

Mary & Charles Henry Cole

Mary was born in a workhouse in Brighton on 26th August 1879. She was christened Maria and was one of nine children of Italian immigrant parents Antonia and Giovanni Pelino. After the death of Giovanni the family moved to Newport IW. Maria and Antonia were street musicians.

Charles was born in Portsmouth on 19th January 1886 to Diana Hughes and William Stanhope, a pedlar, and was the only son in a family of at least nine children. Three of the girls died in infancy as a result of the poor living conditions and neglect prevalent at that time. Several of the children came to live on the IW and took the name of their Grandmother's then husband Ben Cole, who they always referred to as their Father. Charles, known to all the family as Dubby, was a pedlar and wood seller.

Charles and Mary met when he was a lodger with her and her then husband, William Hall, in Newport. Their first child was born in 1912 in Portsmouth. Five more children were born on the IW, the fifth, Theresa, died in infancy. (seperate headstone)

Charles and Mary later went to live in Ryde where they spent the rest of their lives. They did not marry until 1943 and died within weeks of each other in 1968.

Researched and typed by Jill Williams