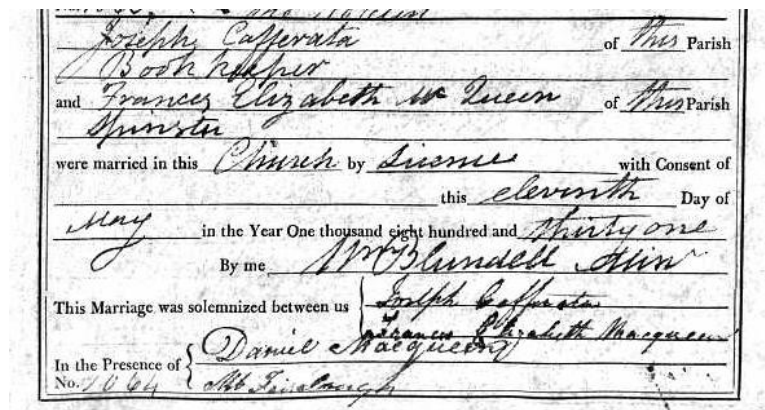


Joseph Cafferata, 1806-1871

Growing rapidly through international trade at the beginning of the nineteenth century, Liverpool was a diverse and vibrant town. It was a hub with links to other towns in the north of England, including Manchester, and it was in Manchester in 1806 that Joseph Cafferata makes his first appearance, being baptised in the Roman Catholic church of St Anne on December 15th of that year⁽¹⁾. His parents, Mary and Joseph stayed in both Liverpool and Manchester at various times because of Joseph's work. Their eldest daughter, Josephine, had been baptised in Liverpool earlier in the summer and it was there that the family made their long term home, at 3 Cornwallis Street.

We don't know a lot about the early lives of Mary and Joseph's children, but they didn't follow in their father's footsteps as a dentist or surgeon, instead they pursued careers in commerce or industry. Family life must have been difficult at times for the Cafferatas, because Joseph senior was away from home a lot, and there were the almost inevitable domestic tragedies. Two of Joseph and Mary's daughters died in the 1820s – Augusta at the young age of 12 and Josephine after a long illness⁽²⁾.

At some point though, Joseph junior made a career choice, and by the time he makes his next appearance in public documents, in his marriage records, he was described as a book-keeper. This was the same path his brothers John and William followed.

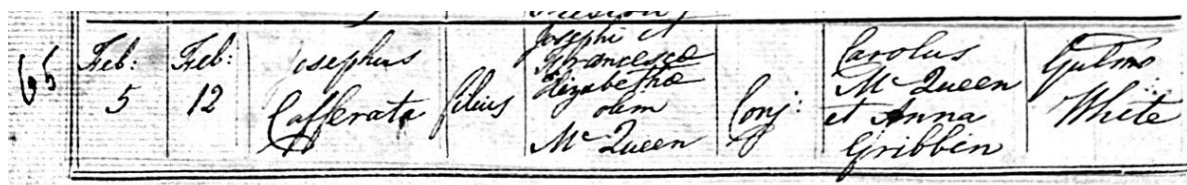


Frances and Joseph's marriage record of 1831

Joseph's bride, Frances Elizabeth McQueen was some three years younger than Joseph and had been born in Liverpool in 1809. Her parents, Daniel and Dorothy McQueen lived on Upper-Frederick St in Liverpool⁽³⁾, but Daniel had been born in Scotland where a family legend says Frances's grandfather was executed for following the Young Pretender, Charles Edward Stuart. Joseph and Frances actually got married twice; first on the 10th May 1831 in the Catholic Church of St Patrick in Liverpool and then again on the following day in the Anglican Church of St Anne (Richmond)⁽⁴⁾. The reason for this was that Hardwicke's Marriage Act of 1754 meant that only marriages consecrated in Church of England places of worship were legal. This wasn't repealed until 1837, hence the double ceremony for Catholics who also married in their own churches.

The next year, 1832 brought both happiness and tragedy for the newlyweds – their first child, Joseph Raphael Cafferata was born on the 5th February and baptised on the 12th at St

Nicholas's Chapel. Unfortunately Frances' mother Dorothy died later the same year, on the 9th August. 1833 was a similarly mixed year, with Joseph Cafferata Senior dying in July, shortly after the birth of Joseph and Frances' first daughter, Josephine⁽⁵⁾. The Cafferatas had nine more children over the course of the next two decades; Charles Edward (b.1835), Eugene (b.1837), Lousia Eliza (b. 1839), Philip (b.1841), Frances Elizabeth (b.1843), Emily (b.1845), Alfred Benedict (b. 1849), Arthur Frederick (b.1853) and Julius Frances (b.1855). They were fortunate in that most of the children survived until maturity but they lost Eugene at the age of 4 and Emily at 2 ½⁽⁶⁾.



Joseph Raphael Cafferata's Baptism record of 1832

During the early 1840s Joseph changed his career from book-keeper to brewer. We don't know exactly when he did this but it was certainly before 1841, as in the UK census of that year Joseph is described as being in his new occupation. It is likely that it was after 1840 as in the Poll Books for St Anne's Ward in that year, Joseph is listed as having a "Counting House" on Richmond Row⁽⁷⁾. This fits in more with his former occupation as book-keeper than with his new profession. At some point he formed a partnership with Sampson Smith and Edwin

Gore's Liverpool Directory 1843, showing the occupations of the three Cafferata brothers.

Cafferata John, book keeper, 80, Chester street, Toxteth park
Joseph, brewer, (Smith, Mumford & Co.) 105, Finch st
William, book keeper, 3, Sir Howard street

Mumford to form Smith, Mumford & Company. "A Gazetteer of Liverpool Breweries" by John Barge put the premises of Smith, Mumford & co on Smithfield

St. Interestingly, Gore's 1843 Liverpool Directory lists Sampson Smith as living at 53 Everton Road in 1843, an address that Joseph and his family moved to in the 1850s. In the 1843 directory, Joseph is listed as living at 105 Finch St.

Smith, Mumford & Cafferata carried on their partnership until the end of 1863 when Smith retired, leaving Mumford and Cafferata to continue together⁽⁸⁾. The brewery carried on in existence for long after Joseph's life, continuing until 1915 when it was acquired by Higsons. Although his name didn't appear as part of the company name, Joseph was an active partner in the business, representing Smith, Mumford in



An advert for "Draught and Bottling Porter" from the Liverpool Mercury of 28th March 1843

trade association meetings, such as one reported by the Liverpool Mercury of the 26th November 1869 where Joseph proposed a resolution to the Liverpool Brewers to end all “over-measures”. This was unanimously adopted and Joseph was one of the brewery members appointed to a committee of brewers and victuallers tasked with ensuring this resolution was carried out⁽⁹⁾.

Parish or Township of	Electoral Division of	Output Borough of	Street	Household			
Liverpool		Liverpool					
Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who slept in the House, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of Male (years)	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind or Deaf and Dumb
19 62 Cawn St	Joseph Roberts	Head	M	20	Housewife	Magdalen Street	
	Ann Bonfante	Head	W	16	Keeper of apartments	Temple Street	
	Mary do	Wife	W	17		do	
20	Bliss Demsey	Serv	W	25	House Servant	Ireland	
	John Hosa	Head	W	67	Interest of Money	Newcastle West	
21	John Pithco	Head	W	24	Probate of Money	Liverpool	
22	Harriet Weston	Serv	W	56	Interest of Money	St Domingo West Ind	
23 65 Oxford St	Joseph Cafferata	Head	M	63	Market Brewer	Manchester	
	Francis J do	Wife	M	42		Liverpool	
	Joseph do	Serv	W	19	Apprentice to the same as father	do	
	Josephine do	Serv	W	17		do	
	Charles do	Serv	W	15		do	
	Louise do	Serv	W	11		do	
	Josephine do	Serv	W	7		do	
	Alfred B do	Serv	W	2		do	
	Mary do	Wife	W	65		do	
	Mary do	Serv	W	42	Milliner & Dress Maker	do	
	Antonia Johnson	Serv	M	2	House Serv	Ireland	
Margaret Hudson	Serv	W	16	House Servant	Ireland		
Total				4/15			

1851 Census entry for Joseph Cafferata's family

Brewing brought Joseph a certain degree of wealth, as witnessed by the 1851 UK census when the family were shown as living at 65 Oxford St and being able to employ two Irish house servants. In addition, Joseph's mother Mary, and his sister, also called Mary, were living with the family at this time⁽¹⁰⁾.

Another indication that showed that Joseph and his family were fairly well to do was his ability to send some of his sons to expensive Catholic schools. Charles Edward Cafferata was the first of the Cafferata family to attend the prestigious Stonyhurst School from 1848 to 1851, and his brother Alfred Benedict went to Ampleforth College, starting in 1863.

Many of Joseph's children displayed musical or artistic talents: Joseph Raphael was a respected and talented organist, Charles Edward a conductor, Alfred Benedict became a professional artist and Louisa Eliza a professional opera singer. They may have got their musical talents from their father as he was a member of the Liverpool Festival Choral Society, becoming its chairman in the early 1840s⁽¹¹⁾.

Joseph was also active in public service, being a long time select vestryman for the Liverpool Select Vestry. Parish vestries were originally set up to run church affairs, but by the nineteenth century the role had taken on a very particular purpose in Liverpool, where it administered the town's poor laws – essentially managing the workhouses and poor relief. The Liverpool Select Vestry was held up as a model of good practice and a special Act of Parliament in 1842 allowed Liverpool's Select Vestry to carry on with its work rather than changing into a Board of Guardians. Politically, Joseph was part of the Liberal Party and when

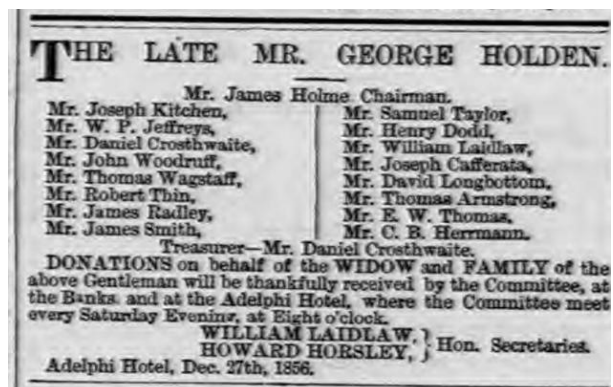


A view of Liverpool Workhouse Infirmary

he was elected to the Vestry in 1847 it was as a Liberal, even though the Vestry tried to keep politically neutral. In 1849 he was elected as Chairman of the Workhouse Committee. One of his first tasks was to oversee the appointment of a new workhouse matron and he wrote to the Liverpool Mercury canvassing the public's opinions on the wage that should be paid. He was of the opinion that a (relatively) large salary of £100 should be paid to ensure the appointment of a capable new post-holder. Unfortunately I don't know whether his advice was taken!⁽¹²⁾

In an article that reflects Victorian attitudes towards the poor (and shows that there's nothing new in education), the Sheffield Independent reported in 1850 that "a number of ignorant paupers" had been taught to read using Mr Pitman's phonetic method of teaching reading. Joseph, as chairman, organised a vote of thanks to Mr Pitman for his efforts⁽¹³⁾.

Sometimes, there was even a little cross-over between Joseph's work with the Parish Vestry and his love of music. For example, in 1856 George Holden, a friend and fellow musician in the Liverpool Festival Choral Society died unexpectedly, leaving his family in dire straits. Although Liverpool's poor law provision was very good, Joseph wouldn't have wanted the grieving widow to have to rely on the system. Accordingly, Joseph and several other gentlemen, most of whom were associated with the Choral Society formed a committee and appealed for charitable donations for Mr Holden's family, meeting at the Adelphi Hotel where they accepted donations and subscriptions⁽¹⁴⁾.



An appeal for charity, 1856.

In the 1850s Joseph and Frances moved house several times, ending up at the house they would share for the rest of their marriage, at 53 Everton Road. The census of 1851 had the



53 Everton Road

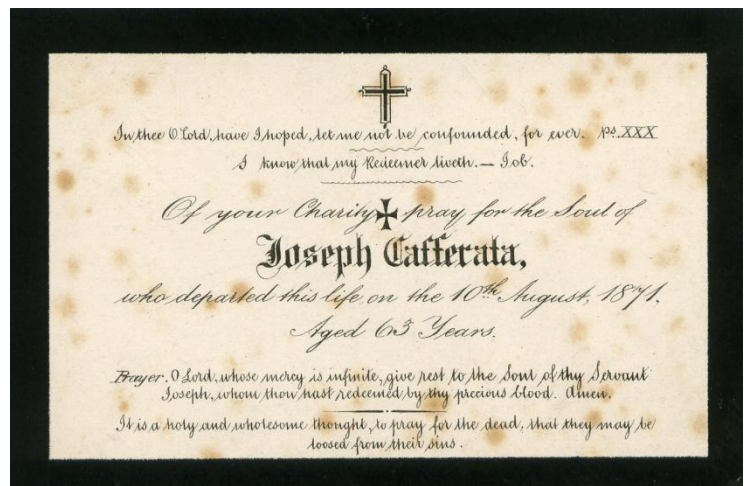
family living at 65 Oxford Street⁽¹⁰⁾, but by the summer of 1855 they had moved to Everton Road, initially to number 25. Amongst other mod-cons, the house on Everton Road was linked to the gas supply, as in September, Joseph attended a meeting of the Town Council's Gas Committee, where he complained about the "incivility" of the gas company who had threatened to cut off his supply for non-payment, even though they had only called for the bill to be paid once. He also complained that his gas bill had gone up, even though there had been a price cut!⁽¹⁵⁾ We don't know the exact date the family moved again, to number 53 (the former house of Sampson Smith), but they were certainly living there by the

spring of 1858. Reasons for the move can also only be speculated about; Joseph's family were now growing up – Joseph Raphael was the first of Joseph's children to wed, marrying Sarah Amy Jones at St Francis Xavier's on the 28th October 1857. Joseph's mother was still living with them but she became unwell in the spring of 1858 and died on the 6th May after three weeks illness⁽¹⁶⁾.

The children were also starting to leave home; the 1861 census showed that seven of Joseph and Frances's children were still living at home, but by the time of the 1871 census, that had reduced to three, with the family then employing one servant rather than two as they had previously⁽¹⁷⁾.

Joseph remained an active participant in local Liberal Party politics – he was part of a committee which supported the successful election of J R Jeffery to the town council in November 1863, being one of the vice-chairmen for the Everton ward. The following year, Joseph took on the same role in the election of Mr A C Stewart, who was returned unopposed⁽¹⁸⁾.

On the domestic front, family matters continued; Frances and Joseph's second son, Charles Edward married Margaret Swarbrick on May 15th 1866 and started a family, but unfortunately Margaret died just three years later. Joseph himself lived only two years longer than his daughter-in-law as an announcement was made in the Liverpool papers that Joseph had died at home on August the 10th 1871. He left just under £10,000 in his will. Frances lived for another seven years after her husband before she died on 9th July 1878⁽¹⁹⁾.



A prayer card for Joseph Cafferata

Notes:

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3. Liverpool Mercury 13th May 1831: Birth Marriage & Death Announcements.
4. St Patrick's, Liverpool, Register: Marriages 1827 - 1848, Page 35, Entry 2, 10th May 1831 Source: LDS Film 396378. Record for Joseph Cafferata and Frances McQueen.
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5. Ancestry.co.uk: Liverpool, Lancashire, England, Catholic Baptisms, 1802-1906. Record for Joseph Raphael Cafferata.
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