

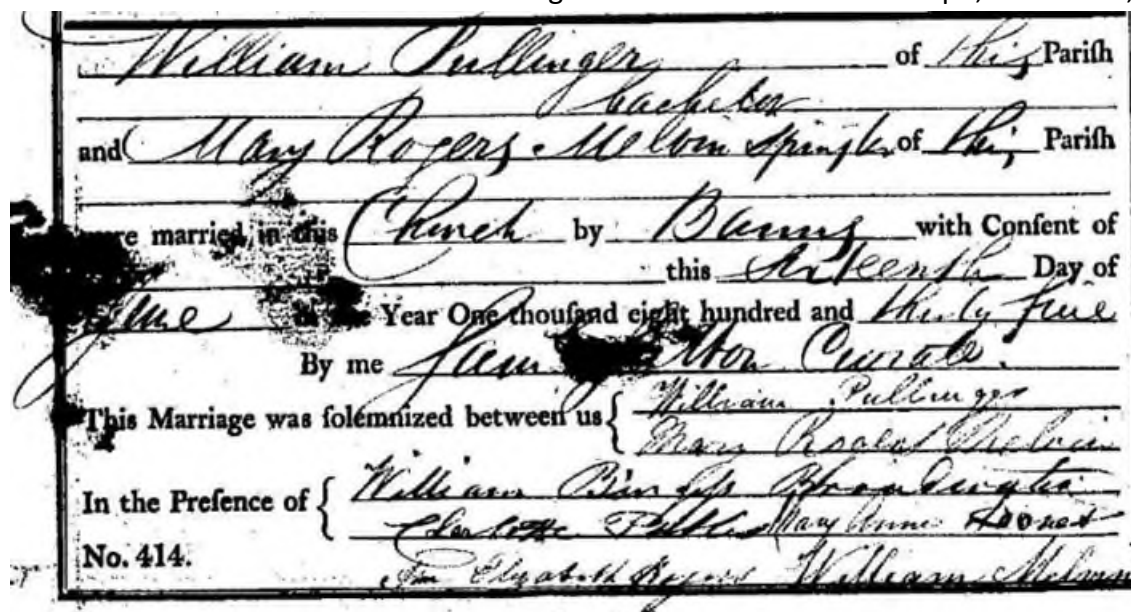
## William George Pullinger, 6004, Lincelles

Researched by Marcia Watson

Born	~1810-1, Painswick, Gloucestershire
Parents	Thomas Pullinger and
Parent's marriage	
Siblings	
Wife 1	Mary Rogers Melvin
Marriage 1	16 June 1835, Northfleet, Kent
Children	Helen (~1838), Selina (~1840)
Wife 2	Frances Margery Hazeon
Marriage 2	31 July 1852, Old Church, Saint Pancras, London

William said he was born in Painswick, Gloucestershire, on the 1851 census. It is unclear whether his second name of George was adopted later or his given name was William George.

The first record found of him is his marriage on 16 June 1835 at St Botolph, Northfleet, Kent.



Mary Rogers Melvin was the daughter of William and Mary Melvin, baptised on 20 January 1813 in Bermondsey; her father was a coal merchant.<sup>1</sup>

William joined the Union Bank of London as a cashier in April 1839 when the Bank opened. He had previously held a similar situation in the banking-house of Sir Claude Scott and Co.<sup>2</sup>

On the 1841 census, living at Albany Street, St Pancras, were two families:

William Pullinger, 25, clerk; Mary, 25; Helen, 3; Selina, 1. None were born in the county. Sir G Williams, Bart., 80; Charlotte Williams, 20; Henry Williams, 15; and a male servant.

No birth records for the girls or other children of William and Mary Pullinger have been found, nor has any further information on the girls.

<sup>1</sup> Medway Archives, P270/1/19

<sup>2</sup> Sir Claude Scott and Co. first appear in the list of bankers in the London Directory for 1825. They commenced business at Holies Street, Cavendish Square, and in the following year they took the premises at No. 1, Cavendish Square.

Directories confirm the 1841 census findings.

1840 Robson London Directory: Wm Pullinger, 73 Albany Street, Regents Park

1843 Post Office Directory: William Pullinger Esq, 73 Albany Street, Regents Park

1845 Post Office Directory: William George Pullinger, Esq, 3 Ehrenberg-terrace, Mornington road, Regents Park

1850 Post Office Directory: William G Pullinger, Esq, 9 Mornington Road, Regent's Park

Mary Rogers Pullenger died on 13 September 1849 at 9 Mornington Road, Regent's Park, aged 37. The certificate says she was the wife of William Pullenger, Bank Clerk; and died of Acute Epilepsy of 8 days duration. Present at death was Maria Fletcher of 42 Whittlebury Street, Euston Square, St Pancras.

Superintendent Registrar's District <u>St Pancras</u>									
Registrar's District <u>The Regent's Park</u>									
18 <u>49</u> . DEATHS in the District of <u>The Regent's Park</u> in the County of <u>Middlesex</u>									
No.	When Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
474	Thirteenth September 1849 Mornington Road, Regent's Park	Mary Rogers Pullinger	Female	37	Wife of William Pullinger Bank Clerk	Acute Epilepsy 8 days Certified	Maria Fletcher present at the death 42 Whittlebury Street Euston Square St Pancras	Thirteenth September 1849	Charles Hy Spang Registrar

The 1851 census for 44 Amphyll Square, St Pancras, records:

James Davis, 58, surgeon and apothecary, his wife, two sons who were dentists, a daughter, and two servants.

Visiting them was William Pullinger, 41, a widower, banker's clerk, and he was born in Painswick, Gloucestershire.

The following year, on 31 July 1852, at St Pancras Church, St Pancras, he married by licence: William George Pullinger, full age (41), widower, and Gentleman residing in St Pancras, his father, Thomas Pullinger is dead.

Frances Margery Hazeon, full age (38), spinster, resides in St Pancras, her father Peter Hazeon in a banker.

Both signed the register, and the witnesses were Peter Hazeon and Eliza Hazeon, father and sister of the bride. William and his new wife continued to live in the area close to Regents Park.

After about 16 years of faithful service at the Union Bank, he was promoted to chief cashier in 1855. The 1859 London Gazette shows "Union Bank of London, Persons of whom the Company or Partnership" :<sup>3</sup>

Pullinger, William George Pullinger, William George, & Frances Margery Pullinger, his wife	}	30, Amphyll-square, Hampstead-road	Gentleman
		30, Amphyll-square, Hampstead-road	Gentleman

<sup>3</sup> The London Gazette, 26 February 1859, p875; Post Office Directory, 1856 and 1859, show William at the same address.

At the Central Criminal Court, on 7 May 1860,<sup>4</sup> William made no attempt to defend or conceal his misdeeds, refused legal assistance, and was resolved to submit to his fate.<sup>5</sup>

William George Pullinger (48) was indicted for stealing on 25 April, £3000, the property of Peter Northall Laurie and another, his masters; also, on 12 April, £350, the property of his said masters; to both of which he Pleaded Guilty.

Mr Scrimgeour, the manager of the Union Bank of London, stated that the prisoner's salary as the chief cashier had been £500 a year and had been raised to £600 three or four months ago; that he had been twenty-one years in the employment of the Bank, and that his defalcations, which commenced about January 1855, amounted altogether to £263,000.

The court case was extensively covered in the newspapers, even in Australia.<sup>6</sup> The following are two accounts:

Pullinger's duty was very simple and consisted merely of carrying money from the Union Bank to the Bank of England, there to be placed in the account of the establishment with which he was connected. The amounts of money paid in repeatedly had far exceeded the amount withdrawn that an aggregate balance in favour of the Union Bank had accrued of £569,000. For the first time in the five years which Pullinger acted as chief cashier, the directors inquired of the Bank of England what was the amount of their balance, when, to their surprise, they learned that it was £263,000 short of the sum which, in their easy confidence, they had assumed it to be.

In the face of this fact, it is somewhat too much to ask the proprietors to believe that every "necessary precaution" had been taken by the directors in this matter. The frauds, extending over several years, were concealed from the knowledge of the directors by the simple expedient of forged passbook, in which entries of the correct sums were made by Pullinger, aided by one or more accomplices, while the sums actually paid in were entered in the passbook which the cashier kept in his own possession.

Pullinger had been in the employment of the Bank since its commencement; his attendance was unremitting, his industry and talents conspicuous; his expenditure appeared consistent with his position and salary, and his domestic habits were believed to be correct and creditable; and so, deceived by these outward appearances.

The principal losses sustained by Pullinger were, it is understood, at about the close of the Crimean War, and his transactions were for the most part in Consols, Lombardo-Venetian Railway shares, and Turkish and Mexican Bonds. His speculations were conducted on a grand scale, and on one occasion as much as £25,000 was paid as differences the account day. A firm connected with the Stock Exchange, which failed last summer, had, it is reported, claim against him of £30,000 on one settling; he was unable to abstract so large a sum at one time, and in consequence the firm failed. They have since paid sufficient amount to render themselves eligible for re-admission into the Stock Exchange.

The committee of the Stock Exchange are still engaged in their inquiries as to the conduct of some of its members, who, in their dealings with Pullinger, have violated the rule which expressly

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<sup>4</sup> Old Bailey Proceedings Online ([www.oldbaileyonline.org](http://www.oldbaileyonline.org), version 8.0, 08 December 2020), May 1860, trial of WILLIAM GEORGE PULLINGER (48) (t18600507-466).

<sup>5</sup> The Annual Register, or, A View of the History and Politics, 1861, p53-4

<sup>6</sup> <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/13042868>

directs that no transactions should be carried on with clerks in banking establishments, or others holding confidential situations in such establishments.

The frauds appear to have been found out quite by accident. Pullinger was away during the after part of the day at a funeral, and an elderly clerk, who had been in the Bank for many years, at a comparatively small salary, and had been passed over not being particularly bright, or perhaps because he had not great interest in the bank parlour, found that there was a bill of £350 missing, which had been handed over the chief cashier in the morning. In the absence of his immediate chief he told the manager of his dilemma.

An inquiry was set on foot, and the whole truth was soon brought to light. It would appear that at the time the frauds were discovered, Pullinger had already nearly run his course. A short time previously he had given a bill of sale upon his household furniture, and when arrested the whole of the money in his possession was a few pence, and none was found in the search which was made in his house. Who the other guilty parties are, both within and out of the Bank, remains to be seen. Another curious question has arisen; and that is, what are the chances of Pullinger being convicted? There are not a few who contend that if he only keeps his own counsel it will be difficult find him legally guilty is alleged that Pullinger was a shareholder in the Bank; that he had the power of drawing checks upon the Bank of England to the full amount of the deposit there; and that therefore he stands in the light of a partner, and is not amenable to the statute under which he is now being prosecuted.<sup>7</sup>

On Tuesday William George Pullinger was placed at the bar of the Central Criminal Court, London, to receive sentence upon the indictment to which he last week pleaded guilty in connection with his frauds on the Union Bank. The prisoner said that before sentence was pronounced he wished to inform the Court that as soon as the directors of the Bank said a fraud had been committed, he acknowledged himself to be the culprit, and gave up the keys, and he had signed all necessary documents to make restitution as far as possible. If it had not been for the bad faith of a broker with whom he had dealings last year, he should have been able to make complete restoration. He had pleaded guilty opposition to the wishes of his friends; he had promised to do so, and he had kept his word. It had gone forth to the world that he had made a purse for his wife, but from the first his wife had entreated him to give up every shilling and every security, and he had done so. If the learned Judge thought these circumstances gave him the slightest claim to mercy being shown him, he trusting that they might have some weight in influencing his lordships decision. Baron Channel, in passing sentence, said that at the time the defalcation commenced the prisoner was in receipt of a good salary. He had been found guilty on two indictments, and for the first be should sentence him to penal servitude for fourteen years, and for the second to penal servitude for six years, the last sentence to commence at the expiration of the last. The prisoner, who bowed respectfully to the Bench, was then removed.<sup>8</sup>

The Prison Registers record William George Pullinger, 48, married, can read and write well, clerk, was received at Millbank Prison from Newgate Prison on 7 June 1860. He was transferred to Pentonville Prison on 6 July 1860. This register says William was good in Millbank, he was Church

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<sup>7</sup> Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, 03 May 1860, p4

<sup>8</sup> Wigton Advertiser, 19 May 1860, p2

of England, well behaved, and a 1<sup>st</sup> class prisoner. His wife, Mrs Pullinger, lived at Upper Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent.

After six months at Pentonville, William was moved to Chatham Prison on 10 January 1861. The Chatham Register notes he was 5'9", with dark brown hair, fresh complexion, light hazel eyes, and stoutish. He boarded *Lincelles* on 13 September 1861.<sup>9</sup>

The surgeon's journal of the voyage, mentions William.  
13 December 1861. A prisoner named Wm Pullinger was found to be suffering from "monomania" and deep mental distress. He was under the impression that a man Willhelm in the hospital was going to inflict injury upon him in consequence I have had him removed into the Military Hospital under observation.

[The other prisoner was Auguste Wilhelm who was convicted of performing an abortion on a female who died. Auguste, a chemist and unaccredited surgeon, had been treating the female with ergot or rye to induce an abortion.]

6 January. At 8 pm last evening departed this life Wm Pullinger from Softening of the Brain. At 10 minutes past 5 o'clock committed the body of Pullinger to the deep.

Died 5 January 1862, William Pullinger, 54, monomania.

His death was noted in an English newspaper:

The convict Pullinger, of Bank fraud notoriety, died on his passage out to the Swan River convict settlement. He had previously attempted to jump overboard in a fit of insanity. So ends his career of "hasting to be rich."<sup>10</sup>

#### **His second wife.**

Frances Margery/Margary Pullinger died 29 May 1865, aged 51, at Guy's Hospital, London. She was buried at St James, St Pancras, Camden on 3 June 1865.

Frances, late of 5 Alma-terrace, New Cross, Kent did not leave a will, and letters of administration were granted to her mother Frances Hazeon, of Maidstone, widow, mother and only next of kin of the said deceased. Estate was valued at under £450.

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<sup>9</sup> TNA, HO24/8; PCOM2/68; HO24/17; HO8/149, PCOM2/2

<sup>10</sup> Bury and Norwich Post - Tuesday 16 September 1862, p3