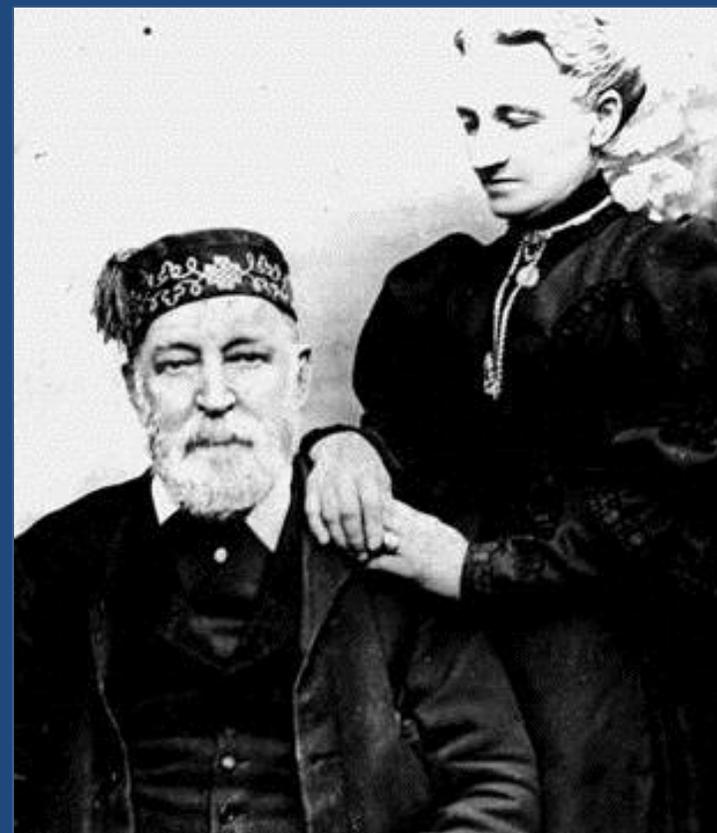


Mark Bromley (1837–1910)

& Mary Parker (1837–1864)

& Elizabeth Scott (1848–1938)



Emily Langridge says in her life story simply that Mark, the younger of Samuel and Amelia's two sons, became a travelling salesman in Gillingham, Kent. This is true as far as it goes but a little delving has pieced together more details of Mark and his life, and particularly of his son Lionel, who remained in contact with Emily during their younger years, although she does not mention him. Recent contact with another of Mark's children has also filled in some gaps and provided a number of photographs.

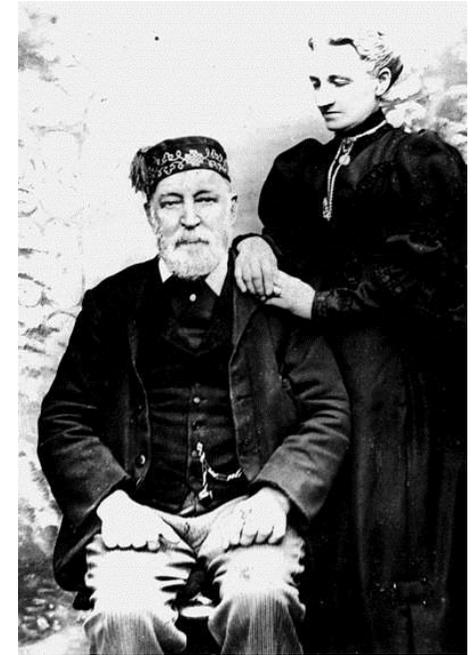
In 1859, at the age of 22, Mark married Mary Ann Parker, daughter of a boot maker, in Maidstone. Mark and Mary had one son, Walter Ward*, who was born in 1860 in Reading but died three months later from 'convulsions'. In the 1861 census Mark and Mary, together with Margaret Parker, Mary's 7-year-old sister, were living in Plumstead, near Greenwich. They must have moved to Rochester not long afterward because tragedy struck again when Mary died of tuberculosis in 1864 at home in the town.

After Mary's death, Mark remained in Rochester and in the 1871 census he appears as a lodger at the home of cabinetmaker William Scott, his wife Elizabeth (née Johnson), and their children George and (Janet) Maud, at 22 King Street. Elizabeth gave birth to another daughter, Elizabeth May, later that year.

This is where things get a little odd. By the time of the 1881 census, Mark and Elizabeth were living as husband and wife in the High Street in Chatham along with Janet and Elizabeth (George is missing from the census) and another daughter called Edith Mary Bromley Scott (b 1877 in Rochester). One would naturally assume that William had died but this may not be so as there is no obvious record of his death in Kent between 1877 and 1881.

There is no marriage certificate for Mark and Elizabeth either. In fact, they did not marry until 1884 and then did so in Chelsea at the local registry office. By then Elizabeth was two months pregnant with Mark Jr. Perhaps the impending birth made them decide to marry, and because they had been living as husband and wife for some time they did so at a registry office. Elizabeth is shown on the marriage certificate as a widow (Mark was definitely a widower) and the two witnesses were George Gurr and Margaret Banks. George was a first cousin, the son of David Gurr who was Amelia Bromley's brother.

Margaret Banks, a widow, was the head of the household that Mark and Elizabeth gave as their address on their marriage certificate: Leete Road, Chelsea (now called Cadogan Gardens). Although Margaret appears to have taken in lodgers as a living (there are several in 1881 and 1871), the link is actually a family one. Margaret married George Banks in 1846 and her father was Richard Johnson. He was the head of a large family from Tunbridge (now called Tonbridge) that included a Margaret and a George whose birth dates fit neatly, suggesting that Margaret was Elizabeth's aunt.



Mark and Elizabeth Bromley. Probably taken just before Mark's death in 1910, the photographer was their youngest son, Lionel.

*Walter, possibly after James Walter family of Marden (see Chapter 2); Ward was Mark's paternal grandmother's maiden name.

Samuel & Amelia		Thomas & unknown	
Mark Bromley Bap: 26 Mar 1837 Cranbrook, Kent Died: 14 Apr 1910 Gillingham, Kent		Mary Ann Parker Born: abt. 1837 Died: 31 Aug 1864 Rochester, Kent	
Marriage: 19 Aug 1859 in Maidstone, Kent			
Children: 1	Sex	Birth	Death
Walter Ward Bromley	M	31 Jul 1860 in Reading, Berks	27 Oct 1860 in Maidstone, Kent

Mark Bromley & Mary Parker. Their short marriage was marred by tragedy.

Elizabeth Scott was born in Rochester in late 1847 and baptized on 16 January 1848. She was some 12 years Mark's junior and she had three further children by him. In 1891 all were living in Watts Street, Chatham, together with Edith, George and Elizabeth Scott; the third daughter, Janet, had married in 1887 and was living with her husband in Gillingham. Whether Elizabeth had further children is not known; strangely, the 1911 census does not show the number of children she had given birth to.

Mark had a number of professions in his lifetime. In 1851 he was a farm servant at Hayland Farm in Smarden (which still exists) but at the time of his first marriage he was a publican. By 1860 Mark had a career in the publishing trade and is referred to as a bookseller on Mary's death certificate three years later. When he was lodging with the Scott family in 1871 he was still a bookseller, but by the time of the 1881 census he was a confectioner in the High Street in Chatham. However, his career in confectionery was short-lived and he went bankrupt at the end of that year.

Three years later in 1884 his marriage certificate shows him to have been a commercial traveller, presumably selling books, a job he did until at least 1888. In the 1891 census his occupation was 'commission financier broker' but in 1901 he was again a commercial traveller. Some time after that he started up a business as a tea merchant and wholesale confectioner in Gillingham and it is that trade which he continued with for the remainder of his life.

The Bankruptcy Act, 1869.
In the County Court of Kent, holden at Rochester.
In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by Mark Bromley, of 189, High-street, Chatham, in the county of Kent, Confectioner and Tea Dealer.
NOTICE is hereby given, that a **First General Meeting** of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the **Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street, in the city of London, on the 19th day of December, 1881, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.**—Dated **this 29th day of November, 1881.**

Mark Bromley's bankruptcy notice.
London Gazette, December 2, 1881.

Samuel & Amelia		George & Mary	
Mark Bromley Bap: 26 Mar 1837 Cranbrook, Kent Died: 14 Apr 1910 Gillingham, Kent		Elizabeth Scott (née Johnson) Bap: 16 Jan 1848 Rochester, Kent Died: 14 Mar 1938 Rainham, Kent	
Marriage: 26 Jan 1884 in Chelsea			
Children: 4	Sex	Birth	Death
Mark Stedman Bromley	M	21 Aug 1885 in Chatham, Kent	28 Feb 1975 in Exmouth, Devon
Margaret Amelia Bromley	F	6 Jun 1886 in Chatham, Kent	5 Nov 1943 in Gillingham, Kent
Lionel John Bromley	M	20 Nov 1888 in Chatham, Kent	25 Feb 1973 in Gillingham, Kent

Mark Bromley & Elizabeth Scott and their children.

MARK'S STEPCHILDREN

George Hamilton Scott (b 1867)

George followed his father's career and became a cabinet maker. He never married and died in 1930 aged 63.

Janet Maud Hamilton Scott (b 1869)

Janet married Thomas Hope and had 12 children, a remarkable 10 of whom were still living at the time of the 1911 census.

Elizabeth May Scott (b 1871)

Elizabeth Jr was apparently known as Pippy due to the fact that she had some difficulty with orange pips as a child. She never married and lived with her brother George for a while and later ran a teashop in Bromley. Elizabeth then she lived with one of her nieces, Thelma Court, helping to look after her children while Thelma's husband, Roland, was serving overseas. Elizabeth was by all accounts a lovely person who Thelma's children remember with great fondness. She died in 1961 just a few months short of her 90th birthday.

Edith Mary Bromley Scott (b 1877)

Whether Edith was William Scott's child is not certain but it does seem odd to have given Edith the lodger's surname as a middle name. When Edith married Henry Court, a stationary engine driver, in 1900 she did so in a registry office and her father's name is not stated. In those days registry office weddings were very uncommon and the absence of her father's name is puzzling.



Henry and Edith Court and their family. The children, left to right are Henry William (sitting on his father's knee), Thelma, Doris, and Jack. It would have been taken around 1920.

On the marriage certificate Edith was referred to by the name on her birth certificate: Edith Mary Bromley Scott. However, her maiden name varied on her children's birth certificates: 'Edith Mary Bromley Court, formerly Scott' on one, and 'Edith Mary Court, formerly Bromley' on another. It clearly mattered more in those days that it would do now and will no doubt remain as mystery.

In 1901 Edith and Henry were living in Gillingham but they moved to Chatham the following year where all of their four children were born: Edith Thelma (b 1902), Mark John (b 1903), Doris (b 1909) and Henry William (b 1917).

Edith Thelma Court married Roland Harry Parry Tonkings in 1932; they emigrated to New Zealand in 1951 where their children still live. Mark John Court (known as Jack) married a widow Hilda Bennett and they had one daughter who herself had four children and a number of grandchildren. Doris Court married Thomas Slegg and had one child who is still alive. Henry William Court married Caroline (Kitty) Johnson and they had two sons, one still living in the UK and the other in Australia.

Edith died in 1938 aged 60, and Henry in 1949.

MARK'S CHILDREN

Mark Stedman (b 1885)

In the 1901 census Mark is shown to be a tailor's cutter. He went on to set up business as a tailor and outfitter in the High Street in Gillingham and is listed in the local directory in 1923 as *Bromley's Tailor Shop*. By 1926 he had gone into partnership with someone called Cumming, and in a later edition of the directory there appeared an advertisement (see right). The business ran until at least 1959 as it is listed in the telephone director for that year. Mark never married but retired to the West Country to live with an old scouting friend. He died in Exeter in 1975, an event registered by a neighbour from across the road.

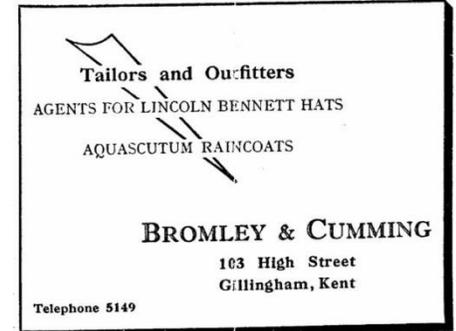
Margaret Amelia (b 1886)

Margaret married Charles Mitchell, a sail maker at the Chatham dockyards, in 1914. They had five children: Betty (b 1916), Ronald (b 1917), Reginald (b 1921), Margaret (b 1922), and Dennis (b 1925). Margaret died in 1943 of tuberculosis, while Charles lived until 1954. At least some of their children must have married and had children themselves, but the surname is too common to make them easy to trace.

Lionel John (Jack) (b 1888)

Lionel took over his father's business in Gillingham. According to the Brattle family, Lionel's two delivery vans were a common sight in the towns in this part of Kent. The business was listed in Kelly's Directory until 1969. Lionel was married in 1922, at the age of 33, to Annie Rawlings aged 19. They had only one child, a daughter called Jean who married John Peters; both were executors of Lionel's will when he died in 1973. Annie lived until 1985, moving to the West Midland to live with Jean. John died in 1991 and Jean in 1996; both were living in Worcester at the time. They had one son and two daughters, one of whom still lives in the area.

Judging from the Brattle family's account, Mark and Olive's families were in contact, helped by their geographical locations, but what of their brother, John Thomas Bromley who, by the turn of the century, was living some distance away in Dorking?



Bromley & Cumming. An advertisement for Mark Bromley Jr's tailoring business, from the local trade directory.



Mark Stedman Bromley, taken from a group photograph from when he was a scout leader. He looks to be in his late teens.



30 October 1909

Dear little Doris

Do you know these two little girls? How are you all getting on? Sorry to say Dad is not so well again, has kept to his bed now for about 5 days. Our Boy and Girl Scouts are going strong, there are quite a lot of them now and they look very nice in their dresses.

Lionel



4 September 1911

We had our town carnival a fortnight ago. What do you think of your cousin as a gentleman in [Level?] Dress? I won two prizes, one for costume, one for collections. I collected 16/- in my box from 2.30 till 6.30, we shall not have such a balance [?] for charities this year as the rain made a lot of difference. Prizes were given out at our 'Grand' Theatre and there was quite a crowded house. Made one feel quite nervous walking up to the stage

Jack



19 September 1912

Dear Emily

I hope my mother and brother have not been a trouble to you, I think they would behave themselves alright, I do hope they did. I am going to Boxhill tomorrow morning (Friday) was going to-night but could not manage it. Hope you are all well, am looking forward to your Mum coming up. What do you think of this photo? It was wet again, think of trying a summer carnival again. Love to all.

Jack

Postcards from Lionel (Jack) Bromley to Doris and Emily Bromley, the daughters of his cousin, John Samuel Bromley

Left: 'Mothers Darlings: Nellie and Queenie'. Jack and Margaret seem to have adopted these nicknames, as they also appear on other photographs. Jack calls himself Lionel and refers to his father being unwell; Mark died six months later.

Centre: Jack Bromley in military mood.

Right: Jack in religious mood.

The families were not as estranged as one might think given that there exist few memories of Mark (and none of Olive) in Emily's account of the Bromley family history. However, because Mark's children were born much later than those of his elder brother, John, they were the same age as John's grandchildren. The contact between the families seems to have been between Lionel and the children of his cousin, John Samuel Bromley.

This is seen in the three photographs on the previous page. These were sent by Lionel as postcards to John Samuel's children Doris and Emily, although Emily does not mention Lionel (or Jack, as he started calling himself) in her story. Jack was a keen photographer and appears to have taken it up for a living for a time because the photograph of his father and mother has his name printed on the mount. Jack and his sister, Margaret, were obviously fond of dressing up for the local carnival, and in all three photographs they are in costume. The messages indicate that not only were there visits between the two families, but also that Jack visited Box Hill, presumably to see his other cousin, Stephen Bromley, who was station master there at the time.

Mark died in 1910, at 83 Richmond Road, Gillingham, leaving his estate to his wife, but control of his business to Lionel provided that he paid his mother the sum of £1 a week from the profits of the business. In the 1911 census, Elizabeth was living 41 Barnsole Road in Gillingham with Margaret and Lionel, although the census return was completed by her eldest son, Mark, whose address is given as 183 High Street, Ramsgate. Elizabeth lived for a further 28 years, dying in Rainham at the age of 89.



Elizabeth Bromley in 1935 (seated), three years before her death, with Edith Mary Bromley Court (left), Thelma Tonkings and her baby William, who accurately dates the photograph.