

THE SLOW FAMILY OF RONDEBOSCH.

The Grave:

According to *Tombstones & Transcripts* the SLOW family (sometimes listed as HOW, when their name is misread and also sometimes an 'E' is added - SLOWE) owned grave 41. In the St Paul's Burial Register the first SLOW entry was for the 10-month-old son, James SLOW who was buried 26 Nov 1849¹. *Tombstones & Transcript* merely says: 'Brick curbing. Plaster broken.' So there is no gravestone or other markings to tell us who of the family are buried in the grave.

We can trace James SLOW, the 10-month-old young son back to his Baptism. Born on 11 Feb 1849, he was baptised at St Paul's on 20 May 1849 by the Rev. John Fry. His parent's names are given as **James** and **Sarah Rachel** [the order of these names are occasional reversed] **SLOW**. **James SLOW senior** was a mason from Claremont. The godparents/sponsors were **Ban^y O'Neil, J. J. Van Reenen and Rac^l Isaacs²**.

From this single entry the whole family could be opened up.

James SLOW senior

James SLOW senior, according to this Death Notice, was born in Sunninghill, Berkshire, England in about 1820 (calculated from age on Death notice). His parents are given as **George** and **Maria SLOW**. George was born and baptised in 1787

England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975

First name(s)	George
Last name	Slow
Gender	Male
Birth year	-
Birth place	-
Baptism year	1787
Baptism date	17 Jun 1787
Place	Sunninghill
County	Berkshire
Country	England
Father's first name(s)	Stephen
Father's last name	Slow
Mother's first name(s)	Elizabeth
Mother's last name	-
Record set	England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975

In 1818 George married **Maria HAKE**

England Marriages 1538-1973

First name(s)	George
Last name	Slow
Name note	-
Marriage year	1818
Marriage date	21 Jan 1818
Marriage place	Sunninghill
Spouse's first name(s)	Maria
Spouse's last name	Hakes
Spouse's age	-
County	Berkshire
Country	England
Record set	England Marriages 1538-1973

No record of Baptism could be found online for their son, James SLOW.

¹ The entry together with the Purchased Grave Number is written up by the Rev. John Fry so it not, like many other entries in the Burial Registers, in another hand from the original and therefore could not be a later researcher making an educated guess.

² I think the godparent might be Rachel Sarah CORBITT's mother, Rachel Isaacs

In the 1841 Census **George and Maria SLOW** appear living at Ascot Heath, Sunninghill, Berks. He was an agricultural labourer. Their ages are given as George 50y and Maria as 55y³. Also living at the address is a Joseph SLOW aged 2y. I suspect that he was a grandchild.

Maria SLOW born HAKE died in May 1846 and was buried at St Michael's and All Angels, Sunninghill, Berkshire on 4 May 1846. It states she was born 1780 and therefore 66years (cf. 1841 Census five years previous when she was given as being 55y).

In the 1851 Census, **George SLOW** is a lodger with the PLATT family in Ascot Heath, Sunninghill, Berks.

1851 England, Wales & Scotland Census

Ascot Heath, Sunninghill, Windsor, Berkshire, England

John	Platt	Head	Married	Male	53	1798	Agricultural Labourer	Sunninghill, Berkshire, England
Elizabeth	Platt	Wife	Married	Female	52	1799	-	Sunninghill, Berkshire, England
Mary	Platt	Daughter	Unmarried	Female	16	1835	At Home	Sunninghill, Berkshire, England
Eliza	Platt	Daughter	-	Female	11	1840	Scholar	Sunninghill, Berkshire, England
Edmund	Platt	Son	-	Male	8	1843	Scholar	Sunninghill, Berkshire, England
George	Slow	Lodger	Widower	Male	67	1784	Agricultural Labourer	Sunninghill, Berkshire, England
Joseph	Batten	Lodger	Unmarried	Male	14	1837	Agricultural Labourer	Reading, Berkshire, England

In the July Quarter 1857, **George SLOW** died in Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

No record could be found for **James SLOW's** arrival at the Cape. The first entry found was for his marriage to **Rachel Sarah CORBITT** in 1846. The marriage took place at St Paul's, Rondebosch on 24 May 1846 by the Rev John Fry. **Rachel Sarah CORBITT** had been baptised two years earlier, also at St Paul's, which makes me think that James SLOW wanted a church wedding and both parties needed to be baptised. The baptism entry simply reads:

On this day 28th January 1844 Rachel Sarah surname CORBITT born in this Colony⁴ on April 28th 1830 was baptised by me. John Fry, Col. Chap.

No parents or godparent/ sponsors are mentioned in the entry in the old Register at St Pauls.

Given the date of birth for Rachel it shows that she was 14 years old when baptised and only 16 years old when she married James SLOW. He was listed as a bachelor of Camp Ground aged 25y and his occupation was given as a mason. She is listed as a spinster 16 years old also of Camp Ground, whose occupation was a servant and she needed her mother's permission to marry. Both she and her mother signed the register with a 'X' mark as they could not write. The Rev John Fry wrote next to each mark, giving their names. Her mother's name was **Rachel ISAACS**. The other witness was what looks like Joachim Johannes VAN REENEN. Both these people were godparent to the couple's first child **James SLOW junior**(see above).

RACHEL SARAH CORBITT

I could find very little of Rachel Sarah CORBITT's early history and what I found was confusing. Her date of birth is given when she was baptised aged 14 years in 1844 (see above), it was 28 Apr 1830. When she died in 1882 it states that she either 57 years old or 51y – the top of the five is linked to the second numeral. I have to presume 51 because that is the nearest matches to her date of birth in the baptism register. In the marriage register it states that permission for her marriage was given by her mother and as witness there is a Rachel Isaacs. Is this her mother? Or merely a close friend as Rachel Isaacs appears as godparent/witness to many of Rachel SLOW's children. Rachel Sarah CORBITT's baptism states she was 'born in this Colony' but her Death Notice states she was born in Middlesex, England with the name of her CORBITT father unknown and her mother being **Catherine CORBITT**. At the baptism of Maria Ann SLOW, one of the godparents is written up as Rachel Catherine ISAACS so perhaps this her mother. The place of birth on the Death Notice contradicts her Baptism Register entry.

³ Ages for adults in 1841 Census are given as to the nearest 5 years so George born 1787 was given as 50y not 54y and his wife given as 55y. However, her age seems to vary with each entry as in what appears on burial register.

⁴ According to her Death Notice she was born in Middlesex, England

If Rachel Sarah was born in the Cape Colony, then her CORBETT parents would be at the Cape, too. In the 1828 African Court Calendar list of inhabitants there are only two CORBITTs listed. William – who was a ship chandler⁵ and a John CORBETT who was a coach builder. In the St Paul's Baptism Register there was a Blacksmith Farrier John CORBETT married to Elizabeth CORBETT who had five children baptised at St Paul's. John CORBETT died in 1866. No connection could be made.

Baptism

At the age of 14y, Rachel Sarah CORBITT was baptised at St Paul's. As shown above not much information is given in the Register.

At 16y Rachel married James SLOW at St Paul's – see above.

Children of James SLOW and his wife Rachel Sarah born CORBITT

1. **Maria Ann SLOW** born 3 Feb 1847 Baptised at St Paul's 14 Mar 1847. This baptism was in the old register with no further information beyond parent's names and sponsors who were **Christian Ludwick BOLTMAN**, **Rachel Catherine ISAACS**⁶, and **Rachel Sarah SLOW** – the mother. Maria survived her father – see below for more information.
2. **James SLOW** born 11 Feb 1849 Baptised 20 May 1849. His parent's abode is given as 'Claremont' and occupation as 'Mason'. His godparents/ sponsors are listed above. **James SLOW** died on 26 Nov 1849 aged 10 months.
3. **George SLOW** born 25 Sep 1850. Baptised 1 Dec 1850. Abode is now Rondebosch and occupation still Mason. His godparents were **Anthony KIRBY**, **John SEVILL** and **Sophia SEVILL**. **George SLOW** does not appear on his father's Death Notice which seems to imply that he had died before 1858 but he does not appear in St Paul's Burial Register. There is a George SLOW who was born in 1856 and died 1857 in the St George's Burial Register. Beyond the dates and age no further information given in the register.
4. **Joseph SLOW** born 20 Dec 1853. Baptised 18 Jan 1854. Complex entry because surname of parents given as 'Slough or Slow' by the Rev John Fry. Christian names of parents were correct. Abode is Rondebosch, and occupation is given as 'brickmaker'. Two godparents – **John LAVETT** and **Rachel ISAACS**. The minister who did the baptism was the Revd John D. Jenkins. **Joseph** is on his father's Death Notice. His further history is given below.
5. **Slow SLOW** born 4 Feb 1855. Baptised 25 Feb 1855. Abode is Rondebosch and father's occupation is given as Mason. Godparents: **Vincent BUTTER**, **Vincent BALM**, **Mary Ann SLOW**⁷ I thought that John Fry had forgotten to enter the child's Christian name but when he died, he still has the name Slow SLOW. **Slow SLOW** died 18 May 1857 aged 2years 4 months.⁸
6. **William SLOW** born 4 Jun 1857 and baptised 2 Aug 1857. He also outlived his father, and his history will be given below.

DEATH OF JAMES SLOW senior

On 15 Nov 1858, **James SLOW** died. He died in his house, in Rouwkop, Rondebosch. He was 38 years and occupation given as Mason. Child 1, 4, 6 listed above, appear as his children on the DN. His place of birth was given as 'Sunninghill, county of Berks, England.' The Death Notice was completed by the Field Cornet for Rondebosch, J. UPJOHN⁹. Under the heading of 'Does the decease have any property and of what

⁵ William CORBETT's family can be traced easily and he is obviously not Rachel's father.

⁶ With Rachel Catherine ISAACS, perhaps she was known as Catherine and thus Rachel Sarah's mother given as Catherine!

⁷ Mary Ann SLOW born WILSON married Henry SLOW in Stellenbosch in 1853. Henry SLOW could be the brother of James SLOW. He arrived in the Cape in 1848 on board the *Scotia* and is listed in Esme Bull's book *Aided Immigration*. Their first child, also named Mary Ann SLOW was baptised on the same day as Slow SLOW. Her godparents Vincent BALM, Rachel Sarah SLOW and Rachel ISAACS.

⁸ Interestingly, Mary Ann SLOW junior died 23 days after Slow SLOW

⁹ Joseph UPJOHN was a nurseryman and he and his wife have a grave in the St Paul's Graveyard – see his entry.

kind?' John Upjohn has entered 'three small houses with garden and a plot of ground in Mowbray'¹⁰ **James SLOW** was buried from St Paul's Church. In the margin are notes suggesting he was buried in Purchase Grave 41. The minister who conducted the service was The Rev F. Gilbert WHITE¹¹.

The widowed **Rachel Sarah SLOW** had a further child, **Charles SLOW** born 1 Dec 1859 and baptised 18 Dec 1859. Charles's birth was some 12 months after James SLOW's death so one must conclude that he was not the father. I suspect that Henry MOTH was the father but the baptism record merely enters mother's name and her occupation as Widow. Godparents were Edward RIFT, Henry MOTH and Eliza JOHNSON.

On 9 Feb 1862, a daughter, **Catherine Marion SLOW** was born to **Rachel SLOW**. The child was baptised at St Paul's Rondebosch on 23 Apr 1862 by the Rev George Meyler Squibb, acting priest-in-charge at St Paul's during the absence of the Rev John Fry who had gone overseas on sabbatical but died while travelling to the UK. In the baptism register under parents it had 'Rachel Sarah Slow, reputed father **Henry Moth**'. Abode is given as Rouwkop Rondebosch and the godparents were **Abram ISAACS, Johanna ISAACS, Louisa AUDS**[?]

I could not find a record of the marriage of Henry MOTH and Rachel Sarah SLOW born CORBITT but she was listed as SLOW at the baptism of daughter Catherine on 23 April 1862 but by 28 Feb 1864 she was listed as Rachel MOTH. The following children were born from her second marriage:

1. **Charles SLOW** born 1 Dec 1859 baptised 18 Dec 1859. He married Margaret CALDWELL. He died 1928.
2. **Catherine Marion SLOW MOTH** born 9 Feb 1862 baptised 23 Apr 1862. She married Stephen William HART. She died 1943
3. **Rachel Louise MOTH** born 2 Feb 1864. She married Joseph BUGLER. She died 1918
4. **Sarah Emily MOTH** born 11 Feb 1866. She married Henry HOLTON. She died 1939
5. **Lucy Ellen MOTH** born 8 Oct 1867. She married Thomas ROBERTS. She died 1931
6. **Ellen MOTH** born 15 Sep 1869 she died 5 months old in Feb 1870
7. **Harriet MOTH** see #8
8. **Elizabeth MOTH** These two were twins born 6 Jan 1870. Harriett lived for 9 days and Elizabeth 12 days.

Rachel Sarah MOTH formerly **SLOW** born **CORBITT** died 6 November 1882 aged 51 years. There is some confusion as it says she was born in Middlesex, England (no record found) but her baptism said 'born in this colony.' Mother's named as Catherine CORBITT but I think it was Rachel Catherine CORBITT later ISAACS – see above. It says she died at her husband residence, Rondebosch and lists children as follows:

1. Charles SLOW with note 'child of previous marriage'
2. Catherine Mary Ann MOTH major
3. Rachel Louise MOTH major
4. Sarah Emily MOTH minor
5. Lucy Ellen MOTH born 8 Oct 1867 minor

The DN signed by her husband 'H. Moth'

THE SLOW CHILDREN'S HISTORIES

1. **Mary Ann SLOW** was born 3 Jan 1847. She married **Thomas LITTLE** on 20 Jun 1870 (aged 23y) at St John's Wynberg. He was a stoker. On 23 Apr 1882 **Maria Ann LITTLE** died. She was 35y old and her abode is given as Westerford.

¹⁰ James SLOW's Liquidation and Distribution file is in the Cape Archives MOOC 13/1/285 REFERENCE 30 and stretches from 1859-1873

¹¹ The Revd Canon Francis Gilbert White became the second principal of Diocesan College in 1858, serving there until 1860. He was not happy in the post at Bishops and left after only two years. Quite why he did the funerals, and not the Rector, is not known.

2. **Joseph SLOW** born 20 Dec 1853. He married **Susan Sarah Magdalena BADENHORST** on 1 Feb 1873 at NGK Vooruitzicht, Pniel. They had the following children
 - a. **James George** b 1873 m Emily Ellen LARNEY d 1933
 - i. **James William** born 1 Jun 1903 baptised St Mary's Stellenbosch d 1972
 - ii. **Muriel Margaret** m1 Herman Holtzhauzen m2 Harry Oosthuizen
 - iii. **Thomas Joseph** b1921
 - b. **John Henry** b1875 m1 Anna Johanna Petronella NOORTMAN m2 Ethel Jane WHITEFORD d 1940 Johannesburg
 - i. **Joseph**
 - ii. **William**
 - iii. **Katherine** m. **Naude**
 - iv. **Susan** m. **Gaetz**
 - Second marriage**
 - v. **John Henry**
 - vi. **Ethel Kathleen** m. **Lambrecht**
 - c. **Rachel Sarah** b ???? m 1901 **Christian Van Blommestein**. They lived at the Strand
 - d. **Susan Sarah** b???? m **John Bellshaw** d???? no record besides on parent's death notice found
 - e. **William Kroon** b???? d???? similarly no record found
 - f. **Charles** b1894 m **Iris Phillip** 1925
 - i. **Daphne Marion** b1925 d 1999
 - ii. **Charles Joseph** b1928 d????
 - g. **Joseph** b 21 Aug 1891 Kimberley m. **Jessie Ruth GORDON** d 1891 Kimberley. Divorced, she later married in 1930 a **William David CHAMBERS**
 - h. **Harry** b???? d????
 - i. **Mabel Magdalene** b25 Dec 1887 m **Augustus REESE**
 - j. **Benjamin** b???? d????
 - k. **Henrietta** b???? m. **James TAYLER** d????
3. **William SLOW** born 4 Jun 1857 baptised 2 Aug 11857. In the baptism Register, his father is entered as William and mother Rachel. I suspect this was an error by the Revd John Fry. Father's occupation was 'Builder' and godparents were **Richard COLE**, **John RICKMAN** and **Rachel ISAACS**. I could find no other information on this person.