

Joseph Edward Murrell (1838-1919)

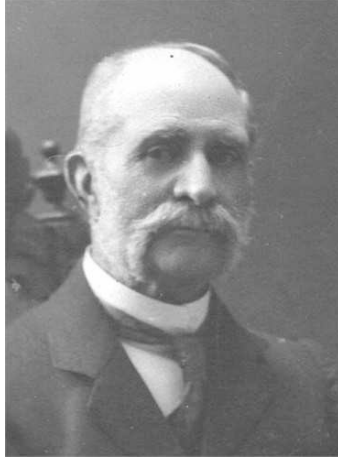
Joseph was born in Wivenhoe on the 28th September 1838 while his parents William and Eliza were lining on the High Street he went to sea at the age of 17 on the *Strive* under a Captain Dunn. He served his apprenticeship under his father William from February 1854 to February 1857 on the *Fanny*, *Verda* and *United*. Completing his apprenticeship he continued on the *United* as Mate under William until 1860 when he took command of the *Fanny*, a post he held until July 1862. The ownership of all these ships is recorded as Penny & Co, Colchester.

Joseph gained his Masters Certificate (CN 18784) on the 1st March 1862 when he was 25. He then was Master of the *William & Anne* (1863-1865), *Cicero* (1865-1867), *Bospherous* (1868-1870), *May*, *Blackheath* (1871-1873), *Golden Horn* (1874) and *Valetta* (1875-1878). Retiring from the sea in 1878 Joseph was appointed Marine Superintendent for William Gray & Co, a position he held until 1884. In 1878 William Gray and Company launched eighteen ships. This earned them the "Blue Riband", which was a prize for the most ships built in a year by any British shipyard. They won the same award in 1882, 1888, 1895, 1898 and 1900. During his time as Marine Superintendent Joseph represented Gray's on over 400 'trial trips'.

The 1841 census records Joseph on West Street, Wivenhoe; 1851 on Bath Street; 1861 on the High Street where his occupation is shown as "seaman Merchant Service". Joseph married Mary Youngusband in 1863 in Hartlepool and they had 11 children; Ada (1865-1941), Minni (Mary Jane - 1867-1965), Jane Ann (1871-1952), Eva (1875-1932), Arthur Georhe (1876-1969), William (1879-1951), Edwin (1881-1962), Henry (1881-1962), Gertrude (1881-1971), John Charles (1885-1885) and Ida (1887-1956). The 1871 census shows the family living in Hartlepool, in 1881 they were living at 3 South Crescent still being there in 1891.



No 3 South Crescent is the third house from the left of the main row in the photograph.



Joseph Edward Murrell c1912

By the 1901 census the family had moved to 'Bracondale' 12 Clifton Avenue in Hartlepool, a house they appear to have named one of the companies ships after in 1903. They were still in Clifton Avenue in 1911 and Clifton Avenue is recorded as his address when he died on the 21st February 1919 aged 80, Mary was still living there when she died on 24th January 1924 aged 79.