

From the baptism register for Alverstoke (St Mary) Thomas Frederick Roach was baptised 11 April 1830, born 26th Feb 1830, abode of family Gosport. He went to sea as an Apprentice 1st April 1844. Married Sarah (nee Wakeman) 1 April 1852 at Littlehampton.

Sarah (also buried in this grave) was born Sarah Wakeman, marriage as above.

Lizzie (also buried in this grave) was baptised 25 December 1853 – this is only a transcript and not the original register. The transcript of the baptism gives the place as Ryde, Hampshire. Lizzie's full name was Mary Elizabeth Roach, she remained single all through her life.

Clara (also buried in this grave) is quite interesting. Baptised Clara Anne Roach at the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Nelson Street, Ryde, age at baptism is given as 11 weeks, family living in Ryde. There is a short article in The Isle of Wight Observer, Saturday January 8th 1881 on page 8, titled 'Ryde School Board' which contains information concerning Miss Clara Roach (our Clara) pupil teacher in the infants department at Bettesworth Road School. Clara remained unmarried through her lifetime, appears on the 1881 and 1891 censuses in Ryde, Isle of Wight. As yet, I have not traced Clara's voyage and time in South Africa (where the memorial inscription on the gravestone highlights that it was in South Africa she died in 1902).

Details kindly contributed by Jeremy Kettlewell