Some Advertisements Placed by James Man (senior) in London Newspapers Followed by a Note on his Son James Man (junior) and his (senior’s) Business Partner William Humfrey.

By David Man. April 2, 2016

James Man was born in 1755 on Mansel Street, Whitechapel, London, the youngest son of John and Mary (Balchen) Man, and was baptized on 20\textsuperscript{th} July 1755 at St. Mary Matfellon. He married Sarah Roberts on 15\textsuperscript{th} September 1781 at St. Mildred Poultry, London. James died on 11\textsuperscript{th} November 1823 at St. Petrox, Dartmouth, Devonshire, and was buried on 15\textsuperscript{th} November at St. Saviour, Dartmouth. James and Sarah had two sons Edward (1782–1834) and James (1783 – 1841).

The business was initially located in Harp Lane and then moved to Mincing Lane. When James retired in 1819 his two sons took over the business as the following notice indicates:

\begin{center}
\textbf{THE Partnership heretofore subsisting between James Man the elder, Edward Man, and James Man the younger, of Mincing-Lane, London, West-India-Brokers, under the firm of James Man and Sons, was this day dissolved by mutual consent. The business of the late firm will in future be carried on by Edward Man and James Man the younger, under the firm of Edward and James Man.} \textit{—Dated this 38th June 1819.}
\end{center}

\begin{center}
James Man, sen.
Edward Man.
James Man, jun.
\end{center}

However in about 1827 James (Jnr) branched out on his own and his venture as a trader on his own account is given at the end of this short essay.

From reading the advertisements placed in Newspapers from the mid 1780’s to the early 1800’s we find James Man the elder selling a wide variety of commodities such as: Cocoa and Coffee from Jamaica, Dominica, and Demerara. Various types of hard woods such as Lignum Vitae and Mahogany from Jamaica. Spices and plant products such as Cayenne Pepper, Black and White Ginger, Pimento, Balsam Tolu, Arrowroot, Indigo, and Gum Elim. Cotton from Smyrna, Jamaica, San Domingo, Caracas, and Cartagena. Spirits such as Cognac, Rum, and Hollands Geneva (Gin). And, don’t forget the Beeswax, Tortoiseshells, and marble chimneypieces that came from a captured Spanish prize ship.

21\textsuperscript{st} April 1788
23rd November 1795

Serons Carthagena do [ditto] = barrels of cotton from Cartagena [in the Spanish West Indies]

Right: The Grafton Coffee House. © Trustees of the British Museum

October 1795

23rd, per or London banks, in 2 days to 4 days' & 2 days' per cent.

Other 11. By Mr. James Man. Prompt for Coffee one month and 1 per cent. Cotton 14 days and 1½ per cent. discount. Coffee, for home consumption or exportation, viz. 17 hhds. Jamaica Coffee, in 5 lots, 71 14s to 81 5s per cwt.—1 hhds. damaged, 41 15s per cwt.—57 hhds. and barrels. Dominica Coffee, in 6 lots, 81 5s 6d to 81 7s per cwt.—51 hhds. &c. Demerary Coffee, in 15 lots, 71 10s to 81 3s per cwt.—19 hhds. and 62 bags Coffee (trusive and ordinary) in 13 lots, 61 6s to 71 18s per cwt.—10 bags damaged, 51 18s per cwt.—109 bags Black Ginger, in 10 lots, 505 to 592 6d per cwt.—1 bag Cotton Wool, 35 3d per lb.—10 bags Carraca Cotton Wool, in 8 lots, 23 3d to 25 4d per lb.—20 bags Smyrna Cotton Wool, in 5 lots, 28 3½d to 28 3½d per lb.—10 bags Cayenne Pepper, scratched out.

Above: A view of Upper Thames Street from the River. © Trustees of the British Museum. Right: South American peppers. © Trustees of the British Museum. Drawn by Maria Merrian who is related to David Man through his father’s mother’s side.
At Garraway's Coffee-house, Cornhill,
On Thursday, the 30th Instant, at Twelve,
The Following Goods, Viz.
50 Hds. Coffee, for home consumption or exportation
g. Coca dito.
s. Cassia dito.
s. Bung Pimento.
Catalogues of which will be timely delivered by
James Man, Broker, Harp Lane.

Garraway's Coffee House.
© Trustees of the British Museum

Barrels beside the River Thames. © Trustees of the British Museum

24th November 1795

Sales by Candle.
At Garraway's Coffee-house, Cornhill,
On Friday, the 3rd Instant, at Five,
The Following Goods, Viz.
200 Bags S. Domingo Cotton
100 Bags Jamaica Cotton 60 Tons Jamaica Log
to 60 Tons LICUM VINE
Catalogues of which will be given in due time by
James Man, Broker, Harp Lane.

At Garraway's Coffee-house, Cornhill,
On Thursday, the 9th of Dec. at Twelve,
The Following Goods, Viz.
950 Hds. Coffee, for home consumption or exportation
50 — COTTON DITO
600 BAGS PIMENTO
Catalogues of which will be timely delivered by
James Man, Broker, Harp Lane.

Brokers and jobbers at work.
© Trustees of the British Museum
A ‘Sale by Candle’ was the usual method of auction-sale. A section of wax candle an inch long was lit for each lot, and the successful bidder was the one who shouted immediately before the candle went out.

1st December 1795

At GARRAWAY’s Coffee-house, Cornhill,
On Thursday, the 3d of Dec. at Twelve,
THE FOLLOWING GOODS, Viz.
250 Hlds. Coffee, for home consumption or
Exportation
50 — Cocoa ditto ditto
200 Bags Pimento
Catalogues of which will be timely delivered by
JAMES MAN, Broker, Harp Lane.

Right: View of London docks.
© Trustees of the British Museum

2nd January 1796

At GARRAWAY’s Coffee-house, Cornhill,
On Thursday, the 14th Instant, at Six,
THE FOLLOWING GOODS, Viz.
200 Bags Cotton ditto
50 Calks Bees Wax
200 Ditto Black and
White Ginger ditto
1 Ditto Balsam Toes
400 Hides ditto
30 Ton Logwood ditto
30 Logs Mahogany ditto
And other Goods,
Catalogues of which will be timely delivered by
JAMES MAN, Broker, Harp Lx.

Colonial Coffee mart and sugar warehouse.
© Trustees of the British Museum

London Docks. © Trustees of the British Museum
Over the years James apprenticed several young men to work for him as for example John Evans (last line) dated 29th August 1800:

12th February 1796
14th October 1796

**MERCHANDIZE at LONDON.**

October 13. By Mr. James Man. Prompt 3 month and 1 per cent. discount. Coffee, for home consumption or exportation, viz. 9 bags, in 1 lot, 7l 3s 6d per cwt.—176 calks, 6l to 6l 8s per cwt.— 6 calks, 5l 11s to 5l 17s 6d per cwt.—1 cask damaged, 90s and 2 bags damaged, 38 6d. to 10s per cwt.—1 barrels sweepings, 98s per cwt.

**An Auction. © Trustees of the British Museum**

**Mincing Lane.**
1<sup>st</sup> June 1797

A list of the names and residences of the subscribers to the loan of £18,000,000, for the service of the year 1797. Ordered to be printed 1<sup>st</sup> June 1797.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Residence</th>
<th>Subscriptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richard Carter</td>
<td>New road, Mary-le-bone Bank</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Banks</td>
<td></td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Greton</td>
<td>Saint Margaret street, Old Palace yard</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Beth</td>
<td>Duke street, Saint James's Mile end</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John McNabb</td>
<td></td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Hennes and Co.</td>
<td>Harp lane, Tower street</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Man</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bry. Broughton</td>
<td>Treasury</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5<sup>th</sup> September 1797

**MERCHANDIZE at LONDON.**

September 14. By Mr. James Man. Prompt one month. Coffee, for home consumption or exportation, discount 1 ½ per cent. 59 hhd. and 4 bags, 1,225 to 1,268 6d per cwt.—Prize Coffee, for exportation only, discount 2 ½ per cent. 90 hhd., 49 barrels, and 140 bags, 1,198 to 1,248 per cwt.—300 chests Havannah Sugar, for exportation only, no drawback, in 15 lots, 618 to 855 6d per cwt.
7th November 1797

By Mr. James Man. 110 chests Havannah Sugar, for exportation only (King's tare) in 6 lots, 675 to 84s per cwt.—30 barrels Coffee, for exportation only, 11s 8d to 12s 1d and 2 tiers damanged, 91s 6d per cwt.—156 casks Coffee, for home consumption or exportation, 50s 7d to 10s 5d per cwt.—5 casks, 124 tomms, and 67 bags Prize Cocoons, for exportation only, 84s 6d to 9s 3d per ton and 3 boxes damaged, 60s per cwt.

1st December 1797

By Mr. James Man. Prompt one month and 1 per cent. discount. 27 casks and 75 bags Coffee, for home consumption or exportation, viz. 21 casks and 47 bags, 12s 3d to 13s per cwt.—1 cask and 16 bags, 11s 8d to 12s 1d per cwt.—7 bags damaged, 41s to 11s 5d and 7 hogs sweeping, 11s 3d per cwt.—7 casks and 73 bags White Ginger, 60s to 7s 6d and 193 bags Black Ginger, 55s to 45s per cwt.—40 casks Noyer, not put up to sale.
5th June 1798

June 12. Mr. James Man's Sale consisting of 75 puncheons Strong Jamaica Rum for exportation, also 2 puncheons Hollands Geneva, and 2 puncheons Cognac Brandy for home consumption, were sold by private contract.

6th July 1798

Fithula, in 13 lots, also not sold.

July 4. By Mr. James Man. Prompt for Coffee 1 month and 1 per cent. discount, and 14 days for the other goods, viz. the first 28 hhd.s in 7 lots, 71 to 71 75 sd. and the following 56 hhd.s and 2 tierses, in 14 lots, 61 to 61 195 6d. also 1 hhd. damaged, 1015 per cwt.—Note, The Coffee for home consumption or exportation.—Cotton, 20 bags, in 3 lots 2 24d. to 2 53d. and 10 bags, 2 9d to 2 61d per Ib.—58 chest Noyans, in 25 lots, 625 to 665 per chest of 12 bottles each.—53 Sea Mouse Teeth, in 1 lot, 10l per cwt.—23 bottles Catar Oil, in 2 lots, 51 6d per bottle.—3 tons Logwood, 18l per ton.
12th October 1798

By Mr. James Man. Prompt for Coffee one month and 6 per cent. Cotton 14 days and 1½ per cent. discount. Coffee, for home consumption or exportation, viz. 17 hhd. Jamaica Coffee, in 9 lots, 71 14s 0d to 81 53 per cwt.—1 hhd. damaged, 41 1s 5d per cwt.—24 hhd. and barrels Dominica Coffee, in 6 lots; 81 5s 4d to 81 7s 8d per cwt.—5 hhd. &c. Demerary Coffee, in 15 lots, 71 10s to 81 3s 6d per cwt.—10 hhd. and 62 bags Coffee (tillage and ordinary) in 3 lots, 61 6s to 71 1s 8d per cwt.—20 bags damaged, 51 1s 8d per cwt.—100 bags Black Ginger, in 10 lots, 50s to 50s 6d per cwt.—1 bag Cotton Wool, 35 5d per lb. — 10 bags Carraca Cotton Wool, in 8 lots, 22 3½d to 22 4½d; per lb.—20 bags Smyrna Cotton Wool, in 5 lots, 2s 5½d to 2s 5½d per lb.—2 bags and 4 mats damaged Cotton, 1s 5½d to 2s 1½d per lb.—10 bags Cayenne Pepper, percuted out.

3rd November 1798

November 22. By Mr. James Man. British Plantation Coffee, for home consumption or exportation, 317 hhd. and 11 bags, 71 10s 6d to 81 7s 9d per cwt.—37 casks, in 8 lots, 61 6s 6d to 71 6d per cwt.—2 casks damaged, 61 1s.—1 bag sweepings, 70s per cwt.

17th December 1799.

ITALIAN POLISHED MARBLE CHIMNEY PIECES and ARROW ROOT.

To be SOLD by AUCTION, on Thursday next, at half past one o'clock precisely, STATUARY VEIN, and DOVE MARBLE CHIMNEY PIECES of convenient sizes and modern fashion, both plain and richly carved (part of a Spanish Prize).

May be viewed to the time of sale, (where they are all fixed in their proper shapes), at Hartley’s Wharf, the bottom of Freeman’s-lane, Holby Down, Southwark.

Likewise a QUANTITY of ARROW ROOT; samples of which may be seen at the Broker’s Office, Harp-lane, Tower-Street, by JAMES MAN, Sworn broker.
A map of London showing Harp Lane running north to south from Tower Street to Thames Street and Mincing Lane running north from Tower Street. St Dunstan in the East is at the West end of Tower street and All Hallows at the East. © Trustees of the British Museum
1800 James also helped to sell his late brother Henry’s posthumously published collected works.
3rd April 1813 *The Ipswich Journal*

HARWICH, ESSEX.

Genuine highly-flavoured Old Jamaica Rum, Coffee, Cotton, and Logwood,
To be SOLD by AUCTION
By E. JERMYN,
For the Benefit of the Underwriters, and others concerned, at the Three Cups Inn, Harwich, on Thursday, the 22d day of April, 1813, at Twelve precisely.

The FOLLOWING GOODS:

40 Puncheons of very superior highly-flavoured Old Jamaica Rum, about 4 tons of Coffee, 2 tons of Logwood, and one bag of Cotton, weighing about 2 cwt. being part of the cargo of the ship Atlas, from Jamaica, wrecked on the Kentish Knock in 1811.

The Rum will be put up in lots of one puncheon each, and the Coffee in lots of from 6 to 8 cwt. each, for the convenience of purchasers.

Samples to be seen, and catalogues had seven days previous to the sale, at Messrs. James Man and Sons, No. 9, Mincing-lane, London; and at Messrs. Heseltine and Billingsleys, Church-street, Harwich.
Below: The West India docks in 1803. © Trustees of the British Museum

Below left: Trading in Mincing Lane late in the middle of the Nineteenth Century. Right: A doorway in Mincing Lane [© Trustees of the British Museum]
A Note on the Less Successful James Man [Jnr.] (1783 – 1842)

After James Man senior retired from business in 1819 his two sons Edward and James junior continued together as commodity traders for several years under the name Edward & James Man; West India Brokers at No. 9 Mincing Lane. However in about 1827 James went off on his own account to become an ironmonger and copper nail manufacturer at Red Lion Warehouse, Upper Thames Street while his brother Edward continued trading at Mincing Lane.

Unfortunately James was not as successful as either his father or his brother Edward and beginning in the early 1830's a series of bankruptcy notices appeared in the London newspapers some of which are repeated below. These notices appeared on and off until about 1840

From *The Law Journal* of 1830:

![Bankruptcy Notice](image)

From November 23rd – December 30th 1839.
From The London Gazette 1840:

ROBERT GEORGE CECIL FANE, Esq. one of His Majesty's Commissioners authorised to act under a Fiat in Bankruptcy, bearing date the 13th day of November 1839, awarded and issued forth against James Man, of Brickhill lane, Upper Thames-street, in the city of London, Wholesale Ironmonger and Copper-Nail Manufacturer, Dealer and Chapman, and he being declared a bankrupt is hereby required to surrender himself to Robert George Cecil Fane, Esq. a Commissioner of His Majesty's Court of Bankruptcy, on the 26th day of November instant, at one in the afternoon precisely, and on the 31st day of December next, at twelve of the clock at noon precisely, at the Court of Bankruptcy, in Basinghall-street, in the city of London, and make a full discovery and disclosure of his estate and effects; when and where the creditors are to come prepared to prove their debts, and at the first sitting to choose assignees, and at the last sitting the said bankrupt is required to finish his examination, and the creditors are to assent to or dissent from the allowance of his certificate. All persons indebted to the said bankrupt, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. D. Cannau, 46, Finsbury-square, the Official Assignee, whom the Commissioner has appointed, and give notice to Messrs. Desborough and Young, Solicitors, 6, Sise-lane, Bucklersbury.

Right toward the end of his life James went into partnership as a wine trader with Frederick Seldom and once again proved himself not good at business as both men were listed as bankrupts:
Old Trinity House in 1857.
© Trustees of the British Museum
A NOTE ON WILLIAM HUMFREY Snr. And WILLIAM Jnr.

There were two William Humfreys – father and son – who were involved in James Man Snr’s life. It was to the father that James was apprenticed as a cooper on 2nd October 1770:

It was William Humfrey, the son, with whom James became a business partner over the course of several years before James branched out on his own.

James also became William’s brother in law when in 1788 James’s wife’s sister Ann Roberts married William Humfrey Jnr.

A baptismal record for a William Humfrey baptized on 14th March 1749 at Saint Katherine by the Tower, London may well be “our” William.

He married Ann Roberts on 17th May 1788 at St Michael Paternoster Royal. Ann’s sister Sarah (Roberts) Man and James Man were witnesses. William had been a witness to James Man’s marriage to Sarah Roberts in 1781.

A daughter Ann was born on 2nd February 1791 and baptized on 5th March 1791 at Saint Dunstan in the East, London.
Like James Man Snr., William regularly placed advertisements in London newspapers:

**Sales by the Candle.**

At GARRAWAY'S Coffee-House, in Exchange-Alley, Cornhill, THIS DAY the 23rd Instant, at Twelve o’Clock at Noon,

**THE Following Goods, just landed, viz.:**
- 69 Hides of Leather
- 24 Tiers of Sugar
- 157 Hides of Deodar

Samples of the above to be seen to the Time of Sale, at Mr. William Humphrey’s, Cooper, in Harp Lane, Tower Street, where Catalogues may be had, at the Place of Sale, and of BENJ. VAUGHAN and SON, Brokers.

23rd September 1762

**The Following Goods,**

At SAM’S Coffee-House, next the Custom-House, in Thames-street,

THIS DAY, the 7th inst., at Five o’clock,

**THE FOLLOWING GOODS,**

304 Pipes of Wine,
25 Hogheads ditto.

Being the entire cargo of the ST. CARLOS & ST. PEDRÓ, taken by the private ships of war the Union and Phoenix, George and Jacob Boxer, commanders, both belonging to Folkestone.

The above Wines being under the care of Mr. William Humphrey, in Harp-Lane, are to be seen and tasted at Ralph’s Quay, to the time of Sale; where Catalogues may be had; at Mr. William Smith’s, mill-mixer, Wapping; and of EDWARD SIMON, Broker,

In Scots Yard, Bush-Lane, Cannon-street.

7th April 1780

**The Following Goods,**

At GARRAWAY’S Coffee-house, in Exchange-Alley,

On Thursday the 18th Instant,

**THE FOLLOWING GOODS,**

1,44 large hogheads of fine Clay’d Sugar, 80 ditto, Muscovado ditto,
400 bags of Coffee;

Being part of the Cargo of the GRAND DON DE DIEU, Captains Davignaud, a French prize from St Domingo, taken by the PITT Private ship of War, of Jersey, Thomas de St. Croix, Commander, Catalogues of which will be timely delivered by THOMAS AXFORD, and WILLIAM HUMFREY.

6th February 1779
The following insurance policies can be found at the London Metropolitan Archives: MS 11936/387/604472 Insured: William Humfrey and James Man, 23 Harp Lane, Tower Street, wine coopers, brokers and merchants Other property or occupiers: 133 Fenchurch Street Date: 29 August 1792 MS 11936/400/642612 Insured: William Humfrey and James Man, Harp Lane, Tower Street, brokers Other property or occupiers: 5, 6, Coppins Court, near Harp Lane; 23 Harp Lane Date 2 June 1795.

Below: The view of the Tower from Tower Street in 1784. © Trustees of the British Museum.
William Jnr. died in July 1795 aged 50:

He did not leave a will.

CLAPHAM COMMON.

By Mr. SMITH

On the Premises, on Monday the 17th of August, at Eleven o'Clock (by Order of the Administratrix), unless previously disposed of by Private Contract.

A MOST desirable RESIDENCE, finished with taste and convenience, suitable for a GENTEEL FAMILY, delightfully situated on the North Side of Clapham Common, the late Residence and Property of WILLIAM HUMPHREY, Esq. deceased.

The HOUSE contains Eight Bed-rooms, Two Dressing rooms, a handsome Dining Parlour, and elegant Drawing room, finished with a Bow Front; excellent Offices and Cellaring, PLEASURE and KITCHEN GARDENS, walled and cloathed with Fruit Tress in full Perfection, a MELON GROUND, GREEN-HOUSE, large Coach-Yard, COACH HOUSE, Stabling, Chaise-House, Piggery, &c. with a FIELD of about THREE ACRES.

The Premises are amply supplied with fine Water, and the House has been completely finished within Three Years. Held for a Term of about Fifty-six Years, at a Rent of only 6l. per Annum.

To be viewed with Tickets, which may be had, and further Particulars known, at Mr. Man, Harp-lane; Mr. Allen No. 50 Fenchurch-street; and of Mr. Smith, No. 6a Broad-street.

On 30th March 1848 Ann Humfrey married Emeric Essex Vidal (1791 – 1861) at Saint Saviors, Walcott, Bath. The Gentleman’s Magazine noted the marriage:

1848 At Bath, Emeric Essex Vidal, esq. of Ersham Lodge, Hailsham, Sussex, to Anne, dau. of the late William Humfrey, esq. of Clapham Common.

Below from Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 8th April 1848
Emeric Essex Vidal was the son of Emeric Vidal, a naval officer who served as secretary to three distinguished admirals (Sir Robert Kingsmill, Sir John Ross, and Robert Duff), and his wife, Jane Essex. The Vidals came originally from the Basque country.

Emeric had married Anna Jane Capper in 1814 but she died in 1846 at Bath, Somerset. They had three children. Hence Emeric was a widower when he married Ann Humfrey. They did not have children.

The following is from Wikipedia: Emeric enlisted in the Royal Navy in 1816, and arrived at Rio de la Plata in September the same year, aboard the British schooner "Hyacinth". He remained in the country until 1818. Vidal made a second trip to the Argentina, settling in the country between 1826 and 1829. His watercolours of Argentina were published in London in 1820 under the title *Picturesque illustrations of Buenos Ayres and Montevideo*.
Ann (Humfrey) Vidal and her husband and his daughter have been found on the 1851 census at Ersham Lodge in the Parish of Hailsham, Sussex; Emeric Essex Vidal, heads the household, age 60, born at Brentford, Middlesex; occupation: paymaster and purser, Royal Navy, on half pay.

Ann (Humfrey) Vidal and her husband have been found on the 1861 census; the year that Emeric Essex Vidal died:
VIDAL Emeric Essex.

Effects under £3,000.

25 July.

The Will of Emeric Essex Vidal late of 3 Lennox-place Brighton in the County of Sussex a Retired Paymaster R.N. deceased who died 7 May 1861 at Lennox-place aforesaid was proved at the Principal Registry by the oaths of the Reverend James Henry Vidal of Chiddingley Vicarage Hurst Green in the said County Clerk the Son and Edward Strickland of Westbury-on-Trym in the County of Gloucester Gentleman two of the Executors.

VIDAL Anne.

Effects under £4,000.

12 April.

The Will of Anne Vidal late of 29 Buckingham-place Brighton in the County of Sussex Widow deceased who died 15 March 1870 at 29 Buckingham-place aforesaid was proved at Lowes by the oaths of the Reverend James Henry Vidal of Chiddingly in the County aforesaid Clerk and Joseph Samuda of 3 Dartmouth-Park-road Highgate-road in the County of Middlesex Esquire the Executors.