

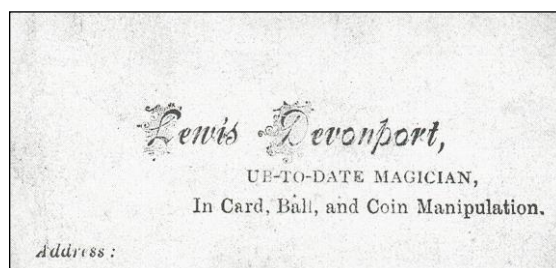


DAVENPORT  
COLLECTION

## Where did the name Lewis Davenport come from?

Peter Warlock said in the 1963 book *Magic Circle Magic* that the professional name Lewis Davenport came from Davenport Road in Lewisham. The story goes that this was the first decent booking that my grandfather had. While I (John Davenport) believe that this was probably Lewis's official story, I think he had a good reason for making it up. About the time of his name change he was working in and around the East End of London and he was sometimes billed as Devonport rather than Davenport. His first wife, Julia, once lived on Devonport Road and Lewis, or Louis, was a first name that had been used within his family. So perhaps he took the name Lewis Davenport not from the road in Lewisham, but from Devonport Road where Julia once lived. Changing Devonport to Davenport would avoid comparison with the naval dockyard!

Why do I believe this might be the case? Look at it this way. When Julia died and he remarried a lady called Winifred Wynne, he might well have been reluctant to tell her that the name Davenport was associated with his first wife Julia. Such stories tend not to play well with second wives, and Lewis would have guessed this. So perhaps he invented the Davenport Road, Lewisham story for a quiet life. We shall never know.



*This is a very early business card,  
when Lewis used the name  
Devonport rather than Davenport.*