

4 Early residents



Residents with the Matron on the lawn, 1900 © Marianne Colloms



Karl Marx and his wife Jenny, 1843 the year of their marriage



Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels with their families on Hampstead Heath, 1864



Ordnance map, 1870



Stanfords Parish map, 1862

Census, 1861

1861 Census Data - residents of St Pancras Almshouses

House #	Name	Relationship to head	Condition	Age	Rank/occupation	Where born
1	Elizabeth Wilson	Head	Widow	72	Public Building	Essex Romford
	Esther Kenshaw	Visitor	Unmarried	53	Dressmaker	London St martins
2	John Torfey	Head	Married	38	Omnibus Timekeeper	Somerset Taunton
	Eliza	Wife	married	32		Middlesex St Pancras
	Elizabeth Copping	Head	Widow	77		Essex Coggeshall
3	James Tingey	Head	Married	21	Carpenter Journeyman	Bedfordshire
	Emily Tingey	Wife	Married	22		Middlesex St Pancras
4	William Williams	Head	Married	37	Forman porter NWR	Middlesex Kentish town
	Julia Williams	Wife	Married	44		Middlesex St Pancras
	Richard Williams	Son	Unmarried	11	Schooler	Middlesex Poplar
5	Elizabeth Stevens	Head	Widow	78	Coachmaker's Wif.	Middlesex St Giles
6	Charles Greenwood	Head	Widower	79	Formerly Wood turner	Middlesex London
7	William Furneaux	Head	Married	75	Formerly Shoe maker	Middlesex London
	Sarah Furneaux	Wife	Married	77		Warwick
8	Mary Austin	Head	Widow	69	Baker's widow	Middlesex Holborn
	Jane Austin	Daughter	Unmarried	32	Baker's shopwoman	Middlesex Kentistown
10	Robert Collins	Head	Widower	80	Cabinetmaker	Surrey Kingston
11	Dawson Collins	Grandson	Unmarried	16	Apprentice woodcutter	Middlesex Marylebone
12	Richard Gent	Head	Married	77	Tabor	Norfolk Hornington
	Hannah Gent	Wife	Married	72		Cambridge Ely
13	James Daniels	Head	Married	74	Painter and glazier	Middlesex Manchester Sq
	Jane Daniels	Wife	married	65		Germany

Census transcription

14	Sarah Bickford	Head	Widow	73	Monthly Nurse	Devon Crediton
15	Thomas Marckwick	Head	Married	74	Coachbuilder	Sussex Bainton
	Lucy A. Marckwick	Wife	married	75	Coachbuilder	Middlesex Bloomsbury
16	Rebecca Splinks	Head	Widow	69	Cook	Bucks Amersham
	Mary Pugsine	Visitor	Widow	70	Nurse	Middlesex London
17	Alice Cope	Head	Unmarried	75	Housekeeper	Middlesex Piccadilly
18	Mary Freemantle	Head	Widow	75	Cook	Middlesex Marylebone
19	Ann Cullis	Head	Widow	73	Pastry Cook	Oxfordshire Witney
20	Sarah Crofts	Head	Widow	81	Formerly monthly nurse	Dorset Blandford
21	Thomas Mason	Head	Married	31	Police Constable	Derby Long Eaton
	Rebecca Mason	Wife	Married	32		Cambridge Wickham
22	Elen Lindott	Head	Widow	72	Formerly Dyer	Kent Dover
23	Richard Reed	Head	Widower	76	Formerly Undertaker	Middlesex St Pancras

The Marx family

Very close to the new Almshouses lived the most influential political writer of the nineteenth century – Karl Marx. The Marx family lived at 9 Grafton Terrace (now number 46) from 1856 to 1864. It was here that Marx wrote his *Critique of Political Economy*. The family later moved to 41 Maitland Park Road where Marx died in 1883.

Dr Donald Fraser whose inspiration had brought the St Pancras Almshouses into existence, continued to support them financially, and so did his wife Sarah, following her husband's death in 1878.

In 1892 a nursing fund was set up, after a public dinner hosted by the Earl of Dudley raised £700. The next year a 'nurse-matron' was appointed to look after the health of the Almshouse inhabitants.

In 1881 a handsome hall was erected for Managing Committee and residents meetings, as well as the Annual General Meeting. Designed by Messrs Dent and Dallas, and built by Mr A Boden at a cost of £500, the Regnart Room was named after another generous benefactor, Sir Horatio Regnart. Regnart was an influential member of St Pancras Borough Council, and co-founder of Maples furniture shop in Tottenham Court Road.

The Buildings

The Stanford map of 1862 shows the partially built St Pancras Almshouses on Southampton Road, and by the time the 1870 Ordnance Survey map was published, the first of its day, it is clear that the north block, including Henry Aste's end house, had been completed.

The Census of 1861 shows that the early residents of the new St Pancras Almshouses were a mixture of the retired, and skilled working people. With no state social security system in existence the Charity was compelled to let nine of the Almshouse flats at a commercial rent to help provide small pensions to residents who otherwise would have had nothing to live on.