

# My Thomas Family History

Author

Roger Thomas



*John Thomas – in about 1908, age about 48*

This document is about the life of:

**John Thomas (1860-1938)**

John Thomas was the father of  
**Hubert David Thomas (1889-1979)**

who was the father of  
**Gordon David Thomas (1921-1985)**

who was the father of  
**Roger Nicholas Hedley Thomas (1950-)**

And Peter David Brandon Thomas and Michael Gordon Howard Thomas

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## John Thomas (1860-1938)

### Early Life

John Thomas was the son of Walter Thomas and Maria Louiza van den Boom, and the father of Hubert David Thomas.

John was born on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1860 in Poulton cum Seacombe, Wallasey, Cheshire.

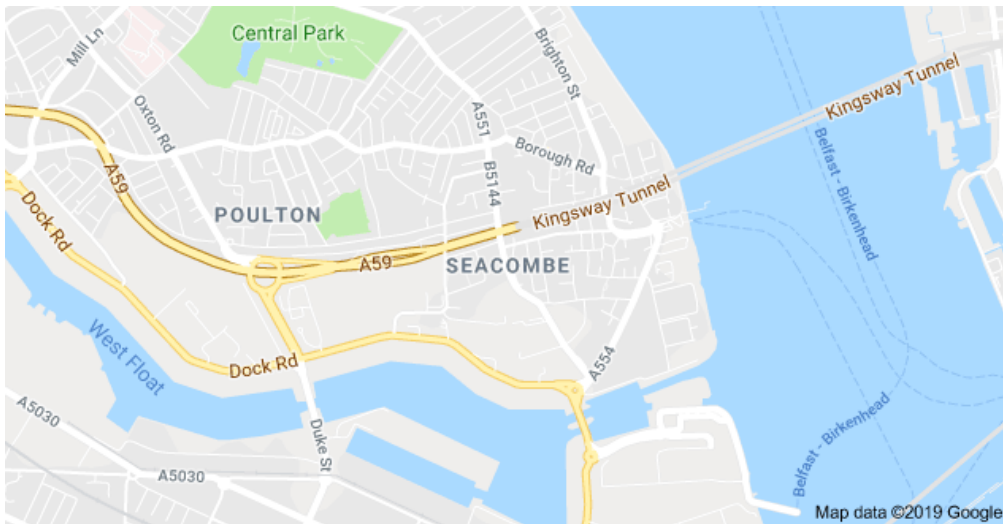
[See Birth Certificate in Appendix.](#)

He had 3 siblings from his father's first marriage, and was the eldest of 12 siblings from his father's second marriage to Maria Louiza van den Boom.



*John Thomas – in his early life*

Poulton cum Seacombe is an area in the district of Wallasey, on the Wirral, in Cheshire. It is now connected to Liverpool by the Mersey Tunnel.



## Education

I don't have any information about John's education.

## Employment History

John was a Copper Refiner (Journeyman) and later Foreman. He would have been called Chief Metallurgist or Technical Manager today. His father and grandfather were both Copper Refiners.

Whilst in Jarrow, he is thought to have been working at the Rio Tinto Company Limited, Copper Smelters, Grange Metal Works, Western Road, where the manager was James A. McFarlane. Both he and his brother Walter were working there at the time.

The manager, James A. McFarlane, had written a testimonial for Walter to take to any new prospective employer (see below).

This is the copy of testimonial  
from Mac 17<sup>th</sup> Jan'y 96

The bearer of this note,  
Walter Thomas, has been employed  
at these works for about 6 years.  
During that time he has been  
engaged chiefly as foreman over the  
Smelting and Roasting Departments,  
latterly he has been in charge of the  
Refinery, during all the time he  
has been here he has carried out  
the work entrusted to him to the  
satisfaction of his employers

For the Rio Tinto Coy Ltd  
Grange Metal works  
Signed Jas A McFarlane  
Resident Manager.

*Copy of a testimonial from Jas A. McFarlane (Manager of the Grange Metal Works, Rio Tinto Co.)  
for Walter Thomas*

Later, he moved to Birmingham to take charge of the copper refinery at the Allen Everitt & Sons Works, Bridge Street Smethwick. Allen Everitt became part of ICI Metals Division in 1929, then Yorkshire Imperial Metals (YIM) in 1957, and then Imperial Metal Industries (IMI) in 1962.

On the 1921 Census, his occupation was Copper Refiner and was working for John Wilkes, Sons and Mapplebeck Ltd, Copper Refiner, which was in Cape Copper Works, Birmingham.

## Family Life

John married Annie Elizabeth Ambrose on 15 June 1885 in the Parish Church, Huyton, Prescot, near St Helens, Liverpool, Lancashire.

The witnesses at the marriage were Joseph Ambrose (Annie's brother), Sarah Ann Mayor (Annie's niece) and Margaret Elizabeth Mayor (Annie's niece). John was 25 years old and Annie was 27 years old when they married. [See \*Marriage Certificate in Appendix\*](#).

They had 5 children:

- Walter James, born on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1887 at 90, Oxford Street, St Helens, Lancashire.  
Walter married Keitha Garner. and they moved to 13, Edgbaston Road, Cape Hill, Smethwick (now numbered 12A - presumably because of superstition attaching itself to no. 13!). They subsequently moved to 240, Rotton Park Road, sharing the house with his brother, David, and his family.  
Walter worked as a draughtsman in the design shop at the Austin Motor Works, Longbridge, being involved in the designing of the new gearbox and clutch in the 1930s. Walter died in 1955, at which time he was living at 53, Binswood Avenue, Leamington.
- Olive Margaret, born on 29<sup>th</sup> January 1889 at 85, Oxford Street, St Helens, Lancashire  
Olive lived with her husband, Val Watkins at 241, Rotton Park Road.  
They had one son, Clive who married Nona Fisher and they in turn had a son, Nigel.
- Hubert David, born on 30 December 1889 at 6, Suffolk Street, Jarrow, South Shields and Durham  
Hubert David, is the direct line of my ancestry.
- Elizabeth, born on 26 January 1891 at 100, Albert Road, Jarrow, South Shields and Durham
- Annie, born on 26 January 1891 at 100, Albert Road, Jarrow, South Shields and Durham

Elizabeth and Annie were twin sisters, but sadly they both died immediately after being born.



*Annie Elizabeth Ambrose*

In 1861, he was living at Oak Dale in Poulton cum Seacombe with: his family, including his sisters from his father's first marriage and the father of his first wife.



Oak Dale, Seacombe map

In 1871, he was living at 1, Bibbys Works, West Sutton, St Helens, Lancashire, with his family.

In 1881, he was living at 85 Oxford Street, St Helens, Lancashire, with his family.



*Map of St Helens, Lancashire, showing Prescot and Knowsley*

In 1885, when he married, he was living at Huyton, Prescot, near St Helens, Lancashire.

In 1887, he was living at 90, Oxford Street, St Helens, Lancashire when his son Walter James was born.

In 1889, he was living at 85, Oxford Street, St Helens, Lancashire when his daughter Olive Margaret was born. This was the house of his father, Walter. It is thought that this may be because they were about to move to Jarrow later in the year.

In 1889, later in the year, he had moved to 6, Suffolk Street, Jarrow, South Shields and Durham, when his son Hubert David was born.



*6 Suffolk Street, Jarrow, South Shields and Durham - (taken in 2009)*



Jarrow is a town in north-east England, located on the River Tyne. Historically part of County Durham, in 1974 it became part of the metropolitan county of Tyne and Wear.

In 1891, he had moved to 100, Albert Road, Jarrow, South Shields and Durham, where he was living with his children and his brother Walter. Walter was a Copper Refiner, Chemical Metallurgist, and Foreman, and both he and Walter were working at the Rio Tinto Company Limited, Copper Smelters, Grange Metal Works, Western Road (where the manager was James A. McFarlane).



*Walter Thomas (1871-1937)*



*100, Albert Road, Jarrow, South Shields and Durham (taken in 2010)*



Map showing the Tyne and Wear area, which includes Jarrow



Jarrow

Later, he moved to Birmingham to take charge of the copper refinery at the Allen Everitt & Sons Works, Bridge Street Smethwick (now called Yorkshire Imperial Metals).

In 1901, he had moved to 40, Fernley Road, Yardley, Worcestershire (now part of Birmingham) was living with his family and his sister. Today, there is a gap in the terraces between number 44 and 32, and new houses are there instead, possibly due to war bomb damage



*John Thomas – in about 1908, age about 48*



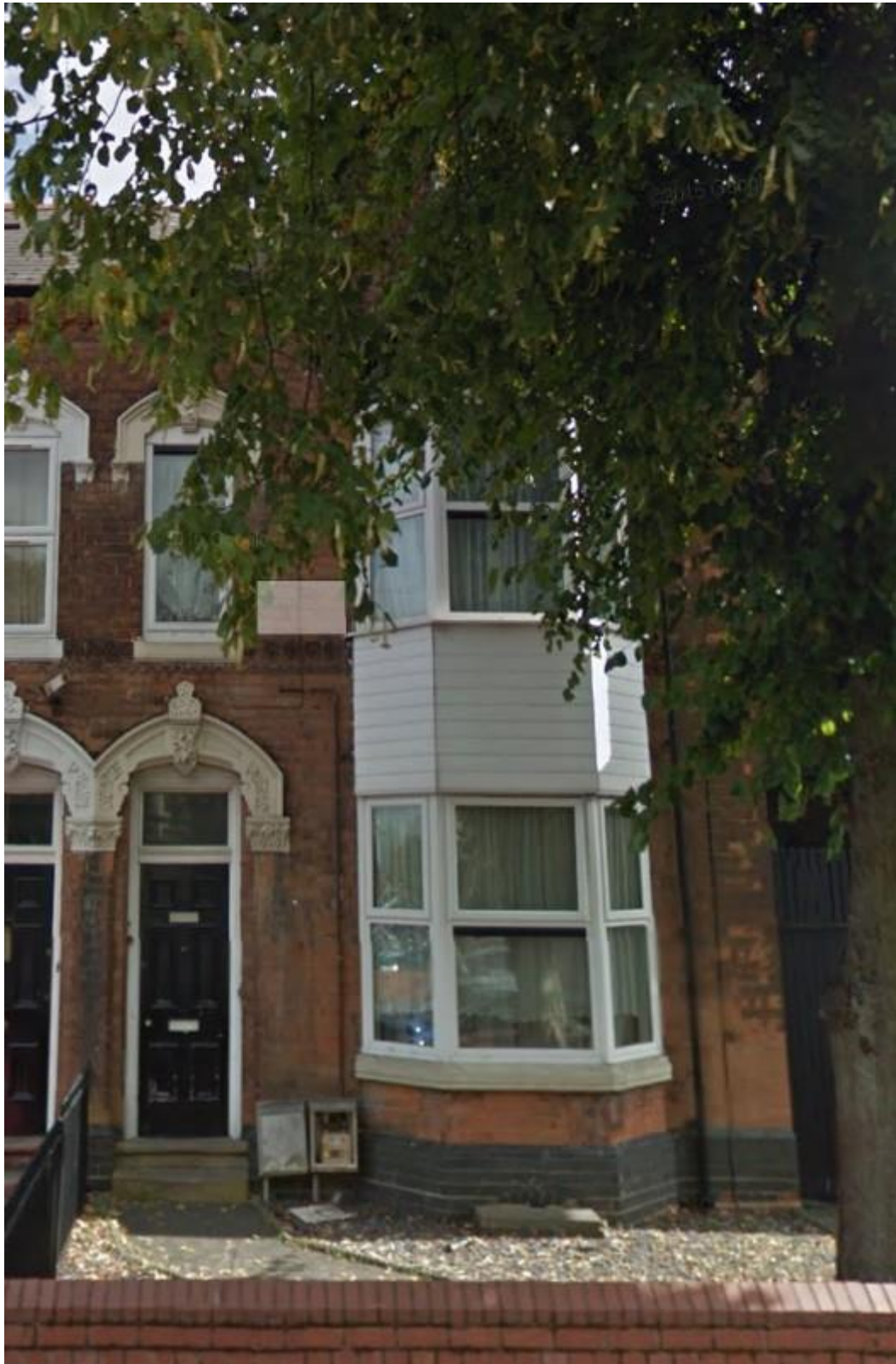
*John Thomas and Annie Elizabeth Ambrose (at the front)  
Their children, Walter, Olive and Hubert David (at the back) - In about 1910*

During 1911 and 1912, he was living at 371, Rotton Park Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.



*371, Rotton Park Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham (taken in 2017)  
Some odd things in the front garden and above the door today!*

From 1916 to 1934, he was living at 241, Rotton Park Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham. Between 1922 and 1930 (from the Electoral Registers) he had Val Watkins and his wife Olive (John's daughter), staying/living with them.



*241 Rotton Park Road, Edgbaston (taken in 2015)*



*John Thomas, Olive Watkins (nee Thomas), Keitha Thomas (nee Garner), Annie Thomas (nee Ambrose)  
(Child unknown)  
Llanfairfechan circa 1926*



*Keitha Thomas (nee Garner), Olive Watkins (nee Thomas), Clive Watkins, John Thomas  
Llanfairfechan circa 1926*



*John  
circa 1929*



*Front - John Thomas, Annie Thomas (nee Ambrose), ???  
 Middle - ???, Olive Watkins (nee Thomas)  
 Back - ???, ???, Keitha Thomas (nee Garner), ??? (boy)  
 circa 1929*



*Front - John Thomas, Annie Thomas (nee Ambrose), ???  
 Middle - ???, Olive Watkins (nee Thomas)  
 Back - ???, ???, Keitha Thomas (nee Garner), ??? (boy)  
 circa 1929*



Later, after his wife died in 1934, he moved to his final home at 56, Fitzroy Avenue, Harborne, Birmingham.



*56 Fitzroy Avenue, Harborne, Birmingham (taken in 2014)*

He died when he was 78 years old, on 18 December 1938 in 56, Fitz Roy Avenue, Harborne. Hubert David Thomas (his son) was the informant of his death. [See \*Death Certificate in Appendix\*](#).

He was buried in 1938 in St Peter's Church, Harborne, Birmingham.



*John Thomas and Annie Elizabeth Thomas (nee Ambrose) graves in St Peter's Church, Harborne, Birmingham.*



*John Thomas and Annie Elizabeth Thomas (nee Ambrose) graves immediately alongside the grave of Hubert David Thomas and Ada Thomas (nee Turnor)*

## **Appendix**


### Documents relating to John Thomas (1860-1938)

- Birth Certificate of John Thomas
- Marriage Certificate of John Thomas and Annie Elizabeth Ambrose
- Birth Certificate of Annie Elizabeth Ambrose
- Death Certificate of Annie Elizabeth Thomas (nee Ambrose)
- Death Certificate of John Thomas

# Appendix

## Birth Certificate of John Thomas

[Printed by authority of the Registrar General.]



**CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF BIRTH**  
**Pursuant to the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953**

**Registration District** *Birkenhead*

**1861** . Birth in the Sub-district of *Wallasey* in the County of *Chester*

Columns—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name, and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description, and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name after registration
358	<i>Seventeenth December 1860 Poolton cum Seacombe</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>Boy</i>	<i>Walter Thomas</i>	<i>Louisa Thomas formerly Bun</i>	<i>Copper Smelter</i>	<i>Walter Thomas Father Poolton cum Seacombe</i>	<i>Fifth January 1861</i>	<i>George Webster</i>	<i>Registrar.</i>

Certified to be a true copy of an entry in a register in my custody.

**CAUTION:**—It is an offence to falsify a certificate or to make or knowingly use a false certificate or a copy of a false certificate intending it to be accepted as genuine, to the prejudice of any person, or to possess a certificate knowing it to be false without lawful authority.

**WARNING:** THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF THE IDENTITY OF THE PERSON PRESENTING IT.

*a. h. James* Superintendent Registrar  
 18<sup>th</sup> November 1997

*John Thomas Birth Certificate in 1860*

# Appendix

## Marriage Certificate



CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number R0067970

1885 Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Huyton in the County of Leicester

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
251	June 15	John Thomas	25	Bachelor	Copper Refiner	Huyton	Walter Thomas	Copper Refiner
		Annie Elizabeth Ambrose	27	Spinster		Huyton	James Ambrose	Miller (Deceased)

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by after banus by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, John Thomas in the Presence of us, Joseph Ambrose Sarah Ann Mayor Margaret Elizabeth Mayor officiating ministers

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a register of Marriages in the Registration District of Prescot  
Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 1997

MXA 262498

This certificate is issued in pursuance of section 65 of the Marriage Act 1949. Sub-section 3 of that section provides that any certified copy of an entry purporting to be sealed or stamped with the seal of the General Register Office shall be received as evidence of the marriage to which it relates without any further or other proof of the entry, and no certified copy purporting to have been given in the said Office shall be of any force or effect unless it is sealed or stamped as aforesaid.

CAUTION.—It is an offence to falsify a certificate or to make or knowingly use a false certificate or a copy of a false certificate intending it to be accepted as genuine to the prejudice of any person, or to possess a certificate knowing it to be false without lawful authority.

WARNING: THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF THE IDENTITY OF THE PERSON PRESENTING IT.

Form A513MX


Form MXA 1M243990 1994 7/97 No. 203881



John Thomas marriage to Annie Elizabeth Ambrose on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1885

**Appendix**  
**Birth Certificate of Annie Elizabeth Ambrose**

[Printed by authority of the Registrar General.]


**CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF BIRTH Pursuant to the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953**

**Registration District** ORMSKIRK

**1858.** Birth in the Sub-district of hathon in the County of Lancaster

Columns:—										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name, and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother.	Occupation of father	Signature, description, and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Nat after
259	Seventh June 1858  Spelmsdale	Ann	Girl	James AMBROSE	Margaret AMBROSE formerly WEBSTER	Miller and Farmer	Margaret Ambrose Mother Spelmsdale	nineteenth June 1858	George Allchin Registrar.	

Certified to be a true copy of an entry in a register in my custody.

**CAUTION:**—It is an offence to falsify a certificate or to make or knowingly use a false certificate or a copy of a false certificate intending it to be accepted as genuine to the prejudice of any person, or to possess a certificate knowing it to be false without lawful authority.

Carol H. Thompson Superintende  
16.1.199

**WARNING: THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF THE IDENTITY OF THE PERSON PRESENTING IT.**

*Annie Elizabeth Ambrose Birth Certificate in 1858*

# Appendix

## Death Certificate of Annie Elizabeth Thomas (nee Ambrose)

[Printed by authority of the Registrar General.]

CERTIFIED COPY of an  
Pursuant to the Births and



ENTRY OF DEATH  
Deaths Registration Act 1953

HCS

Registration District <i>Birmingham</i>									
1934 . Death in the Sub-district of <i>All Saints</i> in the <i>County Borough of Birmingham</i>									
Columns—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description, and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
316	<i>Twentieth April 1934 241 Rotton Park Road U.D.</i>	<i>Annie Elizabeth THOMAS</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>74 years</i>	<i>wife of John THOMAS Copper Refiner Copper Tube works</i>	<i>I(a) Cerebral Haemorrhage No. P.M. Certified by Douglas J. Nichol M.B.</i>	<i>H. D. Thomas Son In attendance 101 Knightlow Road Harborne</i>	<i>Twenty First April 1934</i>	<i>G. A. Graw Regis</i>

Certified to be a true copy of an entry in a register in my custody.

*J. M. J.*

Superintendent Registrar

28. 1. 1998

CAUTION:—It is an offence to falsify a certificate or to make or knowingly use a false certificate or a copy of a false certificate intending it to be accepted as genuine to the prejudice of any person, or to possess a certificate knowing it to be false without lawful authority.

*Annie Elizabeth Thomas (nee Ambrose) Death Certificate in 20<sup>th</sup> April 1934*

# Appendix

## Death Certificate of John Thomas

HA 621191

The Statutory Fee for this Certificate is 2s. 7d.  
If required subsequently to registration, a  
Search Fee is payable in addition.

CERTIFIED COPY of an  
Pursuant to the Births and Deaths



ENTRY OF DEATH.  
Registration Acts, 1836 to 1929

Printed by at

Registration District								
BIRMINGHAM.								
1938. Death in the Sub-district of <u>Edgbaston</u> in the COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRMINGHAM.								
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
32	Eighteenth December 1938 56 Fitz Roy Avenue UD	John Thomas	male	78	Copper refiner at Brass Tub and Copper Tub Manufacturers	1a Haemia 6. Chronic nephritis Myocardial Degeneration Certified by R. Rodger 113	H. D. Thomas Son 101 Knightlow Road Birmingham 17	Nineteenth December 1938

I, W. B. JONES, DEPUTY, Superintendent Registrar of the District of BIRMINGHAM, in the COUNTY BOROUGH of BIRMINGHAM, do hereby certify that this is a true copy of the Entry No. 32 in the Register Book of Deaths No. 14B for the above-named Sub-District, a Register Book is now legally in my custody.

WITNESS MY HAND this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1960.

**CAUTION.**—Any person who (1) falsifies any of the particulars on this Certificate, or (2) uses it as true, knowing it to be falsified, is liable to Prosecution.

*W. B. Jones*  
Deputy Superintendent Registrar

John Thomas death certificate on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1838