

Charles and Amelia



Charles Collins is recorded in the 1871 census as having been born at Wimborne, just across the Hampshire border in Dorset. He may have been, and this may be a clue to the family origins, but inaccurate information was given to the census enumerator for his children, Charles and Fanny (who were recorded as being born in London but were actually born in Salford), and the aging Charles may have been confused about this, too. However, Millie suggests there were Wimborne connections for the Collins family, though she says they lived in the Isle of Wight for generations.

Charles pursued a business career - he is recorded at various times as being a stockbroker or pawnbroker, but most consistently as a gentleman. The 1871 census gives his occupation as 'Interest, etc.'. He is cited in his son Charles Henry's obituary as being a Captain in the Royal Navy, but this cannot be confirmed from the Navy Lists. A Charles Collins, no. 435, was in the 8th Veteran Battalion on 8 October 1813 and was placed on retired full pay on 24 March 1821. Perhaps this was 'our' Charles. At the time of his marriage to **Amelia Mottershead** at Manchester Cathedral on 15 December 1835, he was a stock broker in Edmonton, London. Moss has evidence there was also an earlier marriage.

Amelia was baptised at Holy Trinity, Salford, on 14 March 1809, the daughter of John Mottershead and Ann Robinson, and the second of possibly 8 children. She is recorded in the 1871 census as born at Stockport, some miles south of Manchester. There were several Mottershead families in the area, and Amelia's father John could have been the son of Adam Mottershead and Ann Andrew