

## Charles Edward Knight Gregson

## Research Document

Donald R. Falkenburg

Charles Edward Knight Gregson was the fourth child of Henry Knight Gregson (b. 1821) and Eliza Mary Donaldson Selby (b. 1824).

Birth and Baptism

Records of the 1851, 1861, 1881, and 1901 England Census record a birth year of abt. 1848. The England & Wales, FreeBMD Index 1837-1915 records the same year. A closer estimate of his day of birth can be found in the records of Charles' Baptism which was performed by father the Rev. Thomas Knight, Rector of St. Michaels and All Angels, Ford, Northumberland, England.

557.	Alice	Fish	Ford	Pitman	J. Knight Rector
558.	Julia Daught. of	Ralph & Jane	Compton	Blink- bonny Farmer	J. Knight Rector
559.	Charles Edward Knight son of	Henry & Eliza Mary Selby	Gregson	Lodgyn P. of Kyla	J. Knight Rector
560.	Robert son of	John & Elizabeth	Lock	Ford Common	J. Knight Rector

Record of the Baptism of Charles Edward Knight 3 DEC 1848. (source: Lilian Caley)

### Residence 1851

The 1851 England Census shows him at the Rectory in Ford. Two years of age, Charles now goes by the name Charles Edward Knight GREGSON. School Record 1861

### Residence 1861

In 1861 Charles appears in the England Census as a pupil aboard the school vessel Conway. The school was set up by the Mercantile Marine Service Association and was moored in Liverpool on the River Mersey. The Conway was a 205 ft., two-deck, 92-gun wooden battle ship. The school intended not only to train young cadets in seamanship, but to provide a sound educational foundation for life.



*HMS Conway, the school ship on which Charles Edward Knight Gregson was stationed*

On 1 FEB 1861 the commander of the Conway made his report on Charles' character. Conduct: Very Good. The Head Master reported: *Ability: Very Good, Application: Satisfactory, Conduct: Good.*

In 1862, after two years of study aboard the Frigate Conway, thirteen year-old Charles was awarded a certificate from the Mercantile Marine Service Association of Liverpool, beginning his life-long career as a mariner in merchant shipping.

### Certificates of Competency

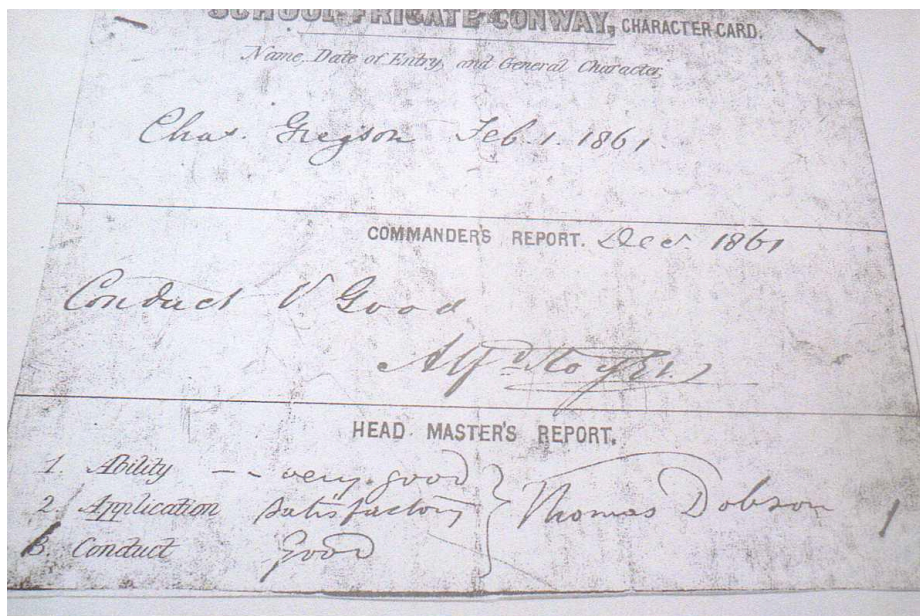
Charles was not just another sailor at sea. We have records of his certificates of Competency for his status as Second Mate (8 APR 1867, age: 18) and Master Mariner (25 SEP 1873, age: 24). The second certification would give him the opportunity of being the captain and master of his ship or to serve as mate. The first certificate was issued by the Lieutenant governor of Bengal, India and qualifies



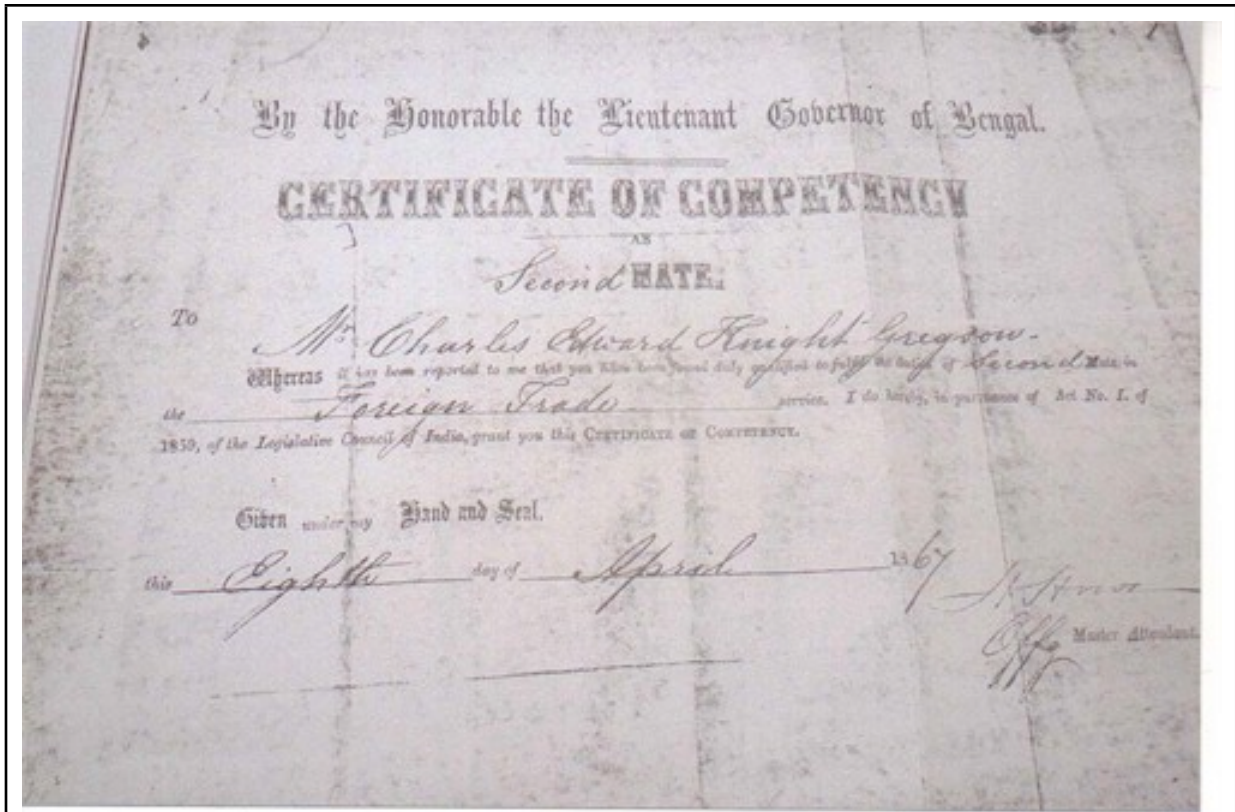


1962 Certificate of Completion of studies aboard the Frigate Conway.  
Source: Lilian Caley

him to the service of Second Mate in the service of foreign trade. It is clear from this that Charles is sailing a route from England to India and perhaps to China and Australia. The Master Certification was awarded by *The Lords of the Committee of Privy, Council for Trade*. Established in 1621 as the United Kingdom Privy Council, this Board of Trade became responsible for merchant shipping throughout the empire.



1 FEB 1861 Report card from the Frigate Conway, Source: Lilian Caley



Certifications earned by Charles (top) Second Mate, (bottom) Master



## Marriage

Charles Edward Knight Gregson married Mary Jane Law in the Parish of All Saints, 27 NOV 1875. The father of the bride William Law is listed as a solicitor, Charles' father Henry is listed as Gentleman.

Page 00

1875 Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Poplar in the County of Middlesex

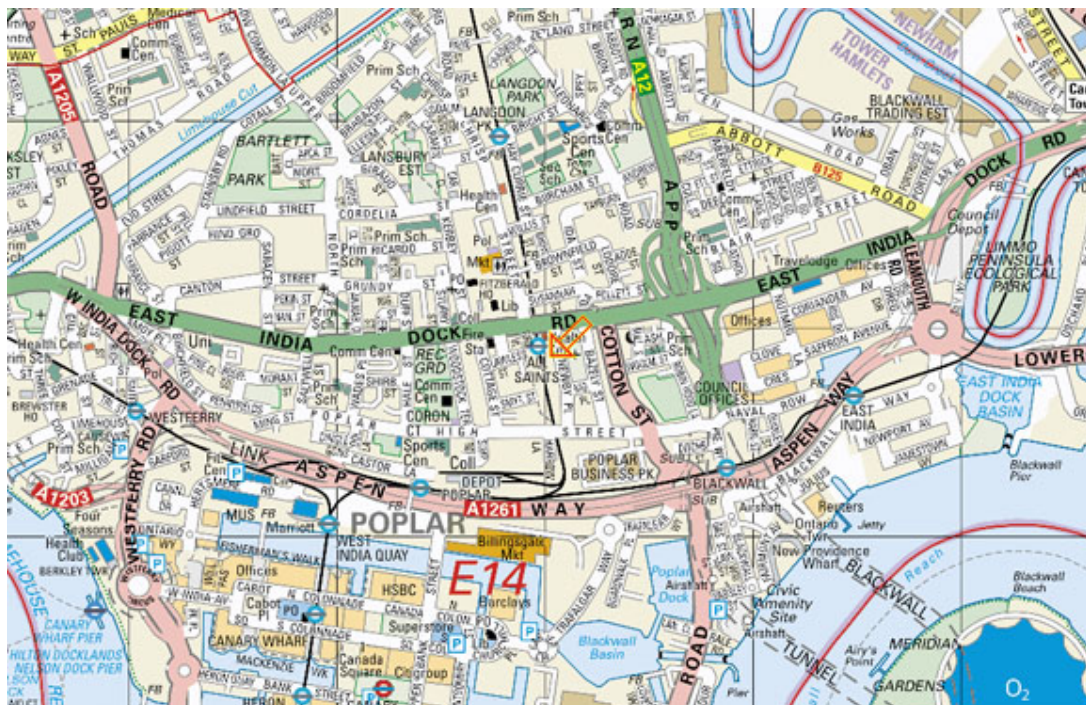
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
111	November 27 1875	Charles Edward Knight Gregson	27 age	Mr.	Chief Officer Merchant Service	Poplar North Poplar	Henry Gregson	Gent.
		Mary Jane Law	17 age	Ms.			William Law	Solicitor

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by License or after \_\_\_\_\_ by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { Charles Edward Knight Gregson } in the Presence of us, { S. B. Biddulph }  
 { Mary Jane Law } { Wm. C. Collett }  
 { Joseph Cooper }

*Record of the Marriage of Charles Edward Knight Gregson and Mary Jane Law*

Both the bride and groom are listed as currently living in North Poplar. It is likely that Charles Edward KG was stationed here as a mariner. This was the center of activity of the West India Company. The parish church is located in the docklands section of London.



Location of All Saints, Poplar



*All Saints, Poplar Source: [Wikipedia](#)*

In the 1881 census we read that Mary J. Gregson (wife of Charles Edward Knight Gregson) was born abt 1853 in Hume, Lancashire, England. There is no Hume in Lancashire, but there is a Hulme.

### Record of Ships Served

Charles name<sup>1</sup> appears on a list of crew and passengers aboard the ship [British Duke](#) after it arrived from London to Sydney, New South Wales. The record lists Charles as First Mate. The Friday, 21 APR 1876 edition of the [Sydney Morning Herald](#) reported that the British Duke continued its journey on 20 APR 1876 carrying 900 tons of coal to San Francisco, California<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Although the record says CNK Gregson, examining the SCAN indicates that this could be CEK.

<sup>2</sup> Australia was the primary source of coal for the needs of shipping on the west coast of the United States. It was impractical to haul coal to the south Atlantic, through the South Sea at the tip of South America.

Residence 1881

**1881 England Census** about **Mary J. Gregson**

Name:	<b>Mary J. Gregson</b>												
Age:	28												
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1853												
Relation:	Wife												
Spouse's Name:	Charles Gregson												
Gender:	Female												
Where born:	Hume, Lancashire, England												
Civil parish:	Walton on Hill												
County/Island:	Lancashire												
Country:	England												
Street Address:	18 Dunluce St												
Condition as to marriage:	Married												
Education:	} <a href="#">View image</a>												
Employment status:													
Registration district:	West Derby												
Sub-registration district:	Walton												
ED, institution, or vessel:	6												
Neighbors:	<a href="#">View others on page</a>												
Piece:	3687												
Folio:	39												
Page Number:	7												
Household Members:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Age</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><a href="#">Charles Gregson</a></td> <td>32</td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">Mary J. Gregson</a></td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">Charles H.K. Gregson</a></td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">Harold D.K. Gregson</a></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">Archibald K. Gregson</a></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Age	<a href="#">Charles Gregson</a>	32	<a href="#">Mary J. Gregson</a>	28	<a href="#">Charles H.K. Gregson</a>	3	<a href="#">Harold D.K. Gregson</a>	1	<a href="#">Archibald K. Gregson</a>	
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