

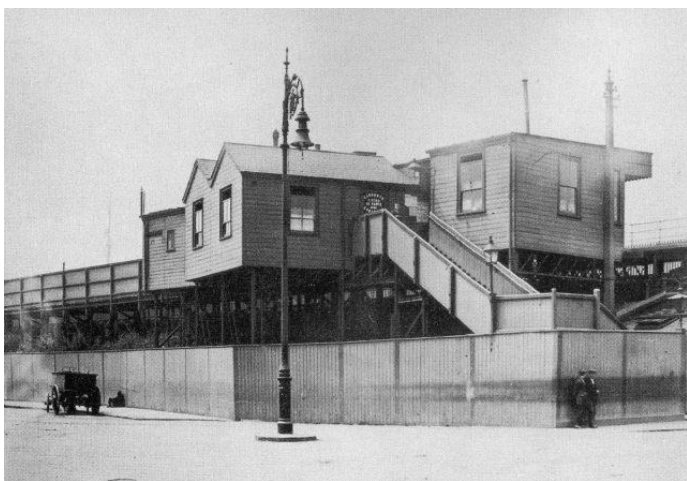
No 7 East Ferry Road, Isle of Dogs, Poplar, London and my Buckley grandfather Discoveries and Changes

The “discoveries” are mine and the “changes” are since his days in East London.

Having first used the Blackwall Tunnel over 40 years ago (with my Dad collecting daughter Tara, in her early teens, from West London for weekends in Herne Bay) I recently realised how close it is to the east side of the Isle of Dogs - it was not built until the 1890s though so not around in grandfather's time. Even closer to No 7 is Harbour Exchange where I went for meetings in the 1990s - what a surprise to see the building when walking round from East Ferry Road to Marsh Wall on the way to South Quay DLR station in July 2021; I did not even know about my nearby family connections in those days! With my grandfather being born in London (an East Ender?) I am not of 100% Scots background as I once thought and now feel an East London association. My paternal grandfather also spent time billeted nearby during World War 1 at Huddlestone Road, Forest Gate.



My maternal grandfather, Overton John Buckley, was born at 7 East Ferry Road on 29th February 1884. In 1851 his father and grandfather lived in Somerstown, St Pancras. His father was a boiler maker - the area has several ship yards and docks so work was most likely very nearby. Overton became an engineer with a railway in Buenos Aires and seemingly had a technical education near to his Isle of Dogs home. Poplar Technical College was not built until 1906 but it is unlikely he went there at age 22. So where were colleges in or near the Isle of Dogs then? However, from an old map it looks as if his school was almost just across the road. In the 1891 Census the family also lived at No 60.



← Millwall Dock station in the 1920s - it was opened in 1871.

Crossharbour station on the Docklands Light Railway is near No 7 and the view to that spot would not have been that much different in the late 1800s as it is now ↓





Street name may be the same and paving blocks are not unfamiliar but look at the grey concrete box cover belonging to Post Office Telephones. Alexander Graham Bell patented the telephone in 1878. In 1878 one of the first telephone lines to be erected in the vicinity of London was from Hay's Wharf, south of the Thames, to Hay's Wharf Office on the north bank - very near the Isle of Dogs which now houses high tech, globally connected businesses.



Outside Number 7 in 2021 but in 1884 no cars (Carl Benz invented the car a year later but unlikely they would have driven around here for some time). The first production electric car appeared in London in 1884. Yellow lines appeared in the 1950s - no need in Buckle family times!

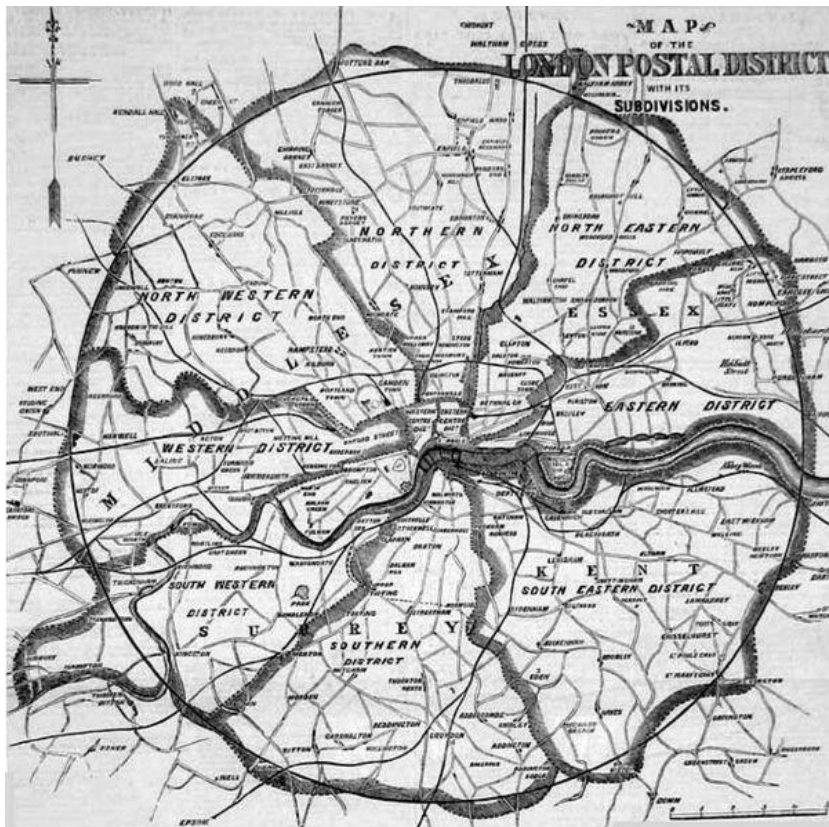


Cafe culture was certainly bouyant in downtown London in Victorian times. By the early 1700s there were hundreds of coffee houses in the city. Perhaps they did not percolate to the East End where there were many established pubs. Nearest pub to No 7 was the Queen built in 1855 but pubs had been on the Island since the 1700s. The nearest one still standing today is the George pictured below.



← One of the few if not the only building surviving from my grandfather's day - much of the area was bombed in World War 2; the rest demolished and redeveloped.

The George pub on the corner of East Ferry Road and Glengall Grove has an address of 114 Glengall Grove, Millwall, London E14 3ND. See below for comments on post codes.



Because there were quite a few common street names in Victorian times London was split up into 8 wedges each with a letter corresponding to a point of the compass - the Isle of Dogs and points east as far as Romford became "E" - the Eastern District. Around the time of the First World War numbers were added and Poplar became E14.

Grandfather Buckley would have lived in London, E but at the time not E14.



London City Airport apron - [photo by Senseiich](#)

Nowadays the Isle of Dogs would be a good viewing point for some plane spotting, not least with City Airport just to the east. Overton Buckley and his father may have known the Royal Victoria and Royal Albert Docks as two of what later became the Royal Group of Docks with the addition of George V Dock in 1912 - the year my mother was born. However, no plane spotting in the late 1800s - the first flight with a powered, controlled aircraft was not until the Wright brothers in 1903.



Just up the road from No 7 and in the same "block" is this launderette appropriately named "Cubitt". William Cubitt (Lord Mayor of London 1860 -1862) was responsible for the development of the housing and amenities of the area - called Cubitt Town - in the 1840s and 1850s, mainly to house the growing population of workers in the local docks, shipbuilding yards and factories. As it grew, Cubitt also created many local businesses employing manual labourers as well as the streets of housing to accommodate them.

The first UK launderette (alternative spelling: "laundrette") was opened on 9 May 1949 in Queensway (London). Central Wash was Britain's first self-service coin-operated launderette.

Despite having barely changed in 25 years, the launderette on Albert Square in the TV soap EastEnders firmly remains a community hub.



Across the Thames from the Isle Of Dogs is the Millennium Dome (The O2 Arena) with my daughter's Melody and Tara with Alex on the top of the dome in November 2012.



And this is what the girls would have seen across the Thames. Not only the buildings in and near Canary Wharf but also a view into the city of London (right hand side - including the so-called cheese grater) and in the centre - at a distance - the Shard by London Bridge station. East Ferry Road is on the Thames side of the sky scrapers. All quite different from the mid to late 1800s when the area would have been full of docks, wharves and ship building yards.



This [Photo by Katie Chan](#) sums up the changes since Overton Buckley's day - not least being and "aerial" photograph. No 7 is, more or less, under the red star. ★

Overton John Buckley's great-granddaughter (my younger daughter), Melody, and her mum Annie, taken on a visit to meet up with Tara (my elder daughter and also his great-granddaughter) at the O2 in 2012 - still years before I realised the East Ferry Road connection!



This is the only photo I have seen of my grandfather, Overton John Buckley, from an ID Card / Visa seemingly travelling from the Argentine to Brazil in 1945. A chance find on Wikitree in December 2019 with a link to Christine (Buckley) Milling - we have the same great, great grandfather. She surfaced a lot of information about our family - many thanks, Christine.

Thanks mainly to <https://islandhistory.wordpress.com> for material used in my research. This PDF was compiled by Norman J Penny - grandson of Overton John Buckley - an Invernessian currently living in Birchington, Kent.