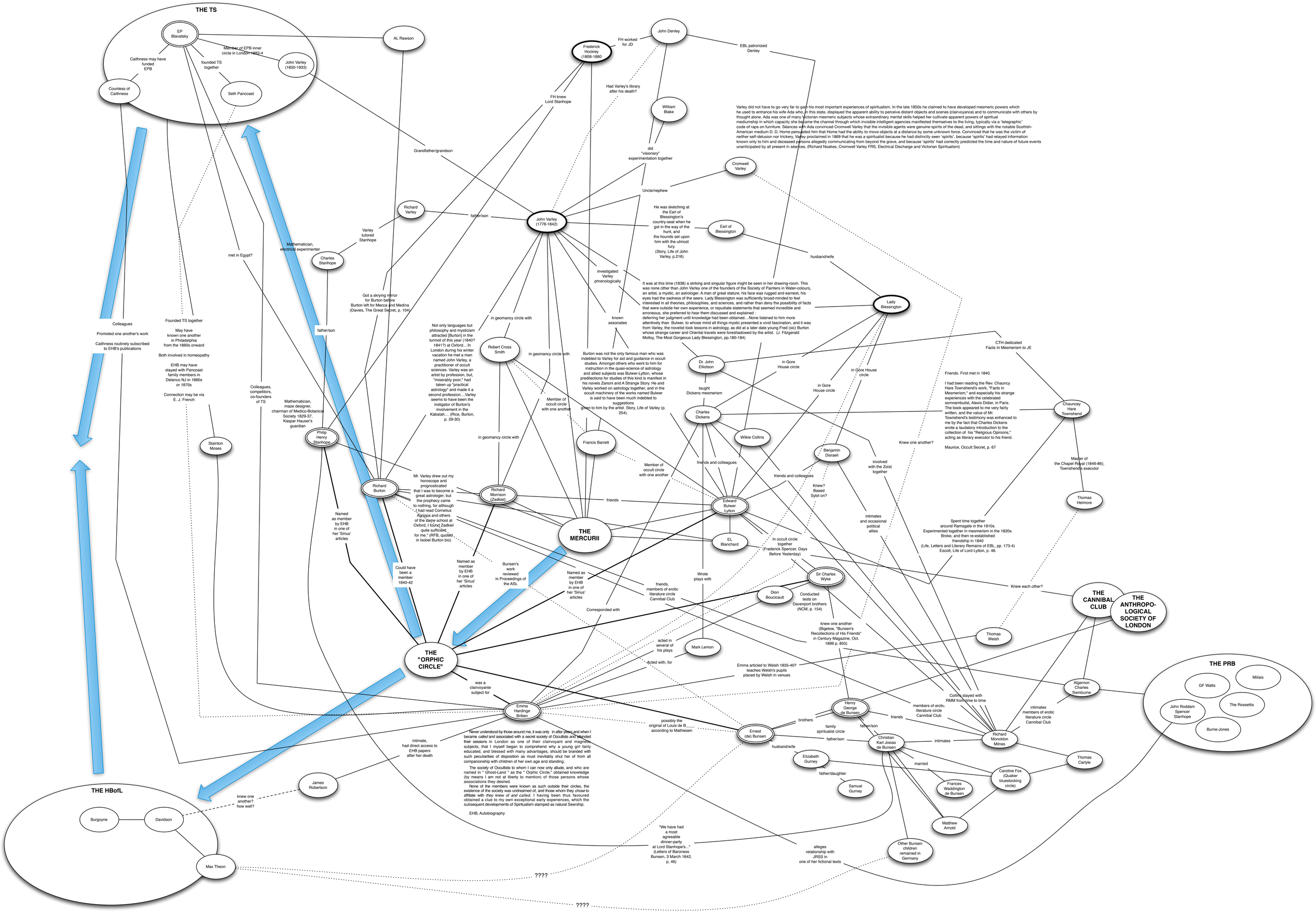
THE TS
EP Blavatsky
AL Rawson
Member of EPB inner circle in London 1883-4
John Varley (1850-1933)
Caithness may have funded EPB
founded TS together
Countess of Caithness
Seth Pancoast
Frederick Hockley (1808-1880)
FH worked for JD
John Denley
EBL patronized Denley
FH knew Lord Stanhope
Had Varley's library after his death?
William Blake
Varley did not have to go very far to gain his most important experiences of spiritualism. In the late 1850s he claimed to have developed mesmeric powers which he used to entrance his wife Ada who, in this state, displayed the apparent ability to perceive distant objects and scenes (clairvoyance) and to communicate with others by thought alone. Ada was one of many Victorian mesmeric subjects whose extraordinary mental skills helped her cultivate apparent powers of spiritual mediumship in which capacity she became the channel through which invisible intelligent agencies manifested themselves to the living, typically via a 'telegraphic' code of raps on furniture. Séances with Ada convinced Cromwell Varley that the invisible agents were genuine spirits of the dead, and sittings with the notable Scottish-American medium D. D. Home persuaded him that Home had the ability to move objects at a distance by some unknown force. Convinced that he was the victim of neither self-delusion nor trickery, Varley proclaimed in 1869 that he was a spiritualist because he had distinctly seen 'spirits', because 'spirits' had relayed information known only to him and deceased persons allegedly communicating from beyond the grave, and because 'spirits' had correctly predicted the time and nature of future events unanticipated by all present in séances. (Richard Noakes, Cromwell Varley FRS, Electrical Discharge and Victorian Spiritualism)
Grandfather/grandson
did "visionary" experimentation together
Cromwell Varley
Uncle/nephew
Richard Varley
father/son
John Varley (1778-1842)
He was sketching at the Earl of Blessington's country-seat when he got in the way of the hunt, and the hounds set upon him with the utmost fury. (Story, Life of John Varley, p.216)
Earl of Blessington
husband/wife
Varley tutored Stanhope
Mathematician, electrical experimenter
Charles Stanhope
met in Egypt?
investigated Varley phrenologically
It was at this time (1838) a striking and singular figure might be seen in her drawing-room. This was none other than John Varley one of the founders of the Society of Painters in Water-colours, an artist, a mystic, an astrologer. A man of great stature, his face was rugged and earnest, his eyes had the sadness of the seers. Lady Blessington was sufficiently broad-minded to feel interested in all theories, philosophies, and sciences, and rather than deny the possibility of facts that were outside her own experience, or repudiate statements that seemed incredible and erroneous, she preferred to hear them discussed and explained : deferring her judgment until knowledge had been obtained....None listened to him more attentively than Bulwer, to whose mind all things mystic presented a vivid fascination, and it was from Varley, the novelist took lessons in astrology, as did at a later date young Fred (sic) Burton whose strange career and Oriental travels were foreshadowed by the artist. (J. Fitzgerald Molloy, The Most Gorgeous Lady Blessington, pp.180-184)
Lady Blessington
Got a skrying mirror for Burton before Burton left for Mecca and Medina (Davies, The Great Secret, p. 104)
Colleagues
Promoted one another's work
Caithness routinely subscribed to EHB's publications
Founded TS together
May have known one another in Philadelphia from the 1860s onward
Both involved in homeopathy
EHB may have stayed with Pancoast family members in Delanco NJ in 1860s or 1870s
Connection may be via E. J. French
father/son
known associates
in geomancy circle with
Not only languages but philosophy and mysticism attracted [Burton] in the turmoil of this year (1840? 1841?) at Oxford....In London during his winter vacation he met a man named John Varley, a practitioner of occult sciences. Varley was an artist by profession, but, "miserably poor," had taken up "practical astrology" and made it a second profession....Varley seems to have been the instigator of Burton's involvement in the Kabalah.... (Rice, Burton, p. 29-30)
Robert Cross Smith
in geomancy circle with
Burton was not the only famous man who was indebted to Varley for aid and guidance in occult studies. Amongst others who went to him for instruction in the quasi-science of astrology and allied subjects was Bulwer-Lytton, whose predilections for studies of this kind is manifest in his novels Zanoni and A Strange Story. He and Varley worked on astrology together, and in the occult machinery of the works named Bulwer is said to have been much indebted to suggestions given to him by the artist. Story, Life of Varley (p. 254).
Dr. John Elliotson
in Gore House circle
in Gore House circle
in Gore House circle
CTH dedicated Facts In Mesmerism to JE
taught Dickens mesmerism
Colleagues, competitors, co-founders of TS
Mathematician, maze designer, chairman of Medico-Botanical Society 1829-37, Kaspar Hauser's guardian
Member of occult circle with one another
Charles Dickens
Friends. First met in 1840.
I had been reading the Rev. Chauncy Hare Townshend's work, "Facts in Mesmerism," and especially his strange experiences with the celebrated somnambulist, Alexis Didier, in Paris. The book appeared to me very fairly written, and the value of Mr. Townshend's testimony was enhanced to me by the fact that Charles Dickens wrote a laudatory introduction to the collection of his "Religious Opinions," acting as literary executor to his friend.
Maurice, Occult Secret, p. 67
Chauncey Hare Townshend
Stainton Moses
Philip Henry Stanhope
in geomancy circle with
Francis Barrett
Wilkie Collins
Benjamin Disraeli
Knew one another?
Member of occult circle with one another
friends and colleagues
friends and colleagues
involved with the Zoist together
Master of the Chapel Royal (1846-86); Townshend's executor
Mr. Varley drew out my horoscope and prognosticated that I was to become a great astrologer; but the prophecy came to nothing, for although I had read Cornelius Agrippa and others of the same school at Oxford, I found Zadkiel quite sufficient for me." (RFB, quoted in Isobel Burton bio)
Richard Burton
Richard Morrison (Zadkiel)
friends
Knew? Based Sybil on?
Edward Bulwer Lytton
Thomas Helmore
Named as member by EHB in one of her 'Sirius' articles
THE MERCURII
EL Blanchard
intimates and occasional political allies
Spent time together around Ramsgate in the 1810s. Experimented together in mesmerism in the 1820s. Broke, and then re-established friendship in 1840 (Life, Letters and Literary Remains of EBL, pp. 173-4) Escott, Life of Lord Lytton, p. 46.
In occult circle together (Frederick Spencer, Days Before Yesterday)
Could have been a member 1840-42
Named as member by EHB in one of her 'Sirius' articles
Bunsen's work reviewed in Proceedings of the ASL
Named as member by EHB in one of her 'Sirius' articles
Wrote plays with
Sir Charles Wyke
Knew each other?
friends, members of erotic literature circle Cannibal Club
Dion Boucicault
Conducted tests on Davenport brothers (NCM, p. 154)
THE CANNIBAL CLUB
THE ANTHROPO-LOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON
Corresponded with
knew one another (Bigelow, "Bunsen's Recollections of His Friends" in Century Magazine, Oct. 1899 p. 850)
acted in several of his plays
Mark Lemon
Thomas Welsh
THE "ORPHIC CIRCLE"
acted with, for
Emma articled to Welsh 1835-40? teaches Welsh's pupils placed by Welsh in venues
THE PRB
GF Watts
Millais
John Roddam Spencer Stanhope
The Rossettis
Burne-Jones
Algernon Charles Swinburne
was a clairvoyante subject for
Collins stayed with RMM from time to time
members of erotic literature circle Cannibal Club
intimates members of erotic literature circle Cannibal Club
Emma Hardinge Britten
Henry George de Bunsen
friends
brothers
family spiritualist circle
father/son
father/son
father/son
possibly the original of Louis de B. according to Mathiesen
Ernest (de) Bunsen
Christian Karl Josias de Bunsen
intimates
Richard Monckton Milnes
intimate, had direct access to EHB papers after her death
Never understood by those around me, it was only in after years and when I became *called* and associated with a secret society of Occultists and attended their sessions in London as one of their clairvoyant and magnetic subjects, that I myself began to comprehend why a young girl fairly educated, and blessed with many advantages, should be branded with such peculiarities of disposition as must inevitably shut her of from all companionship with children of her own age and standing.
The society of Occultists to whom I can now only allude, and who are named in " Ghost-Land " as the " Orphic Circle," obtained knowledge (by means I am not at liberty to mention) of those persons whose associations they desired.
None of the members were known as such outside their circles, the existence of the society was undreamed of, and those whom they chose to affiliate with *they knew of and called*. I having been thus favoured obtained a clue to my own exceptional early experiences, which the subsequent developments of Spiritualism stamped as natural Seership.
EHB, Autobiography
husband/wife
Elizabeth Gurney
father/daughter
Samuel Gurney
married
Frances Waddington de Bunsen
Caroline Fox (Quaker bluestocking circle)
Thomas Carlyle
Matthew Arnold
Other Bunsen children remained in Germany
alleges relationship with JRSS in one of her fictional texts
"We have had a most agreeable dinner-party at Lord Stanhope's..." (Letters of Baroness Bunsen, 3 March 1842, p. 46)
knew one another? how well?
James Robertson
THE HBofL
Burgoyne
Davidson
Max Theon
????
????