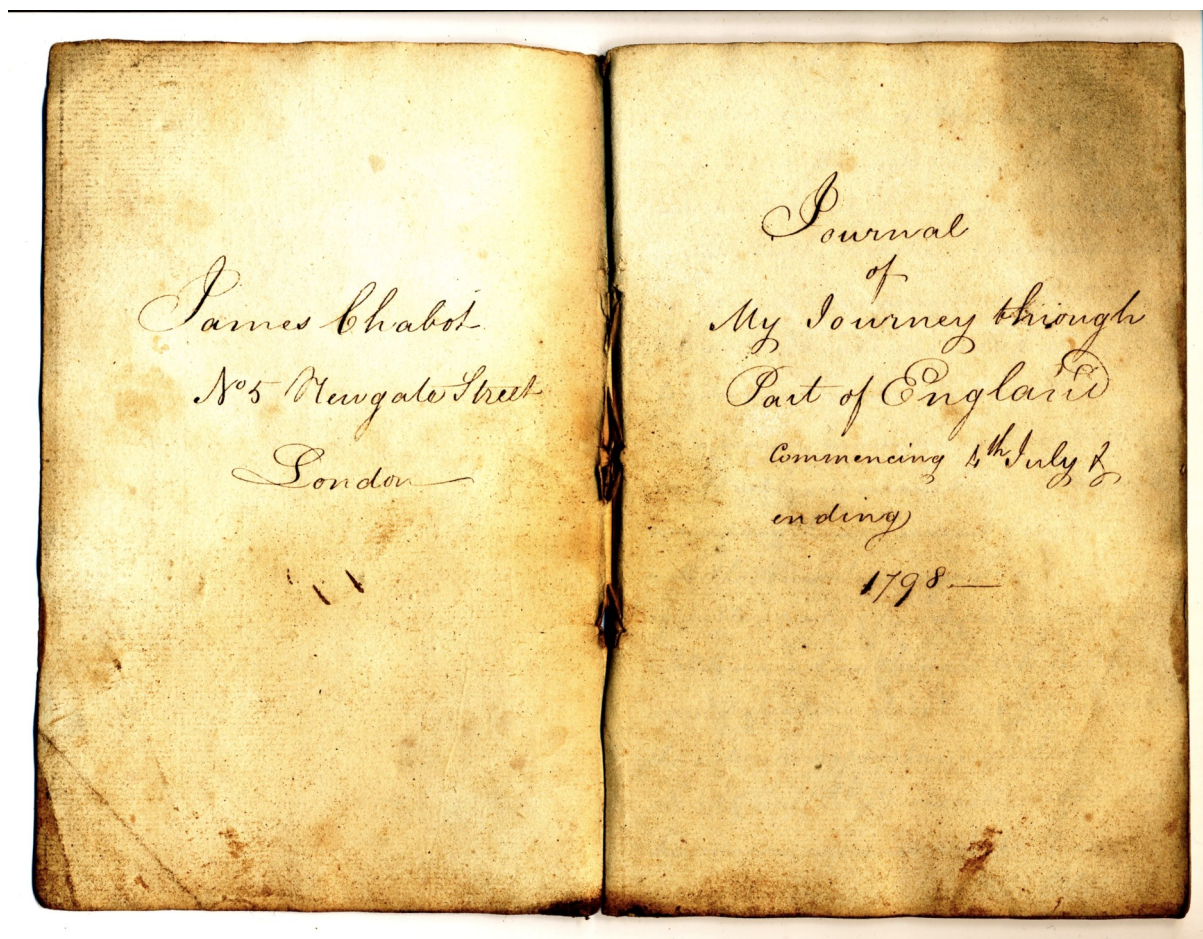


James Chabot
(1778-1850)

The "Joyous Chain"

A Merchant of Malta : His Journey through Life



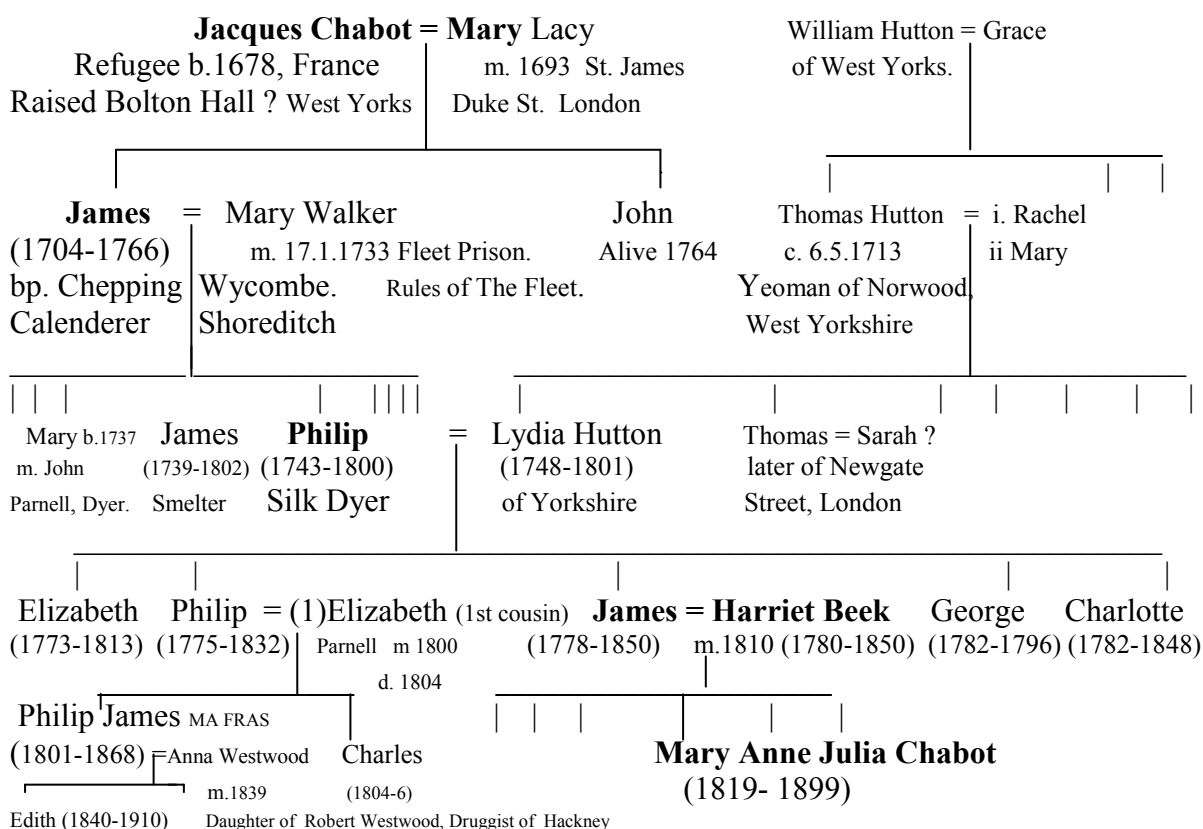
2. Concerning Chabot & Beek Links with Italy and Malta

A: Introduction and Genealogical Context

Our branch of the **Low** family traces its roots back and is connected to the Chabot and Beek families through the marriage of **Alexander Fairweather Low** (1811-1898) to **Mary Anne Julia Chabot** (1819-1899) which took place in Mexico City in 1852. According to family legend A.F. Low and M.A.J. Chabot had met in San Antonio, Texas (see appendix vi.) though three years earlier passport records of 1849 show him resident at Mexico City. Then two years later in 1854 it is recorded that A. F. Low (a Scottish textile merchant) took over as “dueno” (proprietor) of the cotton mill “La Homiga” (established in 1843 by Andrew Lyall a fellow Scot) at the village of Tizapan located S.W. of San Angel, Mexico City. M.A.J. Chabot’s younger brother **George Stooks Chabot** (1821-1902) was a merchant dealing in cotton, wool and hides living in San Antonio. Perhaps he introduced them? This paper was inspired by family documents and artefacts stored in the Low family archive held by the Great Grandson of M.A J. Chabot, **Alexander John Stewart Low** (1937-).

The **Chabot** name which means “big head”, “strong head” or “obstinate fellow”, originates from France and the **Beek**, Beck, de Berk name may have come over from mainland Europe with William the Conqueror. Both of the specific families with which we are concerned have been established in England for centuries.

The Chabot Family



Chabot History

According to the “The History of The Chabot Family From 1040 to the Present Day” ed. 1904 by **Edwin James Chabot** (1839–19– bankers clerk of Croydon) who translated it from the French, but who was himself descended from another James (1739-1802) a Smelter an older brother of Philip (1743-1800) Silk Dyer, the family came from **Poitou** N.E. of Bordeaux, Fr. **Jacques Chabot**



Our Chabot family tree (also the work of Edwin J.?) is headed by this crest (see left) and quotes **Jacques Chabot** ‘born in France about 1678 and sent to England when a child of about 7 years in 1685 or 1686’ as saying his “father was a Baron and had large estates in the South of France with a canal five miles long running through them”. (cf. Google Earth for **Poitou** 24490 La Roche – Chalais showing canal). This family tree dated 1907, also refers to “**Charles Chabot**, Baron de Jarnac, Captain and Governor of La Rochelle in 1531 and to his son **Guy Chabot**, Baron de Jarnac et de Montlieu etc. in 1545”. The Chabots of Poitou motto is “concussus resurgo”. It is also recorded on this Chabot tree that **Jacques Chabot** became a barber surgeon. Quote: ‘In the indenture of his son John to a Joiner dated 6th November 1722, he is described as a surgeon’. The present day location of this indenture is unknown however.

At least one branch of the Chabot family, the **Rohan Chabots** continues to flourish in France living at Chateau de St. Martin de Taradeau in the wine producing area of Provence, just inland from Sainte.Maxime. It was featured in the Daily Telegraph Magazine No. 273 on January 9th 1970. There are other branches around the world, including ones in the USA and Holland.

The family of **Jacques Chabot** (b.c.1678) was **Huguenot** that is French Calvinist Protestant. The Huguenots’ political rivalry with Catholics led to the French Wars of Religion (1562-98). After the Huguenots’ leader, Henri of Navarre (Henry IV of France) succeeded to the throne (1589) he converted to Catholicism but to protect his fellow Huguenots he granted them concessions (Edict of Nantes 1598). However these were later revoked by Louis XIV (1685) which action led to the persecution and emigration of the Huguenots. It was as a result of this, our Chabot history tells, that the seven year old Jacques Chabot was smuggled to England in a hamper on board ship to be raised by the 1st Duke of Bolton.

Charles Paulet, created the 1st Duke by William III, built two family homes where Jacques may have lived . Bolton Hall on his wife’s family estate and Hackwood Park, Old Basin, an old hunting lodge which he had enlarged. Its been intriguing to discover that Norwood and Stainburn of Kirby Overblow, Wensley, homelands of the Hutton family, into which within 100 years,



Philip Chabot (believed to be Jacques Chabot’s grandson) would marry, are merely

20 miles across moor land from Bolton Hall. Could this be more than a coincidence? Lydia, Philip’s bride was eldest daughter of Thomas Hutton and Rachel of Norwood, Yorks.

Hackwood Park, Winslade, Basingstoke, Hants



Bolton Hall, Wensley, W. Yorks built by 1678

Charles Paulet the 1st Duke of Bolton.

In an account of “West Riding travels in Yorkshire” dated 1805; Edward Dayes describes the somewhat eccentric Duke, Charles Paulet (1625-1699) of Bolton Hall.

“He was a man of singular humour: sometimes he would not speak for weeks together..... one of his whims was to hunt by torchlight..... with all his oddities he possessed consummate policy and managed himself with great art through the troublesome times”. Most significantly, Charles Paulet unlike his father before him was a Protestant, supporting William III and much opposed to Roman Catholic James III. This would seem to explain his interest in helping a small Huguenot refugee?

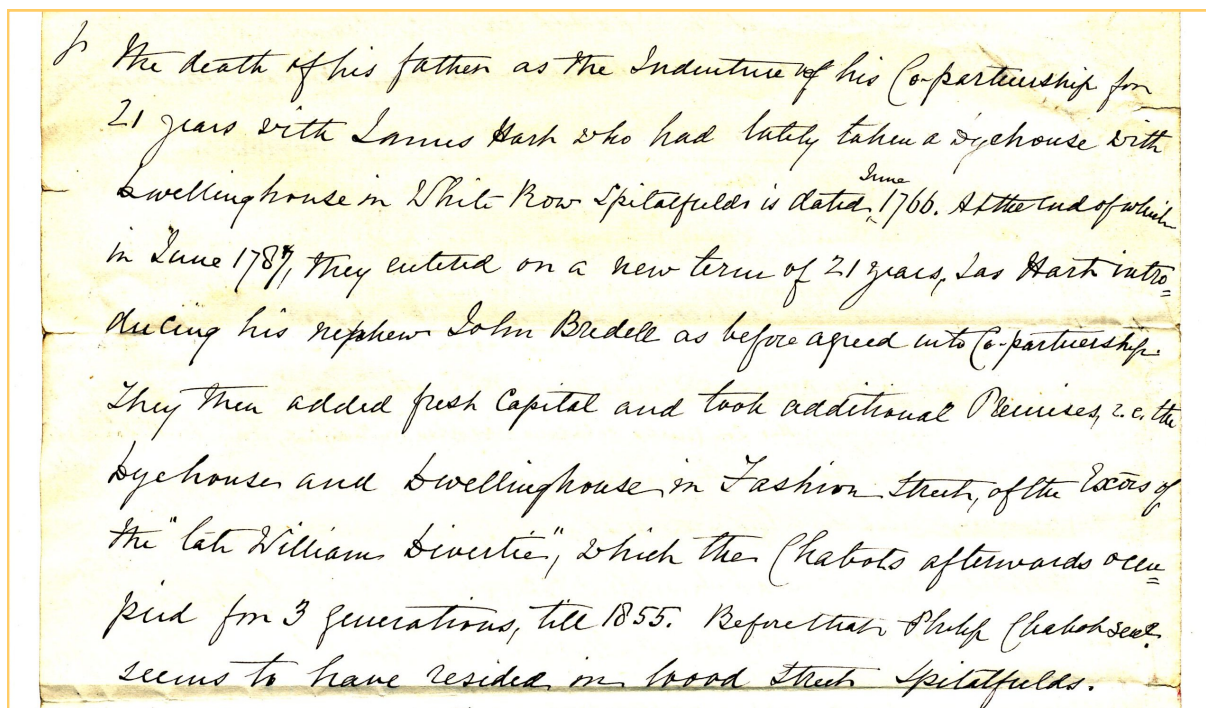
Then 50 or so years later in the 1850s-60s an unknown Victorian wrote under the heading of ‘distinguished Huguenot refugees and their descendants’:

Jacques “was brought up in the household of the Duke of Bolton. On the death of his patron, and after arriving at man’s estate, he married, and settled at High Wycombe, Bucks,—being described, in the registers of his two sons, as “of the Borough of Chepping Wycombe.” His eldest son, James, carried on the business of a Calendarer and Tabby Waterer in Moorfields, London,—whose third son, Philip, the grandfather of Philip James, settled in Spitalfields as a silk dyer,—the firm continuing for three generations. Philip James Chabot, M.A., F.R.A.S. was for about twenty years Secretary of the Old Mathematical Society of Crispin Street (a society mainly supported by the descendants of French refugees), until its incorporation with the Royal Astronomical Society in 1845. He was then made, in common with the other remaining members, a fellow of the latter society. M. Chabot was for many years a director of the French Hospital. It was mainly owing to his exertions that the Conditioning of Silk, as practiced in all continental cities, was established in London. His first cousin, James Chabot, Esq., of Manchester, eldest son of the late James Chabot, Esq., of Malta, is now the head of the family”. (See “Spitalfields” maps and history, appendices iii-vi)

Later again, in an 1886 account of Jacques Chabot’s family: Edith Chabot, M. A. J.’s first cousin once removed, eldest daughter of M.A. J.’s cousin Philip James Chabot (1801-1868) wrote: “His eldest son James”(1704-1766) “carried on the business ..of Tabby Waterer ..in Christopher’s Alley, Upper Moorfields (now covered by the Great Eastern Railway Terminus) from 1750...He was also 3 times Master of his company, The Girdlers. Took up the Freedom of the City of London in 1737 and the Livery in 1748. Married Mary Walker of West Hallam, Derbyshire. His third son Philip” (ed. Philip was in fact third child)...“married Lydia daughter of Thomas Hutton of Stainburn Yorks. He must have settled in Spitalfields on the death of his father”. (He died in 1800) .

The next section of Edith’s notes, describing the setting up by Philip of the new firm of dyers “Hart, Chabot & Bredell ”, is reproduced and transcribed overleaf. After which section Edith continues :

“His eldest son, Philip Chabot” (Edith here refers to her father Philip James) “eventually became the living partner of the firm ..which for many years had the contracts of the East India Company to supply the Scarlet Wool for the Clothing of their army. An Indenture dated June 1808 between John Bredell of White Row and Philip Chabot of Fashion Street showing the death or retirement of James Hart from the covenant and the Dyehouse in White Row was given up and the business all removed to Fashion Street. John Bredell died in 1828 and by Nov. 20th 1829 his share £6000 of the Business was paid his estate by his surviving partner, who himself died Nov.2nd 1832”. Philip’s eldest son (by his first wife, Elizabeth Parnell) ie. Philip James(1801-1868) “ was induced by the earnest entreatment of his friends, though much against his inclination, to quit the legal profession and take his father’s place”. He returned for 23 yrs., but finally left (1855) after his remaining sibling James, who had three Merchant sons, had died (1850). Philip James himself had two girls. The silk trade was in decline.



The death of his father as the Indenture of his Co-partnership for
 21 years with James Hart who had lately taken a Dyehouse with
 Dwellinghouse in White Row Spitalfields is dated ^{June} 1766. At the end of which
 in June 1787, they entered on a new term of 21 years, Jas Hart intro-
 ducing his nephew John Bredell as before agreed into Co-partnership.
 They then added fresh Capital and took additional Premises, i.e. the
 Dyehouse and Dwellinghouse in Fashion Street, of the Executors of
 the "late William Divertie", which the Chabots afterwards occu-
 pied for 3 generations, till 1855. Before then Philip Chabot senr.
 seems to have resided in Wood Street Spitalfields.

*The start of the second page of Edith Chabot's notes (above) about James Senior (1702-1766) and Philip Senior (1743-1800) read: "He (Philip) must have settled in Spitalfields on -

"the death of his father" (James) "as the Indenture of his Co-partnership for 21 years with James Hart who had lately taken a Dyehouse with Dwelling house in White Row Spitalfields is dated June 1766. At the end of which in June 1787, they entered on a new term of 21 years, James Hart introducing his nephew John Bredell as before agreed into Co-partnership. They added fresh capital and took additional Premises i.e. the Dyehouse and Dwellinghouse in Fashion Street, of the Executors of 'the late William Divertie', which the Chabots afterwards occupied for three generations, till 1855. Before then Philip Chabot senr. seems to have resided in Wood Street, Spitalfields."

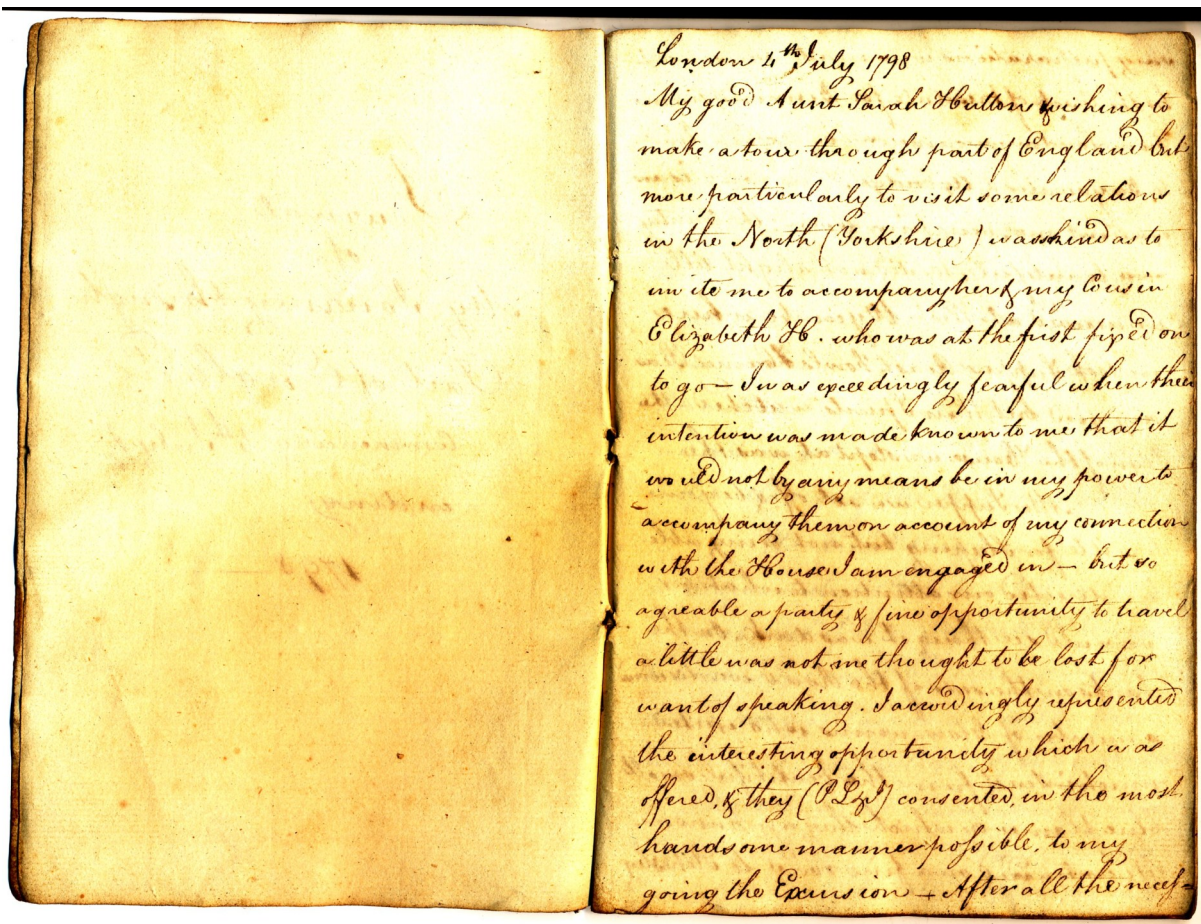
[N.B. 1. Wood Street (renamed Wilkes St.) was to the North of Christ Church churchyard, Fashion Street on its south side where the Chabot dyehouse overlooked the churchyard, and White Row (where the dyehouse overlooked the Tenter Ground) was the westerly continuation of Fashion Street. (See maps in appendix iii) 2. Edith was misleading when she implied that Philip moved into a partnership with Hart in 1766 because of his father's death in 1766. In fact the balls seem to have been put into play beforehand, as the indenture is dated June 1766 and James was not buried until November 1766. Additionally James's will names his partner as John Parnell and gives his older son, William, the right to take on James's business in Shoreditch on the latter's death. 3. James Hart was himself a Dyer's son and on 3.6.1741 being apprenticed to his father John Hart.]

Philip (1702-1766) and Lydia's second son, **James (1778-1850)** later a Merchant in Malta does not seem to have become an apprentice in the dyeing trade, as one assumes had his older brother Philip (prior to entering their father's firm of Hart and Chabot) the Indenture of Co Partnership having stipulated this as a pre-condition of partnership. In addition Philip's first wife his cousin Elizabeth, née Parnell, was daughter of his grandfather's business partner John Parnell (ref. James Chabot's will) who had also married to their Great Aunt Mary née Chabot. Philip was immersed professionally and domestically in the Watering of Silks.

On the other hand by 1804, during what history tells us was 'The Little Ice Age' and when Londoners endured severe winters and alternately very cold and very hot summers (cf. [Spitalfields Project](#)) 26yr. old **James (1778-1850)** had moved away to warmer climes.*

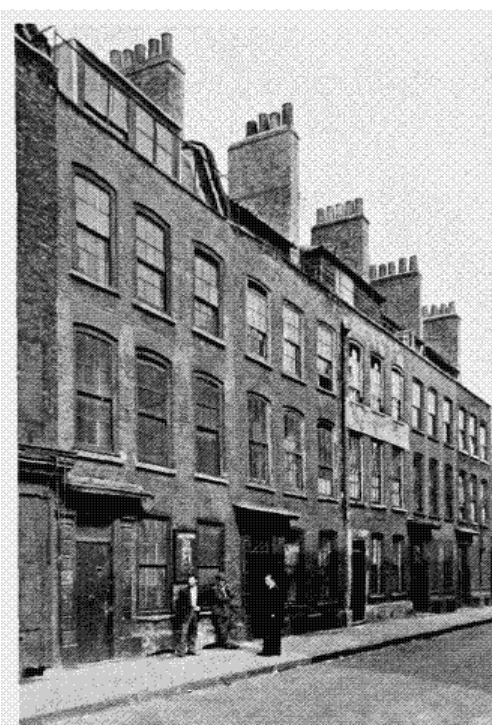
"Increased mortality rates, reduction in the expectation of life, famine, disease, epidemics, and migrations have all been attributed to the effects of this 'Little Ice Age'. (Section on Climate)

James was just 1 year old, his sister Elizabeth 5 and Philip 3, when John Bredell joined Hart



The first page of James Chabot's diary -4th July 1798

and Chabot and the White Row business expanded into 61, Fashion Street but Wakefield's Directory of 1790 still lists Philip at 18, Wood Street (later renamed Wilkes and renumbered 17—see below & appendix iii). It was both **James's** birthplace and his early childhood home.

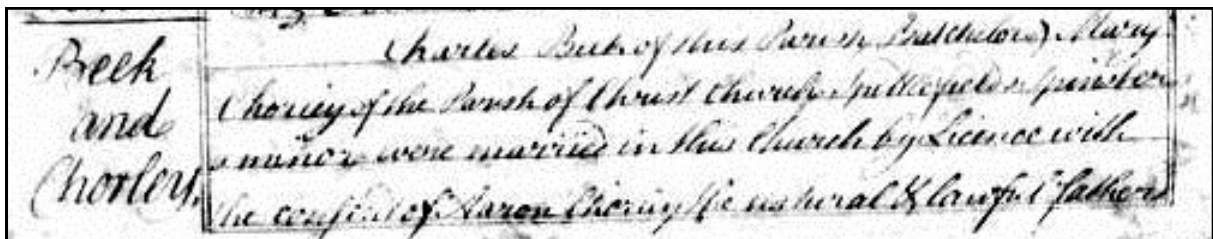
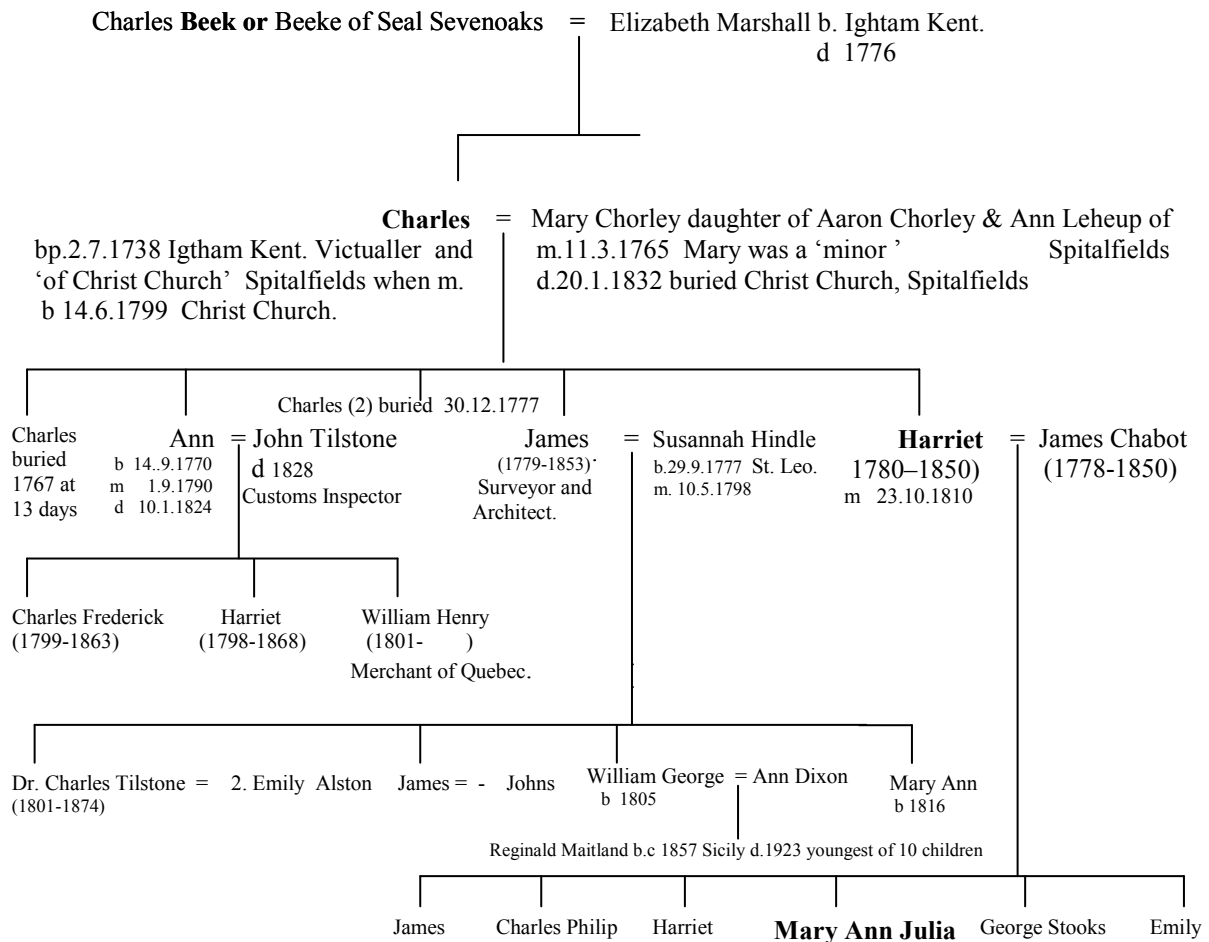


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<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>

But in the family archive **James** is not met until 1798, as a young traveller of 20 yrs. beginning his diary of the journey he took (sleeping in the coach!) in the company of his Aunt Sarah Hutton on a visit to "relatives in the North". It is amusing to note that his first entry dated 4th July (see above) includes a reference to having asked his parents for permission to go on the tripreferring to them as "*P.L. & Co.*"! The family party first went N. via Oxford to Birmingham where after being shown around several factories by their owners(to whom he had introductions from *P.L. & Co*) James wrote fascinated by what he had seen of e.g. the manufacture of Whips, Pins, Buttons, Coins and Watch Chains, showing concern that women workers had to attach 2lbs worth of heads to pins in order to earn just 2 pence , " for fixing heads on pin by pin". In 1810 at 33yrs James married 30 yr.old Harriet Beek who also came from a Spitalfields based family. Her father Charles Beek Esq., born Kent, was in 1793 leasing 10 & 11 Great Pearl St. and 9, Little Pearl St. nearby (now Calvin Street and Jerome St. see appendix iv).

The Beek Family

Married on October 7th 1724 in Aylesford Parish Kent (1)



Our branch of the Low family is related to the Beek family through the marriage on October 23 rd.1810 of Mary Anne Julia Low's parent's, James Chabot (1778-1850) and Harriet Beek (1780-1850 see appendices vi and x). But before looking at the family of James and Harriet it is interesting to reflect briefly on the family of Harriet née Beek's older sister **Anne Beek** and Anne's husband **John Tilstone** (firstly of Artillery Place then of Commercial Place, Finsbury) and secondly on that of her brother **James Beek** (of Hunt St. Mile End New Town and later of Mare Street, Cambridge Heath, Hackney) and his wife Susannah née Hindle.

After marrying Anne at St. Lukes, Old Street, Finsbury on 1.9.1790, by 1802, John Tilstone rose to become Inspector of Customs at the newly opened West India Docks for many years. The **Tilstones** were close to both the Beek and Chabot families, e.g. John Tilstone Sen. was

Executor for Philip Chabot (appendix i) as well as Guardian of his children, should his wife die. “I appoint the said John Tilstone and John Bredell Executors of this my Will and I desire their Acceptance of Ten pounds each for their trouble”. Also, in 1814, a Harriet Tilstone, whom one may assume was John Tilstone Jun.’s sister or sister in law, was named as a sponsor (ie. god parent) at the baptism of James (1778-1850) Chabot’s son, Charles Philip. Likewise John Tilstone Jun. was a sponsor, in 1815, for Harriet Charlotte Sarabella when she was baptised in Malta. Both served by proxy.

James Beek married Susan Hindle. He became a surveyor, inspector of buildings & architect

The three children of Anne née Beek and John Tilstone (1758-1828)

1. **Charles Frederick b.**1799 merchant, moved to French Canada and d. Quebec 1863.
2. **Harriet b.**1798 joined her brothers in French Canada and d. single at Quebec in 1868.
3. **William Henry b.**1801 was first set up by his father in his own business in Quebec but by 1837 he had joined up with the leading timber exporter and politician John Egan, together with H. Le Mesurier and H.L.Routh . By the time of the 1861 census his older brother and sister were also living at Quebec and within William’s own family. (Note- name Routh / Italian section). One may note that his nephew, James Chabot –the eldest of Harriet and James children– also traded as a timber merchant, importing timber into Glasgow and Liverpool from the Americas.

The four children of James Beek (1780-1861) and Susan née Hindle (a)

1. **Dr. Charles Tilstone Beke, lawyer, explorer, writer**, was born 10.10.1800 at Hunt Street (a little N.E. of the Fashion St. area of Mile End) though his father later moved N. to Hackney. His middle name ‘Tilstone’ was the surname of his Aunt Ann’s husband John, who may perhaps have been a god parent.

Charles, who elected from 1833 to use this spelling, of Beke, m. 1st: Eliza Griesbach of Saxony (Gt. Niece of the astronomer J.W. Herschel) 2nd : at 56, in 1856 after Eliza’s death (1853) Emily Alston (b) who was but 26yrs. (b.1830) of Mauritius, and his young research assistant. After he died on the 31.7.1874, his wife continued to promote his ideas and writings.

Charles Beke searched for sources of the Nile from 1840-1843 and later. He was an expert on the biblical lands but some of his findings, approaches and beliefs were so controversial that following his death the National Portrait Gallery, to his young wife’s distress, refused to hang a copy of his portrait. This is recorded in a letter written by her to Alex G. & Annie Low.

Dr. Beke was one of the executors of his Aunt Harriet’s will.



Emily and Charles Tilstone Beke

2. James = Miss. Johns. They had one son in the W.I. Regiment who died at sea.

3. William George = Ann Dixon. They had 10 children the youngest of whom was Reginald Maitland Beek (see later)

4. Mary Ann who did not marry.

Notes: Sources –family archive: (a) Tree by Reginald Maitland Beek .

(b) In a letter written by Dr. Charles’s Beke’s widow Emily, she refers to a portrait in oils by Sir. Thomas Lawrence of Susan’s uncle, John Hindle. This may have been John Fowden Hindle.

The six children of Harriet née Beek and James Chabot

m. 23.10.1810

James	Charles Philip	Harriet Charlotte S.	Mary Anne Julia = A.F.Low	George Stooks	Emily Sempronia
bp Malta	bp Malta	bp.Malta	b London	b. Dundee	b. London
13.09.1811	13.08.1814	26.09.1815	1.06.1816	22.5.1811	6.07.1821
					31.01.1826

Maltese baptism records in the family archives detail sponsors & godparents' names including [Harriet and John Tilstone](#) and [Charlotte Chabot](#), [John Clunes Ross](#), [John Robert Ward](#), [Phebe Morewood](#). Several needed Malta based proxies, eg. [Mary Wilks](#) and [Sarabella Maria Chiaranda](#). [James Castleton Miller](#) signed the papers.

Brief Lives of the Children of Harriet and James Chabot (see appendix x & signatures of overleaf)

James (1811-1874) = Ann Bourne (1827-1875) daughter of a wealthy Lincolnshire farmer. They lived near to Manchester in North Cheshire. James was a Merchant importing Mexican mahogany, cedar and rosewood, as was his bro in law James (M/C Trade Advert of 1869). They had no children of their own but may have supervised part of the education of some nephew's of Ann's when these boys attended boarding school in Cheshire close to their aunt and uncle, as also did James's nephew*. In an early Victorian account (of 'distinguished Huguenot refugees & their descendants') quoted on p.3, as the reader may remember, James was described as being 'head of the family'. His father James 'of Malta' had died in 1850.

Charles Philip (1814-1881) remained a bachelor. Also trading as a Merchant he lived in Mexico but returned home to retire, finally living in a hotel at Paddington near to 84, Westbourne Terrace where his sister Mary Anne Julia Low and family had settled.

Harriet Charlotte Sarabella (1815-1852) m.(1846 in Mexico) James Graham (1811- a Scot, son of John Graham of Glasgow) whose firm, "James Graham & Co." imported hardwoods from South America (see above). In 1852, shortly after Mary's wedding on July 24th Harriet became ill, dying on September 24th. and very shortly afterwards James, 41 yrs, took their son James (of barely 2 yrs.) back to the UK. At 10 yrs. he was a boarder at school in Liscard, near to his Uncle James* and Liverpool, but sadly died aged only 26 in 1877. In 1853 Mary Ann Julia and her husband had passed on the name Graham to their firstborn son.

Mary Anne Julia (1816-1899) met her husband Alexander Fairweather Low [b.1811 Kirriemuir, N. of Dundee son of James Low (1785-1819) Linen Manufacturer] in San Antonio. They were married in Mexico City, and had four children. She was the great great grandmother of Mr. Alexander James Chabot Low (1966-) who visited Malta in Feb.2010

La Hormiga, famously painted in 1863 by Velasco (see overleaf) Alexander F. Low's cotton factory at Tizapan, Mexico City (see appendix vi) was founded in 1843 "with British capital the machinery was driven by the energy of a river to turn a huge wheel and produced all kinds of undyed cotton blanket". (cf. Ricardo Lopez. Faculty of Arts, Mexico City University).

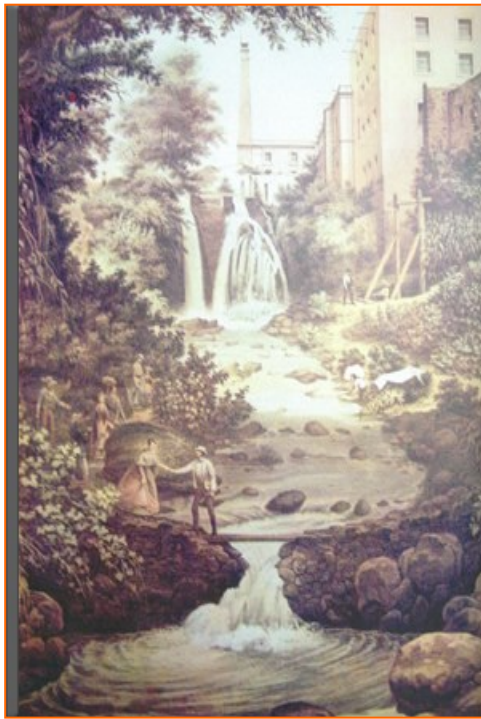


Mary Ann Julia Low née Chabot

George Stooks Chabot (1821-1902) having also removed to the Americas settled in San Antonio, Texas. He was a merchant trading in wool, cotton and other things. He married the artist Mary Van Derlip and in 1876 they built a very fine house which is preserved today as

a private guest house (see below). They had two sons, George Alexander b.1864 and Charles Jasper b.1866, A. G. Low's cousins, from whom other American Chabot cousins descended. Charles Jasper's son Frederick Charles Chabot was an unsuccessful diplomat but a successful if controversial author. In 1937 he published "The Makers of San Antonio".

Emily Sempronia (1826-28) born at Highbury Terrace, London, Harriet and James's youngest child and daughter died aged only 2 yrs. She was interred in the vault of Philip (1743-1800) her grandfather, at **Christ Church, Spitalfields**, London. England (see overleaf).



Above and top right:

La Hormiga factory in 1863 by Velasco



Family signatures on Trust Deed of 1850

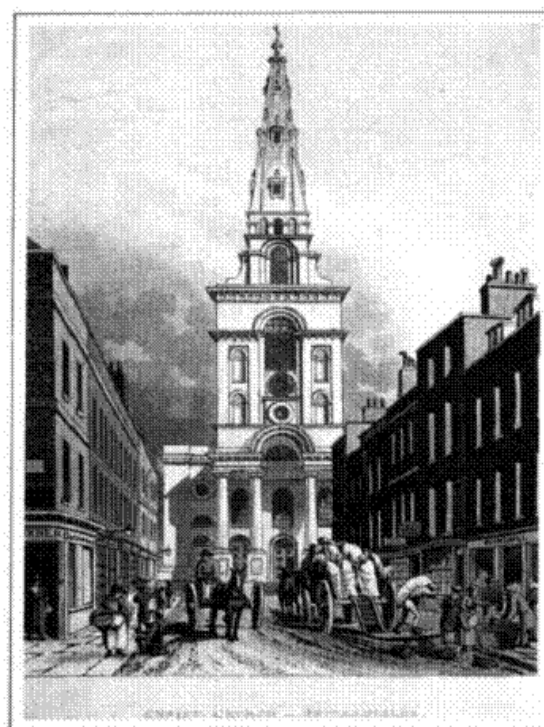
La Hormiga in later times possibly 1940's.



Chabot House. San Antonio USA



Plaque Chabot House: 403 Madison San Antonio Txs



Christ Church after 1729

Christ Church, Spitalfields.

As already stated our English Chabot family had Huguenot roots. Many Huguenots settled in London in the Spitalfields area (see appendices iii-vi) bringing with them the art of weaving many kinds of fabrics, but by the 1700's they were specializing in the production of silks, satins and velvets. The area became very prosperous and in 1729 the imposing Christ Church was consecrated. Fashion Street, into which when in the hands of Philip Chabot (1743-1800) in 1787 the "Hart, Chabot & Bredell" dying business expanded, from adjacent White Row (see appendix viii) and where three generations of the family thence lived and worked at No. 61(as well as No. 54)until leaving in 1855.Fashion Street lies along the southern boundary of the graveyard of Christ Church. It is not surprising therefore to find this is where the parents of James Chabot are interred in a family tomb, namely:

Philip Chabot	=	Lydia Hutton
b. 16.06.1745		b. 26.02 1748
d. 6.10 1800		d.18.3.1801

[Philip and Lydia had five children James, their third child was their second son]

James Chabot (1778-1850) and Harriet Beek married at the parish church of St. Dunstons, Mile End Old Town (see appendix x) their home at Highbury Terrace was in the parish of St. Mary's Islington and they both died in Mexico, but several Beeks as well as the family of Philip and Lydia Chabot lived in or around Spitalfields, Mile End New Town and Hackney in East London. It is therefore fitting that James and Harriet's names are included on the Chabot plaque erected in Christ Church, where it can be seen today by the North West staircase, Christ Church having recently undergone a spectacular £10 million restoration.

The website of Christ Church contains images of many beautiful memorials and although unfortunately the on line transcription of the Chabot plaque is incorrect "Friends of Christ Church" have been informed and are being very helpful.



The Chabot Plaque

IN MEMORY OF

M. PHILIP CHABOT OF THIS PARISH WHO DIED OCTOBER 6 1800 Æ 57

LYDIA HIS WIFE WHO DIED MARCH 18 1800 Æ 53

GEORGE, HIS SON, WHO DIED JANUARY 26, 1796 Æ 11

ELIZABETH HIS ELDEST DAUGHTER WHO DIED MAY 30 1813 Æ 40

PHILIP HIS ELDEST SON WHO DIED NOVEMBER 2 1832 Æ 57

CHARLOTTE HIS DAUGHTER WHO DIED SEPT. 9 1848 Æ 66

THE ABOVE ARE INTERRED

IN THE FAMILY VAULT IN THE CHURCHYARD ADJOINING.

ALSO OF JAMES CHABOT SECOND SON, WHO DIED JUNE 20 1850 Æ 66

HARRIET NEE BEEK WIFE WHO DIED DECEMBER 31 1828 Æ 2

WHO BOTH DIED IN THE CITY OF MEXICO.

EMILY SEMPRONIA DAUGHTER OF JAMES AND HARRIET WHO DIED MAY 31 1838 Æ 2

INTERRED IN HER GRANDFATHER'S VAULT.

ALSO OF PHILIP JAMES CHABOT ESQ^R MA FRAS ELDEST SON OF

THE LAST NAMED PHILIP CHABOT AND ELIZABETH HIS WIFE

NEE PARNELL WHO DIED JAN 11 1868 Æ 66 HE IS INTERRED IN

ABNEY PARK CEMETERY IN THE VAULT OF ROBERT WESTWOOD ESQ^R.

Note: the above incorrectly says: 1) that Emily died in 1838. In fact she was born on January 31st 1826 at Highbury Terrace, Islington and died on May 31st 1828 aged 2. Significantly though, the fact she is buried in her grandfather's vault suggests the family were resident in London when she died, as it is unlikely her body would have been transported back from either Italy, Texas or from Mexico. It is equally likely the family retained their home in London at Highbury Terrace, when they lived abroad; 2) that James's age at death was 66 and Harriet's year of death was 1828. Closer inspection by The Friends has recently confirmed it reads, Harriet died in 1850 aged 70 and James (1778-1850) Merchant of Malta aged 72.

Philip James Chabot M.A. FRAS (St. John's Cambridge). A chemist & barrister, James's nephew was son of his older brother Philip, married to Anna Maria Westwood and father of Edith b.1840 and Anna Maria b.1842. Also named on the Christ Church memorial (erected by his daughters ?) he was born, lived and worked adjacent to the church at 61(sometime 54) Fashion Street though he left the business in 1855. Thereafter he moved his family to live at 41, Claremont Square in the newly developed area south of recently opened Kings Cross Railway Station, near to Grays Inn as well as to the first underground railway line, the Met.

James Chabot (1778-1850) at the turn of the 19th Century. An Orphan

As yet we know little for certain of the life of James Chabot, Merchant of Malta, before he reached the age of 20, or whether his father Philip ever expected him to be apprenticed in the family dyeing business as well as the eldest brother Philip. One assumes not but that while

he was being educated (if not apprenticed) he remained living at home, until on July 4th 1798 he started his journey from 5, Newgate Street (see back cover) his Aunt Sarah Hutton's address in London. However, in 1798, as the end of one century and the start of another new century approached so was it to be a new beginning also, for young James Chabot. By 1801 he had lost both of his parents in quick succession as well as his younger brother George (twin of Charlotte) who had died two years earlier aged only 14 when James himself was 18.

In October 1798 Nelson won the Battle of the Nile against Napoleon and great changes lay ahead for Europe in and around the Mediterranean. James Chabot would arrive in Malta by 1804, maybe via Naples, the French having left and with the British now in charge- having driven away competition from the Russians.

It does not seem unreasonable to assume that James (1778-1850) had the means to travel abroad and set himself up in his own business through benefiting from his father's Trust, after the death of both of his parents. We have no way of knowing why James chose to leave, rather than to 'join the firm' maybe becoming a partner like his older brother Philip.

Regardless of when Chabot and Beek links were first made within the environs of what, since 1871 has been the nation of Italy, certainly several of the children of James (1784-1850) and Harriet (1780-1850) were born at Valletta in the early 1800s. In Maltese records, James himself is described as being "for many years a resident of Malta". When discovering this initially, it came as some surprise given the family's well discussed and recorded association Mexico. James died 'by profession a broker' 'in his residence at the Alcayceria' of Mexico City, this being the market place where organized trading was carried out.(ref. record of burial).

~



B. Chabot connections with Italy and Malta

At Valetta, Malta.

"Chabot Routh and Co.",
167, Strada Mercanti.

The eldest children of James Chabot and Harriet who were born in Malta

James	Charles Philip	Harriet Charlotte Sarabella
b.10.09.1811	b. 27.07.1814	b.26.09.1815
d. 8.04.1874	d. 15.11.1881	d.24.09.1852.

They were baptized by [Reverend John Castleton MILLER, 1775 - 1828. Rector of Milton Malsor, near Northampton. sic Officiated at Anglican baptisms, marriages and burials in Malta, from 1805 till 1815. Then briefly in 1818](#)

Note. Harriet junior (1815-1852) was named after her mother and two godmothers Sarabella and Charlotte, who was also her Aunt Charlotte - her father's youngest sister (1782-1848).

Sourced data places James (1784-1850) in [Malta](#) at least between 1804 and 1816 including coincidentally, when Lord Byron took his tour of Europe from 1809-1811. So to the :

The "Joyous Chain" *Family Friends and Colleagues.*

In his "Life of Byron" John Galt (1779-1839) wrote:

"Malta was in great prosperity. Her commerce was flourishing; and the goodly clusters of its profits hung ripe and rich at every door. The merchants were truly hospitable, and few more so than **Mr Chabot**. As I had letters to him, he invited me to dinner, along with several other friends previously engaged. In the cool of the evening, as we were sitting at our wine, **Lord Byron and Mr Hobhouse** were announced. His Lordship was in better spirits than I had ever seen him. His appearance showed, as he entered the room, that they had met with some adventure, and he chuckled with an inward sense of enjoyment, not altogether without spleen-a kind of malicious satisfaction-as his companion recounted with all becoming gravity their woes and sufferings, as an apology for begging a bed and morsel for the night. God forgive me! But I partook of Byron's levity at the idea of personages so consequential wandering destitute in the streets, seeking for lodgings, as it were, from door to door, and rejected at all."

Another glimpse of life in Malta in 1809 from the diary of John Cam Hobhouse when he accompanied Byron on his Continental Tour. (Editor Peter Cochran)

Thursday August 31st 1809.

"At sea. Malta in sight – a low land. Lord Byron gets a fine map of Greece out of Mr Galt. The entrance of the eastern harbour of Malta very grand, and surpassing every conception of that place ... anchored at two p.m. Dined on board without the captain, who carried a letter from Sir Richard Bickerton to Sir Alexander Ball and dined with him. Went on shore in the evening. Up many steps to get into the heart of the town: very clean with streets broad enough. Came again on board, received report from the Captain – slept on board –

Friday September 1st 1809

Got up at nine, breakfasted on board. Went on shore with Mr Shee, delivered a letter to Colonel Dickens; saw the church of St John. Went round the altar – a man praying on the steps – returned on board – found a formal lordship letter from Sir Alexander Ball, inviting "To partake of a family" (*dinner* left out) at half-past three. At three, took leave of the

Townshend and Shee. Went to the Palace. Shown in to Sir Alexander Ball – took places. Asked where we lodged – advised to go on Sunday with convoy to Smyrna (*Wizard* Brig, Captain Ferris). Went in carriage along a good road, stopping at General Oakes' country seat in the way to deliver a letter, to St Antonio, the Governor's country seat, to dine with him. Dined at four p.m. with him and my Lady Ball (rather stiff). Dinner all in one course, with lectures on temperance and commendation of our abstinence – the house very large – in galleries with paintings – one of Corregio's – antelopes in a small enclosure very tame – garden large with broad stone walks, but still good – perpetual recommendation to go instantly to Constantinople. Heard that Billy Vaux, *mon cher ami*, was gone to a genius and painted an outline of Etna, the brimstone being filled up by one eminent painter (as Lord Byron said).

Returned in a *calesa* of Sir Alexander Ball's to town, a neat carriage with two seats, two wheels, one mule, and the man running by the side. Still thinking to go immediately to Constantinople, and not knowing where we were to sleep ... at seven called and delivered letter to **Mr Chabot**, merchant, who was at dinner with a party – most hospitably received, and accommodated with beds in his house. Coming under the port to the country house, Sir Alexander Ball told us that Buonaparte, being complimented by the Knights on being in possession of Malta, said, "Yes, it is lucky there was someone within to open the gates to us." Met a schoolfellow, a fag of mine, Mr Le Mesurer, at **Mr Chabot's**, who told us *everything went wrong in Sicily*.

Saturday September 2nd 1809

Got up a eight. Breakfasted with the family – debated about going to Smyrna, and found, after determining upon buying sheep, eggs, and a dozen fowls, that the four English saddles were left in the *Townshend* – called on Ball and told our case. He wished us good morning, but Mr Larry his secretary told us he had got Dr Moncrieff's house for us, No 3 Strada di Forni – took us to the public library – very good. Lord Byron bought an Arabic Grammar for a dollar. Introduced to and took a lesson of an Arabic master – went to bathe in a well-constructed bath in **Mr Chabot's calesa**. Came back – dined with General Oakes at his *casa di campagna* – grand dispute about Billy Pitt with his *aide-de-camp*, a rude fellow who grinned. Carried off by the General to town for fear of battle – saw his apartments in the palace. Went to the Opera – small – bad house – boxes let twelve dollars per month but half price always paid by entrances – tolerable Italian opera – *Il Falso Philossofho*, with a good orchestra – though ill-paid, but the dancing so-so. *Gli Amanti Burlatti* in the bad style of Lisbon. Eat for the first time at General Oakes' – *beccaficas*, a fat bit of a bird, smaller than larks, and a curious fish, found in a shell like a mussel enclosed in a rock. Prompter at the opera with coat on, and two large rings on his fingers. Found a capital lodgings at Dr Moncrieff's, and a very civil letter from Colonel Dickens – wrote this from August 31st.

Sunday September 3rd 1809

Up late. Went to bathe, dined at home, Strada di Formi No 3 ... went in the evening to Mr Chabot's – met a Mr Forresti, son of a "famous" Forresti, who mentioned anecdotes of Buonaparte, discovering an assassin by his agitation, and the "snuff-box story". Mr Launder, a partner of Chabot's, also an intelligent man, knew Berthier, saw him demand the loan of the Hamburgers who talked of the Danes. He said he would overrun Holstein with five hundred French grenadiers. Buonaparte made the King of Bavaria and the Viceroy of Italy wait standing behind his chair, as an eyewitness told Mr Forresti. Capri after an immense expense, given to the care of foreigners, and taken. A staircase cut in the rock of Scilla which cost £3,000 (ladders would have done as well) blown up by the French. Sir William Drummonds strange behaviour at the court of Sicily. Young Wellesley Pole bullied the Divan

and got Wallachia, etc. for the Russians, who got him appointed Secretary of Embassy at Constantinople where he had to do everything, as Arbuthnot did nothing. Sir George Rumbold ? disguised himself as a sergeant and tried to seduce Danish soldiers at Altona. Spencer Smith certainly guilty ... This evening a scirocco wind, wetting coats.

Monday September 4th 1809

Up at ten. Took a lesson of Arabic. Colonel Dickens called. Walked to his house – went to bathe – dined at home, took a walk round the town by myself – naked children in the streets. Went to the Theatre and saw a play of Kotzebue’s performed without an after-piece – pit very full. Play very dull, but the people like it better than the operas. Joined by Mr Forresti – turned out of a box (all boxes rented here and days kept). Introduced by Mr Forresti to *la célèbre* Mrs Spencer Smith and the son of the Spanish ambassador at London. Not knowing this latter, we talked lightly of the Spaniards. Mrs Spencer Smith a tall pretty woman, with fat arms, well made. Saw the church of St John this day and the coffin and box containing the body and “*praeordia*” of Count Beaujolois which in better times is to be sent to France!! The wife of Egalité lives at Minorca pensioned by Napoleon – Angelica Catalani certainly a whore – Mr Forresti knew her in Milan in that trade.

Tuesday September 5th 1809

Still a severe scirocco; pain on the eye. Up at ten. Lesson in Arabic. Mr Spiridion Forresti called and showed us how to go to La Pietà to bathe in a boat – dined at home. Mr Spiridion Forresti took us to the theatre in the evening. Mr Forresti is a ward of Mr North’s. When a boy, “Mr Gibbon” took a pleasure in hearing him read Greek... He told us that Lord Elgin had defaced many fine columns at Athens to get at the *releivos*, which French never did ... Mr Wright, author of *Ionicae*, never once left Corfu for two years, and knew no Greek, giving up all his time to his wife, and having a fine library which he never opened ... No tours are correct. Witness Major Taylor’s account of Mr Forresti’s father.

Wednesday September 6th 1809

Upten. Lesson in Arabic. Bathe at La Pietà. Dinner (being the weekly public day) at Sir Alexander Ball’s – large party. Pressed to go in a cutter next day to Constantinople. Old Maltese came in the evening to walk in the gardens where there was a band. Captain Sharpe, my “swallow” friend, told me the English were not liked except by the more opulent Maltese, who had houses to let to them, they having raised the price of provisions &c. considerably. Lord Forbes told me things were going on very badly in Sicily. Went to the play, where there was a speaking Punchinello – and a most beastly scene of a young girl putting a pestle into her hand near the waistband of his breeches. Mr Forresti came home with us. Sir Alexander Ball talks Maltese. Dreadful scirocco brought on a violent cold on me directly.

Thursday September 7th 1809

Got up very ill with the wind. Short lesson in Arabic. Went to St Julian’s & dined with Colonel Dickens at his seat, about four miles from Valetta. These country houses, except the General’s and Admiral’s, not very good, nor so cool as town. Theatre in the evening – *Gli Amanti Burlatti*.

Friday September 8th 1809

Very ill with the wind. Dined out at five at Mr. **Chabot’s**: found change of wind immediately. No lesson in Arabic. Lord Byron made a bet of twenty guineas with a Mr Wherry that he got into the female slave market at Constantinople. Went in the evening to a music

party, at St Floriana. The General played on the flute!! Performers from the theatre there, who supped in another room. The parson of the garrison, a Mr Miller, butted by the aids &c!!

Note: i. The reference to “the church of St. John”. “Mr. Chabot” was based in La Valletta, home of the great cathedral of the Knights Templar of St. John of Malta.

ii. Spiridion Forresti (1752-1822) was a native of Zante, Greece British Consul and later Resident Minister for the Ionian Islands during the whole of the Napoleonic Wars. He was a diplomat deeply involved with British Intelligence.

The First Questions. Was it indeed our “Mr. Chabot” who entertained Byron so well? And when and where did he live and work on the island?

Sen. Aldo Sliema of Maltese Family History Society kindly facilitated contact with two present day Italian experts on the history of Malta, Professor Michela D’Angelo of the University of Messina’s Dept. of Modern History and genealogist Sen. Matteo Giunti of Rome. One result of this is that we have confirmed ‘our’ James as indeed being Byron’s host and our knowledge of the life of the Chabots in Malta continues to grow, but may we briefly revisit England at the close of the 1700s when significant events in young James Chabot’s life at the start of the new century seem to have combined, leading to new beginnings for him.

The summer of 1798 onwards

At the age of 20, James Chabot (1778-1850) wanted to see more of the world. Thus (as already mentioned) on July 4th he accepted an invitation from his Aunt Sarah Hutton to join her and his cousin Elizabeth on a trip across England. He was not sure he was free to join them but after reaching a satisfactory agreement with (we believe) his parents (P. L. & Co. – ‘P.L.’ appears on some family silver, possibly a wedding present given to Philip and Lydia?) and equipped with a small notebook in which to keep a diary, James was in their carriage when it set off for the North via. Uxbridge and Oxford. Unfortunately disaster struck, or he got tired of keeping his diary, for after touring ‘manufactories’ in Birmingham and 20 pages, his meticulous entries peter out; but in fact he may have returned home because his parents were ill. **Philip died 20.11.1800 & Lydia 21.5.1801.** As previously suggested James, although sadly orphaned by the age of 23, one may assume now had the private means to fund himself and any travels he wished to take. Thus he left England for Malta.

Within three years by 1804 and the age of 26 he was sufficiently established in Malta to sign a petition there- for a hospital for British seamen. (“English Merchants in Malta 1800-1825”. M. D’Angelo. 1990). Quite possibly James Chabot’s Mediterranean Trade interests took root on mainland shores e.g., at Naples. The following summary introduced a paper Professor Michela D’Angelo gave at the 5th International Conference on Maritime History at Greenwich in June 2008. “English Merchants in the Mediterranean 1750-1850

“At the beginning of the XVIII century Great Britain became also «a Mediterranean power» through the occupation of naval stations (Gibraltar and Minorca) and strengthened the role played by the English trade in the Mediterranean markets. Power projection and trade expansion linked Great Britain to the Mediterranean shores. During that century, a new economic Anglo-Mediterranean relationship took place: Great Britain, on one hand, experienced changes connected with the Industrial Revolution, and the Mediterranean countries, on the other hand, became the outlet for English finished products as well as the source for English industries.

In connection with the Industrial Revolution, many English merchants settled down in the Mediterranean ports and played an important role in the trade expansion in this area. But, at

the end of the century, the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars obliged these merchants to flee from Leghorn, Genoa, Naples, etc. and take refuge in the Mediterranean islands not occupied by the French Army. They «discovered» particularly the importance of Sicily and Malta as markets. Since those years the Southern Mediterranean islands became a centre and not mere periphery for the British trade.

After 1815 not only did many British merchants remain in Malta and Sicily, which they had come to know during the Continental Blockade, but they were also joined by other British merchants arriving directly from England. In the meantime many other British merchants came back to Leghorn, Genoa, Naples, Trieste etc., where they were active before 1815. Moreover British trade had a new expansion in the Mediterranean area along all the XIX century, while Malta (1800) and the Ionian Islands (1809-64) became British possessions.”

James Chabot a ‘ Merchant of Malta’ between 1804 and 1816

Whether he first left England for Naples or not the start of James Chabot’s life as a traveller in 1798 coincided with the occupation of Malta for two years by France. The French held on to it for just two years until 1800 under the command of Charles Henry Vaubois. But once the Napoleonic Wars of 1799-1815 began, the British (who had been at odds with Russia over Malta because of its strategic position) had by Sept. 5th 1800 taken command of the island to govern it until 1813. Thus while Napoleon held sway as President of a new Italian Republic the British guarded Malta’s naval base, James Chabot settled there, married, became a father, a successful merchant and “Agent in Malta for His Majesty’s Packet Service”.

When and Where in Valetta?

In addition to adding his signature to the petition for a seamen’s hospital in **1804**, this same year, the English merchants formed an association (the forerunner of a ‘chamber of commerce’) to which James Chabot was elected a committee member. He remained so every year up to 1816, sometimes as its Chairman. [Source: a) Aldo Sliema of the Maltese Family History Society b) Minutes viewed by this paper’s authors, March.2011-see appendix xi]

******He rented a warehouse, **Magazzino n.5, Fuori la Mina**, in **1805** (or 1806?) for which he paid 1.000-1.200 scudi yearly [see appendix xi]and by June of **1806** aged 28 he had established the firm **Chabot & Co.**, later Chabot Routh & Co. (see below)

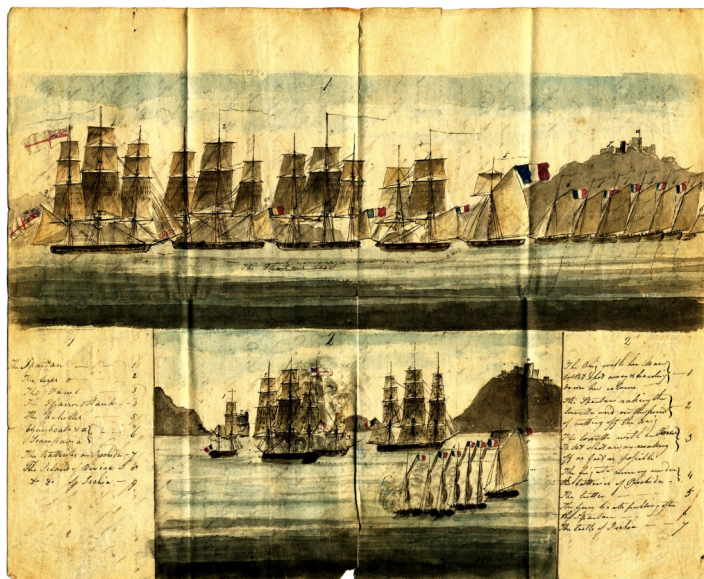
The next evidence of James Chabot’s activities in Malta is dated March 30th **1807**. It is the copy of a letter (auctioned by unknown vendor in Exeter in 1997) written by James Chabot, Agent in Malta for His Majesty’s Packet Service, to General Henry Fox, Commander of British Forces in Sicily and Ambassador to the Court of Naples. It notified Fox of instructions received from “my Lords the Postmaster General” directing that a bag be made up for Palermo Sicily to be delivered by the Captain of the Packet to the Vice Consul at Girgenti or Marsala, and also a bag for Messina to be delivered at Syracuse after the Packet shall have delivered the mail at Malta. “This regulation began with the Princess Elizabeth Packet which arrived yesterday”.

One asks how James came to acquire this role among his other interests.

Additional questions. Only further research among the island’s National Archives may reveal at what address James Chabot entertained the poet Lord Byron to dinner in his home, on Sept.1st 1809. Who lived in James household ? Reference is made, in Hobhouse’s diary, on Sept. 2nd to them having ‘breakfasted with the family’? He did not marry until 1810 so were his spinster sisters Elizabeth and Charlotte living with him in Valetta ? (Elizabeth died in

1813 aged only 40 years but Charlotte lived until 1848 and died aged 66 years).

In 1810 James Chabot was asked to endorse an ink and watercolour record of a battle at Naples, together with a sheet of notes, involving the frigate “Spartan” painted and signed by his friend and later admiral Richard Samaurez when he was a midshipman. Richard Samaurez (a nephew of Lord James de Samaurez and son of the latter’s brother Richard) listed all those killed and wounded in this battle with the French, alongside his detailed illustrations: a small copy of the original is printed below.



“Spartan” in Battle at Naples 1810

Further friends and associates of James Chabot during his action packed and historically significant years at Malta were a **Brigadier Sir Robert Hall** in command of the Anglo Sicilian flotilla at Messina and Admiral W.H. Smyth then a lieutenant who served under him. Smyth won his lieutenancy (presented on March 13th 1813) during action against the French in Spain.

In an account written for the Royal Astronomical Society it is said of Smyth:

Almost immediately after the receipt of his commission, he was appointed to a command in the Anglo-Sicilian fleet at Messina under Brigadier Sir Robert Hall; and here we will take the liberty of making an extract from Marshall's *Naval Biography*:

“One of the first services in which Lieutenant Smyth appears to have been employed was a confidential mission to the Court of Naples, then just wavering in its allegiance to Napoleon Buonaparte. Early in 1814 he proceeded to Palermo in command of the *Scylla* brig, having Sir Robert Hall's flag on board; and while there, was exposed to a serious personal danger. In the night of the 19th of February, being on shore with the Brigadier, he received a report that the *Scylla* was in flames. The wind then blew a furious gale, with heavy torrents of rain, and he had the utmost difficulty in getting a boat launched from Porta-Felice. On rowing a little way out, he perceived a large ship in flames and adrift, and that his own vessel was riding in safety.”

Brigadier Hall was not however only concerned with battles at sea, for remarkably in **1810** one “Sunday Morn” Robert Hall composed a poem for James Chabot inviting him to call, ending with

“And hoping your grace
Will visit this place”

For all of his responsibilities Sir Robert Hall clearly had a sense of humour as he began to pen his poem from Messina, Sicily, to his friend and colleague based in Malta

"If Mr. Chabot
 Would desire but to go
 To the Dock Yard at ten,
 He would see all our men,
 And our officers too,
 In their habits of blue,
 On this day of Review
 Should he continue afloat
 I'll procur him a boat
 Should he choose to arrive at
 This domain, in a coach,
 I'll attend him all o'er
 The Dock Yard & Store
 And hoping your grace
 Will visit this place
 But whatever befall
 I am yours Robert Hall.

Sunday Morn."

If Mr. Chabot
 Would desire but to go,
 To the Dock Yard at ten,
 He would see all our men,
 And our officers too,
 In their habits of blue,
 On this day of Review
 Should he continue afloat,
 I'll procure him a boat,
 Should he choose to arrive at
 This domain, in a coach,
 I'll attend him all o'er
 The Dock Yard & Store,
 And hoping your grace
 Will visit this place,
 But whatever befall,
 I am yours Robert Hall.

Sunday Morn -

Brigadier Sir Robert Hall's Poem for Mr. Chabot.

One year following James's marriage to Harriet Beek at St. Dunstan's, in 1811 their firstborn son James was born. At his baptism James Chabot Esq. Merchant was recorded, John Robert Ward stood proxy for the child's sponsor Henry Baynes Ward, James himself for James Beek (Harriet's brother) and Phebe Morewood was his third sponsor ie. godparent.

Chabot Routh & Co, a partnership of James Chabot with William Epps Routh(1778-1849) which firm was probably established in **1812**, carried on its business in Valetta **at 167 Strada Mercanti (Merchants Street– see appendix xi). It traded in various goods, from wine and wood to 'antiquities', until 1816.

A happy coincidence ? Chabot's partner, Routh (b. Long Island) was an English merchant whose family came from Poole, Dorset. He was established in Naples both before and after the Napoleonic Wars, where he was a partner in **Vallin Routh & Co**.

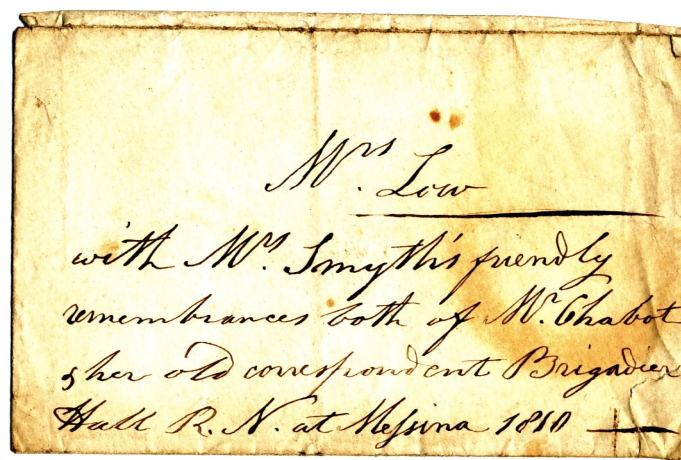
William Epps Routh was the 5th child of Richard Routh whose 10th child Henry Lloyd Routh married **Anne** Dobree, niece of Admiral (1st) Lord de Samaurez (Nelson's 2nd in Command at the Battle of the Nile in 1798). Thus it seems that **Anne**, nee. Dobree, William E. Routh's sister in law, was a cousin of Chabot's naval friend and war artist Richard Samaurez! Chabot's business partnership with Routh, may thence have also helped him later on, when establishing trading contacts in America. Had it been a classic case of networking; 'it's not what you know but whom you know' ?

The next reported mention of James Chabot's interests and connections dates from during the plague of **1813-1814** when he was a member of a committee for Public Health.

Finally, the Wars over, in September of **1816** James 'sold his carriage and horse' and like Routh left Malta for Naples (via Sicily –see appendix xi) & the mainland (to be) of "Italy". By January **1819** when his 4th child Mary Anne Julia was born, the family had returned to London.

In **1850** James and Harriet's lives both ended, in Mexico, by then also home to at least two of their children, Mary Anne and Charles Philip, while George Stooks was living in Texas.

On Feb. 27th 1858 almost eight years after their death when writing from 21, The Circus, Bath, the by now Vice Admiral, **Richard Samaurez** reminisced about his friendship with James Chabot in a cheerful letter addressed to their mutual friend **Admiral Sir William H. Smyth** with the words, "we formed a link in the **joyous chain** who met together in the Mediterranean and partook of Mr. Chabot's generous hospitality" (see lines 7-9 overleaf)..



Above: an envelope addressed to Mrs. Low by Annarella Smyth enclosing Admiral Samaurez's letter to Admiral Smyth

21 Lines Bath

Feb-27/58 -

My dear Admiral

Many thanks to you for your very kind note and interesting lines emanating from early reminiscences - they affirm your participation in the pleasure I felt in meeting one of the few survivors of the eventful period to which those lines refer - especially as we formed a link in the joyous chain who met together in the Midimane an unpartook of Mrs. Halsted's generous hospitality. Regretting in vain, and here let me add it will afford me much pleasure should you come this way - to offer you a welcome and trace over again our old hunting ground, though you have taken the start of me -

*Te doctarum hedera premia frontium
 Et miscuit superis -*
 nevertheless altho those Ivy crowns the rewards of learned men exalt you to the superior district - I have no doubt should the opportunity present itself we shall again meet with the loyal feelings of our younger days - and believe me ever

My dear Lady the
 Yours very truly
 R. Sammauer

Dear Adm.

The letter ends, equally joyfully, with mention of **the buoyant feelings of our younger days** !
 (See above)

The reader may well ask why this particular letter written by R. Samaurez to W.H. Smyth is now preserved in the Low family archive. It is because **Mrs. Smyth, Annarella** wife of Admiral Smyth, put it into an envelope (see back)



Admiral Smyth and Annarella are seen together in the charming portrait of them above

addressed to “Mrs. Low” whom it is fair to assume was Mrs. Alexander Fairweather Low ie. James Chabot’s now married daughter, Mrs. (Mary Ann Julia) Low. Mrs. Smyth may have been sorting out her husband’s property after his death in 1865, and felt that because of the warm sentiments expressed in the letter about Mr. Chabot, it was something Mary Anne Julia and her family would treasure? Indeed further research has revealed that in addition, Mrs. Annarella Smyth (1788-1873) and Mrs. Low (1819-1899) became calling card neighbours when the Low’s moved back full time to England. For after Alexander F. Low had finished running and /or sold up at La Hormiga (which he had taken over from Andrew Lyall in 1854) and “left Mexico for ever”, the Low family settled between Paddington and Bayswater at 84, Westbourne Terrace, London - very near to Mrs. Smyth at 25, Inverness Road (1871 census). The Low family’s departure from Tizapan is recorded in “Across Mexico 1864-65” by W.H. Bullock. (1867).

The Chabots : After Malta? Highbury and Mexico.



Highbury Terrace

The second half of the career of James Chabot, “Commercial Broker” (ref. Harriet’s will) of Highbury Terrace, Islington and of Mexico needs further research but it is known the family had by 1826 moved to Highbury Terrace from Montague Street, Bloomsbury(where Mary Anne Julia and George Stooks were born) their first family home in London after they returned from Malta. When he died in Mexico in 1850 James was still described as being “of Highbury” on his burial record. Seemingly the Chabots kept the house there when abroad.

James was clearly an active member of the commercial world of London in the 1820’s.

On 17th January 1820 the London Morning Chronicle reported he had subscribed £5 “ to afford temporary relieffor the houseless”.

On 15th February 1823 his name was included in the list of “We the undersigned Merchants.....and others connected with the trade of the Port of London, express our deep regrets at your resignation”, an Address made to the Rt. Hon T. Wallace M.P. late Vice President of the Board of Trade. (Morning Chronicle)

On 19th March 1823 it was reported the British Distillery Company had raised £500,000 by the sale of 10,000 shares at £50 each and James Chabot’s name was listed among those of the 12 directors. (Morning Chronicle)

“James Chabot and Sons”

All of James Chabot’s sons followed him into the world of Trade. James(1811-1874) the eldest

son of **James Chabot** (1778-1850) and **Charles Philip** (1814-1881) his second son, both traded as merchants sometimes out of Tampico, a trading port on the East coast of Mexico and imported wood (especially mahogany) from Central America into Belfast, Glasgow and Manchester. The third, **George Stooks** (1821-1902) traded in cotton and wool from his Texas base.

One may reasonably assume that father James went into business with his sons in Mexico because "James Chabot and Sons" is listed by the London Morning Chronicle of 12th February 1840 under the headline, "Address to her Majesty's Consul in Mexico". Apparently the Consul, John Parkinson was going on leave. Over fifty individuals and businesses wished to publicly express their thanks to him as well as the hope he might return, including the Chabots.

Another delightful hint of the family's activities at Mexico City is contained in letter of 11th November 1844 held in the family archive. Though it is unsigned, it appears to have been written by Mary Anne Julia and describes a hilltop picnic to the Carmelite convent ruins of Desierto with references to 'Charles' and 'Harriet'. The writer, in a party of 20+, says they rode uphill by coach, then horse and 'burro' (donkey) and that she was 'trying to regain' her shawl while, with difficulty, mounting hers.

James Chabot (1778-1850) died on June 20th 1850 "at his residence in the Alcaiceria" Mexico City and was buried on 21.6.1850 in El Panteon de Los Ingleses (English Cemetery) at Tlaxpana which lies one km. west of the capital. The cemetery which had been opened in 1825 contains 750 graves.



The British Society of Mexico is currently undertaking restoration work of the Victorian English Cemeteries one of which is shown right.

View:an English Cemetery Mexico City

The Beek Family's Links With Italy

Although the name **Beck** does appear in Maltese records it seems that Harriet Chabot nee. Beek's nephew, **William George** (1805-1873) took his family out to **Sicily**.

We have evidence from the censuses that four of William George. = Ann nee. Dixon's ten children were born in Europe between 1848 & 1858. Mary Ann, Emily and Reginald were born in Sicily, Eliza in France in 1853 perhaps travelling en route for Sicily or home to England. The other children may have been born in Hackney William's birthplace, where his father had been a respected Surveyor and Architect It is not known what William's occupation was but in later years the youngest of William's ten many children, **Reginald Maitland Beek** (b. Italy 1858) tried farming in various places around the world. Reginald was quite a rover. He went out to Queensland, Australia to farm but failed to make a success of it and by 1895 writing from **Catania in Sicily** to M.A.J.'s son, Alexander Graham Low (1853-1936) Reginald said he had hoped to take over his brother's vineyard and 'wheatland' there two years or so before, but was too ill.

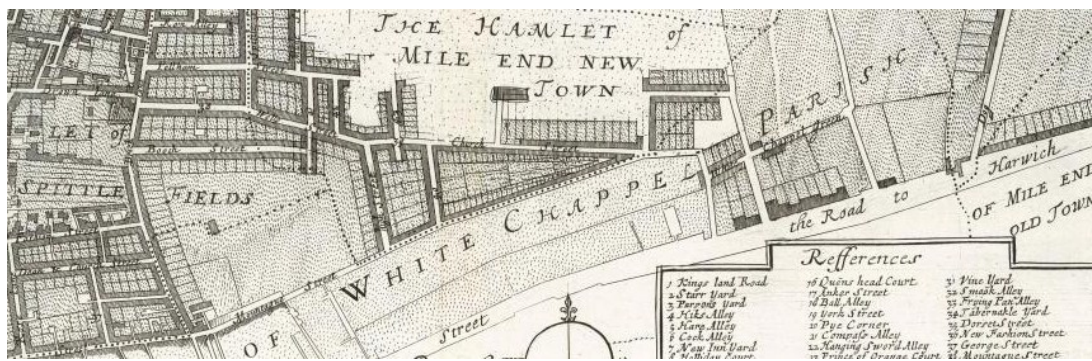
In November 1903 Reginald & Mary his sister were the only members of the Beek & Chabot families at the funeral of Emily, widow of his uncle Dr. Charles T. Beek biblical critic and explorer extraordinary, in Wimbledon. Though away again in Canada during WWI Reginald Beek was living at home in S.E. London with his long widowed mother and sister, by Sept 20th 1922, whence he wrote to A.G. Low from 5, Hurlingham Mansions, Fulham, S.W.6. In the letter he referred to his brother Charlie Beek. This is the last known of the Beek families.

This is the Last Will and testament of Mr. Philip Chabot of Fashion Street Spitalfields in the County of Middlesex, Dyer. I direct that all my just debts and funeral expenses and the expenses of proving this my will shall in the first place be fully paid and satisfied. I give and bequeath all my household goods and furniture books and pictures plate linen and china and all the wines, liquor and provisions for housekeeping that shall be in and about the House or Houses wherein I shall reside at the time of my decease and also all my wearing apparel unto my wife **Lydia Chabot** to and for her own absolute use and benefit. And whereas by Articles of Co-partnership bearing date on or about the twenty sixth day of June which was in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty(?) seven and made or expected to be made between **James Hart of White Row, Dyer** of the first part with the said Philip Chabot of the second part and **John Bredell of White Row aforesaid, Dyer** of the third part the said James Hart, the said Philip Chabot and the said John Bredell did agree to carry on the business of a Dyer in Co-partnership for the term of Twenty one years and to bring into the said trade the sum of Nine thousand one hundred and sixty nine ponds eleven shillings in the proportions following that is to say, the said James Hart five thousand eighty four pounds fifty shillings and sixpence and I the said Philip Chabot the sum of four thousand and eighty four pounds fifteen shillings and sixpence which sum of Nine thousand one hundred and sixty nine pounds eleven shillings was to constitute the Capital or Joint Stock of the said Co-partnership Joint Trade or Business and that we the said Co-partnership should be entitled to the Gains and Profits of the said Co-partnership Joint Trade or Business in the shares or proportions hereinafter mentioned that is to say: the said James Hart in one fourth parts thereof, I the said Philip Chabot in two other fourth parts of shares thereof and the said John Bredell in the remaining and fourth part or share thereof. And the said Co-partnership Joint Trade or Business should be carried on by us the said Co-partnership in manner and upon the Terms Conditions and Stipulations therein particularly mentioned expressed and declared, and it was by the said Articles of Co-partnership further agreed that in case the said Philip Chabot or the said John Bredell should happen to die during the said Co-partnership Term leaving a **Son Apprentice** to run the said Co-partnership or any or either of us then in case such Son should be with and serve out his apprentice with the Survivor or Survivors of them and in case he should faithfully serve out such Apprenticeship then it was by the said Articles agreed that the Surviving partners should **as soon as such Son should be out of his apprenticeship** take and admit him a partner in the said Trade or business with the said Capital and within the same Proportion of Profits as such Partner so living was entitled to at the time of his decease. (**Note: There are many further references to “son apprentices”**)

I Lydia Chabot

being of perfect mind and memory do make this my last Will in manner following- I appoint my sons Philip and James my joint Executors and after their paying my funeral Expenses and all my just Debts, all my Money Plate Household Goods and all other my Property whatever, I give to them. Witness my hand and Seal the fourteenth Day of December one thousand eight hundred.- *Lydia Chabot*- M.Treadway (?) Sarah Hutton.

This Will was proved at London the twenty first Day of May in the Year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and one before the Worshipful Samuel Pearse Parson, Doctor of Laws Surrogate of the Knight Honourable Sir William Wynne Knight also Doctor of Laws Master Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury lawfully constituted by the Oaths of Philip Chabot and James Chabot the sons of the Deceased her Executors named in the said Will to whom administration was granted of all and singular the Goods Chattels and Credits of the said Deceased having been first sworn duly to administer.

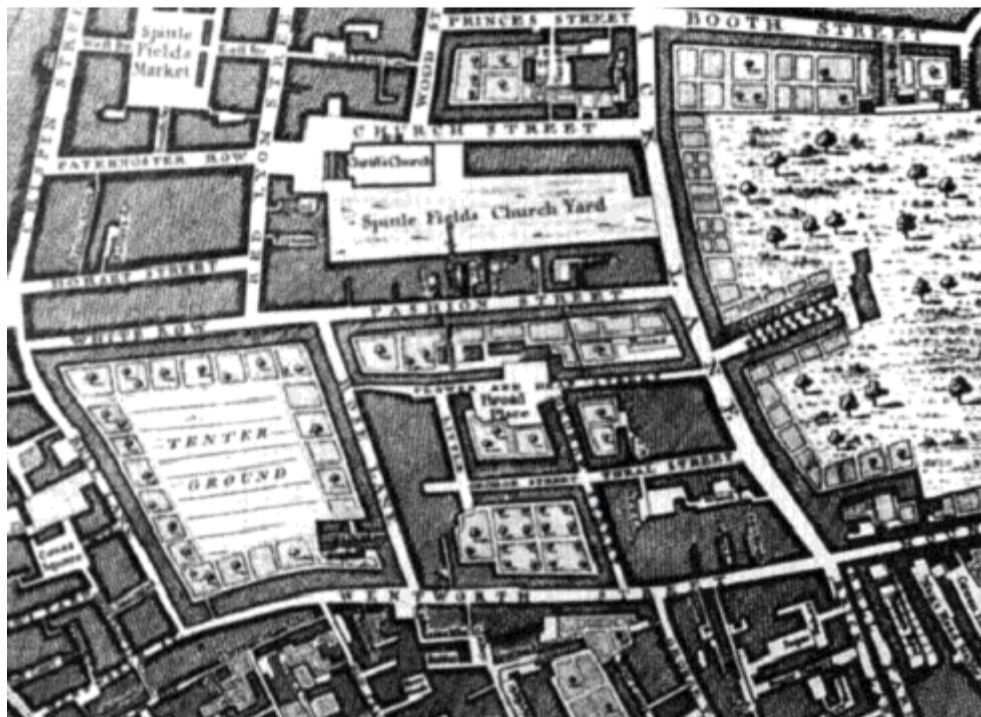


Below :Growth of the Spitalfields area through the 18th century: John Rocque's map of 1737-1746; Richard Horwood's map of 1799-1819. Comparison of the two maps shows the increased density of housing

(by permission of the London Topographical Society)

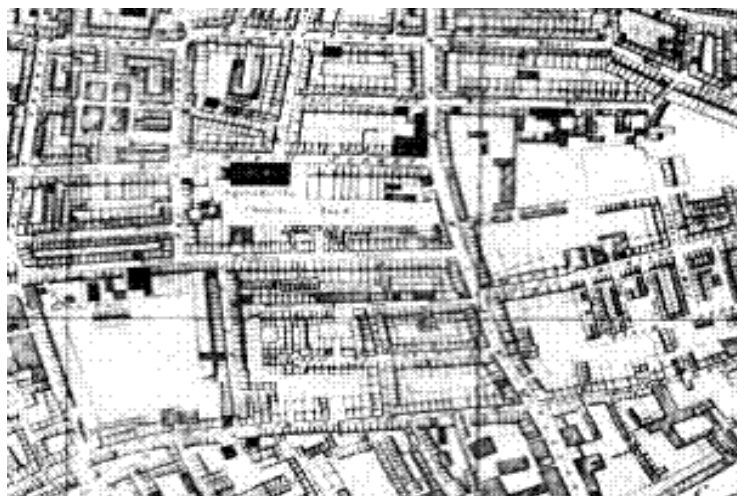
1737-1746

White Row seen > North of the Tenter Ground, where cloth was stretched out on tenterhooks". White Row ran Eastwards into Fashion Street until ending at Brick Lane. "Hart Chabot and Bredell", silk dyers, are listed as being at No.4 White Row (Directory 1794)



1799-1819

White Row > is still shown as the continuation of Fashion Street and Commercial Road running N-S to the Docks has yet to be developed cutting across them. The Tenter Ground is still an open space.



The Northern side of **White Row** was part of the Wheler estate. The southern side was in the late seventeenth century owned by Nathaniel and John Tilly and in the eighteenth century by the Shepherd family. It formed the northern boundary of the tenter ground stretching south to Wentworth Street, which remained an open space until the nineteenth century.

Another map from the [London Corporation Archives](#) showing the development of the Wheler estate at the more Northerly end of Wilkes Street and of Mile End New Town



> **Great Pearl Street** bends south to become **Little Pearl Street**. To the west Great Pearl Street runs into Calvin Street. Today it has the name Calvin Street along the whole of its length. Little Pearl Street is now known as Jerome Street. Nos 10 and 11, Calvin St. (formerly Nos. 10 and 11, Great Pearl St.) and No. 27, Jerome St., (formerly No. 9 Little Pearl St.) in 1793 were leased by Charles Beek from Ann Williams of Lambeth. cf. Rate books. It is the presumed birthplace of Harriet Beek the mother of James Chabot.

At it's Eastern end Great Pearl Street joins **Grey Eagle Street** which runs N-S. parallel with Wilkes St. Members of the Leheup family lived in Grey Eagle St. In other words, just around the corner from the Beek's of Pearl St., were members of Mary Beek née Chorley's family- her mother having been Ann Leheup (Harriet's maternal grandmother).

Where Harriet Beek began her life (above) and married, at St. Dunstan's, Mile End Old Town (below right)



< **San Antonio**

< **San Luis Potosi**

< **Tampico trading port**

< **Mexico City/Tizapan**

< **Vera Cruz port to N.Y/UK**

Where Harriet née Beek and James Chabot ended their lives—in Central America

John Strype in 1720 . “A Harbour for Protestant Strangers”

By the 1880's the Huguenots inspired silk trade was dying and Spitalfields had become a “Harbour for Jewish Strangers” from Eastern Europe. By the 1980's Brick Lane was renowned for being a “Harbour for Bengali Strangers”. In 2008 the house in which James Chabot was born was sold for over £2 million. It is now Grade II listed and within a Conservation Area of Tower Hamlets, protected from developers and becoming out of the reach for “Strangers' s” pockets. But to return to the move of the Chabott family south from Christopher's Alley, Shoreditch to the expanding area of Spitalfields in Mile End New Town and the environs of James's Chabot childhood.

Extracted from :British History On Line. Below are extracts taken from English Heritage's 'General introduction' to the *Survey of London: volume 27: Spitalfields and Mile End New Town* (1957).

“ There was no ancient village nucleus here and no parish church existed in the area before the reign of George I, when the hamlet of Spitalfields, previously part of St. Dunstan's, Stepney, was made a parish by an Act of 1729. The western extremity of the area, bordering Bishopsgate Street, had been occupied by conventional buildings from the twelfth century and some domestic building took place in the south-western part of the area in the late sixteenth century. It was, however, the second half of the seventeenth century that saw the chief transformation of much of the area from open fields and nursery gardens into streets of houses built mainly for the accommodation of silk weavers. The development of the area west of Brick Lane was almost complete by 1740'. Much of the area has thus been built over for some three hundred years. Its position has subjected it to constant social and material change, making many aspects of even its recent history difficult to reconstruct. The paucity of original title-deeds and the lack of a full series of rate books have obscured the history of many buildings, while the evil reputation of the area in the nineteenth century has left much of now vanished Spitalfields unrecorded by any topographical artist. A very small part of the area appears still to have belonged to the Manor of Stepney in the eighteenth century, but its building history, which is essentially of the mid-seventeenth century onwards, was not significantly influenced, as was that of some other parts of East London, by the conditions of tenure in this Manor.

In the 1650's the south side of the line of Fashion Street and White's Row was lined with small houses, and the area south of Fashion Street laid out in narrow streets by local builders. The area south of White's Row remained a tenter ground, and was the last part of Spitalfields to be laid out in streets, in the second decade of the nineteenth century. The westernmost part of this southern section had passed in the 1640's (like much of the future Mile End New Town) to the Montague family (later Earls of Halifax), but was redeveloped only gradually. The area discussed in this volume, so closely associated with the history of the Huguenot silk weavers, was thus already very largely built-up by the time of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685. Aliens were present in Spitalfields before the middle of the century, and two years before the Revocation French weavers were sufficiently numerous in Spitalfields to attract the hostility of the English apprentices. By the beginning of the eighteenth century houses of rather better quality were being erected by the Earl of Bolingbroke in Norton Folgate and by Joseph Truman west of Brick Lane. At about this time, in 1703, the hamlet took measures for the better lighting of the area.

In 1711 Spitalfields was chosen for the site of one or more churches to be erected by the 'Fifty Churches' Commissioners. The one church finally built between 1714 and 1729 to Nicholas Hawksmoor's design contributes strongly by its size, strangeness and nobility to the character of Spitalfields, although its history is to be seen in a metropolitan rather than a local context'. (*n.b. this was Christ Church. Elizabeth was baptised here in 1773)

It was at this time that the development of the two estates which contained the best of Spitalfields domestic building was commenced. Between 1718 and 1728 Charles Wood and Simon Michell, two lawyers of Somersetshire extraction who had acquired part of the southern section of the Wheler estate, laid out a residential area between Hanbury Street and a new street, now Fournier Street, on the north side of Christ Church.This period of building activity reflects the prosperity of the Huguenot silk merchants, who provided many of the first occupants of the better houses on the two estates. The quality of building varied a good deal, but the street façades were generally imposing even where the interiors were unpretentious. Later rebuilding and neglect have obscured the original character of these estates, but much of Fournier Street survives and something of the old atmosphere can still be felt in Elder Street. Rocque's map of 1746 shows the greater part of the area west of Brick Lane to be closely built; but behind the houses gardens still occupied the ground later covered with workshops and a squalid slum land of tiny courts. The mid-eighteenth century saw chiefly the rebuilding of seventeenth-century buildings. The Spitalfields area in the mid-eighteenth century had acquired a degree of homogeneity arising from wide-spread dependence on the silk-weaving industry, which had already

the seventeenth century existed in Spitalfields, where it enjoyed proximity to the greatest centre of consumption and to the landing-places for imported material. The trade was predominantly capitalistic, and although the fabric of the area still recalls the prosperity of some merchants, master weavers, dyers and retailers, much of vanished Spitalfields was always the home of poorer working weavers. Such artisans were subject to the hazards of a trade in which changes of fashion and interruption of the supply of raw material by war were liable to cause great fluctuations in business and whose economic organization made it possible for work to be stopped by the master weaver at short notice. The history of Spitalfields was thus marked from an early period by industrial distress which was sometimes expressed in violent rioting.

The 1730's were marked by repeated riots by weavers against their masters, requiring troops to be sent from the Tower, and similar violence marked the 1760's and early 1770's. In 1773 the first 'Spitalfields Act' inaugurated a period of internal price regulation (perhaps systematizing existing practices) and external tariff protection that lasted until 1824. Some measure of industrial peace was secured, perhaps at the expense of economic and technical adaptability. But interruption of trade by war, as in 1792, still brought great distress.

The setting of this industrial poverty was of course very different from that of nineteenth-century factory industrialism. In the 1760's artisans seeking employment gathered within the railings before the church on Monday and Tuesday mornings to be hired, and in the 1780's the steeple keeper begged Christmas bounty of the parishioners in verse which had something of a country air about it. Gardens still lay at the backs of houses and the weavers were noted for their fondness for flowers and caged birds and for intellectual interests which found expression in the Spitalfields Mathematical Society and other shorter-lived societies. Horwood's map of 1799, compared with Rocque's of 1746, shows little change in Spitalfields and the liberties except on the Wilkes estate and the new street called Union Street (now part of Brushfield Street). This had been built in the 1780's to remedy the lack of through-routes in Spitalfields. The City of London, partly in order to improve communication between Finsbury and Whitechapel, assisted this project, which was quickly carried through. The new street soon became congested, however, by the traffic drawn to Spitalfields Market.

By 1801 Spitalfields parish was already thickly populated, with 15,091 inhabitants. In March 1807 the Spitalfields Vestry spoke of 'the very peculiar Circumstances' of Spitalfields and Mile End New Town 'which are inhabited almost entirely by poor Persons' and where, in 1814, some £11,000 was spent on poor relief. The Spitalfields workhouse was becoming more crowded and the streets were being taken over by common lodging houses offering wretched accommodation to an impoverished and partly criminal population. When Commercial Street was projected in the 1830's the sickly, pauperized and vicious character of much of the area was acknowledged. The laying-out of the lines both of the new street and of the railway to the Shoreditch terminus was retarded by the congested and unsanitary character of the property through which they passed.

The making of Commercial Street in mid-century, while serving a general metropolitan purpose in linking North London with the Docks, gave Spitalfields its first wide thoroughfare, and was beneficial to health and order. But the courts and streets bordering it remained infamous. In 1858 robberies in the street caused alarm and in the following year the 'fearful state' of Fashion Street was deplored by the Vestry.The abandonment of the 'Spitalfields Acts' in 1824 and the reduction of tariff protection, completed in 1860, had increased the hardships of the Spitalfields silk weavers and the nineteenth-century history of their trade was one of virtually unbroken decline. In the later nineteenth century only a few of the most skilled weavers and some firms organizing their work in factories survived. The trade in Spitalfields is now extinct". James Chabot's nephew Philip James eventually disposed of the business & had left Fashion St. by 1861.

The decline of the Spitalfields Silk Industry. "Cobden's Treaty of 1860 hastened the end, and the occupational nature of the parish began to reflect the success and redevelopment of the market and the growth of Truman's Brewery. The influx of Jewish refugees, fleeing from the pogroms in eastern Europe in the second half of the 19th century, led to the development of small clothier's workshops and furriers. The construction of Commercial Street, and the development and subsequent transformation of the Great Eastern Railway terminus into a goods station, finally destroyed " Spitalfields as the Chabots had known it.

By 1881 both 4, White's row and 61, Fashion Street were occupied by Russians and Poles, Askenazy Jews, who were Furriers, Hat Makers etc. In addition 17, Wilkes St. (formerly 18, Wood Street and James Chabot's birthplace) was being used as a Synagogue (see photo on page 6, which shows signs attached to the walls of the house) and was called the Warsaw Lodge Synagogue. Another century later the area was **Bangaldeshi**.



“The majority of the houses were built in the early 18th century. They were of various designs and sizes but all were spacious and well built and had rear gardens. The area benefited from a local Lighting and Cleansing Act of 1759, and a Paving Act of 1778. Efforts to improve sewage disposal were increased from 1775, although sewers were in place previously. Wood Street, later known as Wilkes Street, comprised well-built double fronted houses, one room in depth with three or five Stories. Rothstien describes Wood Street as one that people improved to before progressing again.”. (British History on Line)

Nos. 17–27 (odd) Wilkes Street

Formerly Nos. 18–13 (consec.) **Wood Street**. Nos. 17–25 were built by Marmaduke Smith, described as citizen and blacksmith of London, under ninety-nine-year leases from Wood and Michell of January 1723/4, the houses being said then to have been built by him. They are, however, more similar in style to others on the estate for which Samuel Worrall took the building lease than to No. 10 opposite built by Smith..

A description of “18, Wood Street” (see below : ref. British History on Line) follows:



“(Nos. 17–25 are terrace-houses of uniform design, single-fronted and two rooms deep, with cellar-basements, three storeys, and roof garrets. The plan, which is a standard one of its day, has the narrow hall on the left of the front room, with a full-width room over, and the dog-leg staircase on the left of the back room, which is smaller than the front and has an angle fireplace against the back and party walls. The fronts are akin to others in the locality and are built of yellow brick, with red brick jambs and segmental arches to the window openings, three in each upper storey and two in the ground storey with the doorway on the left.

Each house has, or had, a wooden doorcase of Doric design, with pilaster shafts of chamfered edged blocks, and a triglyphed entablature finished with a cornice-hood. The windows have moulded flush frames which, with the top sashes, are segmental-headed. Glazing bars, where existing, are of slender section. Each house has a hipped roof with its ridge at a right angle to the front, and the weather-boarded garret fronts contain weavers’ windows. The interiors are finished in a simple style, the rooms being lined with rebated panelling in two heights. The dog-leg staircases have closed strings, turned balusters of simple profile, column-newels, and moulded straight handrails.

James’s birthplace is now Grade II listed thus: “Early C18. Fainted brick with slated mansard roof. 3 storeys and continuous dormers. 3 windows with segmental arches and flush frames. Sashes, some with glazing bars. Wooden doorcase has disappeared but door has fluted pilasters and rectangular fanlight, with tracery, above”. According to the current Council Tax Valuation List No.17 Wilkes Street (ie.18 Wood Street) is in Band G .

The Land Taxes due on houses in desirable Wood Street in 1760 were as follows:

Wood St	Princes St	Brick Lane	Wheeler St	Browns Lane
Min tax £2-8s-0d	£1-16s-0d	16s-0d	8s-0d	16s-0d 8d
Max tax £4-0s-0d	£7-12s-0d	£3-4s-0d	£2-8s-0d	£4-0s-0d 6s-0d

Right: 'Then' -
Fronts of Nos. 10–18

Backs of Nos. 17–25
facing west.



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<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>

Wilkes/Wood St.

No.18, Wilkes St.

The interior of the
Georgian house for
sale opposite
No.17, Wilkes St.
2010



South-Towards
Christ Church
Church steeple
from opposite
No.17, Wilkes St.
in 2010.

And 'now.' Opposite to James Chabot's birthplace in 'Wood Street' /Wilkes St. , which on 17.12.10 is for sale with "Jackson Stops" for £2.500 million, is No. 18, Wilkes St. showing how the houses are recovering their beauty, as Spitalfields character changes yet again being redeveloped this time as a "Conservation Area".

No. 27 Jerome Street and Nos. 10 and 11 Calvin Street

Formerly No. 9 Little Pearl Street and Nos. 10 and 11 Great Pearl Street, below 'then'.



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<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>

Lessee : Charles Beek Esq.(Victualler) 1793.

"Nos. 10 and 11 Calvin Street are paired houses with mirrored plans, three storeys high, and the fenestration in the plain stock brick front clearly shows that they were built for weavers' occupation. The cement-faced ground storey contains the doorway and a sashed window of normal proportions, above which is a wide sashed window of three lights. In the top storey is a four-light casement extending the full width of the frontage. All the window openings have segmental-arched heads". (B.H.O.L).

White's Row : below 'then' and in 1943



The Location of the first dyeing



house of the firm of "Hart Chabot and Bredell" was in White Row (south side) and had been the Dyeing House first run and dwelt in by James Hart .

Views looking eastwards in the direction of Fashion Street(of the "Fossan" Estate) >

61, Fashion Street.

It is hard to find visual records of the buildings here, but the 1851 census recorded Philip J. Chabot (1801-1868) was employing 'Men & Boys' at No.61. The street name "Fashion" is a corruption of the word "Fosson", the south side of this street being a part, not of the Wheler family Estate to the N., but of Thomas and Lewis **Fossons'** who acquired the land in 1635.

The street fell into disrepute in the latter half of the 1800's, however a written description of the premises of the Chabot Dyeworks at 61, Fashion Street of 1819 is preserved, in a record of the Old Bailey trial on October 27th (for theft and grand larceny) of a former employee, John Lloyd aged 35. He was found guilty of having stolen 23lbs of silk worth £60 'from the goods of John Bredell and Philip Chabot' and sentenced to be transported for seven years. Giving evidence Philip (1775-1832) unwittingly paints a picture for us of the premises where he 'lived over the shop'. (see right)

It is interesting to note that Philip, (brother of James Chabot 1786-1850) refers to having a **skeining room**. This suggests all 'the three basic operations of converting the silk filament from the cocoon of the silk worm into yarn suitable for weaving' (N.Cossons) were carried on before dyeing, in Bredell and Chabot's works. 'The first stages carried outconsisted of unwinding the filament from the cocoon and rewinding it with others to form a **skein**. This skein was washed to remove the gummy matter known as sericin and was then ready for processing....it was wound onto a single bobbin,a process known as 'doubling'; finally twisted together into a yarn...a process known as 'throwing'. (N.Cossons)

Bredell and Philip Chabot.
PHILIP CHABOT: I am a dyer, and am in partnership with John Bredel; we live in Fashion-street, Spitalfields; the prisoner had left our service about six weeks before this robbery. On Tuesday morning, the 3d of August, I found that we had lost between 20 and 30lbs. of silk—some raw and some boiled; it was taken from a closet in our skeining-room. On examination, I found that the premises had been entered by the churchyard-wall, which joins the back of them—they must have entered our loft to go to the skeining-room door, which was in the dye-house; they had endeavoured to force the door open—the key of this door had usually been hung up at a distant part of the dye-house, which the prisoner knew, but it was not there that night. After failing in their attempt to open the door, it appears that they must have returned up stairs, and taken out some four inch brick-work, which made an opening into a room over the skeining-room, where there is a flap-door communicating with it, which is not always locked; the key of the closet was in the foreman's desk, in the skeining-room. This desk was wrenched open, the key of the closet taken out, and opened with it—the closet was not forced open, but all this silk was taken out of it. Next morning, when the people came to work, they discovered the loss, and on looking round, one of them found an old coat of the prisoner's in the lower part of the premises, where the door had first been attempted. I have never found the silk.

The Queens Head public house (below) which was next door to No.61 (ref.1851 census) is now closed down. It once stood on the N. side of Fashion St. at the latter's junction with what by 1857 became Commercial Street. In 1849, the Commissioners of the (Metropolitan) Association for Improving the



Dwellings of the Industrious Classes were concerned at the 'very unsightly appearance' of a pub on the northern corner of [Fashion Street](#) and [Commercial Street](#), believing it to be 'detrimental to the property acquired by us'. It was sold to the owner of a strip of land bordering the street on condition that he pulled down the premises and an adjoining house and replace them with five properties using designs approved by the Commissioners. It is likely that the surviving building was constructed at this time.

Charles Beek (1766- oldest of Harriet Beek's siblings) The parish record of his baptism at Christ Church on May 29th 1766 when he was three weeks old, shows the family address as Great Pearl Street and his father's occupation as Victualler. Presumed to have died as a child before 1776.

1766			Days old
May	25	John Bryant son of William and Elizabeth. Pelham Street. Dyer	46
	25	Sarah Murrell D ^r of Thomas and Elizabeth. Black Eagle Street. Weaver	4
	25	John Reed son of Anthony and Mary. Dorset Street. Walter	17
	25	James George Wattle son of James and Susanna. Church Street. Engraver	19
	25	Ann Houghton D ^r of Joseph and Elizabeth. George Street. Weaver	19
	28	Edward Cansey son of Benjamin and Betty. White Row. Carpenter	44
	28	John Baker Gladstone son of John and Mary. Red Lion Street. Taymaker	21
	29	Charles Beek son of Charles and Mary. Great Pearl Street. Victualler	21
June	1	Joseph Scott son of Moses and Lucy. Wheeler Street. Weaver	21
		James Murrell Street. Sawyer	26

James Chabott (1704-1766)

In Fleet Prison marriage records, James is stated as marrying Mary Walker on January 17th 1733 in the "Rules", which means they were married in an outside courtyard somewhere near to the Prison. (See caricature of Fleet Weddings Right)

"whilst a lot of Fleet marriages were clandestine, its now believed that a large proportion of those who got married there did so because it was both cheaper and simpler. Fleet marriages were conducted by priests who were incarcerated there, and who were happy to marry people without troubling about banns or fees for licences. We know that a number of Huguenots married at Fleet weddings, though French protestants also had their own churches all over London, which could register marriages until the Hardwicke Act of 1754". (Librarian/Huguenot library 12.10).



Mary Walker (Edith Chabot records was of West Hallam, Derby. It may be of some relevance to note that Derby was where the textile factory system had its origins in 1702 when Thos. Cotchett opened a silk spinning mill on the Derwent. "His enterprise attracted the attention of the wealthy London silk merchant Thomas Lombe (1685-1739)..Why the industry became established in Derby is difficult to explain. The main centre occupied largely by Huguenot weavers was in the Spitalfields area... houses with attic workshops". (N Cossons)

Harriet Beek (1780-1850) died on New Year's Eve 1850, aged 70 years, six months after her husband James

Fifteenth day of April One thousand eight hundred and forty seven
 Harriet Chabot
 Signed sealed published declared
 and executed by the above named
 Harriet Chabot as & for her last
 Will and testament in the presence
 of us, who in the presence of the
 said testatrix & of each other, have
 subscribed our names as witnesses
 hereto.
 Alex. F. Low
 M. —ward
 Rich. Geaves

and she was undoubtedly buried at the same British Cemetery. Her will dated April 15th 1847 was written the year following the marriage of their daughter Harriet to James Graham. Harriet and James Chabot sadly did not live to witness the marriage of their daughter Mary Ann Julia to Alex. F. Low, in 1852.

Witnesses to the will however were :

Alex F. Low.

M. —ward

Rich. Geaves.

James Chabot (1811-1874) at a studio in Llandudno and his wife Annie Bourne(1827-1875) at Manchester, in 1863.



Charles Philip Chabot
(1814-1881) taken on
March 1st. 1865 in a
Manchester studio
when aged 51.



James Graham junior
(1850-1877) aged 18,
son of
**Harriet Charlotte
Sarabella** née
Chabot (1815-1852) ,
Taken at a Liverpool
Studio, October 1863.



George Stooks Chabot
(1821-1902) of
San Antonio, Texas

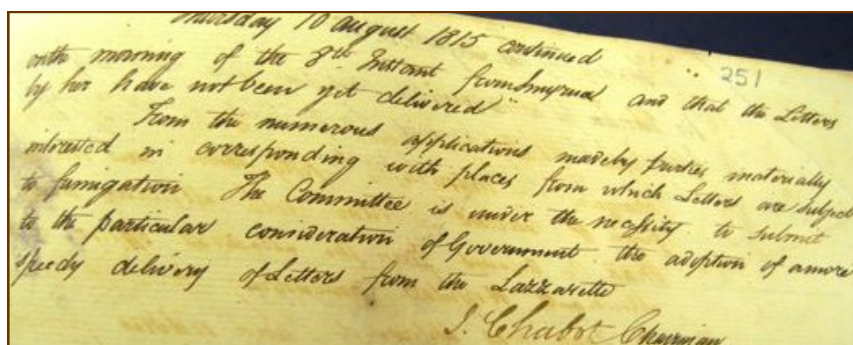
taken at San Luis Potosi, Mexico and his artist wife Mary née Van Derlip and sons George Alexander and Charles Jasper.



Left: Strata Mercadi (Merchant Street/ March 2011) in which James and Lydia Chabot lived and from which he ran his business at 167, (last building on the right).



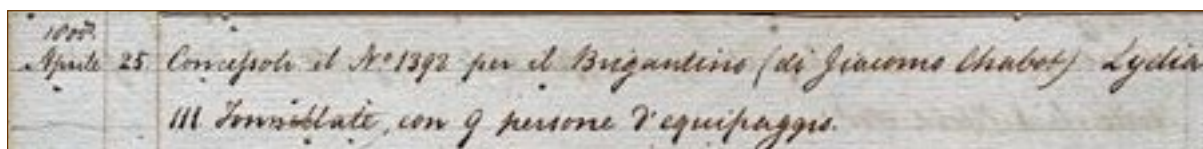
Right: Alex Low, James Chabot's gt. gt. Grandson standing at the front door of No 167. It lies opposite to the old university building where James Chabot and his Merchants Street business associates held their 'chamber of commerce' committee meetings.



Left: Minutes Book extract

A meeting of the Merchants Street chamber of commerce, on August 10th 1815 chaired by James Chabot, as recorded in the Minutes Book of this association of merchants.

The book was examined in the archives of the current Chamber of Commerce of Malta, located in the old Exchange.

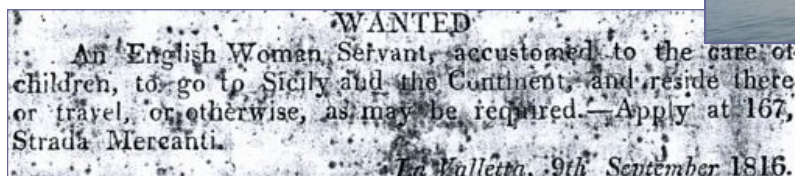


Valletta Customs' record (Malta National Archives, Rabat) in which James has a 'brig' named after his mother Lydia.

Right : Valletta Harbour in 2011 showing some of the old Floriana warehouses along the waterside near to James Chabot's store at No.5.



Below: A newspaper advert for a nanny for James 5 yrs., Charles aged 3 yrs. and Harriet, 1 yr. old, placed by the



Chabots as they finally pack up to leave Malta. (Courtesy : of the archives of the National Library of Malta at Valletta.)



Newgate Street 1846 Cruchley's Map

This story could not have been written without the expert assistance of:
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