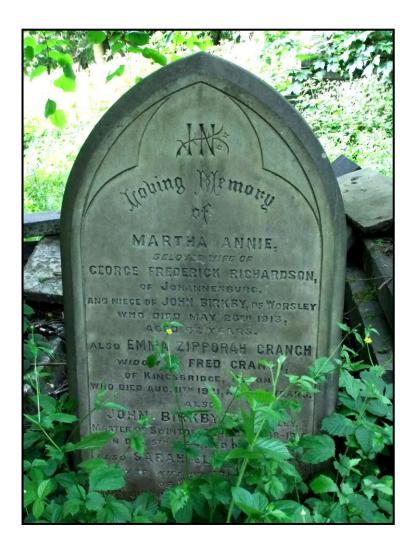
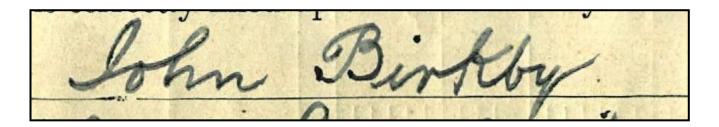
John BIRKBY





Born: 5 December 1844

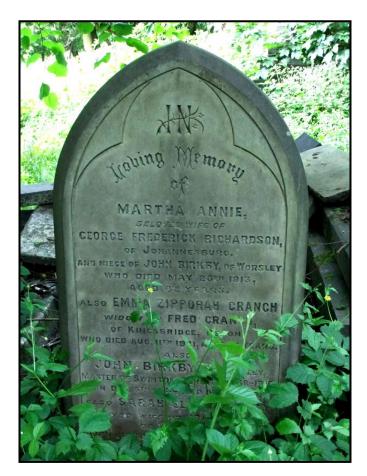
Died: 20 December 1932

HEADMASTER OF SWINTON SCHOOLS



Paul R. Speakman 2021

Martha Annie RICHARDSON



In loving memory of MARTHA ANNIE beloved wife of GEORGE FREDERICK RICHARDSON, of Johannesburg and niece of JOHN BIRKBY, of Worsley who died May 20th 1913 aged 42 years Also EMMA ZIPPORAH CRANCH widow of FRED CRANCH of Kingsbridge, Devon who died Aug. 11th 1921 aged 57 years Also JOHN BIRKBY of Worsley Master of Swinton Schools 1888-1910 born Dec. 5th 1844 died December 20th 1932 Also SARAH ELLEN BIRKBY beloved wife of JOHN BIRKBY of Worsley born Jul. 17th 1843 died Feb. 19th 1931 Also of JOHN GAY BIRKBY of Worsley born Mar. 4th 1876 died Feb. 12th 1953. (*t*1869)

[This headstone immediately aroused a lot of interest. The details which stood out were: the reference to Johannesburg; the precise relationship between John Birkby and his niece Martha Anne; the name Gay as the second name of John Birkby (d.1953); the fact that John Birkby was Head of the Swinton Schools; the name Zipporah and her surname Cranch. Although the name of Martha Annie is at the top, the fact that John Birkby is the focus of attention is the reason why his name appears at the top on this profilie.].

John Birkby was born on 5 December **1844** and was baptised at Holy Trinity, Hulme, on 9 March **1845**. The Godparents were Samuel Birkby, Thomas Simpson and Mary Ann *Test*(?).

kut 5 hund g & Ish Samuel Bickby Thunken Samuel Kithing	kut. 5 /44	ment g the	John	Jamuel Hiz dich	Bickby	Thunter hope Mudlaky	Junel Kithor Simpson - Show Jimpson - May Ann Test
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1851 census: New Street, Altrincham

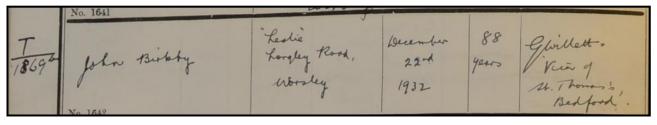
Samuel Birkby	Head	Μ	38	Plumber
Elizabeth	Wife	Μ	37	
Thomas	Son		14	Scholar
Mary Jane	Daur.		8	Scholar
John	Son		6	Scholar
James	Son		4	Scholar
Samuel	Son		10 mo	

b. Wyke, Yorks.
b. Halifax
b. Cheetham Hill
b. Hulme
b. Hulme
b. Hulme
b. Hulme
b. Altrincham

10/1 7 4 11	D 1	A 1. *			
1861 census: 7 Ashle	•				
Samuel Birkby	Head		48	Plumber	
Elizabeth	Wife	M	47		
Mary J.	Daur.	S	18	Dress Maker	
John	Son		16	Pupil Teacher	
James	Son		14		
Martha A.	Daur.		7		b. Altrincham
1871 census: 15 Princ	-				
Lodging at the home				-	
John Birkby	Lodge	r S	26	Scholmaster	
1871: Married Sarah	Ellen	G ay in 1	Lambet	h Registration District, London, in the	e 4th quarter.
1881 census: 19 St. N	/lartin's	Road, I	Lambeth	1.	
John Birkby	Head	Μ	36	Teacher	b. Manchester
Sarah E.	Wife	Μ	35		b. Lidstone, Devon
John G.	Son		5		b. Stockwell, London
Mary J.	Daur.		1		b. "
Lucy E.	Daur.		2 mo		b. "
+ 1 servant.					
1891 census: The Sw	inton Ir	dustria	School	L	
John Birkby	Head		46	Governor & Head Schoolmaster	
Sarah Ellen		Μ	46	Matron	
John Gay	Son		15	Scholar	
Mary Jane	Daur.		11	Scholar	
Lucy Eleanor	Daur.		9	Scholar	
•		nes of s		pupils. 25 entries on each page.	
1901 census: Poor La	w Scho	ol Swi	nton		
John Birkby	Head	M	56	Headmaster	b. Manchester
Sarah Ellen	Wife	M	56	Matron	b. Lidstone, Devon
John Gay Birkby	Son	S	25	Schoolmaster	b. Stockwell, London
Mary Jane Birkby	Daur.	S	23	Schoolmistress	b. Stockwell, London
Lucy Eleanor Birkby		S	20	Schoolmistress	b. Stockwell, London
Annie Birkby	Niece		30	Schoolmistress	b. Banbury, Oxon.
Emma Zipporah Cr				Superintendent of Girls out of school	b. Bristol
+ 32 further pages of				-	U. DIIStor
1911 census: 'Leslie'.	Longle	v Road	Worsh	ev (9 rooms)	
John Birkby	Head	•	, worst	Retired Master of Poor Law School	
Sarah Ellen	Wife	M	66	(married 39 years; 3 children) Retire	ed Matron
John Gay	Son	S	35	Assistant School Master	a mation
Mary Jane	Daur.		31		
Lucy Eleanor	Daur.		30	Headmistress (Infants)	
+ 1 servant.	Daur.	5	50	Treadmistress (mants)	
	5				
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And Andrew Arthough		N. Park	1		*

Burial: 22 December **1932** St Mark, Worsley. **John Birkby**

Age: 87 years Abode: 'Leslie', Longley Road, Worsley. Grave: T 1869B Buried by: G. Willett, Vicar of St. Thomas's, Bedford.



BIRKBY John of Leslie 12 Longley-road Worsley Lancashire died 20 December 1932 Probate Manchester 20 February to John Gay Birkby schoolmaster Lucy Eleanor Birkby spinster and Mary Jane Ogden (wife of Handel Ogden). Effects £1808 19s. 5d.

Martha Annie Richardson

And so, given that the headstone referred to **Martha Annie** as the 'beloved wife of GEORGE FREDERICK RICHARDSON, of Johannesburg, and niece of JOHN BIRKBY, of Worsley', how does she relate to John Birkby? Fortunately, an entry in the archives in South Africa gives a very strong guide.

1911: Baptism of John Birkby Richardson, to George Frederick and **Martha Annie Richardson**, living at Stand 617, Forest Hill, Johannesburg, on 25 June **1911**. He was born on 21 December 1910. George was a Civil Servant. The baptism took place in the Chapelry of St. Margaret in the parish of Bloemfontein.

				-	Page 169 (happly		
BAI	TISMS sole	emnized i	n the Parish	ot Bloumfont	in the I	Division of	5. Margaret in	the Year 19//
When Baptized.	Christian Name.	Declared Day	PARENT	'S NAME.	Abode.	Quality, Trade	Sponsors, or (in the case of Adults)	By whom the Ceremony was
		of Birth.	Christian.	Surname.		Profession.	Witnesses.	performed.
19// Ø	John	1910	Jungs .		Stand 617.	R	David aither	A. P.
June	Birth.	Du	5	Richardson	Forest Hill	Phinie	Shiahel an The	arthurflead
~~	ľ	215!	Martha anis		Johanneshing	Sweet:	Hubert. Henry	
No.269.	a martine and						Smorball.	

So, from this, we can surmise that she might have already married in England, emigrated to South Africa and raised a family there. This record shows the birth of John Birkby Richardson on 21 December **1910** and his baptism in Bloemfontein on 25 June **1911**. He was the son of George Frederick Richardson and the presence of the name Birkby as a second name confirms that his mother was a Birkby - a common practice at that time, using a mother's maiden name.

And yet the headstone states that she died on 20 May **1913**, aged 42. The parish register of burials records:

Burial: 31 May **1913** St Mark, Worsley. **Martha Annie Richardson**

Age: 42 years Abode: Manchester Royal Infirmary Grave: T 1869B Buried by: H.B.W. Denison

So she was in England at that time, two years after her son's baptism. A *Death Notice* from South Africa (q.v. below) confirms everything. We learn from it that both of her parents had died previously; that George Frederick was Foreman of Works; that they lived in Forest Hill, Johannesburg; *and that she was married in Bloemfontein*. It also confirms that she died in the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, on 28th May **1913** (although the stone states 20th May). We also know that this was the first marriage of George and that they had 2 sons - Geoffrey Frederick born 11 October **1902** and John Birkby born on 22 December **1910** (a slight discrepancy here). This death was registered on 12 November **1913** and we see that the value of the property she left was only sufficient to pay for her burial. Finally, the declaration was signed by her husband, who was not near at the death.

The same *Death Notice* tells us that she was born in Banbury, Oxfordshire. Given her age in 1913, she was probably both into the Birkby family in 1870/71. A glance at the **1891** census show that there was a **Martha Ann Birkby**, aged 20, living with her family at 101 Park Road, Elswick, Northumberland. She was a student at a training college and had been born in Banbury, Oxon. Her father, Thomas (Simpson), was 53, had been born in Manchester and was a School Master. All this is consistent. Thomas was indeed the elder brother of John Birkby. Martha had 3 siblings, two of whom were also born in Banbury. The wife of Thomas, Lucy A., had been born in Altrincham. Thomas died on 22 February **1899**, and in his will he left some of his estate to John Birkby, master. By **1901**, Martha Annie was at the Swinton Poor School working with her uncle, two years after her father's death.



George Frederick Richardson

To begin with, George Frederick Richardson was not buried at St. Mark's! He was the son of James and Margaret Richardson of 6 Trafalgar Street, Newcastleupon-Tyne. He was born on 5 May 1871 and baptised five weeks later in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. His *Death Notice* (q.v. below) states that he was 57 years old at his death on 20 March **1929**. His address was 20 Raleigh Street, Port Elizabeth. He was a Clerk of Works and had married secondly Maria Johanna Brooke Nel. A copy of their Marriage Certificate is below.

From the *Death Notice*, we learn that George did have 2 sons to his first marriage - Geoffrey Frederick Richardson (born 11 October **1902**) and John Birkby Richardson (born 22 December **1910**: !discrepancy!). We also learn that his second wife was present at his death. This grave is located at South End cemetery, Port Elizabeth.

He married Maria Johanna on 11 August **1917** by Special Licence. Their residence was given as 5 Havelock Square, Port Elizabeth, and he was a widower and Clerk of Works. The *Form of Information of a Death* further adds that he was a Contractor in the Building Trade. His cause of death was Chronic Nephritis.

Emma Zipporah Gay

So, where and how does Emma Zipporah Cranch fit into this family pattern?

Burial: 15 August **1921** St Mark, Worsley. **Emma Zipporah Cranch**

Age: 57 years Abode: Swinton Schools Grave: T 1869B Buried by: J.E. Roberts

I 1869 t. Emma Zipporch Cranch	Swinton Schorbs	15th angust 1921	57 цеать	J.E. Pobethi.
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CRANCH Emma Zipporah of Swinton Girls' School Swinton near **Manchester** widow died 11 August 1921 at the Camp Squires Gate Blackpool Administration **London** 18 October to William Lewis Parsons shopman and Ethel Helen Parsons spinster. Effects £392 28. 9d.

Emma Zipporah Gay was born in the 2nd quarter of 1864 at Clifton, Glos.

1871 census: Baptist	t Lane, K	lingst	oridge, De	evon.
Emma Gay	Head	W	32	Milliner
Susan E. Gay	Daur.		8	Scholar
Emma Zipporah G	ay Daur.		6	Scholar

1881 census: Fore Street, Kingsbridge, Devon.

Living at the home of William Ellwood, Master Mariner, and his wife and 6 children.

Emma Gay	S-in-law W	42	Milliner	b. Dodbrooke, Devon
Susan Gay	Niece S	16	Pupil Teacher	b. Bristol
Emma Gay	Niece S	18	Draper's Apprentice	b. Bristol
EA 1.1.1.1	1 . 11 1	1		1 1 10(1 1 11

[A guess is that these details have, somehow, become confused. If **Emma** was born in **1864**, she would have been 16 by 1881. By this calculation, her age in 1871 was correct. In addition, she would have known **Frederick Cranch** at a very early age, Could she have known his sister Clara?].

Nearby on Baptist Lane, Kingsbridge, lived ...

Eliz. A. Cranch	Head	Μ	46	Wife of Master Mariner	
Fredk.	Son	S	17	Shoemaker's Apprentice	b. Dodbrooke, Devon
Clara	Daur.	S	16	Draper's Apprentice	b. Dodbrooke, Devon
Annie	Daur.		9	Scholar	b. Dodbrooke, Devon

Emma Gay (née Lakey) died on 9 May **1883** in Kingsbridge. She and her husband John Gay had married in the 1st quarter of **1861** and had the two daughters. John died in 1865 in Kingsbridge, aged 29.

1891 census: Fore Street, Kingsbridge, Devon.

Fredk. Wm. Cranch Head S Shoemaker b. Kingsbridge 27 Mary A. Hodge Serv. W 70 Shoe Binder b. Kingsbridge S Elizabeth A. Cranch Sis. 19 Scholar b. Kingsbridge Emma Zipporah Gay married Frederick William Cranch at Kingsbridge, Devon, in the 4th quarter of 1891.

Frederick William Cranch died on 26 April 1892, just months after his marriage, in Kingsbridge, aged 28. (He was born in the 3rd quarter of 1863). They had had a son Frederick W. B. Cranch, but he had died in the 1st quarter of 1894, in Kingsbridge, aged 2.

WILL.

CRANCH Frederick William of Kingsbridge, Devon, bootmaker. Died 26 April 1892. Administration Exeter 8 June to Emma Zipporth Cranch, widow. Effects £1306 15s 6d

1901 census: Poor Law School, Swinton.

John Birkby	Head	Μ	56	Headmaster	b. Manchester
Sarah Ellen	Wife	Μ	56	Matron	b. Lidstone, Devon
John Gay Birkby	Son	S	25	Schoolmaster	b. Stockwell, London
Mary Jane Birkby	Daur.	S	21	Schoolmistress	b. Stockwell, London
Lucy Eleanor Birkby	Daur.	S	20	Schoolmistress	b. Stockwell, London
Annie Birkby	Niece	S	30	Schoolmistress	b. Banbury, Oxon.
Emma Zipporah Cr	anch N	iece W	37	Superintendent of Girls out of school	b. Bristol

[Zipporah was the name of Moses' wife].

Sarah Ellen Birkby

1841 census: Lidstone, Charleton, Devon.

John Gay	40	Ag. Lab.
Eleanor	35	
Eliza	9	
Harriett	7	
John	5	
Joseph	3	
Zipporah	6 mo.	

Res.

S

26

Sarah E. Gay

1843: Sarah Ellen Gay was born in the second guarter of 1843 at Kingsbridge, Devon.

1851 census: Gass H	ouse, W	est Al	vington	, Devon.	
John Gay	Head	Μ	50	Stocker Decenter	b. Loddinwell, Dev.
Ellen	Wife	Μ	48	Domestic Duties	b. Charleton, Devon
Eliza	Daur.	S	19	" "	b. Charleton, Devon
John	Son		15	Shop Boy	b. Charleton, Devon
Joseph	Son		13	Scholar	b. Charleton, Devon
Zipporah	Daur.		10	Scholar	b. Charleton, Devon
Sarah E.	Daur.		7	Scholar	b. Charleton, Devon
1861 census: Union	Road, K	lingsbr	idge, De	evon.	
Zipporah Gay	Sis.	S	20	Dressmaker	b. Charleton, Devon
Sarah E. Gay	Sis.	S	17	Pupil Teach (British School)	b. Charleton, Devon
1871 census: British	& Fore	ign Tra	ining So	chools, Kennington, Lambeth	

Teaching

b. Kingsbridge, Devon

1871: Married John Birkby in Lambeth Registration District, London, in the 4th quarter.

Therefore, *John Gay jun.* (born c.1836), who married Emma Lakey in 1861, and **Sarah Ellen Gay** (born 1843) were brother and sister. John Gay and Emma had a daughter Emma Zipporah, born c. 1863/1864. Hence she was indeed the niece of John and Sarah Ellen Birkby.

Burial: 21 February **1931** St Mark, Worsley. **Sarah Ellen Birkby**

Age: 87 yrs. Abode: Leslie, Longley Road, Worsley Grave: T 1869B Buried by: G. Willett

Sarah Ellen Borteby, Longle Willett No. 1449

BIRKBY Sarah Ellen of Leslie 12 Longley-road Worsley Lancashire (wife of John Birkby) died 19 February 1931 Probate London 28 March to John Gay Birkby schoolmaster Lucy Eleanor Birkby spinster and Mary Jane Ogden (wife of Handel Ogden). Effects £527 8s. 10d.

John Gay Birkby

1899: Tuesday 7 March Manchester Evening News

OWENS COLLEGE. ADMISSION OF ASSOCIATES.

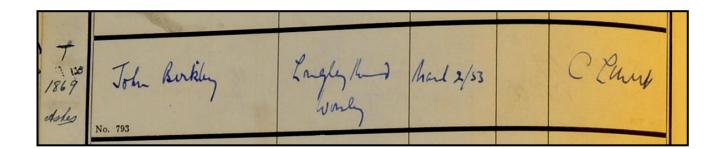
This afternoon, in the old Court Room of Owens College, the associates of the College, elected in December and February last, were presented by Dr. Hopkinson, the principal, to the treasurer of the College (Mr. E. J. Broadfield) for admission. The room was crowded by the successful students and their friends, amongst those present being Dr. Ward, Mr. Alfred Neild, and Alderman Rawson. The following is the list of the associates presented:

John Gay Birkby, B.A. (Vict.) 1898.

1935: Author of A Short History of the Central High School for Boys, Manchester.

1939 Register: 'Leslie', Longley Road, Worsley.Birkby John G. born 4 March 1876 Single Schoolmaster (Retired): Special Constabulary

BIRKBY John Gay of Leslie 12 Longley-road Worsley Lancashire died 12 February 1953 at Park Hospital Davyhulme Manchester Probate London 1 May to Lucy Eleanor Birkby spinster and Mary Jane Ogden widow. Effects £2452 2s. 6d.





an ter fin M.S.C. 1. U.D.J. 294. OF SOM AFRICA. 1929 PROVISIONS CONTAINED "THE ADMINIST RATION PURSUANT TO TH N Master's or ESTATES ACT, 1913." 前井 1. Name of the deceased Juorge Inderick Richardson 2. Birthplace and Nationality of the deceased ne e. G.ngla Father ames. It door lde est neutas 3. Names and addresses of the Parents of the deceased et Richardson (deceased) Mother ... aut. Rewcastle. algas 4. Age of the deceased months. 5. Occupation in life of the deceased, or, if a woman, of her husband 1 20 Rale 6. Ordinary place of residence of the deceased, {... or, if a woman, of her husband Port Elizabe 7. Married or unmarried, widower or widow } (a) Name of surviving spouse (if any) and whether married in community of property or not maria an a'n (b) Name or names and approximate date of death of predeceased spouse or spouses 8. The day of the decease : on Widnes day 20th march ... 192.9 20 R House Elizabe Town or Place 9. Where the person died Part Elizabeth District ... ajor) LCR 10. Names of children of deceased and whether majors or minors in) and & John Busking A ldren born of the date of nust be written children, and ad, then give e brothers and Frid no children, a dead, then gi the brothers a maa £ kly Ric y the children l and give the c Names must be be be H birth of each mini-auterent marriages, and birth of each minor. Nan out in full. If there are the names and addresses of sisters of deceased separately State 12. Has the deceased left any immovable property ?..... 14. Has the deceased left a will ?... Dated at --the.....day of 19: (Signature) at Deat (State in what capacity and whether at the time at or near the place of death.) This notice must be filled up and signed by the nearest relative or connection of the deceased who shall at the time be at or near the place of death, or, in the absence of such near relative or connection, by the person who at or immediately after the death shall have the chief charge of the house in, or the place on, which the death occurred, and must be sent either to the Master, or, if the death occurred in a district wherein a sent of provincial government is not situate, the magistrate of the district, in duplicate, within fourteen days of the death. 4121-9/6/19-30,000 5.

1989 I, the Undersigned, do hereby certify that the above Marriage was contracted by the Partics thereto on the Elever to day of who have signed their Names as Witnesses, under and by virtue of the Marriage Act, 1860. Dated at Willyaki , this // Annual Annual Contractor of the Marriage Act, 1860. A1890. No. August Surge Frederick Widowst black of Hates 46 your 5 Bacher Spans When Married. 1917 Maria Selama addoc The Day *** ************************ , this UNE day of Chequel 1917 1807 . Name. Warden MARRIAGE REGISTER. Condition. Occupation or Calling. Witnesses to the Marriage. south filling, a while ? Age. Port Elizabet Residence. OLUSSANG Resident Magistrate. Consent.-By whom given, by Judge's Order. horn Jundary G (G. 248.)

ols. 1.	2:	ço	4. 5.	p	7.	æ	9.	10
NAME and SURNAME.	RELATION to Head of Family, or Position in the Institution.	CONDITION as to Marriage.	AGE Last Birthday.	PROFESSION or 0	OCCUPATION.		WHERE HORN. 128	If (1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Bland (3) Lunatie (4) Imberlie feeble-
	State whether Head, or Wife, Son, Daughter, or or ther Relative, Vistor, Gnest, Boarder, Officer Servant, &c.	Write either "Married," "Widower," "Widower," "Widower," "Bringte,"	In the case of an Infant un- der One Yenr, state the age in Months, writing "Linder 1 Month,"	State the Occupation, if any, of each person (whether man, woman, or child). For those engaged in any trade or industry, state the particular branch, and also the material worked or dealt in.	 Write opposite the name of each person sugged in any trade or industry. (1) " Empired" (that is employing persons other than domsets evenues, a (2) " Worker" (that is, a weather for an enclosure). 	Jo #	State the Birthplace of each person (1) If in England or Wales, the County and Town or Paria. (2) If in Scotland or Ireland, the name (3) If in a Britch Colony or Depend- ency, the name of the Colony or Dependence.	Write the precise Infirmity, if any, opposite the nume of the Person; and if the Infirmity dates from childhood.
Write first the Name of the Chick Resident Officer, followed by the Names of the Wite, Children, and other Relatives, the names of any Visitors, Heaviers, and Servants ; then the names of other Officers of the Institution, followed by the names of the Special Innutses—such as Guests, Paupers, Patients, &c.	and give the designation of Innutes.	Names of all Persons except Young Children.	"1 Months," de. "2 Months," de. Males. Females.	ed up.	worker for an employer): or "Own Account" that is, neither Employer nor working for Employer, but working on own ac- count).	at home, the words "At Home."	(4) If in a Poreign Country, the name of the Country, and whether the person be a "british Subjet," or a "Naturational British Subjet," or a "Pareign Subjet," specifying nation- ality, such as "Preveal, Greman, Acc.	add " <i>from childhood.</i> " Do not uso such a general term as "Afflicted" or "Infirm."
John Dirkly	stead	married	56 . 1	Haster I Headschoolmack	• • •	•	Cancashine Manches	
Sarah Ellen Birthy	wife	manuel	. 57	alatron			1	1
John bay Buikby	don	Lingle	25 . *	Schoolingslin	•	•	~ 1	
Mary Jane Buildy	daught	lingle	21 21	behovemotica				/
Lucy Eleanor Duikby	daughter	ingle	- 20	Schoolmiones.				/
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ech 1	Offices	Single	. 45	Schorth		0		
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Martha Rigby	Servent	lingle	1. 28	daundry allandant-	-		*	
Mary Bolico	Servant	lingia.	. 42	Stoudemand			nd Willouhall	N
Mary Ellen Jones	derrant	Single	. 97	master's Seriant				State of the second
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1901 census: Swinton Poor Law Schools. Page 1 of 30 pages, 25 names per page.

82 6501-16/9/13-10,000. M.S.C. 1. UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA. DEATH NOTICE. PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN "THE ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES ACT, 1913." 1. Name of the deceased Martha annie Richardson born Birkley) 2. Birthplace and Nationality of the deceased ... Barnhury. Ingland . English Father.... Both deceased 3. Names and addresses of the Parents of the deceased Motheryears.....months. 5. Occupation in life of the deceased, or, if a woman, of her husband Fournam of Works P.W.D. 7. Married or unmarried, widower or widow George Frederic chardson (a) Name of surviving spouse (if any) and whether married in community of property or not not manued in com munity (b) Name or names and approximate date of death of predeceased spouse or spouses (c) Place of last marriage. Blocomfontion O.F.S. 8. The day of the decease : on. 2.8.2 may 19.13 House Roy al Informany Town or Place manchester Engle 9. Where the person died District Geoffrey Frederick Rich ardson (11 19mon) 10. Names of children of deceased and whether majors or minors John Brikely Pichardson (2 min) ho previous marriag ely the children born of , and give the date of r. Names must be written here are no children, and here he dead, then give hereses of the brothers and Geoffing born 11-October 1902 nd town 22 - December 1910 If there are n parents be o addresses of t used. the separately the the marriages, and the cach minor. In this are or both par-ple names and ad-verse of decease different birth of e out in fi either or the name sisters of 11. Has the deceased left any movable property?...... Dated at. Jok proventor, 191.3 (Signature) of the JUR. Fichard Los Thusband Not near at death (State in what capacity and whether at the time at or near the place of death.) This notice must be filled up and signed by the nearest relative or connection of the deceased who shall at the time be at or near the place of death. or, in the absence of such near relative or connection, by the person who at or immediately after the death shall have the chief charge of the house in, or the place on, which the death occurred, and must be sent either to the Master, or, if the death occurred in a district wherein a seat of provincial government is not situate, the magistrate of the district, in duplicate, within fourteen days of the death.