

# Charlotte's Web of Intrigue

Charlotte Wilson gave evidence to her late husband's inquest at the Prince Alfred, Crowndale Road, St Pancras in April 1874, recording how he had died falling off a ladder painting the front of the house for their landlord. Up to this point, her life in the records is straightforward, appearing in every census from 1841 living in Somers Town, marrying William Wilson and having several children. After 1874 tracking her takes some detective work, partly because she chose to deceive.



The 1881 Census shows two main changes to her situation. First, she had married Christopher Robert Lagdon. Second, she had a 3 year old son called Robert Wilson. Robert was born in November 1877 and registered as William Wilson's son, but his 1874 death was clearly reported in the local *St Pancras Gazette* so this is impossible, even if it is what Charlotte told the registrar!

This second marriage seems to have been a short-lived affair. In the 1891 and 1901 Censuses Charlotte reverted to the Wilson surname, and her 1909 death certificate records her as the widow of William Wilson. Mr Lagdon seems to disappear – out of her life and out of the historical records!