in Sydney on the 4th of January 1846 to find her brother John, very recently deceased by only weeks.

The manifest says, Mrs Shephard, Miss E. Shephard, and Master G. Shephard. Is it really son George? Is it a typo for Edmund in the manifest and all the newspaper reports?

The Sentinel (Sydney, NSW : 1845 - 1848) / Thu 8 Jan 1846 / Page 2 / Shipping Intelligence.



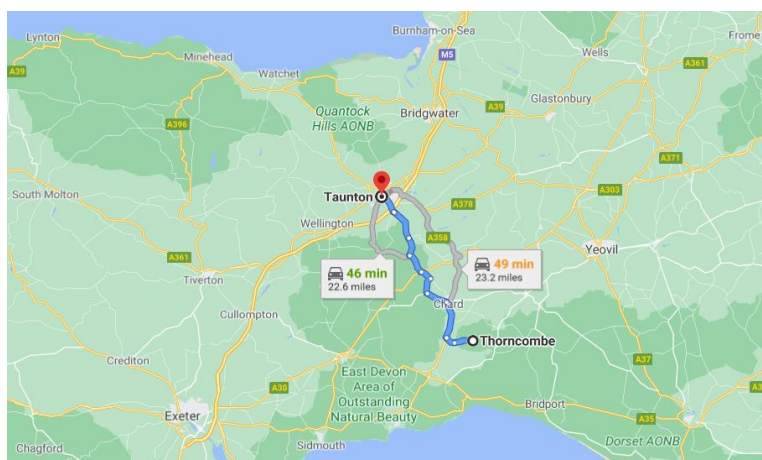
Within two months, Louisa is at the altar with Edward McRoberts. They wed at St Andrew's, Sydney on 17 March 1846.

Louisa's youngest brother, George Richard Uhr, had first married Edward McRobert's daughter, Sarah Jane in 1843. This now made Louisa his step mother as well as half-sister.

Edward and Louisa had one child, a daughter – Mary Louisa Ann McRoberts, born 22 May 1847. Both of Louisa's daughters – Elizabeth and Mary marry their cousins – Seth Peterson and his brother Daniel respectively. They are both sons of Daniel Peterson, Louisa's brother, so the name Peterson comes around again.

Edward McRoberts was a music teacher and his first wife, Jane Shanks, bore him seven children including Sarah Jane. Mrs Jane McRoberts died 27 August 1845. Could this have been enough time to send a letter to Louisa about a prospective husband, and for her to get to Australia by January 1846? Or was it simply a swift two-month courtship? His youngest child was now 18, so it wasn't for the need for a mother to his children.

Page 46 of *The Petersons and Uhrs Book* (see [Resources – Acknowledgements](#)), says that Louisa's son Edmund had been born in Taunton, Somerset on 1 November 1826, and went on to become a lawyer, and judge in Queensland, Australia. The first hints we have that something isn't adding up is the age doesn't match the census age - 10, and we have his baptism at St John's with the birth year of 1831, which does match.



Sheppard, Hon. Edmund, sometime Puisne Judge of Queensland, was the fourth son of Samuel Sheppard, of Taunton, Somerset, and was born at Taunton on Nov. 1st, 1826. He was educated at Taunton and in London, was called to the bar at the Inner Temple in June 1857, and went to Sydney shortly afterwards. He married, firstly, in July 1860, Mary Grace, daughter of the late C. K. Murray, of Sydney, who died in June 1869. He practised at the bar in Sydney, and in 1866 was appointed District Court Judge of Queensland. Judge Sheppard married, secondly, in Dec. 1871, Adela, daughter of the late E. J. Murray, solicitor, of London. He became Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland on July 17th, 1874; and died in London on Dec. 22nd, 1882.

Whilst it's tempting to think this was possible, considering how close Taunton was to Louisa's husband George's home town of Thorncombe, further digging finds this Edmund to be the 4th son of Samuel Sheppard, a Jeweller, and his mother, Harriett Deane (nee Allen).

<https://www.sclqld.org.au/judicial-papers/judicial-profiles/profiles/esheppard>

The reason no one can find his baptism is it was actually done in London – see next page.

He was baptised the same day as his brother Henry and sister Caroline on 3 December 1826.

Register of Baptisms, Solemnized in York Street Chapel, situate in York Street, Saint James's Square, in the County of Middlesex and of Baptisms Solemnized by the Ministers of the said Chapel. -

When Baptized.	Childs Christian Name.	Parents Names. Christian. Surname.	Abode.	Quality Trade or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
1826 December 3 ^d	Henry son of	Samuel Sheppard and Harriet his wife	Hanover St near St James's Hanover Square.	Jeweller	J. C. Wallace, one of the ministers of York Street Chapel.
The said Henry Sheppard our son was born on the Fifth day of February 1824, and was baptized at York Street Chapel in our presence the 3 ^d day of December 1826 To attest which facts we sign our names. <i>Sheppard H Sheppard</i>					
1826 December 3 ^d	Caroline Elizabeth Daughter of	Samuel Sheppard and Harriet his wife	Hanover St near St James Hanover Square	Jeweller	James C Wallace one of the Ministers of York St. Chapel
The said Caroline Elizabeth Sheppard our daughter was born on the Tenth day of March 1823, and was baptized at York St. Chapel in our presence the 3 ^d day of Dec. 1826. To attest which facts we sign our names. <i>Sheppard H Sheppard</i>					
1826 December 3 ^d	Edmund son of	Samuel Sheppard and Harriet his wife	Hanover St near St James Hanover Square	Jeweller	James C. Wallace one of the Ministers of York St. Chapel
The said Edmund Sheppard our son was born on the first day of November 1826, and was baptized at York Street Chapel in our presence the 3 ^d day of December 1826. To attest which facts we sign our names. <i>Sheppard H Sheppard</i>					

So...who was our Edmund Sheppard? His mother Louisa's death notice gives us a clue, but that's another story (See article [Edmund is Found?](#)).

The Brisbane Courier (Qld. : 1864 - 1933) / Wed 11 May 1881 / Page 2 / Family Notices

DEATH.

M'ROBERTS - On the 19th April, at Brighton-road, South Brisbane, Mrs. **Louisa M'Roberts**, mother of Mr. Edmund Sheppard, of the Registrar-General's office, and aunt to Mrs. Thomas Jones and the late Lady Mackenzie.

Louisa moved to North Quay, Brisbane in 1874 and Edmund moved up to Rockhampton in 1876 from Randwick as it had become an unhappy marriage. Edward McRoberts died 21 June 1878, followed by Louisa, 19 April 1881 at her youngest daughter Mary Louisa's home. She's buried at South Brisbane Cemetery.