Who’s who

Abbreviations: C.D. = Charles Dickens; G.H. = Georgina Hogarth

Charles Dickens’s family

Alfred Allen Dickens (1814–14): brother, died as a baby.

  Married Helen Dobson in 1846, five children.


  Pianist and singer. Sister of Christiana Weller. Wife of Fred Dickens, from whom she obtained a judicial separation in 1858.


Bessie Dickens (née Evans) (1838–1907): daughter-in-law, wife of Charles Culliford Dickens. Seven daughters (Mary Angela (Mekitty), Ethel, Sydney Margaret, Dorothy, Beatrice, Cecil Mary) and one son, Charles. Her father was Fred Evans, who with his partner William Bradbury was Dickens’s publisher from 1844 to 1858.


Charles (Charley) Culliford Dickens (1837–96): eldest son. Married Bessie Evans in 1861, to his father’s displeasure as C.D. had fallen out with his daughter-in-law’s father at the time of his separation from Catherine. Charley had seven daughters and one son.

Dora Dickens (1850–51): ninth child and youngest daughter.


Elizabeth Dickens (née Barrow) (1789–1863): mother.


Frances (Fanny) Dickens (later Burnett) (1810–48): sister. Pianist and singer. Married Henry Burnett in 1837, one son, Henry, who died a year after his mother.


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Katey Dickens (later Collins, later Perugini) (1839–1929): daughter. Artist. Married Charles Collins in 1860; after his death she married Charles (Carlo) Perugini in 1874 and they had a son who died at the age of seven months.


Mamie Dickens (1838–96): eldest daughter.


Georgina Hogarth’s family

Catherine Hogarth (later Dickens) (1815–79): eldest sister. Wife of C.D.


George Hogarth (1821–41): older brother.

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James Ballantyne Hogarth (1825–76): older brother. Emigrated to Australia.

Mary Scott Hogarth (1817–18): older sister, died before G.H. was born.

Mary Scott Hogarth (1819–37): older sister. Close sisterly relationship with Catherine, adored by C.D.

Robert Hogarth (1816–43): older brother. Emigrated to Mexico, then worked in government service in Jamaica.

William Hogarth (1823–95): older brother. Emigrated to Australia and returned to London in 1870s.


Helen Thomson (1795–?): aunt. Older sister of Mrs Hogarth (Georgina Thomson Hogarth).

Friends, colleagues and others

Ainsworth, William Harrison (1805–82): popular novelist and great friend of C.D. in late 1830s and early 1840s. They had little to do with each other from the 1850s but his youngest daughter, Blanche Swanson, exchanged letters with G.H. in 1908.


Austin, Henry (1812–61): brother-in-law of C.D., married Letitia Dickens in 1837. Civil engineer, who oversaw the building renovations at Tavistock House. He was later secretary of the first
Board of Health. Early suitor of Maria Beadnell and long-standing friend of C.D.

**Austin, Letitia** – see Letitia Dickens (in C.D. family section above)

**Barrett Browning, Elizabeth** (1806–61): poet. Married to Robert Browning. They were acquainted with C.D. Lived in Italy, knew Thomas Trollope. Robert exchanged several gossipy letters with novelist Isa Blagden about the Trollope/Ternan/C.D. relationships.


**Bentley, Richard** (1794–1871): publisher of *Oliver Twist* in *Bentley’s Miscellany*. C.D. was its first editor. The two men had a fractious relationship culminating in C.D. buying himself out of his contract and purchasing the copyright of *Oliver Twist*.


**Blessington, Marguerite, Countess of** (1789–1849): novelist and literary hostess. Controversially lived with her son-in-law, Count D’Orsay. Her niece was Marguerite Power, who often stayed for weeks at a time with G.H. at Gad’s Hill and was one of the few friends C.D. introduced to Ellen Ternan.

**Boyle, Mary Louisa** (1810–90): writer, amateur actor, cousin of Lavinia Watson. Devoted to C.D. and great friends with G.H.

**Brooks, Charles William Shirley** (1816–74): succeeded Mark Lemon on his death in 1870 as editor of the satirical journal *Punch*.

**Brown, Anne** – see Cornelius, Anne.
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Brown, Colin Rae (1821–97): journalist and publisher. He founded or edited several periodicals, including the *North British Daily Mail*, the *Daily Bulletin*, the *Scottish Banner* and the *Workman*. He was also a published poet.

Brown, Jane (née Wheeler) (1849–1920s?): trusted servant of Nelly Ternan and her mother from age of sixteen, then cook to G.H. Later returned to Nelly’s service. Married William Brown in 1886.


Bulwer-Lytton, Edward (1803–73): successful novelist and playwright. Met C.D. in 1837 but developed a friendship in 1850. Attractive to women, G.H. was fascinated by him.


Carlyle, Jane Welsh (1801–66): known for her letters and diaries. Married to C.D.’s good friend, Thomas.


Chorley, Henry (1808–72): literary, art and music critic. Friend of the Dickens family, particularly fond of Mamie, to whom he left a generous legacy in his will.

Christian, Eleanor Emma – see Picken, Emma.


Collins, Kate – see Katey Dickens (in C.D. family section above).

Cornelius, Anne (née Brown) (b. circa 1821): trusted maid to Dickens household from 1840. She established a friendship with Catherine Dickens and G.H. Later married Edward Cornelius and had a daughter she named Catherine Georgina Ann.

Cowden-Clarke, Mary (née Novello) (1809–98): writer, acted in Dickens’s amateur productions, devotee.


de la Rue, Augusta (née Granet) (1810–97): married Emile in 1832. One son. Mesmerised by C.D. to cure various illnesses. C.D. was intrigued by her illnesses; she was fascinated by him.

de la Rue, Emile (1802–70): Swiss banker. Met the Dickenses in Genoa in 1844. Married to Augusta. One son.

Dobson, Helen – see Helen Dickens (in C.D. family section above).

Dolby, George (1831–1900): manager of Dickens’s reading tours from 1866. Good friend and confidant of C.D. Wrote a memoir of their travels. A drinker and a spender, he died in a paupers’ hospital.

D’Orsay, Count Alfred (1801–52): lived with his step-mother-in-law, the Countess of Blessington. His dandified appearance was emulated by Ainsworth, Dickens, Disraeli and Bulwer-Lytton. Moved to Paris in 1849 after being made bankrupt. He gave Catherine Dickens the serpent ring she later bequeathed to G.H.

Durnford, Emma (1833–1907): maid and companion to G.H. Joined Dickens household at Gad’s Hill in 1866, left service sometime after 1901.

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theatricals. Proposed to G.H. Married a solicitor’s daughter in 1860.

Elliotson, John (1791–1868): physician to C.D. from early days of the Dickenses’ marriage. Friend and godfather to Walter Dickens. Introduced C.D. to mesmerism. His love of novelty stretched the boundaries of acceptable medical research and resulted in him losing his post as head of University College Hospital.

Evans, Fred (1803–70): printer. Bradbury and Evans were C.D.’s printers from 1836 and publishers 1845–58. C.D. cut off all contact in 1858 when the publisher refused to print his statement on the end of his marriage. C.D.’s son Charley married Evans’s daughter, Bessie, and C.D. refused to attend the wedding.

Faucit, Helen (later Helena Saville Faucit, Lady Martin) (1817–98): actress. William Macready’s main leading lady 1836–45. Acquaintance of the Dickenses, often invited as a guest to the entertainments at their home. Married Ralph Martin in 1851.


Fechter, Charlotte Eléonore Rabut (1819–94): minor actor. Married Charles Fechter in 1847, two children. Fechter was an unfaithful husband.

Felton, Cornelius (1807–62): president of Harvard University. C.D. and G.H. both regarded him as a friend. G.H. maintained contact with his daughter Mary Felton until the late 1870s.


Finlay, Frances Dalzell, Jr: editor of the Belfast newspaper Northern Whig, which he inherited from his father. Invited to stay
at Gad’s Hill, where he described a charming and convivial G.H. just hours before she had a physical breakdown.


**Forster, Eliza** (previously Colburn) (née Crosbie) (1815–94): wife of John Forster. Previously married to the publisher Henry Colburn. Friend of G.H.

**Forster, John** (1812–76): C.D.’s adviser, literary executor, biographer and closest lifelong male friend. Married Eliza Colburn in 1856. G.H. too regarded Forster as a good friend and relied on him in the years following C.D.’s death.

**Franklin, Eliza** (later Trix) (1813–89): became friends with Catherine Dickens when the Hogarths moved to Exeter. Eliza was eighteen and Catherine sixteen. Eliza married John Trix, a chemist, in 1843.


**Gaskell, Elizabeth** (1810–65): novelist and regular contributor to *Household Words*. Initially had a warm friendship with C.D. but this soured due to a difficult working relationship.


**Hargraves, Thomas** (1850–1905): clergyman. Mamie Dickens left her home with G.H. in 1878 to live with him and his wife Marie Benyon Hargraves (1850–1927).

**Holman Hunt, William** (1827–1910): artist and a founder of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. Best man to Charles Collins on his marriage to Katey Dickens.
Horne, Catherine (Kate) Clare St George (née Foggo) (1826–93): wife of Richard Horne, married 1847. C.D. admired and helped support her after she was deserted by her husband. G.H. and Janet Wills oversaw the Horne Fund, set up to ensure she had an income.

Horne, Richard Hengist (1802–84): poet, journalist, author. Member of staff at *Household Words*. Took part in C.D.’s amateur theatricals. Deserted his wife and joined the Australian gold rush. Much disliked by G.H.


Jerrold, Douglas (1803–57): dramatist, writer and journalist. Friend of C.D. since 1836. C.D. was instigator of the Douglas Jerrold Fund to raise money for the family after his death, although Jerrold’s son insisted they did not need it.

Kent, Charles (1823–1902): writer and journalist. Friend and admirer of C.D. He exchanged many letters with G.H. in which she gave news of the family; the letters were sold at Sotheby’s in 1999 but have since disappeared from public view.

Knight, Charles (1791–1873): author and publisher. Took part in at least one of C.D.’s amateur theatricals. Contributor to *Household Words*. On friendly terms with the Dickens family.


Lemon, Mark (1809–70): playwright, first editor of *Punch*. Close family friend of the Dickenses. Acted on Catherine’s behalf in separation, which ended friendship with C.D.

Lemon, Nelly (née Romer) (1817–90): married Mark in 1839. Talented amateur singer. Got to know the Dickenses in 1841. Two years later the families became intimate, living near each other and holidaying together. Like her good friend Catherine, she had ten children.

Linton, Eliza Lynn (1828–98): novelist, journalist, contributor to *Household Words* and *All Year Round*. On the death of her father, she inherited Gad’s Hill, which she sold to C.D.


Maclise, Daniel (1806–70): artist. Lived with his family in Russell Place, Fitzroy Square, where his sister Isabella kept house for him. From 1837 to late 1840s he formed a trio with Forster as C.D.’s closest male friends.

Macready, Catherine Francis (née Atkins) (1806–52): professional actress before her marriage to William Macready. A good friend and confidante of Catherine Dickens. Had ten children.

Macready, Cecile Louise Frederica (née Spencer) (1827–1908): second wife of William Macready. C.D. and G.H. were godparents to their son Neville. Good friends with G.H.


Martineau, Harriet (1802–76): social theorist, feminist, writer. Contributed series of articles to *Household Words* but only slight personal acquaintance with the Dickenses. She and C.D. had a
public dispute in 1855–6 on industrial safety which arose from their differing understandings of liberalism.

**Millais, Effie** (previously Ruskin, née Gray) (1828–97): Married John Millais in 1855 following annulment of her first marriage to John Ruskin on the grounds of non-conssummation. After death of C.D. and Millais, Effie and her family maintained a friendship with G.H.


**Ouvry, Frederic** (1814–81): C.D.’s solicitor from 1856, acted for G.H. from 1870.

**Panton, Jane** (née Frith) (1847–1923): writer. Daughter of Isabella and William Powell Frith. Sympathetic to Catherine Dickens’s situation but also made kind comments about G.H.


**Perugini, Kate** – see Katey Dickens (in C.D. family section above).

**Peters, Charley** (1854–1932): changed his name around 1896 to Hector Charles Bulwer Lytton Dickens, later known as Charles Dickens the Younger. Attempted to extract money from charities by claiming he was the illegitimate son of C.D. and G.H.

Powell, John Hill: sub-editor of the *Morning Chronicle* and editor of the *Evening Chronicle* in 1830s. Employed by C.D. as a sub-editor on the *Daily News* in 1846.


Robinson, Ellen (Nelly) – see Ternan, Ellen.

Robinson, George Wharton (1851–1910): clergyman and schoolmaster. Married Ellen Ternan in 1876 apparently unaware of the extent of her intimacy with C.D. His family holidayed with the Henry Dickens family and G.H. stayed at his house in Margate on several occasions.


Stanfield, Rebecca (née Adcock) (1808–75): actress prior to marriage. Second wife of Clarkson. Good friend of Catherine. Because of affection between Clarkson and C.D., she was one of the few supporters of Catherine who continued to be invited to Gad’s Hill.

Swanson, Anne Blanche (née Ainsworth) (1830–1908): youngest daughter of William Harrison Ainsworth. Ainsworth’s biographer, S. M. Ellis, put G.H. in contact with Blanche, whom she had not seen since the 1850s.

Tagart, Helen (previously Martineau, née Bourn) (1797–1879): married second husband, Edward, in 1828 following death of her first husband, James Martineau, brother of Harriet. Introduced Elizabeth Gaskell to the Dickenses. Remained friends with Catherine after the separation.

Talfourd, Judge Thomas (1795–1854): radical politician and author. As an MP, he first introduced a copyright bill in 1837 (although a law was not passed until 1842) and served as Dickens’s counsel in the suit that the author brought in 1844 against publishers who plagiarised his books.

Tennyson, Lord Alfred (1809–92): poet. Mutual admiration between Tennyson and C.D. However, G.H. was scathing of his acceptance of a peerage in 1883.

Ternan, Ellen (née Ternan) (1839–1914): actress. Met C.D. in 1857 and was financially supported by him from around this time. Married George Wharton Robinson in 1876. They had two children, Geoffrey and Gladys.

Ternan, Fanny – see Trollope, Frances.

Ternan, Mrs Frances (née Jarman) (1802–73): actress. Mother of Fanny, Maria and Ellen.


Thackeray, William Makepeace (1811–63): novelist. Ongoing spats with C.D. despite warmth between the families. Fond of Catherine and G.H. and eager not to be seen to be taking sides.

Thompson, Amelia (Millie) (1809–65): sister of Elizabeth Smithson and T. J. Thompson. Looked after her nieces following the death of their parents.
**Thompson, Christiana** – see Weller, Christiana.

**Thompson, Thomas James** (1812–81): inherited a considerable fortune. T.J. was a widower when he met and became friends with the Dickenses in 1837. Married Christiana Weller. Lived in Italy.

**Touchet, Eliza Buckley** (1792–1869): wife of James Touchet, William Harrison Ainsworth’s second cousin. Following the death of her husband and Ainsworth’s separation from his wife, she and her sister Anne went to live with him at Kensal Lodge.

**Trollope, Frances (Fanny)** (née Ternan) (1835–1913): novelist. Eldest daughter of Frances Ternan. Despite a twenty-five-year age-gap, she became second wife of Thomas Trollope in 1866. She and C.D. grew to dislike each other.

**Trollope, Thomas** (1810–92): writer, brother of writer Anthony Trollope. First wife died and he married his daughter’s music teacher, Fanny Ternan. Introduced to each other by C.D.


**Weller, Anna Delancey** – see Anna Delancey Dickens (in C.D. family section above).

**Weller, Christiana** (1825–1910): pianist. C.D. was smitten on first meeting her but his ardour cooled when she married his friend, T.J. Thompson in 1845. Had two famous daughters, the artist Elizabeth Butler and the poet Alice Meynell.

**Wheeler, Jane** – see Brown, Jane.


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**Wills, Janet** (née Chambers) (1812–92): daughter of Edinburgh publisher Robert Chambers. Married William in 1846. They had no children. Was impatient with Catherine Dickens.

**Wills, William Henry** (1810–80): trusted assistant editor of *Household Words* and *All the Year Round* and good friend of C.D. Married Janet Chambers.

**Winter, Maria** – *see* Beadnell, Maria.

**Yates, Edmund** (1831–94): journalist and novelist. Contributor to *Household Words* and *All the Year Round*. Friend of C.D. Katey Dickens developed a teenage crush, despite the fact he was married. G.H. complained that his articles about C.D. were too gossipy.