

Samuel James Drew and family.

Crayford 524195

3rd February 1986

Mrs. M. Drew,
c/o Barnehurst Library.

Dear Mrs. Drew,

re: Samuel James DREW and Family.

I maintain a card index of names of persons who have been connected with textile firms which have been established, at one time or another, along the Valley of the River Cray.

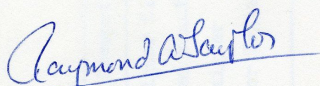
The attached notes give the only information that I have in that index concerning the name DREW. Details in the table were taken from the decennial Census Returns. However, since they were hand-written and sometimes difficult to read and since my transcripts were taken over a long period of time there are discrepancies (marked with a question mark) which need to be checked.

The information below the table comprises brief extracts from articles relating to the industry which refer to members of the DREW family.

The reason my index did not contain the names of Henry and John before the 1881 Return is explained by the fact that I recorded only those names which indicated some connection with the industry.

Although my details are sketchy you may be able to make more sense of the dates and family connections. I would of course always be interested to hear of any other information you may have.

Yours sincerely,



Raymond A. Taylor.

DREW, Samuel James.

Census Return	Occupation	Age	Address	Birth Place	Wife	Age	Bth. Poe.
Bexley 1851	Artist Designer Silk	19			---		
Crayford 1861	Designer for Manufactory	29	Crayford Hill (?)	London, Middx.	Catherine	25	?
Crayford 1871	Pattern Designer	39	London Road	Middx.	Catherine	35	Scotland
Bexley 1881	Designer for Textile Fabrics	49	The Elms	Pimlico, Middx.	Caroline ?	42	Glasgow
	<u>Henry</u>			<u>John</u>			
Bexley 1881	Labourer in Printing Works Aged 24, Born at Bexley Unmarried			Designer for Textile Fabrics Aged 16, Born at Crayford Unmarried			

"In conclusion, Mr. Baker referred to the designers - the best men the country can produce - and the part they had played in the industry. He mentioned that Mr. Drew once exhibited at the Royal Academy. His sons still carried on the good work".
(Extract from a lecture given by G.P. Baker and reported in the Bexley Heath, Bexley and District Times, 10th May 1918, page 2).

Henry Samuel Drew of Bridge House, Art Designer was present at the first Crayford Parish Meeting held on 4 Dec. 1894 (Crayford Parish Council Minutes, 1894-1901).

Samuel Drew. Occupier of a house in Crayford Street which was owned by Charles Swaisland.
(Chas. Swaisland's Will, 20th June 1859 and Codicil 4th Sept. 1862).

"...The early pattern designers, pure and simple, whose work culminated in the forties, and who may be said to have practically died out, but whose efforts should be ungrudgingly recognised."..... such names as "my father, George Haite, Samuel Drew,....." (Haite, G.C., Architectural Review, ii (June-Nov. 1897) page 81).

Feb. 1986. R.A. Taylor

Samuel James Drew

1830—1891

Artist and Designer

at Swaisland's Print Works, Crayford, Kent

AN interesting reference to his work, and the importance of Swaisland's in the fabric printing industry, is to be found in an article in the "Architectural Review," Vol. 2, June, 1897,

On the design and designers of the Victorian Reign, by
Geo. C. Haite, R.B.A., President of the Society of Designers

He writes first of the early pattern of designers, "pure and simple, whose work culminated in the forties, and who may be said to have practically died out, but whose efforts should be ungrudgingly recognised"

In this category (he continues) would come the names of my father, George Haite, Samuel Drew . . . a list of names that would exhaust, if not fairly represent, the number of the old designers of the period of the Queen's Ascension, whose best work was done in the forties, as I am informed by possibly the most reliable authority living. Most of these were themselves descendants of workers in the same line, for the faculty of Design seems to be strongly hereditary.

In those days the designer's name never appeared, indeed, he rarely saw the result of his labours. The bulk of designers, of even twenty years ago, were unknown, and it was the custom and object of the manufacturers to keep their names secret, as it was believed to be in their interest to keep designers as much as possible apart.

On the river Cray was located Tagg's factory, afterwards known to the whole printing world as Swaisland's. Swaisland was originally himself a designer of Mitcham. He was famous for printing valencias. Then he took to the shawl printing and other styles; and in 1844 he had no less than 120 block printers printing shawls, dress materials, etc. It was at Swaisland's that most, if not all, of the old-fashioned designers matriculated, in the good old-fashioned manner of apprenticeship.

Copied from the records by his grandson, Bernard Drew, 1948

A portrait of Samuel Drew



Mr. W.T. Drew

The death occurred on Friday, Sept. 17th 1943 at his home, 114 Station Road, Crayford of Mr. William Thomas Drew, member of a family of artists and fabric designers who have resided in the district for a hundred years. He was in his 70th year.

Born at Park Cottage, Crayford, which still stands, Mr. Drew was one of a large family of whom three survive him, his twin, Mr. F. A. Drew, Mr. Jack Drew who has been in Australia for over 50 years and Mrs. Frank Westrap, a sister. Their father, Mr. S.J. Drew, was an artist of merit and for 40 years was designer on fabrics for Swaislands of Crayford who in the early part of the century were taken over by Messrs Bakers, the textile printers. Mr. W.T. Drew and his eldest brother, the late Mr. Harry Drew, followed their father in Swaislands and also became designers. Four years ago, Mr. Drew retired after 50 years' service. His death sees the last family link with the firm whose reputation their art helped to further.

In the early days, Mr. Drew was actively associated with the Crayford Friendly Club which held sway in local sporting circles in those days and, though he came to take a keen interest in the affairs of a village he saw grow into a town, Mr. Drew preferred to hold a watching brief as the development progressed. There were times, however, when feeling that wrong would be done, he intervened with fervour on the public platform.

A staunch churchman, he was for many years a member of Crayford Parochial Church Council and he also helped with Crayford Educational Fellowship (handicraft and dramatic sections). Talented with brush, pen or pencil, he was also a lover of music and he and his wife, who predeceased him by a year, had many friends who mourn the loss of another old Crayfordian who will be remembered for his kindly manner and moral integrity.

Mr. Drew who was a member of the Gavelkind (Bexleyheath) Lodge of Freemasons, leaves a son, Mr. William Howard Drew and a married daughter, Mrs. Robert Rackham. The funeral took place on Wednesday, September 22nd. The officiating clergy were the Rector, the Rev. H.H. Hurwood, M.A. and the Rev. P. Davison, M.A.

The family and close mourners included Mr. W.H. Drew (son), Mr. F.A. Drew (brother), Mr. J. Underhill, Mr. E. Wood, Mr. E. Clark, Mr. A. Clark, Mr. H. Clayton, Mr. O. Bearham, Mr. J. Pollock, Mr. M. Garrett, Dr. W. Reversion, Mr. E.H. Conyard, Mr. H. Thomas, Mr. Jones, Mr. E. Barnett and Mr. A. Davis.

Flowers were from Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Drew, Dickie and Jimmie, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rackham and Margaret, Mr. F.A. Drew and family, Mrs. Frank Westrap, etc., the Master, Wardens and Brethren of the Gavelkind Lodge, Messrs. G.P. Baker and J. Baker (directors), fellow colleagues on the staff of Swaislands Fabric Printing Co. Crayford and employees of Swaislands Fabric Printing Co. Funeral arrangements by W.R. Bond, Crayford

A portrait of William Drew

