

John Carter and Emma Jane



John Carter and Emma Jane Barnes Preston
Samuel Leigh and Hannah Chalder Barnes

Back row: Emma Jane and Hannah
Front row: John Carter and Samuel Leigh

John Carter Preston was born in Kings Lynn, Norfolk, England the son of John Carter Preston and Mary Ann Newby. His father was a Cordwainer or shoemaker, and a descendant of the gentry of England. The Preston family was enumerated in the 1851 census at No.4. Conduit Street in Kings Lynn. His mother was Mary Ann Newby, the daughter of John William Newby, a bricklayer who was born at Stow Bedon in Norfolk.

The marriage certificate of John Carter Preston and Mary Ann Newby reveals that they were married in an Independent Chapel.

John Carter Preston the younger married Emma Jane Barnes on the twenty-second of December in 1878. Emma Jane was born at Sunderland, Durham, England the daughter of Leigh Barnes and Martha Jane Samuels. The Samuels family can be found in several records.

Abraham Samuel was the first Jew to settle in Sunderland prior to the year 1768. He came from Amsterdam. Perhaps he was trying to find a home following the "Edict of Expulsion against Jews in Bohemian" in 1744. England and Holland both protested that act of inhumanity and made them welcome. Abraham was a Dutch or German "Missnagdim" who had sojourned in Holland for some considerable time. He set up his business on the corner of Burleigh Street and High Street East. A Jeweler and Silversmith, he was considered the outstanding Jew in town.¹

Shortly after Abraham Samuel arrived in Sunderland, he was joined by his brother Hart (the Dutch equivalent of Mark) Samuel. Hart was the younger of the brothers and later became more successful in business. Hart had many close friends in Amsterdam and kept in constant touch.

In Holland the use of patronymics was practiced. That means that the surname of the children is the given name of the father. In some future work perhaps the father of Abraham and Hart will be found with his given name being Samuel.

At first their spiritual needs were satisfied by meeting in the homes of the other Jews that followed. Then a small room was rented and used for worship in Mallins Rig followed by a spacious room in Vine Street called Lilburne House. As the community grew a spiritual leader was needed. Hart sent instructions to Amsterdam in 1790 asking the local communal leaders to assist in selecting a suitable "Shochet and Chazan" for Sunderland. Jacob Joseph was selected as a candidate, his Amsterdam friends knowing the circumstances, probably hinted earlier that this handsome young man might well suit as a prospective son-in-law. With that possible match in mind, Hart's sensible young daughter expressed a desire to see the young man, a desire that was promptly fulfilled by sending her to Amsterdam. Jacob Joseph married the same Miss Samuel who had been sent to Holland to find him just two years later.²

After the arrival of Jacob Joseph in 1790, Sunderland became a well-established and important Jewish community. It was chosen as a place of marriage by an Edinburgh dentist and a London widow as well as by people of the local congregation. One of Abraham Samuel's daughters married Israel Isaacs of London in 1792. Another married Barnett Cowen in 1795. A son, Philip Samuel, married Miss Ornaberg of London in 1796, and Lazarus, another son of Abraham, married Ann Davis of Sunderland. Ann Davis, daughter of a Sunderland family, was the second outsider to marry one of the Sunderland Jews.

Ayres Quay was established as the Jewish burial ground in the 1770's and it was used until May in 1856. Then a new burial ground was obtained in Bishopwearmouth at Hylton Road Cemetery. Perhaps Ayres Quay is where Abraham Samuel was buried in 1794 and his brother Hart some time later.

Isaac Samuel, son of Hart, married Martha White. She was born at Barnard Castle, Durham on the fifth of February 1775. She died in Sunderland on the third of August 1859. This family had at least one son, Samuel, born on the first of January 1804 at Sunderland. This Samuel was the father of Martha Jane Samuels who married Leigh Barnes.

1. Arnold Levy, *History of the Sunderland Jewish Community*, (London: MacDonald), pp. 29-34
2. *Ibid.*, p. 36