

George Stephens, known as 'Jack Frost' 1846 - 1940

by Gene Rycroft



George Stephens was born in Bath, Somerset, to the best of my knowledge, in 1846, though his age on various census returns and indeed his death certificate varies greatly. According to his marriage certificate when he married Eliza Ellen Frost his father was named as John Stephens - a factory man.

After much research the only 'George' birth, with a father named John listed as a carpenter journeyman (this was as near as I could get to a Factory man), was dated 1846, and this date ties in with the 1911 census where his age is given as 64.

My grandmother told me that

George, her father, was a steeplejack when he was younger. The reason he was known as "Jack Frost" was probably because his wife Eliza, who he did not marry until 1898, was a Mrs Frost by a previous marriage.

This was a strange union considering that George signed everything by making 'his mark' whereas Eliza was an educated woman. Her grandfather was part owner of a fleet of 5 ships sailing under her [Eliza's] maiden name of Tolcher, "Tolcher & Co."





I have been told that she used to read and write letters for the neighbours.

The family arrived in Pembroke just before the birth of their son William in 1895, which took place in the workhouse situated at Woodbine House, The Green, Pembroke. Eliza, George, Robert, James (and the baby??) were to spend just over 3 months in there. George and the eldest son John were missing at the time of the birth, I was informed by my grandmother that they were working on the Fishguard railway. Mary Ellen, the first girl in the

family, was born in 1898 - the same year in which George lost an eye whilst working on an umbrella.

Their family home is listed as Bankers Row on the school Admission Records for 1895, and the family remained there at least until Eliza died in 1937.

After the death of Eliza, George went to live in Monkton with his daughter Mary Ellen until his death in 1940.

Eliza Ellen Stephens
George