

Erratum. This page replaces an error on page 75 of "A Victorian Girl". I regret mistakenly giving Sam Britton the wrong first wife. It would not be practical to remove the entire pdf so please replace page 75 with this one:

Sam Britton was married three times. First to Mary Brain at St George, 28 May 1890:

1890. Marriage solemnized at the <i>Parish Church</i> in the <i>Parish of St George</i> in the County of <i>Gloucester</i>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
382	<i>May 28 1890</i>	<i>Samuel Britton</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Shoemaker</i>	<i>S. George's Tenue S. George</i>	<i>Thomas Britton</i>	<i>Miner</i>
		<i>Mary Brain</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>Spinster</i>		<i>S. George's Tenue S. George</i>	<i>Samuel Brain</i>	<i>Miner</i>
Married in the <i>Parish Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by <i>Samuel</i> or after <i>Samuel</i> by me, <i>R. H. S. Flewitt</i>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<i>Samuel Britton</i> <i>Mary Brain</i>		in the Presence of us,		<i>William Clark</i> <i>William Daniel Balson</i>		

Both their fathers were coalminers, but with the decline of the local mines the young couple followed Kingswood's alternative trade as shoemaking 'outworkers'. In 1891 they were living at Hill Street, Kingswood. Their only child, a boy, Clifford, was born in 1893. By 1901 the family lived at Fry's Hill. Sam was widowed for the first time during the next decade, and on Christmas Eve, 1910, he married for the second time, at Holy Trinity, Kingswood.

1910. Marriage solemnized at the <i>Parish Church</i> in the <i>Parish of Kingswood</i> in the County of <i>Gloucester</i>								
Column	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession
356	<i>December twenty-fourth 1910</i>	<i>Samuel Britton</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>Widower</i>	<i>Shoemaker</i>	<i>34 Victoria Park Kingswood</i>	<i>Thomas Britton (deceased)</i>	<i>Collier</i>
		<i>Rose Grivell</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>Spinster</i>	<i>Machinist</i>	<i>6 Woodbine Terrace Hanham Rd Kingswood</i>	<i>Elias Grivell</i>	<i>Waulker</i>
Married in the <i>Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <i>Established Church</i> by <i>Samuel</i> or after <i>Samuel</i> by me, <i>Frederick John We</i>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<i>Samuel Britton</i> <i>Rose Grivell</i>		in the Presence of us,		<i>Frederick Grivell</i> <i>Mary Grivell</i>		

By then, Sam was living at 34 Victoria Park, Kingswood, where he would remain for the rest of his life. His bride, Rose Grivell was the sister of Mary Ann, always known as Polly, who would shortly be married to Harry Drinkwater, and would come to live, conveniently, next door at no. 35. In the census of 2 April 1911, Sam was 41, Rose, 28, and Cliff, aged 17, an 'upper clicker' in the boot trade. Sam's mother, the widowed Priscilla Britton, aged 82, lived with them. (She died in 1913, age certified as "80".) Sam and Rose had two sons, Herbert in 1911 and Reginald Edgar in 1923. Rose Britton died aged 41, when baby Reg was only a year old. I do not know how Sam managed with so young a baby to look after, but I suspect Polly Drinkwater took a hand.

Sam married Mary Ann Leighton, (our Victorian Girl) in 1939.

According to Sherlock Holmes, as I believe "Once you eliminate the impossible, then that which remains, no matter how improbable, must be the truth."

Whilst waiting for a reply to my latest letter to Jill, I continued my trawl through the death indexes. I found the death of a Mary Ann Britton "born about 1883" was registered at Sodbury.