

Eva Alice's UK Life:

Eva Alice Grinton was born on 29th February 1880 at 137 Lake Rd, Portsea on Portsea Island, County of Hants. Her birth certificate states her maternal grandmother Amelia Oakley was present at her birth. Her mother was Sarah Ann Oakley who had married William John Grinton, on 17th July 1879 in Portsea Island. William was serving on HMS Alexandra at the time of her birth. Was this a marriage of love or a forced marriage? Was Eva Alice born prematurely? Eva used to celebrate her birthday on 28th February each year and on her 64th she was thrown her 21st birthday!



CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number: COL244973

REGISTRATION DISTRICT	Portsea Island
1880 BIRTH in the Sub-district of Kingston	in the County of Southampton

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 entered after registration
816	Twenty ninth February 1880 137 Lake Road Portsea	Eva Alice Grinton	girl	William John Grinton	Sarah Ann Grinton deceased formerly Oakley	Seaman H.M.S. Alexandra Portsea	Amelia Oakley Present at the Birth 1880 Portsea	Twenty ninth April 1880	William Hatch Registrar	

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 6th day of April 2006

BXCB 630731


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WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

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Sarah Ann Oakley Grinton died on 19th April 1880 of a pelvic abscess and pyaemia a type of sepsis that leads to widespread abscesses of a metastatic nature which she had been suffering from for 1 month and 21 days. She died at her parents house at 39 Toronto Rd Portsea and her brother George who was present at her death and registered it. She was 21 years of age. Refer to the Grinton page and the separate Oakley story for Sarah Ann's family story.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number COL244973

REGISTRATION DISTRICT					Portsea Island				
1880 DEATH in the Sub-district of Kingston					in the County of Southampton				


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
	19 th April 1880 39 Toronto Road Portsea	Sarah Ann Grinton	Female	21 years	Wife of William Grinton a Seaman R. N.	Child Birth 1 month 21 days Pelvic Abscess Pyaemia 39 Toronto Rd Portsea	George Oakley Brother Present at the death 39 Toronto Road Portsea	20 th April 1880	William Hatch Registrar

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 5th day of April 2006

DYA 985464 See note overleaf

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PMS

Eva Alice must have moved to the care of her paternal grandmother Rachael Daines Grinton by the November of that year as his father returned to sea on the Alexandra on 1st November 1880. William had served on the Alexandra up until March 1880 when we assume he took leave.

Why did she not return to the care of her maternal grandparents? This appears to be the last contact with the Oakley's.

Eva Alice by 1881 is living with Rachael and her children at 51 Queens Rd Chatham which is now garden area.



Below: the rest of Queens Rd probably what it looked like in 1881.



The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

99 [Page 9]

Civil Parish (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town or Village or Hamlet of	Urban Sanitary District of	Rural Sanitary District of	Ecological Parish or District of		
St Mary's			Chatham		Chatham		Chatham		
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited (1), or Vacant (2)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Imbecile or Idiot (4) Lunatic
	Swans Road		John W. Ely	Son		16	Apprentice	St Albans, Herts	
			Mary Ann Ely	Daughter		14	Seamstress	St Albans, Herts	
			William Ely	Son		13	Scholar	Luton	
50	Queen's Road	1	James Gosman	Head	M	28	Lab. Gash-pool	Ireland	
			Harvey E.	Wife	M	24	Scholar	St Albans, Herts	
			Charlotte E.	Daughter		11	Scholar	St Albans, Herts	
			Thomas E.	Son		9	Scholar	St Albans, Herts	
			William E.	Son		4	Scholar	St Albans, Herts	
			Bertie E.	Son		4	Scholar	St Albans, Herts	
51	"	1	Rachael Grinton	Head	M	52	Government Annuitant	St Albans, Herts	
			George B. G.	Wife	M	48	Pensioner	Ireland	
			Eva B. G.	Daughter		1	Lab. Sawyer	St Albans, Herts	
			Samuel Batchelor	Head	M	41	Walt. Sinker	St Albans, Herts	
			Rachael E.	Daughter	M	28		Ireland	
			William J. G.	Daughter	M	3		Luton	
			Ella E.	Daughter	M	1		Luton	
			Sarah M. Jones	Daughter	M	26		Ireland	
			Ethel G. E.	Daughter	M	3		Luton	
52	"	1	George Hales	Head	M	24	General Lab.	Bedford	
			Mary Jane E.	Wife	M	24		Chatham	
			George E.	Son	M	3		Chatham	
53	"	1	Thomas Walker	Head	M	57	Lab. Servant	Gillingham	
			Harriet E.	Wife	M	56		Chatham	
54	"	1	Charles Thompson	Head	M	38	Labourer	Chatham	
			Sarah E.	Wife	M	21		Chatham	
5	Total of Houses...	57	Total of Males and Females...			140/157			

NOTE.—Draw the pen through such of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

Eng.—Sheet B.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE						Reference:-
1	2	3	4	5	6	RG11/895.
COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON						

By 1891 Rachael Daines Grinton is a pensioner on government annuity living with her daughter Rachael Spears Grinton Batchelor and her children William John aged 13 and Ella aged 11 and her sister Sarah Jones who is living on her own means but listed as a sister in law and her daughter Ethel aged now 13 years old. Rachael's husband Samuel Batchelor is a mining engineer who worked in South Africa so he was obviously working elsewhere. Refer the Grinton page for more on this couple. So in 1891 when Eva would have been 11 where was she living?

Page 6

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Administrative County of		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										Parliamentary Borough or Division			Ecclesiastical Parish or District		
Civil Parish		Municipal Borough		Municipal Ward		Urban Sanitary District		Town or Village or Hamlet		Rural Sanitary District		Parliamentary Borough or Division			Ecclesiastical Parish or District		
Harwich part of		Harwich		Harwich		Harwich		Harwich		Harwich		Harwich			Harwich		
Col. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
No. of HOUSES	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	Im- proved	Water supply	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birth- day of	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employed	Employed	Employed	WHERE BORN	(1) Dumb and Deaf	(2) Blind	(3) Lame, Imbecile or idiot		
26	6 Maadney Alley	1	X	Mary Ann Litchford	Wife	M	38	Scholar				Essex Harwich					
				Maud	do		28	do				do do					
				John W	do		3	do				do do					
				Albert G	do		3	do				do do					
				Emily J	do		X	do				do do					
27	1 Station Road	1	X	Walter Knott	Head	M	46	Boiler Maker	X			Suffolk Ipswich					
				Louisa	do		25	do				do do					
				Harriet	do		19	Station Assistant	X			do do					
				Albert	do		11	Scholar				Essex Harwich					
				Edward Chaplin	Folkman	Wid	76	Redwood Bookmaker				Suffolk St Bebbings					
				Frederick King	Boarder	Wid	21	Boiler maker	X			do Southwold					
28	2 Station Road	1	X	Samuel H. Marshall	Head	M	46	Boiler Smith	X			Wiltshire Beccles					
				Mary	do		23	do				do Wex					
				William	do		14	Redwood Steamship Engineer	X			do do					
				Clara H	do		17	do				Devonshire Broomfield					
				Mary L	do		14	do				do do					
				Henry J	do		10	Scholar				do do					
				Albert J	do		7	do				do Beccles					
				Charles E	do		5	do				Essex Harwich					
				Scott A	do		9mo	do				do do					
29	3 Station Road	1	X	Alfred Knicht	Head	M	39	Painter & Glazier	X			do do					
				Emma	do		21	do				do Easton Thorpe					
				Charles A	do		9	Scholar				do Harwich					
				James W	do		5	do				do do					
				William Grinton	Boarder	M	35	Mariner	X			Island Antum					
				Eleanor	do		28	do				London					
30	4 Station Road	1	X	Amelia Lucas	Wife	M	39	do				Suffolk Harwich					
				do	do		20	Scholar				do do					
				Ellen	do		9	do				do do					
				Ann	do		5	do				do do					
				Joseph E	do		3	do				do do					
5	Total of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms ...	5	1	Total of Males and Females...				16	15								

NOTE.—Draw the pen through each of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Reference: **RG12/1402**

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By 1891 Elena and William had 4 possibly 5 children as Minnie was born in 1891 so where were they? Where is Eva? There was a story Ed told that she went into a workhouse as a child and was beaten over the head which led to her deafness in her left ear. Was this true?

I found an 1891 census document which suggests that the children were living at 37 Richmond St Sheerness and Eva Alice may well have been in charge whilst William and Elena lived away. Looking at the children's birth records Minnie was in fact born in Sheerness in 1891 as had her sister Rachael Maria E Grinton in 1889. The previous 2 children had been born in Portsea Island. An explanation? On the night of the census Elena may have been visiting her husband in Harwich or they had left Eva Alice to look after the 4 younger children in Sheerness whilst William and Elena boarded in Harwich. Elena is not listed as a visitor in the Harwich census.

Administrative County of <u>West</u>										The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the				Page 20	
Civil Parish of <u>Stappin</u>		Municipal Borough of <u>Minster</u>		Municipal Ward of <u>Stappin</u>		Urban Sanitary District of <u>Minster</u>		Town or Village or Hamlet of <u>Minster</u>		Parliamentary Borough or Division of <u>West</u>		Ecclesiastical Parish or District of <u>Holy Trinity</u>			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and NAME OF HOUSE	HOUSES in the Schedule	Number of Rooms in the House	Number of Cottages in the House	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DIVISION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employed	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lame, Inebriate or Idiot		
128 34	<u>Richmond St</u>	1			<u>Eva M. Grinton</u>	Head	W	77	Scholar			Not known			
					<u>Wm. Jones</u>	Son		77				London, Portsmouth			
					<u>Rachael M.</u>	Daughter		77				West, Sheerness			
129 35	" "	1			<u>Caroline Tucker</u>	Wife	W	77				London, St. Pancras			
					<u>John P.</u>	Son		77				West, Sheerness			
					<u>William Tucker</u>	Son		77				"			
130 33	" "	1			<u>David Garland</u>	Head	W	77	Chiefly in the N.T.V. bodyguard	X		Leighton, Alburgh			
					<u>Anne</u>	Wife	W	77				West, Sheerness			
					<u>Alma A.</u>	Daughter		77				"			
131 31	" "	1			<u>George W. Ellis</u>	Head	W	77	Millwright Labourer, N.T.V. bodyguard	X		West, Sheerness			
					<u>Samuel P.</u>	Son		77				Minster, Stappin			
					<u>George W.</u>	Son		77				Sheerness			
					<u>Marietta P.</u>	Daughter		77				"			
132 29	" "	1			<u>S. C. Blandford</u>	Head	W	77	Storehouseman	X		Isle of Sheppey			
					<u>Wm.</u>	Son		77				Isle of Sheppey			
					<u>Wm.</u>	Son		77				Isle of Sheppey			
133 27	" "	1			<u>Bartholomew Halter</u>	Head	W	77	Labourer in the N.T.V. bodyguard	X		Isle of Sheppey			
					<u>Ada</u>	Wife	W	77				Isle of Sheppey			
					<u>Ella</u>	Daughter		77				Isle of Sheppey			
					<u>Paul</u>	Son		77				Isle of Sheppey			
					<u>Walter</u>	Son		77				Isle of Sheppey			
134 25	" "	1			<u>George Gilbert</u>	Head	W	77	Assistant in the N.T.V. bodyguard	X		West, Sittingbourne			
					<u>Elizabeth</u>	Wife	W	77				"			
					<u>Elizabeth M. Marshall</u>	Daughter		77				London, Holloway			
135 23	" "	1			<u>Henry Johnson</u>	Head	W	77	Living on his own means			West, Sheerness			
					<u>Charles</u>	Son		77				"			
					<u>Caroline</u>	Daughter		77				"			
8	Total of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms	8		5	Total of Males and Females...					2	8				

NOTE.—Draw the pen through such of the headings as are inappropriate.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Reference: **RG12/721**

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By 1901 Rachael Daines Grinton remains a naval pensioner and living with her daughters but Sarah Jones is the head this time not Rachael Spears Grinton Batchelor. Eva Alice is not living with them:

Administrative County of <u>West</u>										The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the				Page 81	
Civil Parish of <u>Gravesend part of</u>		Ecclesiastical Parish of <u>St. James part of</u>		County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District of <u>Gravesend</u>		Ward of Municipal Borough of <u>Gravesend</u>		Parliamentary Borough or Division of <u>Gravesend</u>		Town or Village or Hamlet of <u>Gravesend</u>					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and NAME OF HOUSE	HOUSES in the Schedule	Number of Rooms in the House	Number of Cottages in the House	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DIVISION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lame, Inebriate or Idiot		
185	<u>3 Gravel Rd</u>	1			<u>Charles Pearson</u>	Head	W	77	Seaman, Ship Broker	Worker		Essex, Barking			
					<u>Ellen</u>	Wife	W	77				London, Greenwich			
					<u>Ellen Vernon</u>	Daughter		77	Bookbinder, Binder	Worker		Essex, Barking			
186	<u>5 do</u>				<u>Sarah M. Jones</u>	Wife	W	77				Essex, Barking			
187	<u>5 Gravel Rd</u>	1			<u>Edie G.</u>	Daughter		77	Seaman's Agent	Worker		Essex, Barking			
					<u>Rachael Grinton</u>	Daughter		77	Naval Pensioner	Wife		Essex, Barking			
					<u>Rachael Batchelor</u>	Daughter		77				Essex, Barking			
188	<u>9 do</u>	1			<u>Walter Spruce</u>	Head	W	77	Postman			West, Gravesend			
					<u>Morice do</u>	Daughter		77	Clark (Post Office)			do			
					<u>Mary Lane</u>	Daughter		77				do			
					<u>Edith Alice</u>	Daughter		77	Clark (Post Office)			do			
189	<u>11 do</u>	1			<u>Oliver E. Giff</u>	Head	W	77	Printer compositor	Worker		Suffolk, Ipswich			
					<u>Rosina do</u>	Wife	W	77				Essex, Portland			
					<u>William E. Brown</u>	Daughter		77	Printer compositor	Worker		Essex, Barking			
190	<u>13 do</u>	1			<u>Edward Strickland</u>	Head	W	77	Living on own means			Gravesend, Kent			
					<u>Tammy do</u>	Daughter		77				do			
					<u>Thomas Strickland</u>	Daughter		77				do			
191	<u>13 do</u>	1			<u>Thomas Strickland</u>	Daughter		77				do			
					<u>Cecil Street</u>	Head	W	77	Printer compositor	Worker		Kent, Maidstone			
					<u>Kate M. do</u>	Wife	W	77				do			
					<u>Carl M. do</u>	Son		77				do			
					<u>Frank P. do</u>	Son		77				do			
					<u>Thomas W. Smith</u>	Daughter		77	Printer compositor	Worker		Essex, Barking			
192	<u>2 Gravel Rd</u>	1			<u>Charles Wolner</u>	Head	W	77	Seaman	Worker		Essex, Barking			
					<u>Charlotte do</u>	Wife	W	77				Essex, Barking			
					<u>Mary E. do</u>	Daughter		77				Essex, Barking			
					<u>Charles T. do</u>	Son		77				Essex, Barking			
193	<u>4 do</u>	1			<u>Charlotte E. Moore</u>	Head	W	77	Living on own means			Essex, Barking			
					<u>Harriet B. do</u>	Daughter		77	Apprentice to a printer	Worker		Essex, Barking			
9	Total of Schedule of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms	78		1	Total of Males and of Females...					14	18				

Eva Alice is in fact 21 years of age and off on her own adventure. The 1901 census has her in London as a Salvation Army Slum Officer living with in a household at 11 Clare Court St Clements Danes in the ward of Strand London. She is living with Lydia Brown as head of household and Emma Baldock. So what is a slum officer?

The Salvation Army confirmed that Eva never joined them as an officer but clearly she worked as a Slum Officer in the slums of inner London. This work is highlighted in George Bernard Shaws play Major Barbara . A useful reference for this work is also " A Bridge Over Troubled Spheres" Women in the Victorian Salvation Army by Ruth Vandebor. [Available on line.]

“ Poverty and the Salvation Army



Shaw's theme in *Major Barbara* was poverty and what could or should be done about it. It was a timely subject. Although Britain was still at the summit of her imperial power in 1905, there were nearly a million people receiving Poor Law relief. One person in 36 was a pauper, over two-thirds of them women and children. In London the proportion was higher, one person in 31. On 1 January 1905, there were in London 148,000 paupers, including 1,365 "casual paupers", most of them described as vagrants, who spent the night on the streets or in the workhouse casual wards, or Spikes. (There are still 23 Spikes, now called Government Reception Centres, in England and Wales, catering for 30,000 homeless.)

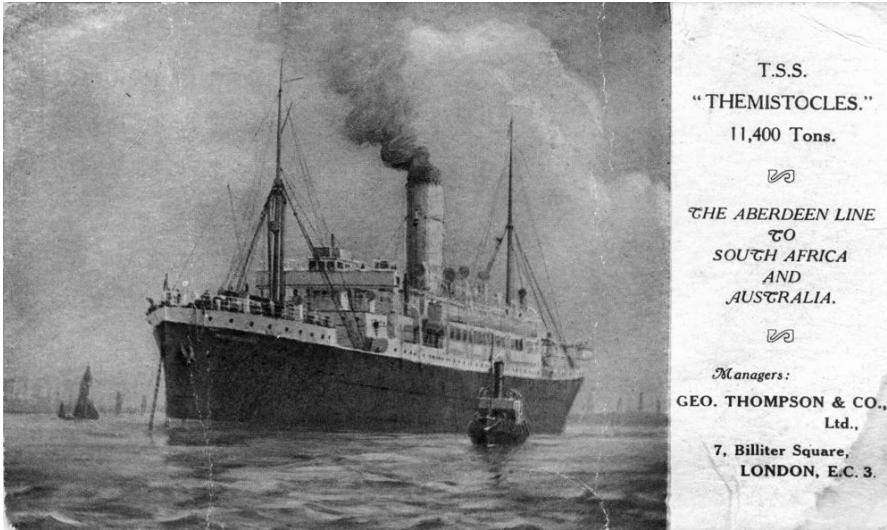
Their number had increased substantially since 1878, when William Booth founded the Salvation Army and became its first General. In 1888 the Army had opened its first hostel for down-and-outs (it still runs many today). Booth's book, *In Darkest England*, claimed that one person in ten lived "below the standard of the London cab-horse", which was at least assured of food, shelter and warmth. “



Slum Officers like those on the left volunteered to assist the poor, ministering to them and saving their souls. It is interesting to note that Eva's bible which her granddaughter Vivienne still has, has underlined passages in it which are all the fire and brimstone “ devil” style passages. Perhaps this was a focus for Eva's spiritual understanding from her times in the slums of London saving souls.

By 1911 Eva was in service as cook in Gravesend and she emigrated shortly afterward. Was she looking for a new life at the age of 31 years ? She travelled on the *Thermistocles* [photo below] leaving London on 6th July 1911 for Brisbane. *SS Themistocles* was a UK steam ocean liner and refrigerated cargo ship. She was launched in 1910 in Ireland and scrapped in 1947 in Scotland. She was built for Aberdeen Line, White Star Line managed her for a few years, and she spent the latter part of her career with Shaw, Savill & Albion Line. *Themistocles* was a troop ship in the First World War and also served in the Second World War.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Themistocles_\(1911\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Themistocles_(1911))



1911 Postcard of Aberdeen line promoting the sail to Australia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS Themistocles %281911%29#/media/File:StateLibQld 1 115868 Themistocles \(Ship\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Themistocles_%281911%29#/media/File:StateLibQld_1_115868_Themistocles_(Ship).jpg)

Where was the rest of Nanna's family in 1911?

- Her father and step mother were living at Hoath Lane Chatham- private address with their daughter May. This is probably where the photo of Alice Elena and May was officially taken.
- Her grandmother Rachael Daines Grinton was living with her daughters Sarah Maria Jones [head] and Rachael Spears Grinton Batchelor at 29 Churchill Rd Gravesend- Gravesend is where Rachael Snr would be buried in 1917.
- Her step brother George was living with his family at Plumstead.
- Her oldest step brother William John Grinton Jnr was at sea in the Navy. His wife and children were in Chatham.
- Step sister Minnie was a servant for Thomas Widdows household in London
- Rachael Maria her step sister aged 21 years was also a domestic servant and at the time of the census a patient in the London County Council, Horton Asylum, Epsom. By Christmas of 1911 Rachael was in the workhouse being not able bodied and given an infirm diet.
- Her step brother Henry was a school boy aged 14 at Royal Hospital Schools Including Trafalgar Quarters, School For Sons of Seamen, Romney Road, Greenwich S E.

See the Grinton page for more detailed stories. The story of Eva being in the workhouse may well have related to her stepsister who seems to also have a mental health issue perhaps or some infirmity. In between the census years it is not possible at the moment to establish whether Eva Alice ever entered a workhouse as a child. This was certainly a story of the family through Ed Smith. The census records do not suggest she was but if she entered a workhouse the timing is likely to be before the 1891 census when she transitions from her grandmother to her father's care.

Eva Alice does not appear to have had a relationship with her mothers family at least formally anyway.