

# David William McLaren

David was born the second son of James McLaren and Amelia, *formerly Conway*, on May fifteenth 1860. The record of his birth shows that David came early in the morning being born at five-thirty A.M. David's father was working as a Journeyman Type Founder. I note also that his mother was present at his birth. Good thing really.

At the time of his birth his parents lived at 27 Saint Leonards Hill in the District of Newington, City of Edinburgh, County of Midlothian, and Country of Scotland.

A handwritten birth record on a grid form. The number '417' is written in the left margin. The record includes the following information:

McLaren	1860	Mr. James McLaren	Amelia McLaren	Amelia McLaren	1860
David William	May 15	Type Founder	Amelia McLaren	Mother Present	May 15 1860
	Fifteenth	Journeyman	Conway		at Edinburgh
	6 h 20 m Am				Midlothian
	27				Edinburgh
	27				Edinburgh

We next find record of David when he is almost 11 months old. The 1861 Census for Scotland was taken on the night of 7/8 April 1861<sup>1</sup>. The following information was requested:

- Place (name of street, place, or road, and name or number of house)
- Name of each person that had spent the night in that household
- Relation to head of family
- Marital Status
- Age and Sex (indicated by which column the age is recorded in)
- Profession or occupation
- Birthplace
- Whether blind, or deaf and dumb

Enumeration forms were distributed to all households before the census night and the completed forms were collected the next day by the enumerators. All responses were to reflect the individual's status as of 7/8 April 1861 for all individuals who had spent the night in the house. People who were travelling or living abroad were enumerated at the location where they spent the night on census night. All of the details from the individual forms were copied into enumerators' books and sent to the Registrar General's office in London. These copies are the records we can view images of today. The original householder's schedules were destroyed. The following is what was recorded for David's family.

A handwritten census record on a grid form. The record includes the following information:

James McLaren	Head	27	Type Founder - Carter	Edinburgh
Amelia	Wife	26		England
James	Son	3		England
David	Son	11 mo		Mid-Lothian Edinburgh

Line	Name	Relationship	Age	Est. Birth Year	Occupation	Where born
6	James McLaren	Head	27	abt 1834	Type Founder - Carter	Mid-Lothian Edinburgh
7	Mini	Wife	26	abt 1835		England
8	James	Son	3	abt 1858		England
9	David	Son	11 mo	abt 1860		Mid-Lothian Edinburgh

It is interesting that David's father has his occupation as "Type Founder – Carter." Looking at a schedule of Scotland Occupations we find the following descriptions:

<sup>1</sup> Original data: Scotland. 1861 Scotland Census. Reels 1-150. General Register Office for Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland. <http://allcensusrecords.com/scotland/1861census.shtml>

- ❖ **Type-founder:** Printer who set out individual letters on printing blocks.
- ❖ **Carter:** Worked with horse and cart on farms or in towns.

At the time of James marriage in 1856, the birth of his first son in 1857, and the Birth of David, his occupations are listed as Type founder. This is no surprise to us. However, working with horses is a bit of a surprise. We also note the nick-name for Amelia is “Mini” and that Daniel James is going by his middle name.

We know that David’s parents were still living at this same address in October of 1862 when his brother Henry Robert is born. However, many years pass before we find additional information of David.

David’s family is next found in Holborn England in mid-January of 1865. We do not know what the circumstances were, but at some point in the previous 27 months, his family moves to the London England area. This is where his brother Frederick Holland is born on January seventeenth.

The next reference we have of David comes about ten months later. We do not know what happened to David’s knee, but somehow it became infected. Since the family was living in the suburbs of London at the time, they took him to the Ormond Street Children’s Hospital<sup>2</sup> on November first 1865, where he was admitted.

The Great Ormond Street Hospital’s growth into an internationally famous centre for child healthcare started from modest beginnings in 1852, in a converted 17th Century townhouse on the corner of Powis Place.



At the time of the hospital’s foundation, the population of London had grown hugely in the preceding decades, following the Industrial Revolution and the end of the wars with Napoleon’s France. This growth was not, however, matched by growth in hospital provision for the City, and the few long-established general hospitals, such as St. Bartholomew’s and Guy’s, struggled to cope with the increase in demand. In these circumstances, the hospital care available to the many thousands of children living in poverty in London was minimal, and a low social priority.

The state of medical knowledge in the 1860s meant that many of the patients could not be properly treated but, many more doubtless benefited from being washed, fed and kept warm properly for probably the first time in their lives.

It is not known how much David’s mother was able to help with his care. In the first years of the hospital, the lack of suitably qualified nurses meant that the patients’ families were allowed to help with their children’s treatment, but soon, as with most other hospitals, the fear of infection being brought in and the disruption caused by large numbers of family members being present meant that visitors were excluded except for an hour and a half on Sunday afternoons.

We quickly find another record of David when William A Newton of the All Saints Parish of Newington preforms a private Baptism in his hospital bed. This was done on the second of December in 1865. The Baptism record gives no indication of his age, but does show his father’s occupation and that his parents are living at 13 Tyndalls Building in Holborn, Middlesex, England. This is the same address given on his Brother Fred’s birth record.



<sup>2</sup> <http://www.gosh.nhs.uk/about-us/our-history/complete-history-of-gosh/>  
 Picture and text used under © Terms and conditions found here: <http://www.gosh.nhs.uk/terms-and-conditions/>

Next we find a totally fascinating discovery... Historic Hospital Admission Records Project (HHARP)<sup>3</sup> has a unique collection of resources for medical, family and local historians relating to 19th century children's hospitals.

HHARP provides access to 120,000 admission records to four children's hospitals: three in London, the Great Ormond Street Hospital, the Evelina and the Alexandra Hip Hospital for Children, and one from the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow. Between them the databases cover a period from 1852 to 1913.

It is in these records we find David's medical record. While his Surname has been extracted incorrectly, this record shows us that David spends 36 days in the hospital before his death on December seventh 1865.

Personal details	
Date of admission	1 November 1865
Firstname	David
Firstname as recorded on admission register	David
Surname	Marsham (McLaren)
Sex	Male
Year of birth	1860
Age on admission	5 years, 0 months
Case notes	Sorry, no case notes available
Residence	
Residence	13, Tyndall Buildings, London
Registration district	Holborn
Registration subdistrict	St Andrew Eastern
Admission and stay	
Institution	Great Ormond Street Hospital
Admitting doctor	Mr Smith
Ward	Not recorded
Length of stay	36 days
Remarks	None
Disease, outcome and discharge	
Admitted for standardised disease name	<a href="#">Disease knee</a>
Admitted for as recorded on admission register	Disease of knee joint
Disease groups	Joints bones & muscles
ICD10 codes	M25.96 <a href="#">What are ICD10 codes?</a>
Outcome	Died
Date of discharge	07 Dec 1865
Discharged to	Not recorded
Patient history	
Infantile disease history	No history of infantile disease has been recorded for this admission.
Vaccinated for smallpox?	Not recorded
Parents' names	
Occupation of Parent	
Related admissions	We have not identified any other admissions related to this record.

Here is a copy of his Entry of Death in the England General Register's Office.

<sup>3</sup> HHARP: the Historic Hospital Admission Records Project (<http://www.hharp.org>), Kingston University.  
Text used under copyright and citation found here: <http://hharp.org/copyright.html>

## CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 3927405-2

REGISTRATION DISTRICT	OF HOLBORN
1865 DEATH in the Sub-district of St George the Martyr	in the County of Middlesex

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
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831	Seventh December 1865 Children's Hospital Great Ormond Street	David William M. LARSON	Male	5 years	Geny <sup>4</sup> Type founder	Passive of stone point Larkfield	Amelia M. Larson In attendance 13 Tyndalls Buildings, Grays Inn Road.	6. Twelfth December 1865	Edw. (4) William & Stone Registrar
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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 29th day of March 2012.

DYD 239172

See also serial

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HM GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE



We note the following in this document:

- ❖ David is again identified as David William.
- ❖ David dies on the seventh in the Children's Hospital at the age of five.
- ❖ James is a Type founder.
- ❖ Amelia was in attendance at David's death.
- ❖ Once again, the family's residence is 13 Tyndalls Buildings, Grays Inn Road in Holborn, Middlesex.

David was buried in the Victoria Park Cemetery located in Hackney on the twelfth of December 1865. A private company opened the cemetery in 1845 on 11½ acres of the Butler estate near the Regent's canal. In 1846 a superintendent's house and a small mortuary chapel by Arthur Ashpittel were built by its entrance at the western end. By 1856 burials were at the rate of 130 every Sunday and there were complaints about the cemetery, which was never consecrated. After closure in 1876 the neglected ground was used by ruffians for gambling. The Disused Burial Grounds Act, 1884, prevented building on the site.<sup>4</sup> By 1885 it was in a very poor state and the MPGA approached the owner for permission to lay it out as a public garden. After much protracted negotiation and fund-raising this was finally achieved and the new gardens were



<sup>4</sup> From: 'Bethnal Green: Public Services', A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 11: Stepney, Bethnal Green (1998), pp. 203-212.

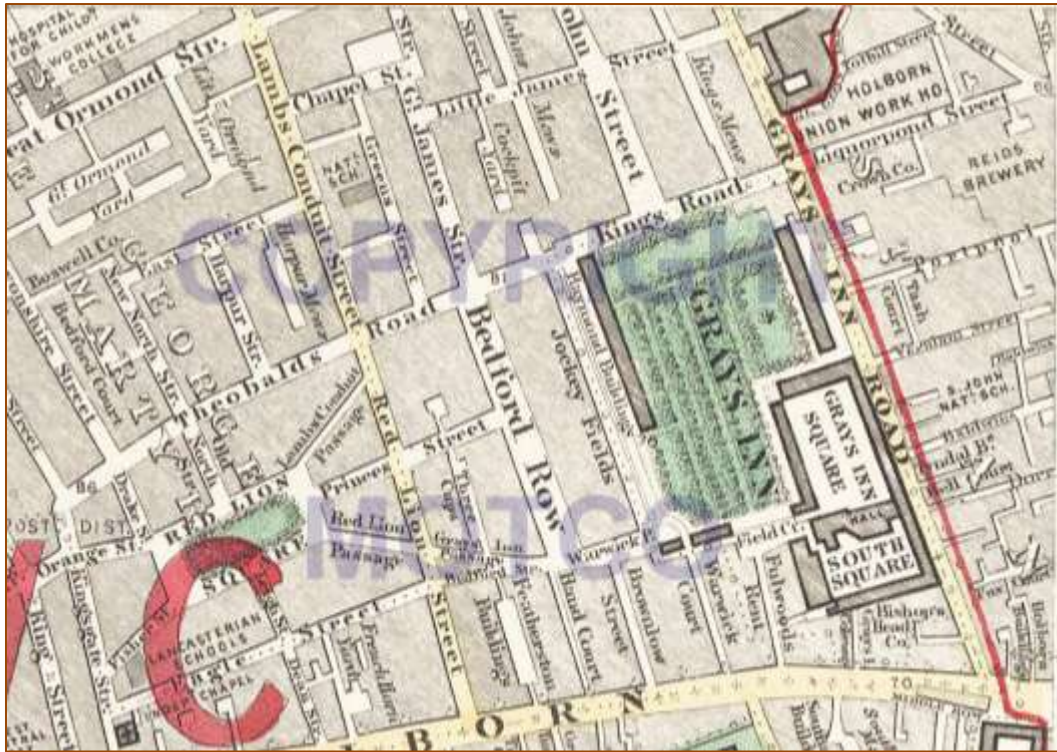
URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=22760>

Further online reading: <http://www.londongardensonline.org.uk/gardens-online-record.asp?ID=THM028#>

opened in 1894 by the Duke of York, renamed Meath Gardens after the MPGA's Chairman, the Earl of Meath but its Gothic entrance arch remains. Children's play equipment was provided and a few gravestones remained.



David's life was short being 5 years, 6 months, 23 days *including the date of death*. During this time we know he lived in Scotland and England. Maybe someday we will be able to fill in some more details of his life.



This picture shows the Children's Hospital in the top left corner and the Tyndalls Buildings on the far right by Gray's Inn Square.<sup>5</sup>

[A] Tyndalls Buildings      [B] Ormond Children's Hospital      [C] Victoria Park Cemetery



Map Powered by Yahoo

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