

## Morris Reece/Rees, 6419, Norwood

Researched by Marcia Watson

Baptism	Abt 1839, Spitalfields, London
Parents	Barnet Rees (~1799 -1882) married Sarah Isaacs (1804-1887)
Parent's marriage	27 February 1825, Great Synagogue, London
Siblings	Hymen Barnet(1826), Isaac (1828), Rosey (1829), Benjamin (1831), Amelia (1835), Lawrence (1840), Michael (1843), Henry (1845), Sophia (1849)
Wife 1	Rose Crosswell [Crowson, Crosslam, Crossman, Cosgrove, Castrove, Caswell]
Marriage 1	1 August 1881, Barrack St, Bethnal Green, London
Wife 2	Sarah Ann Hickmore née Chapman
Marriage 2	26 June 1897, Brighton Registry Office, Sussex
Children	Mary Elizabeth (b.1878-9) Barnet (1883-1945) Hyman (1886-1890) Annie (1887-1889)

Moses or Morris Reece was born in Spitalfields. His parents, Barnet Rees and Sarah Isaacs, were Jewish and were born in the Netherlands.

In 1841, Barnet Rees, 42, a traveller, his wife Sarah, 37, and children Hymen, Isaac, Rose, Benjamin, Amelia, Morris, and Lawrence were living in Bells Lane, Christchurch, Tower Hamlets. They lived in the same house as Solomon Solomon, a general dealer, and his family.

By 1851, they had moved to 2 Catherine Wheel Square, Spitalfields: Brient Reese, 52, general dealer, born in Holland; his wife Sarah, wife, 47, general dealer, born in Holland; and children Benjamin, 18, marine dealer; Amelia, 15; Moses, 12; Lawrence, 10; Michael, 8; Henry, 4; Sophia, 1, were all "at home".<sup>1</sup>

The first record found of Moses being in trouble was when he appeared at the Quarter Sessions in Clerkenwell on 24 April 1854, charged with larceny with John Lee; they both received three months imprisonment.<sup>2</sup>

Now known as Morris, he was back in Court at the Old Bailey on 15 August 1859, and the newspapers give a detailed account of the crime.

*Frightful Outrage Police Constable.*

*Morris Reece and another young man, formerly employed by a marine store dealer named Hart in Dock Street, Whitechapel, were charged with stealing from an unknown gentleman and with a most atrocious assault upon Police-constable Bone. The injured officer, who was brought from his home in a cab, gave his testimony in a very feeble tone and manifestly while suffering acute agony. He was accommodated with a chair, his right arm in a sling, and his greatcoat, hung near him, exhibited an irregular tear down the left sleeve.*

*He said: Between three and four o'clock on the afternoon of Saturday last, I was on duty Whitechapel and observed from one side of a hay wagon the prisoner in company with another man near George-yard. Knowing both of them, and the prisoner in particular, having been three*

---

<sup>1</sup> HO107/1524/638, p45

<sup>2</sup> HO 27/ 108, p277

*times convicted—twice from this Court, I watched and distinctly observed him abstract a handkerchief from a gentleman’s pocket. An omnibus passing as I was about to catch him in the act prevented me, but I ran down George-yard after him, at the same time calling Constable Pearce to follow me. A load of straw halfway down the yard brought the prisoner to a full stop, and I went up to him.*

*He asked, “What do you want with me?”*

*I answered. “You ought to know; for what you have just done.”*

*He then said, “The other one has got it, not me”, and I told him I should take him into custody. He instantly replied, “If you do, I will have your \_\_\_ life.”*

*I put my left hand on his neckerchief, his right hand being next to me. Pearce came up and took hold of him. Prisoner got his right hand into his jacket pocket, and on withdrawing it, I saw this hook in his hand at that moment, and he made a blow at my bowels with it. The blow was given around my left arm, and I felt a slight cut on it. The hook penetrated the overcoat, undercoat, shirt, and flannel. I put my foot behind the prisoner and tripped him up. He lay on his back, fighting desperately with the hook, and made a lunge, exclaiming, “I’ll tear your \_\_\_ entrails out.” I avoided that by stepping quickly backward and then, going at him again, endeavoured to grasp his wrists, but he struck at my right hand, and one of the hooks entered at the nail of the thumb. Prisoner finding this pulled, and the thumb was torn to the very point I tried to get my staff, and was obliged release my hold of him for that purpose. He twisted away from the other constable and ran off. I followed with my brother officer, and found him in the custody of a third officer in Osborne Street; when I went up to him, he made a blow with the hook at my throat, and then I struck him with my staff on the head. I remember nothing more until experiencing excessive pain consequent upon an operation being performed. I have lost about two quarts of blood. The arm is useless at present, and the service of my thumb cannot be restored.*

*At the station subsequently saw the prisoner, who said, “This only flea bite; I wish it had been a knife, and I would have ripped you up. Should you get over this I’ll have your life”.*

*Prisoner: What sort of handkerchief was it I took from the gentleman’s pocket?*

*Bone: A red one, and I believe that you “passed” it.*

Morris was remanded and sent for trial. The hook in question had two barbed points, are used packers.<sup>3</sup>

At the Old Bailey, he was indicted on two charges:

Feloniously wounding John Bone, with intent to do him some grievous bodily harm, having been before convicted; and for stealing a handkerchief of a man unknown from his person.

He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to penal servitude for life.<sup>4</sup>

Morris Reece, 22, single, reads, Jewish, rag sorter, was received at Millbank Prison from Newgate Prison on 13 September 1859 and transferred to Pentonville Prison on 1 October 1859. He had two previous convictions.<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> Kentish Mercury - Saturday 30 July 1859, p3

<sup>4</sup> Old Bailey Proceedings Online (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 8.0, 08 January 2023), August 1859, trial of MORRIS REECE (22) (t18590815-745).

Old Bailey Proceedings Online (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 8.0, 08 January 2023), August 1859, trial of MORRIS REECE (t18590815-746).

<sup>5</sup> PCOM2/042

At Pentonville Prison, Morris was described as 5'2", with hazel eyes, dark brown hair, fair complexion, stoutish, had a scar on his forehead and S.H.F on his left arm. His mother, Sarah Reece, lived at 34 Tender Street, Spitalfields. The Court recommended that his sentence "be fully carried out". He was transferred to Portsmouth Prison on 13 July 1860 and was classified as 3rd class - the worst category.<sup>6</sup>

At Portsmouth, the register says his behaviour at Newgate and Millbank Prisons was good, but at Pentonville, it was bad. The register records his previous convictions at Clerkenwell:  
Convicted in April 1854 - 3 months.  
Convicted in November 1858 - 6 months in the house of correction. [No record found]

On 26 November 1860, Morris was sent back to Millbank Prison and was to be placed in separate confinement in penal class.<sup>7</sup> The 1861 census for Millbank Prison records him as M.R., prisoner, unmarried, 25, rag sorter, born Spitalfields.

Almost a year later, he was sent to Chatham Prison in October 1861 and boarded the *Norwood* on 1 March 1862 for the voyage to Western Australia.<sup>8</sup>

On arrival in Fremantle on 9 June 1862, his description was:  
6419. Morris Reece, 23, 5'2", light brown hair, light hazel eyes, round face, sallow complexion, stout, S.A.F on left arm, a scar on his forehead, rag dealer and single.<sup>9</sup> His possession included a book, a leather belt and two photographs.

Morris was not happy when sent to Mount Eliza Depot, and in August 1862, he assaulted another prisoner, and then on 4 September, he absconded.

*An Absconder:-Morris Peece (sic), a probation prisoner, was charged with having absconded from the Mount Eliza Depot. The prisoner pleaded Guilty but stated that he did not intend to make his escape; his only reason for leaving the depot was to get removed from the station, as the men there were constantly annoying him about his religion. His Worship, having commented upon the evidence adduced, as well as on the defence set up by the prisoner, sentenced him to 3 years imprisonment with hard labour. The prisoner immediately replied in an excited manner. "you can put three more on if you like; I've got life already, and that can't do me any harm".<sup>10</sup>*

Back at Fremantle Prison, he was placed in irons until 5 November. Five days later, he was placed on Bread and Water (B&W) for three weeks for having ropes concealed in his cell. Morris rounded out 1862 by being disobedient and receiving three days B&W on 22 December.

His behaviour in 1863 was no better. He clocked up 57 days of B&W for being disrespectful, insolent and using abusive and disgusting language, and he forfeited four dinners. He was treated for Ophthalmia at the end of the year.

1864 saw him punished for smoking in the Division, filthy and untidy cell, having prohibited items in his possession, making a false claim against an officer, three times refusing to work, and disobedience and insolence – a total of 21 days of B&W. He was working as a carpenter. In July, a

---

<sup>6</sup> PCOM2/068

<sup>7</sup> PCOM2/214

<sup>8</sup> PCOM2/2; HO8/151

<sup>9</sup> SROWA Acc 128/1-32

<sup>10</sup> The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 19 September 1862, p3

petition by Morris, probably for remittance of his sentence, would not be forwarded to England because of his bad behaviour.

In 1865 he was no better. Twelve more days on B&W for refusing to work, insolence, being disrespectful in Chapel, insolent to Chaplain, and he lost his tab for a month for talking in Chapel. Morris was sent to Champion Bay in June. Then in November, he received 14 days on B&W for idleness, being insolent, refusing to work and walking away with his blanket, for which he had to pay. In December, he received one month of hard labour for disobeying orders.

In January 1866, he returned to Fremantle for treatment for Ophthalmia, a problem he had suffered from intermittently for several years. During the year, he spent time at North Fremantle, Northam, and Toodyay Depots. By August, he had spent 30 days on B&W, lost his tab for 14 days and received one month of hard labour, all for the same offences as in previous years. In November, he received six months of hard labour at the Convict Establishment for gross insubordination and six assaulting constable Lally.

Morris was no better behaved in 1867, starting with 21 days B&W for insubordination. During the year he received another 35 days B&W for various offences. 1868 was the same, with 26 days on B&W, for a variety of offences, including causing noise and confusion on parade and having matches and hinges in his possession for the purpose of trafficking. On 11 December, at 6:40 am, he was to receive 50 lashes for violently assaulting and biting Principal Warder Reddaway on 9 December.

1869 saw irreverent conduct in Chapel, damaging his new boots and refusing work assigned to him. After April, he wasn't reported for any offences. Good behaviour gets a reward, and Morris was discharged to Ticket of Leave on 26 February 1870.

He was employed cutting wood and shingle splitting in the Canning area. It was not long before he appeared in Court:

12 March 1870, loitering about Perth in idleness, ordered out of Perth at once.

21 April 1870, he was loitering about town between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> and received three months in prison for a breach of rules. He was released on 23 July 1870.

He was sent to Bunbury in October 1870, where he worked as a labourer or sawyer for several employers. However, he spent considerable time on public works and was reported twice:

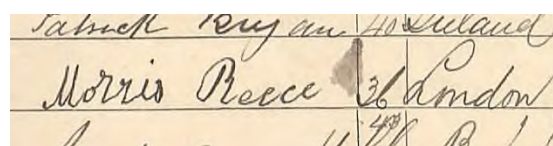
12 November 1870 at Bunbury, refusing to work, three days B&W.

06 January 1871 at Bunbury, being in a public house while on a pass, three days in prison.

He received his Conditional Pardon on 11 December 1871 and his behaviour improved as he has not been found committing any offences.<sup>11</sup> At some stage, he made his way to Geraldton.

The *Amyone* left Geraldton on 23 January 1876, shipping 120 horses to Calcutta. Morris was one of eight grooms employed on the voyage for £1 each. They were discharged at Calcutta because of

dysentery.<sup>12</sup> Unfortunately, the shipper did not pay the groom's return passage. There are articles in the Indian newspapers complaining about the number of grooms discharged on arrival in India.



A snippet of a handwritten document, likely a shipping manifest or passenger list. It features three lines of cursive handwriting. The first line reads 'Samuel Ryan' followed by some illegible text. The second line reads 'Morris Peerce' followed by '36 London'. The third line is partially visible and appears to contain '11/11/76' and other numbers.

<sup>11</sup> SROWA, General Register for Nos 4375-4534, 1017, 6383-6458 (R24-R25)

Most became vagrants, forced to beg if they could not be admitted to an Alm's House. Some were fortunate to obtain employment or were able to leave as crew on other ships.

Morris managed to leave Calcutta as a sailor, and his story appeared in local and English newspapers in March 1878.<sup>13</sup> They give varying accounts of his journey. He went from India to New York and served on board an American man-of-war for about 18 months before landing in Liverpool in January 1878. On his way back to London, he ran out of money and was destitute. He handed himself in to the authorities in February. At his trial at Manchester, he pleaded guilty to being unlawfully at large. Two of his brothers were in Court and said they would supply him with means to go to America or find him respectable employment if the Court had the power to release Morris. The Judge, while sympathetic, said he did not have this power and sentenced Morris to five years of penal servitude. The Judge said they should petition the Home Secretary to diminish the term if they could show that he had been behaving well in Australia and had done no harm except getting away from a very disagreeable place.



Image from findmypast.co.uk

The Pentonville register records: Morris Reece, 42, sailor, read and write imperfectly, committed 18 February 1878, on the 20 January 1878, for feloniously and unlawfully was at large without any lawful cause. Tried on 21 March 1878 at Manchester, he pleaded guilty to being at large within the United Kingdom before the expiration of his sentence of penal servitude and received 5 years of penal servitude.<sup>14</sup> Morris was discharged from Pentonville Prison, on 15 June 1878, to Hoxton St, London.<sup>15</sup>

His parents lived on Fashion Street, Spitalfields. On the 1881 census, Morris lived less than 1km away at 21 Batty Street, Whitechapel:

Morris Reece, 50, married, labourer, born in Spitalfields

Rose Reece, 29, wife, born in Durham

Elizabeth Reece, 2, daughter, born Spitalfields. [also called Mary or Mary Elizabeth]

Morris and Rose married on 1 August 1881 at Parish Church of St Barnabas, Bethnal Green:

---

<sup>12</sup> Crew lists. 387 CRE/39. Liverpool Record Office, Liverpool, England. Arrived 1 March 1876 at Calcutta.

<sup>13</sup> Evening Mail, 27 March 1878, p7; Lancaster Gazette, 27 March 1878, p4; The Herald (Fremantle, WA : 1867 - 1886), 25 May 1878, p1

<sup>14</sup> HO140/42; HO27/180, p61

<sup>15</sup> PCOM2/99, Pentonville Prison, Middlesex: Photograph Albums of Prisoners, 14 Jun 1878.

Morris Rees, 43, bachelor, labourer, 7 Burnside Street, Grove Street, and said his father was Bernard Rees, a sergeant in the army.

Rose Crosswell, 30, spinster, 7 Burnside Street, Grove Street, father James Crosswell, labourer.

Morris signed the register, and Rose made her mark. The witnesses were Hiram Mills, a lather, and his wife Eliza Anne Mills.

Burnside Street ran off Grove Street, next to the railway line, and is now part of Mile End Park.

1881. Marriage solemnized at <i>St. James Church</i> in the Parish of <i>St. James</i> in the County of <i>West</i>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
82	<i>August 1st 1881</i>	<i>Morris Rees</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>labourer</i>	<i>7 Burnside Street Grove Street</i>	<i>Bernard Rees</i>	<i>Sergeant in Army</i>
	<i>18th</i>	<i>Rose Crosswell</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>Spinster</i>		<i>7 Burnside Street Grove Street</i>	<i>James Crosswell</i>	<i>labourer</i>
Married in the <i>St. James Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by _____ or after _____ by MR.						<i>William Crosswell</i> <i>of St. James Church</i>		
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<i>Morris Rees</i> <i>Rose Crosswell</i>		in the Presence of us,		<i>Hiram Mills</i> <i>Eliza Anne Mills</i>		

Morris and Rose had three children – Barnet in 1883, Hyman in 1886 and Annie in 1887.

No birth has been found for Mary Elizabeth. Workhouse records indicate she was born in 1878 and is possibly not the daughter of Morris.

## Rose

Rose gave birth to Hyman on 7 October 1886 at 15 Jane Street, St George in the East. The birth was registered by Morris on 15 November, and he said Rose's former name was Crosslam, and he was a market ticket collector. Jane Street ran from Commercial Road to Lower Chapman Street, and only a small section, with no houses, now exists. Mulberry School for Girls is built on the site.

Almost eight weeks later, on 29 November 1886, Elizabeth Rees, aged 8, from 15 Jane Street, Hebrew, was destitute and was placed in the Whitechapel Union Infirmary. The Infirmary was less than a km from Jane Street. The following day, her father removed her from the institution. Her mother was locked up.

On 26 October 1887, Rose gave birth to Annie at 15 Jane Street, and Rose said her maiden name was Crosswell. Morris was still a ticket collector.

Four months later, something happened in the family<sup>16</sup>; Rose and the children were admitted to the Raine Street workhouse on the afternoon of 2 March 1888 because they were destitute.

The workhouse register records:

Rose Rees (b.1848), Catholic, no occupation; Mary (b.1878), Catholic; Barnet (b.1883); Hyman (b.1886); and Annie (b.1887). The family lived at 15 Jane Street. They left the following day after breakfast, at Rose's request. Later records say all the children are Catholic.

On 31 March 1888, Rose and the children were admitted to the workhouse again for destitution; Rose was charring and lived at 15 Jane Street. On 4 April, Mary Rees was sent to Portobello School and returned on 24 April. Barnet was sent to Leyton School on 4 April, but there

<sup>16</sup> Morris was a labourer in 1889, so it appears he had lost his job at the markets. He has not been found in the Criminal Registers, however, he could have been convicted summarily.

is no record of him returning. According to the records, Rose and the four children left the workhouse on 25 April, although Barnet appears to be still at Leyton School.

Three days later, on 28 April, Rose, Mary, Hyman and Annie were admitted to the workhouse again. The register says Rose is married, was charring, and from 28 Cannon Street. The merry-go-round of shifting the children began again.

On 2 May, Mary was sent to Portobello School again. Barnet joined his mother in the workhouse on 17 May 1888 and was sent back to Leyton School on 24 May. Mary returned to the workhouse on 18 June, and Barnet returned the following day. Rose and her four children left the workhouse on 19 June 1888 at her request.

The next day, 20 June 1888, Rose Reece and her children were admitted to the Christchurch Workhouse, St Saviour's Union, Surrey, because they were destitute. Their ages were listed as Rose 40, Mary 10, Barnet 5, Hyman 1(*sic*) and Annie 6 months. The family left the next day.

Two days later, on 23 June, they were admitted to the Raine Street Workhouse because they were destitute. Rose was charring, and they lived at 16 James Street (possibly 15 Jane Street). Barnet was sick and was sent to the Infirmary on 24 June. Mary was sent to Portobello School on 27 June.

After nine days in the Infirmary, Barnet rejoined his mother on 3 July, but the reunion was short-lived as he was sent to Leyton School on 4 July. He rejoined his mother on 2 November 1888. After four months in the workhouse, Rose requested to leave, taking her four children with her.

Six days later, on 14 November, they were all back in the workhouse, destitute. Rose, deserted by Morris, was charring and still lived at 15 Jane Street. Mary was sent on 16 November to Portobello School, returning on 18 December; Barnet and Hyman were sent to Leyton School on 19 November and returned on 17 December. Rose and the four children left the workhouse on 18 December 1888.<sup>17</sup>

Deserted by their parents, Barnet, Hyman and Annie were admitted to the workhouse four days later, on 22 December. Barnet and Annie were sent to the Infirmary the following day, where Annie Rees died on 5 February 1889, aged 16 months, from pertussis. She was buried in Plaistow parish.

On 10 January 1889, Barnet's health had improved enough for him to be sent back to Leyton School. Hyman was in the Infirmary on 11 January until 29 January. He joined his brother at Leyton School on 18 July 1889.

No further trace has been found of Rose after the children were deserted in December 1888.

### **Morris**

Morris Rees, 54, was admitted on 30 September 1889 to Raine Street workhouse, a destitute labourer from 41 Commercial Street. Two days later, he was sent to the Infirmary, remaining until 29 October and then returned to the workhouse. The record says two children were in the workhouse; possibly, this means Leyton School. On 10 November, Morris was sent back to the

---

<sup>17</sup> Ancestry.com. Raine Street Workhouse: Admission and Discharge Register, 1888; Christ Church Workhouse Register, 1879-1892, from London Metropolitan Archives

Infirmary and presumably discharged from the workhouse or Infirmary. On 16 December 1889, the boys returned to the workhouse and were discharged the following day to their father.

Hyman Reece died on 10 January 1890, aged 3, from diarrhea, at the Whitechapel Union Infirmary. He was buried at West Ham Jewish Cemetery on 13 January 1890. Possibly, around this time, Barnet was placed in the Barnardo Children's Home.

At the end of the year, Maurice Rees, aged 60, from 6 Widegate Street, single, labourer, was admitted on 12 December 1890 to the City of London Union workhouse. He had pains in his back and was diagnosed with bronchitis, and he was discharged on 13 December 1890 at his request.

On the 1891 Census at Victoria Home, Commercial St, Whitechapel:

Morris Reece, lodger, 58, general labourer, employed, born in London. The Victoria Homes, founded in the late 1880s by a group of philanthropic businessmen, were lodging houses for working men in Whitechapel. The Victoria Homes were more austere than Rowton Houses and the London County Council's model lodging houses, and the lodgers were required to be respectable and sober. The first Victoria Home opened in 1887 at 39 & 41 Commercial Street.<sup>18</sup>



Morris was admitted to the Whitechapel Infirmary on 1 October 1896. He was recorded as:

1427. Morris Rees, 64, from 41 Commercial Street, single, hawker, Hebrew, stricture, and discharged 13 October 1896.

He married again on 26 June 1897, at the Brighton Registry Office:

Morris Rees, 54, widower, a general labourer, residing at 34 Nelson Street, Brighton, his father was John Rees (deceased), a commercial traveller.

Sarah Ann Hickmore, 51, widow, residing at 64 Whichelo Place, Brighton, her father was William Chapman (deceased), a bricklayer.

1897. Marriage solemnized at the Register Office in the District of Brighton in the County of Brighton								
Column No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
156	Twenty sixth June 1897	Morris Rees	54 years	Widower	General Laborer	34 Nelson Street Brighton	John Rees (deceased)	Commercial Traveller
		Sarah Ann Hickmore	51 years	Widow		64 Whichelo Place Brighton	William Chapman (deceased)	Bricklayer
Married in the Register Office according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Anglican Church by Certificate in presence of me.								
This Marriage was solemnized between us, Morris Rees			in the Presence of us, Grant A. Priestlow			Horace Burfield Registrar		
Sarah A. Hickmore			Sarah Ann Gibbs			B. Burfield, Sup. Reg.		

Sarah Ann Chapman married Benjamin David Hickmore, a sweep, in 1871 and had ten children, eight of whom died shortly after birth, and Benjamin died at the beginning of 1896.

<sup>18</sup> [https://wiki.casebook.org/victoria\\_working\\_men%27s\\_home.html](https://wiki.casebook.org/victoria_working_men%27s_home.html)



On the 1901 census living at 24 Nelson Street (now John Street), Brighton, Sussex, were: Morris Rees, 59, general worker, born Spitalfields; Sarah Rees, 55, wife, born Brighton; step-sons Frank David Hickmore, 20, railway engine cleaner, and Henry Amos Hickmore, 16, grocer's porter, and one boarder.<sup>19</sup>

By 1903, Morris was back in London. On 30 June 1903, he was admitted from the workhouse to the Infirmary with vertigo. He said he was a hawker, widower, Hebrew, and was discharged to Rowton House on 1 July 1903. Rowton Houses was a chain of large hostels built in London, England, by the Victorian philanthropist Lord Rowton to provide decent accommodation for working men in place of the squalid lodging houses of the time.<sup>20</sup>

Then in 1905, Morris Rees, 68, single, hawker, Hebrew, was admitted on 11 November to the Infirmary from the workhouse with influenza and discharged on 15 November 1905 to 54 Fieldgate Street. Three weeks later, Morris, who now said he was married, was admitted from the workhouse on 5 December 1905 with bronchitis and discharged on 8 December 1905. The record says his wife Sarah lived at 24 Nelson Street, Brighton.

His "marital status" changed again in 1908 - Morris Rees, 69, from 55 Fieldgate Street, a lodging house, widower, hawker, bronchitis, Hebrew, admitted 24 February 1908, discharged 13 April 1908. Morris continued to live in the lodging house at 55 Fieldgate Street, one of the Rowton Houses.<sup>21</sup> He had bronchitis that required admission to the Infirmary on 18 June 1908 and was discharged on 7 July 1908; admitted on 18 July 1908 and discharged on 31 July 1908. He stated his age as 70.

A short time later, Morris appears to have been sent to the Brighton workhouse in Sussex. Maurice Rees, 74, a general labourer of Brighton, died of senile decay on 13 November 1908.

1908 DEATHS in the Sub-District of EAST BRIGHTON in the County of BRIGH.								
Columns:—								
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	
No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When registered.
254	Thirteenth November 1908 Workhouse W.D.	Maurice Rees	Male	74 Years	General laborer Brighton W.D.	Senile decay. Certified by Douglas M. Ross M.D.	Valentine Barden Master Workhouse Brighton	Fourth December 1908

On the 1911 census, his wife Sarah returned to the surname Hickmore; however, she died as Sarah A. Rees in 1914 in Brighton, aged 68.

## Children

### Mary Elizabeth Rees/Reece

No trace of Mary in England has been found after she left the workhouse on 18 December 1888 with her mother and siblings. The younger children were admitted back to the workhouse on 22 December, having been deserted. At some stage, she went to Canada.

<sup>19</sup> RG13/922/98, p38

<sup>20</sup> Ancestry.com. Raine Street Workhouse: Admission and Discharge Register, 1889-1890; Workhouses and Institutions, 1896-1908, from London Metropolitan Archives; <https://www.workhouses.org.uk/Rowton/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/survey-of-london/2018/09/28/tower-house-former-rowton-house-81-fieldgate-street-whitechapel/>

Mary Elizabeth Rees, 26, single, Presbyterian, married Alfred Hastings, 34, widower, silversmith, Anglican, on 13 October 1906 in Toronto, by license. Witnesses were Martha Middleton and S.G Williams. The parents were Charles Hastings and Mary Etwell; and Morris Rees and Rose Caswell.<sup>22</sup>

1911 Census: Living in Terra Cotta, Ontario:

Alfred Hastings, said he was born July 1872, labourer, born Ontario, manager of brickworks.

Marie Hastings, said she was born May **1882** and came to Canada in **1897** from England.

On the 1921 census, Shore Road, Mimico, Ontario

Alfred Hastings, 48, was born Ontario, a Brasseur, Presbyterian, lived in a rented single brick house with six rooms.

Elizabeth Hastings, 40, was born in England, arrived in **1890**, Presbyterian, and could read and write.

In 1940, the couple lived on Lake Shore Road, York, and Alfred was a rubber worker. He appears to have died between 1940 and 1945. The 1945 Electoral Roll for Orangeville has a Mrs Alfred Hastings, widow, that may be her.

No death for Mary Elizabeth Hastings has been found, or children born to the couple.

### **Barnet Rees/Reece**

Barnet Rees, 11 years old, from Dr Barnardo's Home in London, departed on 2 April 1896 from Liverpool per *Scotsman* for Portland, Canada, arriving on 10 April. Two hundred ten boys from Barnardo's went to Toronto, Canada, and 190 boys and girls from other institutions went to Belleville, Ontario.<sup>23</sup>

He was indentured in 1896 to:

Plowman, at New Lowell, Ontario, Canada; and Caswell, at Rosthern, Northwest Territories, Canada.

On the 1921 census, Barney Rease, 38, single, from England, could read and write, was working as a hotel porter in Toronto.<sup>24</sup>

He married on 3 January 1928 in York, Toronto, Ontario:

Barnet Rees, shipper, aged 42, bachelor, Presbyterian, born England, can read and write, lives 3095 Danford Ave, Toronto, his parents were Eliza Cosgrove and Morris Rees.

Frances Whitfield, aged 33, widow, housewife, Anglican, born in England, can read and write, lives 3095 Danford Ave, Toronto; her parents were Mary Anne White and John Jones.<sup>25</sup>

Barnett Rees, aged 59, died at 28 Kelvin Ave, York, Ontario. The death certificate says:

Born on 27 August 1883 at Mile End Town, London.

In Canada for 48 years.

A shipper for Federal Bakery.

---

<sup>22</sup> Alfred Edward Hastings, 33, bachelor, commercial traveler married May Wassam, 38, widow on 17 October 1905 in Toronto. He was one of her lodgers in 1901. May's death has not been found.

<sup>23</sup> Library and Archives Canada, RG 76 C1b

<sup>24</sup> RG 31; Folder 92; Census Place: 92, Toronto West, Ontario; Page 8

<sup>25</sup> Frances married William Thomas Whitfield on 3 March 1917 in Toronto. He was a soldier. Frances said her parents were William J Jones and Emily White.

His parents were Rose Castrove and Morris Rees.

Died on 24 June 1945 of colon cancer of 2 years duration.

Buried on 27 June 1945 at St John's Cemetery, Toronto.

His wife, Frances, was the informant, and her maiden name was Jones.

Frances died in 1982, and no children have been found.