

Catherine C. Sutton
Superintendent Registrar

The Register Office
Bromley Public Hall
Bow Road
London E3 3AA

Tel: 020 7364 7880
Fax: 020 7364 7885
Email: register.office@towerhamlets.gov.uk
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk

Opening Hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
9.30 - 12.30 & 1.30 - 4.00
Wednesday
9.30 - 11.30 & 2.00 - 4.00

31 August 2010

Dear [REDACTED]

Patty Boram

Thank you for your recent enquiry relating to **Patty Boram's birth certificate**.

I located Patty's original birth entry in our records and can confirm that the entry, which we hold, matches the copy of the GRO certificate provided by you; meaning that the father's name in column 4 has indeed been struck through by the Registrar at the time of the registration.

We checked to see if the Registrar at the time registered Entry 53's father by mistake but this does not seem to be the case.

Please note that the rules governing what has happened still applies to registration today:

Married couples: If the mother is married to the baby's father at the time of the birth, if they wish either the mother or the father may attend alone to register the baby's birth.

Unmarried couples: If the baby's father is not married to the baby's mother he cannot register alone. The mother can register alone however; the father's details cannot be entered if he does not attend the registration.

It appears that Margaret attended by herself to register Patty's birth and the Registrar before starting the registration failed to ask whether she was married to the father and began registering under the assumption that she was.

When he reaches Column 5, he enters 'Margaret Dalton' and would then ask '*What were you formerly known as?*' This would have been when Margaret would have informed the Registrar that she is unmarried, prompting the Registrar to strike through the father's details in column 4 and changing Margaret's surname to 'Boram'.

The numbers in the entry and the margin that you refer to are known as 'numbered errors'. This suggests that the Registrar was aware of the error at the time of the registration before he signed the actual entry and was able to strike through the father's details.

Had the Registrar realized the error after he signed the entry, Margaret would have needed to apply for a formal correction rectifying the Registrar's error. The correction would have resulted in a marginal note beside the entry, stating that the birth entry should be read as though the father's details had not been registered.

Today, if a current entry has a numbered error; Registrar's issue the certificate as though errors have not been made – a 'clean' entry. You are able to view the numbered errors in Patty's entry because you were purchasing the certificate for the purposes of Family History.

To sum up, John Dalton was probably Patty's father but by law because he was not present at the time of the registration and Margaret was not married to him, his details could not be registered in the entry. The Registrar having realized this earlier in to the registration was able to rectify this mistake via a numbered error.

If you have any further queries, please contact us on the above number.

Yours sincerely,



pp. Superintendent Registrar