

British Connections

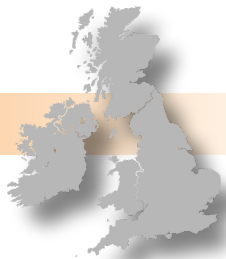
Official Publication of the International Society for British Genealogy and Family History



Evidence

Uncover your *English* roots

Paul Milner



Evaluating Evidence: A Fresh Look at Civil Registration

All English researchers with modern connections, i.e., after 1837, use birth, marriage, and death certificates to document their research. But do we really look at what we have? I am going to use two certificates as examples to suggest we need to look more closely.

Birth Certificate for Rose Donnelly

When we obtain a birth certificate, we typically examine it for the details we use to fill in our database. We look for date and place of birth and the names of the parents. In this example, Rose Donnelly, the daughter of Francis Donnelly, a lodging housekeeper and his wife Ellen Donnelly (formerly Roy), was born on the 4th March 1909 at 15 Mirk

Inside

Evaluating Evidence	45
President's Message	51
From the Editor's Desk.....	52
Tall Tales and Little Lies: Separating Fact from Fiction.....	53
The Nature of Evidence in Scotland	59
DNA Evidence for Irish Genealogy.....	63
British Army Muster Rolls and Paylists	67
Cite your Sources.....	71
Time to be Tourists.....	73
Membership form	74
British Institute	75

British Connections (ISSN 0736-8054) is published four times a year in March, June, September, and December. Deadlines for submissions are: Feb. 12, May 12, Aug. 12, and Nov. 12.

Contents of British Connections may not be reproduced in any form. All rights reserved.

Copyright 2023 by ISBGFH.

Submissions may be sent electronically to: editor@isbgfh.com. Or by mail to:

Editor, ISBGFH
1312 17th Street, #1751
Denver, CO 80202

We welcome unsolicited contributions. If an item is to be used, notice will be provided within one month of receipt. Unaccepted manuscripts will be returned.

Lane in Gateshead, their normal residence. The birth is recorded in the Gateshead Registration District.

It's an official document. Granted, this birth certificate may look different if what you are used to are the paper certificates. This is what you currently get if you order a PDF of a birth certificate from the General Register Office at www.gro.gov.uk. It is a combined scan of the top of the page with the column headings and the entry line on the page that holds the requested birth registration.

Now, what I would like you to do is take another look at the certificate and find what is wrong, or at least what is questionable and should be setting off alarm bells. **Stop reading and LOOK:**

International Society for British Genealogy and Family History
1312 17th Street, #1751
Denver, CO 80202

Website: www.isbgfh.com/

Membership options, which include a subscription to British Connections:
Individual, \$35; Family, \$45;
Organization, \$45 (Subscription only)
Lifetime: Single, \$355, Family, \$380
Add \$40/yr. to receive a printed copy of British Connections via postal mail.

Registration District <u>Gateshead</u>									
Sub-District <u>Gateshead</u>									
1909 BIRTHS in the Sub-District of <u>Gateshead</u> in the County of <u>Gateshead</u>									
Columns:—	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
No.	When and Where Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
493	<u>March</u> 15 11 ¹¹ 1909 <u>15 11¹¹ 1909</u> <u>U.D.</u>	<u>Rose.</u>	<u>Girl</u>	<u>Francis</u> <u>Donnelly</u>	<u>Ellen</u> <u>Donnelly</u> <u>formerly</u> <u>Roy.</u>	<u>Lodging</u> <u>House</u> <u>Keeper</u>	<u>Ellen Donnelly</u> <u>Mother.</u> <u>15¹¹ 11¹¹ Lane.</u> <u>Gateshead.</u>	<u>April</u> <u>1909</u>	<u>C. E. Swinburne</u> <u>Deputy</u> <u>Registrar</u>

Fig. 1. Modern digital copy of 1909 birth certificate of Rose Donnelly, daughter of Francis and Ellen (Roy) Donnelly

Did you spot it? Do you hear warning bells ringing?

Look at the dates. Rose was born on March 4 and the birth was registered on April 17. It is easy to find calendar pages on the internet for March and April 1909. These dates are 44 days apart.

So what? This is where you need to know the regulations for the registering of births and deaths. The 1836 Act—*An Act for registering Births, Deaths, and Marriages in England* [17 August 1836] 6&7 Will. IV. c.86 online at [http://www.histpop.org/ohpr/servlet/View?path=Browse/Legislation%20\(by%20date\)&active=yes&mno=4044](http://www.histpop.org/ohpr/servlet/View?path=Browse/Legislation%20(by%20date)&active=yes&mno=4044)—came into effect in 1837. This states that parents *may* within forty-two days give notice of the birth to the Registrar of the District (clause XIX) and *shall* give information to the Registrar if asked (clause XX). It goes on to say that a birth cannot be registered between forty-two days and six months without the payment of a fine. After six months the birth should not be registered (clause XXII).

The 1874 Act—*An Act to amend the Law relating to the Registration of Births and Deaths in England, and to consolidate the Law respecting the Registration of Births and Deaths at Sea* [7 August 1874] 37&38 Vict. C.88,

ISBGFH Board

Sylvia Tracy-Doolos, President
Craig Foster, AG, Vice-President
Janice Prater, Secretary
Barbara Scanlon, Treasurer

Editor

Sandra Roberts

Trustees

Kathleen Ackerman
W. Todd Knowles, AG
Jen Baldwin
Cherri White
Dr. Shelly Viola Murphy
Wendy Wood
Paul Milner, FUGA
Dan Poffenberger, AG
Kori Robbins, AG

Megan Heyl, British Institute Director:
InstituteDirectorISBGFH@gmail.com
Sue McNelly, Membership Chair:
membership@isbgfh.com
Sue McNelly, Webmaster:
webmaster@isbgfh.com

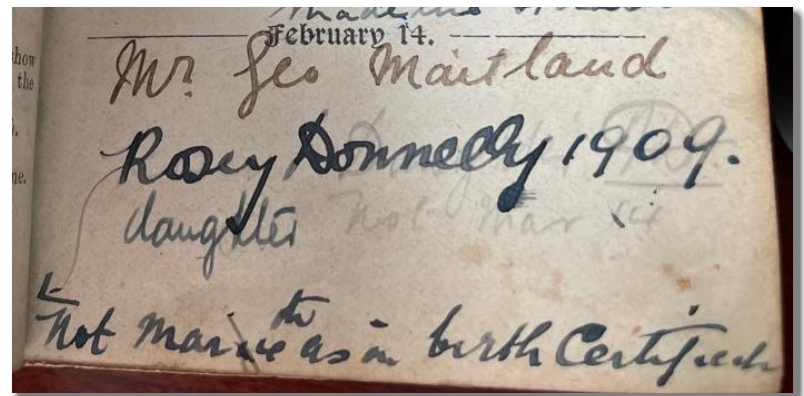
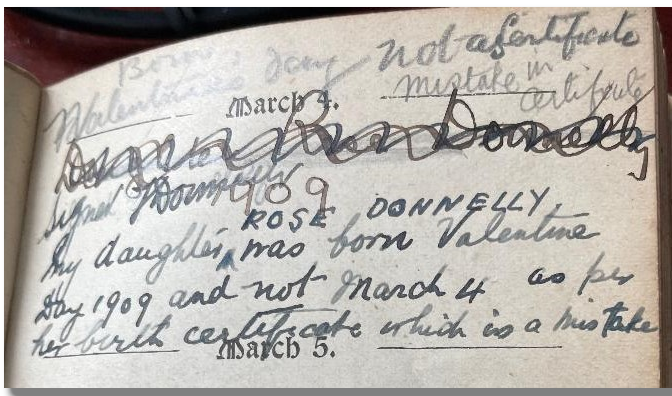


Fig. 2. Feb. 14 and Mar. 4 entries regarding Rose Donnelly, in the datebook of her father, Francis Donnelly.

online at [http://www.histpop.org/ohpr/servlet/View?path=Browse/Legislation%20\(by%20date\)/1874&active=yes&mno=4055](http://www.histpop.org/ohpr/servlet/View?path=Browse/Legislation%20(by%20date)/1874&active=yes&mno=4055)—amended the 1836 Act. It clearly stated that it was the duty of the parents to register the birth of the child within forty-two days (clause 1), and the duty of the registrar to get the details correct within three months, with no charge (clause 4). After three months and up to one year, the birth could be registered before a registrar and superintendent registrar, but the registrant was liable for a fine. After twelve months, the act required the written authority of the Registrar General (clause 5). The government was trying to make the registration process easy.

These acts, and their amendments, were consolidated in the *Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953*, available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Eliz2/1-2/20/contents/enacted>. The acts kept the provisions that parents were responsible for reporting the birth within forty-two days.

For this example, the question now is, what is Rose's birthday? Is it as stated on her birth certificate or is it some other day? If so, what?

The answer may come from family sources, as the first clue did in this scenario. Rose's father, Francis Donnelly (1873-1948), recorded in a date book all the birth, marriage, and death dates he wanted to remember. That prized date book is now in the possession of his great-grandson, Geoff Donnelly, in Texas, which is a long way away from Newcastle upon Tyne, in England.

The date book has two entries regarding Rose's birth. The entry for March 4 says, "My Daughter Rose Donnelly was born Valentine Day 1909 and not March 4 as per her birth certificate which is a mistake." Looking at February 14 we read "Rosey Donnelly 1909, daughter, not Mar. 4th as in birth certificate" (see fig. 2). This is information about Rose provided by a family member, her father.

Now that we have a potential birthday from family sources, we need to try to confirm that from official

Date	Name	Sex	Age	Notes
1	Clarke Wilfred	M	8 June 04	RA Railway Porter
2	Clarke Sarah	F	19 June 06	M Unpaid Domestic duties
3	Elsender Rose	F	14 Feb. 09	M Unpaid domestic duties
4	Elsender Aileen	F	9 Mar. 38	S Under school age

CR153 NEW 231/63

Fig. 3. 1939 Register for Rose Elsender, with birthdate of 14 Feb 1909, and daughter Aileen, who later married a Fromson, at 6 Oddfellows Str, Ennerdale, Cumberland.

What this all means is that when I see a date of registration that is close to forty-two days, either less than, or greater than, I always get suspicious and prefer to try to get corroborating evidence on the date of birth. I prefer to not rely on just one piece of evidence, even a government document.

sources. How that is done will depend on the time frame in which the person is living.

In 1936 Rose married Robert Septimus Elsender in Newcastle upon Tyne. That gives us an age but not a birthdate.

For Rose we have two potential sources to examine for birthdates. First, take a look at the 1939 Register created on 29 September 1939. This Register was used to produce identity cards and so includes everyone, with some specific exceptions.

We find Rose Elsander, born 14 Feb 1909, and her daughter Aileen Elsander, born 9 Mar 1938, having been evacuated from Newcastle upon Tyne, living at 6 Oddfellows Street, Ennerdale, Cumberland.

This is information that Rose would have provided to the official creating the Register (see fig. 3). As an added bonus from the 1939 Register, we get for Aileen her married surname Fromson. The 1939 Register was used later as a working document by the National Health Service, with the most common change being the addition of surnames as women married.

The next record to search for is Rose's death certificate. I can search "England & Wales Deaths 1837-2007" on FindMyPast, or "England & Wales, Civil Registration

Rose Elsander in 2004
 England & Wales Deaths 1837-2007
 Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumberland, England

Buttons: Add to tree, Print, More actions

Transcript of Rose's record

First name(s)	Rose	District number	053/1
Last name	Elsander	Register number	A78C
Gender	Female	Entry number	286
Birth day	14	Date of registration mm/yy	0404
Birth month	2	County	Northumberland
Birth year	1909	Country	England
Age	-	Record set	England & Wales Deaths 1837-2007
Death quarter	2	Category	Birth, Marriage & Death (Parish Registers)
Death year	2004	Subcategory	Civil Deaths & Burials
District	Newcastle upon Tyne	Collections from	Great Britain, England

Fig. 4. 2004 Death registration for Rose Elsander, showing date of birth as 14 Feb 1909, birthdate of Rose Donnelly, from "England & Wales deaths 1837-2007" on FindMyPast.

Death Index, 1916-2007" on Ancestry. Both sites will show the death being recorded in the June Quarter of 2004 and indicating a birthdate of 14 Feb 1909. The paper death certificate has been ordered from www.gro.gov.uk and dispatched, but I am still waiting for its arrival, possibly delayed by the British postal strikes. I need this certificate to confirm that I do have the correct person, but I think I do.

[Printed by authority of the Registrar General.]

CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF DEATH Pursuant to the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953

HC 063702

D. Cert. S.R.

Registration District *Newcastle upon Tyne*
 1935 Death in the Sub-district of *All Saints* in the County *Borough of Newcastle upon Tyne*

No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description, and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
<i>2022</i>	<i>Twenty first July 1935</i>	<i>William George FINNIGAN.</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>68 years</i>	<i>1722 High View North Wallboard on Tyne Coal (Retired)</i>	<i>1a. Haemoria 1b. Carcinoma of Bladder</i>	<i>W. G. Finnigan Son Present at death 35 Mason Road Wallboard on Tyne</i>	<i>Twenty second July 1935</i>	<i>V. J. Godfrey Registrar.</i>

Certified to be a true copy of an entry in a register in my custody.

..... Superintendent Registrar.
 Date.

CAUTION:—Any person who (1) falsifies any of the particulars on this certificate, or (2) uses a falsified certificate as true, knowing it to be false, is liable to prosecution.

Fig. 5. Handwritten Death certificate for William George Finnigan's 1935 death obtained from Newcastle upon Tyne Register Office in June 1984.

To recap, we started with alarm bells on an official government birth certificate, then found family documents that showed a different birthday. Then we found a government record where Rose would have provided her date of birth, and then an official death certificate where someone else would have provided her date of birth. I think we can conclude that with three different records, not deriving from each other, that Rose Donnelly's birthday is actually 14 February 1909.

Death Certificate for William Finnigan

Here I want to use a death certificate as another example of how and why we need to evaluate critically the government documents that we work with all the time.

In the early days of starting my family history research, I asked my mother to ask her father—when his father William died. The answer came back—in the summer of 1935.

On one of my trips to England, I went to the Registrar's Office in Newcastle and dutifully looked for and found the death certificate for William Finnigan, my great grandfather. It shows that he died 21 July 1935 at the main hospital, the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle upon Tyne. He was 68 years old, a retired coal miner, and the informant was his eldest son, William.

The information matched pretty closely what I already knew about him, so I dutifully recorded that information on my paper family group sheets. This was June 1984 after all. What was unexpected was his address in Wallsend on Tyne. My mental hypothesis was that after his wife Mary Isabella had died in 1932, William had moved

to live near his eldest son. Problem solved.

See how I dealt with the information I did not know. I came up with a logical solution, a hypothesis. I did not, however, take the logical step of proving it. Remember how slow research was in the early 1980s; almost nothing was online. What time and energy I had was focused on proving my direct line and taking it back in time.

Now come forward in time. It is now 2000, and more records are online. I am doing better research, filling in the gaps and learning more about William's children, including my grandfather, who is now dead. I learn that three of the sons died in World War One, including the eldest son, Walter William

Lance Corporal W. Finnigan of the West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) 8th Battalion, died on 26 July 1918. He is buried in St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen in France. Fortunately, on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website, under additional information, W. Finnigan is described as the Son-in-law of Jane Feren, 43 Buckingham St., Newcastle on Tyne.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number *C.002420*

REGISTRATION DISTRICT *Newcastle Upon Tyne*

1936 DEATH in the Sub-district of *Newcastle upon Tyne West Central* in the *County Borough of Newcastle Upon Tyne*

Columns:-	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
<i>120</i>	<i>Twenty eighth May 1936 7 Back Hummond Street</i>	<i>William Finnigan</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>70 years</i>	<i>coal mines (Newer) (retired)</i>	<i>1(a) cerebral haemorrhage (b) urticaria sclerosia 11-6 urticaria of limbs Certified by Thomas Young Muir M.B.</i>	<i>R. Finnigan Son Present at death 43 Uldwick Road Newcastle</i>	<i>Twenty ninth May 1936</i>	<i>E. Whitfield Registrar</i>

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the *9th* day of *February* 2000.

DXZ 682068

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE ©CROWN COPYRIGHT

WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

DXZ Series Dd 0231 65M 899 Mo(205199)

Fig. 6. Death certificate for William Finnigan, died 1936, from General Register Office with scan of original register onto paper certificate, obtained February 2000.

Walter William was born 21 October 1888 at 38 Buckingham Street in Newcastle upon Tyne. Walter William Finnigan of 40 Buckingham Street on the 20 August 1911, married Ann Ferren of 43 Buckingham St. at the Register Office. Ann's parents were Matthew and Jane Ferren, with the father's name from the marriage record and Jane's coming from the census.

The military record together with the civilian records show that Lance Corporal W. Finnigan and Walter William Finnigan are one and the same person.

So, if William the eldest son died in 1918, then how could he have been the informant on his father's 1935 death certificate? Something is not right.

Back to the drawing board. I need to find another death certificate for a different William Finnigan. Searching the death indexes is now a lot easier, as they are online. I find one and order it.

On this certificate, William Finnigan dies 28 May 1936 at 7 Back Hammond Street in Newcastle, age 70, a retired coal miner, and the informant is his son R. Finnigan of 93 Aldwick Road. Here William is living exactly where I would have expected him to be, with the right occupation, and the informant is my own grandfather, Richard Finnigan, at his correct address on Aldwick Road. So, in 1984, my grandfather had given me the wrong year and sent me off running to get the wrong certificate.

I obtained the correct death certificate in February 2000. This meant that I had the wrong death certificate

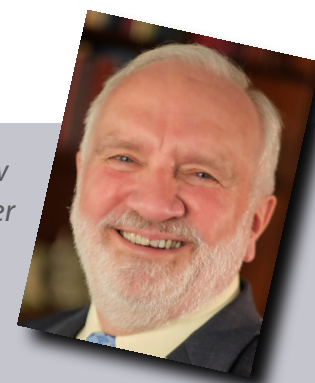
for my great-grandfather in my files for 16 years.

I learned the hard way that you have to fill in all the gaps, trace, and document all the family members to make sure everything is accurate, and only then do you have the full picture. William Finnigan says on the census returns repeatedly that he was born in South Shields. I am still trying to prove that. If this William Finnigan rings a bell for you, please be in touch, as I am still trying to find his birth record. I have the birth certificates of all eleven siblings and half-siblings, but not his. I have even bought some incorrect certificates in an attempt to find him.

The bottom line from this death certificate situation is that if you get a certificate with unexpected facts, and you have to come up with a different hypothesis to explain it, then seek additional facts to confirm or disprove your hypothesis. I obviously didn't at the time.

"Do as I say, not as I do." In this case, learn from my mistakes and don't repeat them.

If you would like to see additional examples of ways in which information on government-issued certificates can be wrong—clerical error, guesses, and lies—then have a look at <https://paternoster.orpheusweb.co.uk/famhistory/bmd/dodgycerts.htm>.



Paul Milner, FUGA, MDiv., lives in Chicago, Illinois, but is originally from the coast of Cumberland (now Cumbria) in northwest England. Paul has specialized in British Isles genealogical research for over 35 years. He teaches week-long English and Scottish research tracks at the ISBGFH British Institute, Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research (IGHR), and Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG).

Paul is a recipient of UGA Fellow Award (2018) and the David S. Vogels Jr. Award from FGS (2019). He is the author of six publications providing how-to guidance for English and Scottish researchers.

Paul is currently the book review editor for the BIGWILL newsletter and retired review editor of the FGS FORUM. He is currently on the board of the International Society for British Genealogy and Family History (ISBGFH), the past president of the British Interest Group of Wisconsin and Illinois (BIGWILL), and a past board member of the APG, FGS and GSG. Paul focuses on British Isles resources and methodology on his blog at www.milnergenealogy.com.

President's Message



Sylvia Tracy-Doolos

Have you thought about whether you are registering for this year's British Institute in person, or will you attend class via the recordings? This will be our first in-person event since 2019, and we have such great plans! Those who have attended in the past will be very pleased to see a return of everything that makes BI great, including great instructors, courses, and the camaraderie of classmates who are all motivated by the same topic—all while being at the FamilySearch library for hours on end! What's not to like? Elsewhere in the newsletter, you will find details about BI instructors and courses, so I won't say more here. Members are invited to register now so they get their first pick of classes and the best possible discount.

ISBGFH always strives to provide learning opportunities that will benefit our members. The British Institute works to offer a variety of courses that

are uniquely focused on our community. I hope you find them as intriguing and hard to decide between as I do. I have the benefit of being involved in all classes, and you can make that choice too. I look forward to seeing you at BI 2023!

If you love what we do and want to hear more about how to get involved, please email me at President@ISBGFH.com. We are looking for three members to volunteer to serve on the nominations committee. The term is only for the 2024 election, and your work will be completed by October 2023. It is a wonderful way to work with ISBGFH on a short-term task while helping guarantee that we continue with a strong Board. There are other ways to get involved too, and it all starts with you! Enjoy the best of the season, and happy researching!

Best,

Sylvia

Background by [bess.hamiti @Pixabay](#)



From the Editor's Desk

Evidence

In genealogical research, as in the courtroom, a case without evidence is likely to be dismissed. Think of your family tree as a courtroom case or “argument”: you should support your conclusions with reliable documentation.

In this issue of *British Connections*, we'll delve into the details of supporting your claims about an ancestor's birth or death date/location, the identity of their spouse(s), and anything else you wish to assert, including the truth behind the mystery of a petty crime or a murder in your ancestor's backyard.

Of course, some sources are generally more reliable than others, but our authors demonstrate the importance of reading carefully and cultivating a deeper understanding of sources; in fact, even the most reliable sources, such as government birth records, are occasionally incorrect.

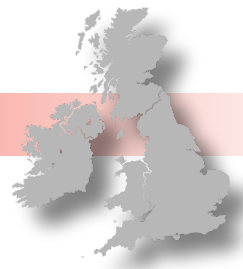
Prepare to be amazed by the stories in this quarter's issue of *British Connections*!

Sandra



*Image by Davie Bicker
@Pixabay*





Eilir Ann Daniels

Tall Tales and Little Lies: Separating Fact from Fiction

On a visit back to her Pembrokeshire home in April 1881 after a time working in London, 19-year-old Elizabeth Jones revealed to her family that she had married a famous stage actor.

Was her widowed mother Jane shocked or thrilled by this news of her daughter's seemingly glamorous new life in the capital? We cannot tell of course, but Elizabeth's story certainly created enough of an impression for it to be passed down within the family. And her mother does seem to have been credulous enough of this information to have disclosed it to the census enumerator during her daughter's visit that month.

In 1881, Elizabeth gave her married surname as Irving, which is such a significant name in theatre history that it gives much pause for thought—could she have been the wife of the UK's most famous actor of the period, Henry Irving?



Image by Oberholster Venita@Pixabay

what's more, further research of Elizabeth's life reveals that this untruth was a precursor to a generous sprinkling of falsehoods that appear to have characterised much of her life.

You may have been spurred on to research your own family history by an equally intriguing story passed down within the family, or you may have

123		Jane Jones	Head	Widow	46	Laundress	Pembrokeshire	Wheat
		Mary Jane Jones	Servant	Wom	19	Scholar	Son	P. Beach
		Elizabeth A. Irving	Servant	Mar	19	Wife of Stage actor	Son	Wheat

Elizabeth A Irving, 1881 Census. The National Archives; Ancestry.com, 1881 census, piece 5411, folio 110.

Her announcement, despite being given a semblance of official recognition on a historical record, was a complete lie. Searches of marriage indexes and records reveal there is no evidence of Elizabeth's marriage, either to Henry or to any other man, actor or otherwise, named Irving.¹ And

started your quest only to be frustrated by a piece of evidence which turned out to be a white lie recorded by your ancestor on an official document. In many or even most cases, a kernel of truth will lie within a family fable, pointing to a reality that was distorted when the tale was re-

told many times over the years. Or a detail that serves as a stumbling block in your research may turn out to be a half-truth, deliberately twisted to hide a fact your ancestor simply did not want to publicise: perhaps they had been born to an unmarried mother and/or their biological father's identity was unknown.

So, is it possible to untangle fact from fiction during your research? How do you recognise that the evidence you have uncovered is cloaked in deceit? Elizabeth's story reveals a trail of evidence that is couched in lies, but it also helps to illustrate the potential to weed out those lies. By the same token, it's also a cautionary tale for all researchers, whoever and whatever they are investigating, for it reminds us that the evidence recorded on official sources is not always an accurate reflection of the truth.

Elizabeth was born Elizabeth Ann Jones on 23 November 1861 in Merlin's Bridge, a village on the outskirts of Haverfordwest, situated not far from the Pembrokeshire coast in south west Wales. There was nothing remarkable about her family and early life—she had a very common Welsh name; her parents, Joseph and Jane Jones, would be regarded as working class; and her father, like so many other men who lived in this corner of Wales, was employed as a seaman in the merchant service.

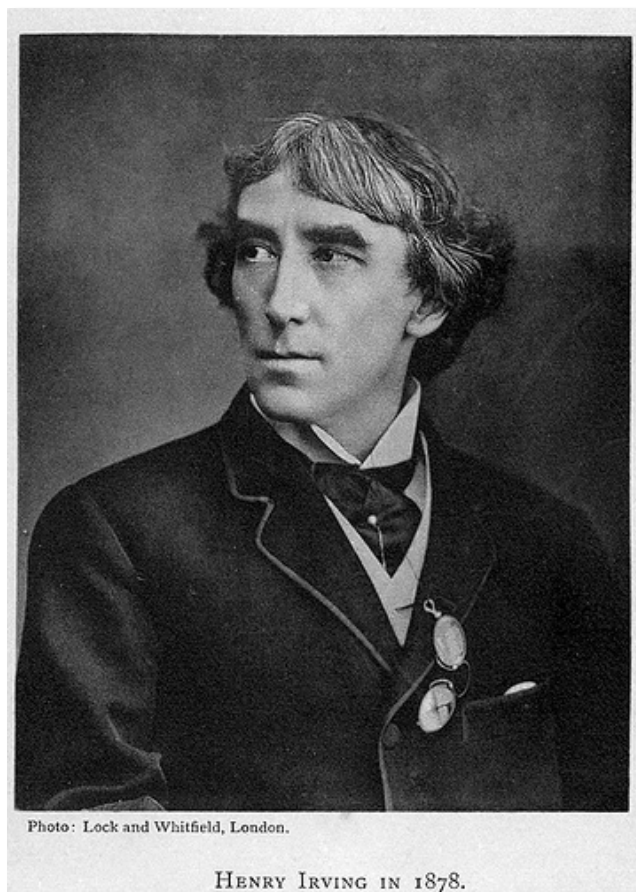


Photo: Lock and Whitfield, London.

HENRY IRVING IN 1878.

Did Elizabeth's fantasies include being married to this famous Victorian stage actor? By Lock and Whitfield, London—<https://www.flickr.com/photos/10544780@N07/967027938>, No restrictions, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=7140417>.

19/11	Twenty-third November 1861. Merlin Bridge Gurgis Park and Porfield	Elizabeth Ann	Girl	Joseph Jones	Jane Jones formerly Morgan	Seaman in Merchant Service	X The mark of Jane Jones Mother. Merlin Bridge Gurgis Park and Porfield.	Twenty- third December 1861	Howard Ellis Registrar
-------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------	------	--------------	----------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	---------------------------

Birth record for Elizabeth Ann Jones, 23 November 1861. General Register Office of England and Wales (www.gro.gov.uk)

However, after moving to London, the evidence suggests that Elizabeth tried to present a very different impression of her background, to elevate her family's social standing, and to obscure elements of her own identity. Moreover, there is also some evidence that her mother and sister also had a tendency to embellish the truth.

Searches for Elizabeth after 1881 initially proved unfruitful, for reasons that will soon become clear. Nevertheless, it was found that her mother, Jane, had remarried in Pembrokeshire on 17 March 1884—her second husband was a coachman by the name of Edwin Taylor. Elizabeth was then traced by following

evidence relating to her mother. By 1891, Jane was living in London, in Great Titchfield Street in the Marylebone district of the capital. The details that appear on her census entry that year alongside information relating to the house's other inhabitants—including their birthplaces—help to piece together what had happened to Elizabeth in the interim.

On that 1891 census, Jane was described as the mother-in-law of a jeweller's assistant called Walter L Sanderson. His wife was apparently named Muriel—she was 28 years old and was born, like Jane, in "Pembrokeshire South Wales." Walter and Muriel's children were Walter J. (born in Carmarthenshire,

Wales), Gwynne J. (born in Barnsbury, located in the Islington registration district), Charles H. and Cecil M. (both born in the Marylebone district of London). Living with the family that year was a Mary J. Jones, also born in Pembrokeshire, and who was described as a "Sister," and the details, of course, suggest she was Muriel's sister.

Jones? What does the evidence tell us?

It was discovered that Muriel and Walter Sanderson had married in St George's Hanover Square Register Office on 8 May 1882. The clues that appear on their marriage certificate—Walter's occupation in particular—do help to establish the proof that this is the same couple who were the parents of Walter and

Name	Relationship	Sex	Age	Occupation	Birthplace
Walter L. Sanderson	Head	M	32	Jeweller assistant	Hughgate London
Muriel Sanderson	Wife	M	28		Pembrokeshire South Wales
Walter J. Sanderson	Son	S	4		Barbourskeshire
Gwynne J. do	Son	S	4		Barnsbury London
Charles H. do	Son	S	4		St Marylebone do
Cecil M. do	Son	S	4		do do
Jane Taylor	Mother-in-law	Wid	56	Living on own means	Pembrokeshire S. Wales
Mary J. Jones	Sister	S	32	Jeweller's shopwoman	do do

1891 Census showing the Sanderson family. The National Archives; Ancestry.com, piece 3733 folio 103.

But who was Muriel? Searches of the Pembrokeshire censuses and birth and baptism records were unfruitful, suggesting that Jane did not have a daughter called Muriel. Moreover, when searching the General Register Office (GRO)² birth indexes for the records of Muriel and Walter's children, further questions start to arise with regards to Muriel's real identity. Note that the first two entries state that her maiden surname was Barrett, while the others indicate it was Jones (as would be expected of course if Muriel was Jane's daughter from her first marriage to Joseph Jones).

Gwynne Sanderson. The certificate, however, presents other significant details which help to illustrate the blurring of reality and fantasy in Elizabeth's life.

What could explain this apparent discrepancy? And do these entries and the above 1891 and 1881 censuses all relate to the same family and to Elizabeth Ann

As can be seen from her marriage record, Muriel's two middle names were given as Elizabeth Ann, and her surname was written as Hervyn. This is a highly unusual surname, and with so few examples of it on the indexes, it is certainly worth considering that it may have been an uncommon spelling variation of a surname, and potentially a form of the name "Irving," especially given that some individuals with certain accents would indeed pronounce Irving as "Hervyn." The marriage certificate also states that Muriel Elizabeth Ann was then describing herself as widowed (see marriage certificate on the next page).

Name:	Mother's Maiden Surname:
<input type="radio"/> SANDERSON, WALTER JOHN RENE GRO Reference: 1883 D Quarter in LLANDILOFAWR	BARETT Volume 11A Page 799
<input type="radio"/> SANDERSON, GWYNNE JOSEPH ARTHUR GRO Reference: 1885 M Quarter in ISLINGTON	BARRETT Volume 01B Page 326
<input type="radio"/> SANDERSON, CHARLES HUGH GRO Reference: 1889 D Quarter in MARYLEBONE	JONES Volume 01A Page 512
<input type="radio"/> SANDERSON, CECIL MORGAN GRO Reference: 1891 J Quarter in MARYLEBONE	JONES Volume 01A Page 527

Excerpt from birth Index. General Register Office of England and Wales (www.gro.gov.uk).



Certificate



of Marriage.

1882 Marriage solemnized at *The Register Office* in the *District* of *St George Hanover Square* in the County of *Middlesex*

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
62	<i>Eighth May 1882</i>	<i>Walter Lightow Sanderson</i>	<i>26 years</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Jeweller</i>	<i>203 Regent Street</i>	<i>Charles James Sanderson (deceased)</i>	<i>Gentleman</i>
		<i>Muriel Elizabeth Ann Hervyn</i>	<i>21 years</i>	<i>Widow</i>	—	<i>Myrtle Villa Lewisham</i>	<i>James Charles Barrett (deceased)</i>	<i>Chemist</i>

Married in the *Register Office* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the — by *Licence before* me,

This Marriage was Solemnized between us *W L Sanderson* } In the presence of us *Thos G. Hubbard* }
M E A Hervyn } *J Hooper Marce* }

Henry Jubb
Thomas Worlock
Superintendent Registrar

I, THOMAS WORLOCK, Superintendent Registrar of Births, Marriages, and Deaths for the District of Saint George, Hanover Square, in the County of Middlesex, do hereby Certify the above to be a TRUE COPY of Entry No. *62* in the REGISTER BOOK of MARRIAGES, No. *27*

And I further Certify that the said REGISTER BOOK is now legally in my custody.

Witness my Hand, this *Twenty sixth* Day of *April* 1894

Thomas Worlock
 Superintendent Registrar.

Marriage certificate of Muriel Elizabeth Ann Hervyn and Walter L Sanderson. The National Archives.

When we consider these details alongside all the evidence from the 1881 and 1891 censuses, it would be fair to conclude that Muriel Sanderson and Elizabeth Ann Jones were one and the same person, and that—for reasons unknown—she had chosen to add Muriel to her name. Furthermore, in the absence of a marriage record for her and Mr. Irving/Hervyn, and indeed any potentially relevant birth, marriage, and census entries that help prove she was the daughter of a James Charles Barrett (or help prove the existence of a man matching the description she had given of her father), it would be equally fair to conclude that she was in the habit of lying about her life and background.

On top of all of this, there is also evidence of deceit in her relations with her husband. The above marriage record is a copy that was drawn up in 1894 as part of divorce proceedings, when Walter Sanderson accused Muriel/Elizabeth of adultery with a clerk called Albert Eugene Crouch.³ The divorce was granted on 10 August 1894, and Walter was given custody of their children. The final decree absolute (see next page) was drawn up on 18 February 1895; however, Muriel Elizabeth Ann Sanderson had married Albert Eugene Crouch on 15 January, a month before the divorce had been finalised. Perhaps unsurprisingly therefore, she

did not describe herself as divorced on her 1895 marriage record, but as a spinster.

The details on her 1895 marriage record not only include both evidence of a direct lie (she was not a spinster of course), but also evidence to help show she was indeed the daughter of Joseph Jones. On that particular certificate she named her father as “Joseph Jones Sanderson,” grafting her former husband’s surname onto her father’s real name. This time she described her father as a “Captain with HM [Her Majesty’s] Navy,” not as a merchant seaman (which is what Joseph was) or a chemist (as she described her father when she had married Walter in 1882). Although Joseph was indeed a mariner, there is no evidence that Joseph was ever a ship’s captain, not even in the merchant service⁴—indeed, when he died in 1871, he was simply described as a seaman. Could this be an example of Elizabeth trying to elevate her family’s social status? It appears quite likely.

This series of documents therefore presents pieces of evidence that link together to help prove they all relate to Elizabeth, and underscore Elizabeth’s propensity for dishonesty. But is there any evidence that can explain why, when she married Walter in 1882, she named James Charles Barrett (a deceased chemist) as her father? The reference to the surname Barrett remains a

[Decree absolute.]

In the High Court of Justice.

PROBATE, DIVORCE, AND ADMIRALTY DIVISION.

(DIVORCE.)

Before the Right Honorable SIR FRANCIS HENRY JEUNE, KNIGHT,
The President,

~~Before the Honorable SIR JOHN GORELL BARNES, KNIGHT, one of the
Justices of the High Court,~~

sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, in the County of Middlesex,

On the 18th day of February 1895

Sanderson against Sanderson & Brouch

Referring to the Decree made in this Cause on the 10th

day of August 1894, whereby it was decreed that the

Marriage had and solemnized on the 8th day of

May 1882, at the Register Office
in the District of St George Hanover
Square in the County of Middlesex

between Walter Leighton Sanderson

the Petitioner and

Muriel Elizabeth Ann Sanderson then Muriel
Elizabeth Ann Therryn Widow

the Respondent be dissolved by reason that since the celebration thereof the
said Respondent had been guilty of Adultery with Albert
& Brouch the Co Respondent

unless sufficient cause be shown to the Court why the said Decree should not be
made absolute, within six months from the making thereof—and no such cause
having been shown, the President on application of the said Petitioner
by his final Decree pronounced and declared the said Marriage to be dissolved

(Sd) Robt A Pritchard

Registrar.

18 February 1895
Divorce decree
absolute for
Walter L.
Sanderson and
Muriel Elizabeth
Ann Sanderson.
The National
Archives.

mystery, but the likelihood is that this man was a figment of Elizabeth's imagination. The research, however, shows that Elizabeth had a younger brother called James Charles who died young, and who was

named after an uncle (James), and a grandfather (called Charles). Was the identity of Elizabeth's fictional father therefore fashioned around the names of her relatives? The documents cannot answer this question

directly but again, the evidence suggests that this is possible.

Her family's history becomes even more curious when we uncover the fact that Elizabeth's sister, Mary Jane, later married Elizabeth's former husband, Walter Sanderson, but that she too had changed her name—from Mary Jane to Mary Maud. She was also known on occasion to use her stepfather's surname Taylor, although she named her father correctly on her marriage record as Joseph Jones, but (like her sister) elevated his occupational status from ordinary seaman to captain. Elizabeth wasn't the only one who played fast and loose with the truth.

By weighing up the evidence from the various sources relating to Elizabeth, it is clear that she wove elements of fantasy into her life story, but there are nevertheless enough clues to help identify her and her family in the documents. While we can understand some of the reasons why she embellished the truth, other questions will probably remain forever unanswered. Why did she lie about being married to a stage actor? Had she moved in theatrical circles during her early days in London? Why did she feel compelled to lie about her father's name on her 1882 marriage certificate—was it simply to jazz up her background? Or was she so intoxicated by life in the big city—the bustling streets, the glamorous theatres and the capital's colourful cast of characters—to the extent that “All the world [had become] a stage” for her, and she was “a player,” changing roles as she saw fit?

Elizabeth's “strange eventful history” ended in the capital in 1920 when she died aged 59. The evidence she left behind certainly highlights the apparently whimsical side of her character. Above all, her case reminds us that our ancestors were more than mere names on documents, but human beings who were often unpredictable, occasionally subject to flights of fancy, and inclined to break the rules, for whatever reason. Their fictions may frustrate our research as they throw obstacles in our way, but they sometimes present us with evidence as to why they wove stories around their lives. If we look carefully enough, we may find clues that form kernels of truth, allowing us to cross-reference different sources in order to uncover their compelling life stories.

Notes

1. It's important to consider potential variations and spellings of names and surnames when searching for evidence of this kind, and to determine the “knowns” before considering if Elizabeth may have married in a completely different area or region of the UK, including in Scotland, and before examining different scenarios, such as the possibility that she was lying about being married. For example, could she have been this actor's mistress instead, or used a different name? When initial searches draw a blank, remember also to carry out searches using different databases (such as the marriage indexes on www.freebmd.org.uk, or digitised online parish registers), and to avoid relying solely on one genealogical website or index of choice.
2. <https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>
3. The index of divorce case files (generally between 1858 and 1938), series J77, can be searched on the National Archives website: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/divorce/>. You can search for and view case files from 1858-1918 on Ancestry: <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/2465/>.
4. Sources consulted to find evidence that Joseph may have been a ship's captain or served with the Royal Navy included Ancestry's UK Masters and Mates Certificates collection, 1850–1927, www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/2271 as well as the Welsh Mariners Index, <http://www.welshmariners.org.uk/index.php>, and the National Archives' Royal Navy Ratings' Service Records 1853–1928, <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/royal-navy-ratings-service-records-1853-1928/>

Eilir Ann Daniels has been studying family history for well over 30 years and, as the founder of the research service Your Welsh Ancestors, has been working as a professional researcher since 2009.



Eilir is a Full Member of AGRA (the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives), and is a Pharos Tutors instructor, teaching “Researching Your Welsh Ancestors and Tracing Living Relatives” courses. She provides research services for private clients and solicitors and carries out research for the BBC's Who Do You Think You Are? and for programs on S4C (the national Welsh language TV channel) and BBC Radio Cymru.

She is a native Welsh speaker, and her academic background, which includes a degree focused on the development of Welsh and UK society after the Industrial Revolution, provides the basis for her genealogical work today.



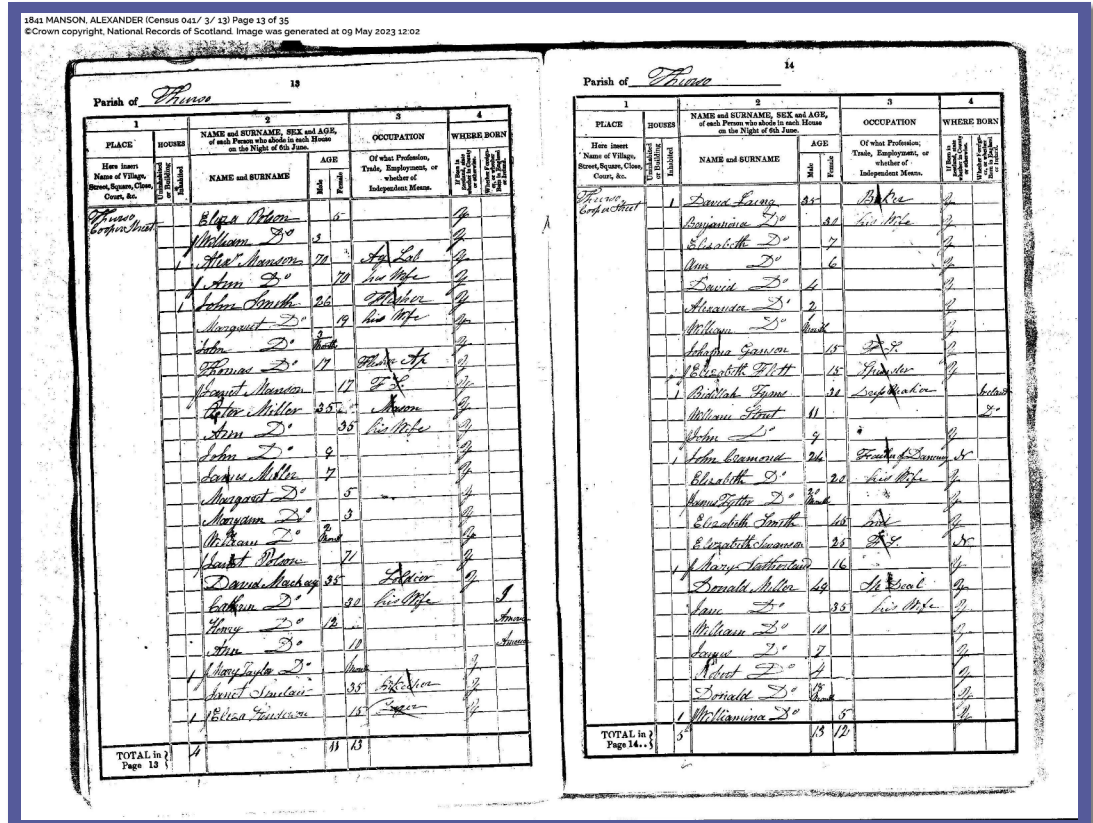
The Nature of Evidence in Scotland

When carrying out Scottish family history research, we start with the vital records to establish the births, marriages, and deaths of our ancestors, and then use additional records to try to flesh out their stories further, including sources such as censuses, newspapers, burial records, and more. And yet in today's day and age, it is all too easy to be subservient to the instant hit on a database, without considering the nature of the documents that we are actually examining. In many cases, the records we use online may simply exist in transcript form, or via an unverified family tree, and may not be a primary record at all. To truly understand what we are scrutinising, we need to understand how and why the records were collated, and at what stage the records were drawn up. We need to examine the evidence that we are looking at—and to weigh up its likely efficacy.

A simple example lies with the Scottish census records from 1841–1921, available on ScotlandsPeople (www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk). Many people will consider these to be primary records, listing where people were enumerated on the specific census night in question, not least because we can see what are perceived to be the “original documents” on the site. But these records are not primary records at all—they are copies known as “enumerators extracts” created from information

extracted from the true primary records, the household returns, filled in by the heads of households on census night, or on their behalf if they were illiterate. Once the information was extracted, the original Scottish schedules were not deemed important, and were destroyed.

What we encounter on ScotlandsPeople may therefore be the most primary form of the information to survive, but it is not the original primary information as first recorded. The loss of the schedules is regrettable, for various reasons. The obvious is the fact that any record which is copied can be mistranscribed, or indeed, re-interpreted. In 1841, for example, the census enumerators had very strict criteria for the recording of people's occupations and ages. If



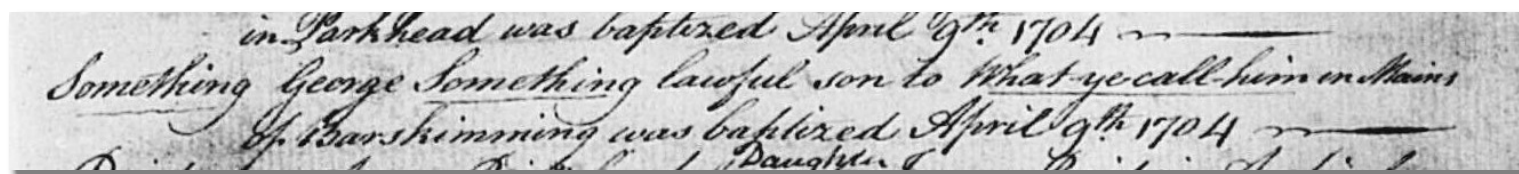
The census returns on ScotlandsPeople were created after the household schedules were filled in, which were then subsequently destroyed. ScotlandsPeople/National Records of Scotland 1841 MANSON, ALEXANDER, Census RD 041/00 ED 3 p.13

someone noted their occupation as a ploughman, for example, at the extraction stage, the chances are that this would have been re-interpreted by the enumerator as an “Ag. Lab,” or “Agricultural Labourer”—still correct, but losing the specificity of the original entry.

In 1911 we can see another casualty of the process. Whereas the English, Welsh and Irish household schedules have survived, and have been made available online, the equivalent Scottish records have not (nor have those for 1921, recently released). At this period the suffragette campaign was in full swing in the UK, and in southern Britain and Ireland we can find various examples of protests demanding a voting right for women, with many refusing to fill in the schedule,

or defacing their schedules with political slogans. These are absent from the extracted Scottish records because we are not looking at the equivalent records.

Something else to consider is the accuracy of the information submitted by informants in any record. On the census front, if a woman is listed as a widow, was she— or might she have been—a wife abandoned by her husband, and too ashamed to admit this to the enumerator? Just because something is in black and white, and recorded in a document, does not in itself mean that the information recorded is accurate. Many Scottish family trees in the past were deliberately misconstrued to promote a favourable pedigree in the name of social advancement, whilst in the current era of cut-and-paste genealogy, for some people the



The baptism of George “Something” in Ochiltree in Ayrshire. ScotlandsPeople/National Records of Scotland, OPR B 609/10 367 Ochiltree

n the County of Inverness.

Surname, and Rank or Profession of Father. and Maiden Surname of Mother.	If a regular Marriage, Signatures of officiating Minister and Witnesses. If irregular, Date of Decree of Declarator or of Sheriff's Warrant.	When & Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
George Anderson. Police Constable. deceased.	Warrant of Sheriff. Minister of Inverness. Egin P. Kirk at Inver.	1918. May 24th
Isabella Henderson. Widow.	Deed at Inverness.	at Inverness
Ed. Mc. Birney. deceased.	24th	
John Mackay. Woodman.	May 1918.	
Hebe Mackay. Mrs. McKinlay.		J. MacKenzie Registrar.

A sheriff's warrant in a Scottish marriage record is an indication that a marriage was irregular, i.e. performed outside of the church by a simple exchange of consent before witnesses. ScotlandsPeople/National Records of Scotland 1918 MACFARLANE, ISABELLA 098/A 118 Inverness

quantity of ancestors seems to be more important than the quality, or accuracy, of the information being rapidly harvested.

Even the records that we assume to be “official” can have their errors. Many years ago I was employed to research a family history for a local butcher in Ayrshire. One of the first entries that I located was a marriage record for his son, which correctly noted his parents' names, but stated that his father was deceased. This was indeed news to the both of us, but

fortunately I had the sense to obtain a deposit in advance, in case the son knew something that we didn't! We find similar errors in the parish records. An oft-quoted entry is from the parish of Ochiltree in Ayrshire, from 1704, after the family name of "Something" was written in the margin: "George Something, lawful son to what-ye-call-him in Mains of Barskimming was baptized April 9th, 1704." History has sadly failed to record the fate of Clan Something.

Another area where problems can emerge is in the misunderstanding of the actual legal requirements behind record keeping, which can skew the narrative we pass on. Whilst writing this article, as an example, I have encountered a question by someone on a Facebook group asking why a couple's Scottish marriage record from 1911 noted the issue of a Sheriff's warrant. Another member of the group responded that it was because the registrar had performed the wedding, as opposed to it being a church wedding. It's simply not the case. Registrars could not perform marriages in Scotland until July 1940, 103 years after the equivalent first happened in England and Wales. The warrant was issued to the couple to grant them permission for their irregular marriage (by an exchange of consent before witnesses, with no celebrant) to be registered by the state. In any research, it always pays to understand the legal contemporary environment when records were kept. For the records on ScotlandsPeople, you will find much of this in the help guides at www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/help-and-guidance/guides, whilst for many of the records held at the National Records of Scotland, visit

www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/research-guides.

Other forms of evidence can also contradict the written record. The use of DNA has rewritten many a family history in the last few years. There is very little room for error when it comes to DNA, which is unbiased, because this is our blood bypassing our brains to share its history and secrets. There are, however, other forms of evidence that can be more

PROCLAMATION.

REWARD

OF

£100.

WHEREAS, during the day time, on Friday the 30th March last, JANET HENDERSON or ROGERS, was barbarously MURDERED, in the Kitchen of the Farm House of MOUNT STEWART, in the Parish of Forgan-denny, and County of Perth, by some person or persons at present unknown.

A REWARD OF

ONE HUNDRED POUNDS

is hereby offered by Government, to any Person who shall forthwith give such information to the Procurator Fiscal of Perthshire, or to the Chief Constable of County Police at Perth, as shall lead to the conviction of the Murderer.

Procurator Fiscal's Office,
PERTH, 10th April, 1866.

C. G. MEST, PRINTER, PERTH.

In addition to the documented written evidence of the Mount Stewart Murder, oral tradition in the area has further perpetuated the story. Trial papers relating to James Crichton for the crime of murder. Tried at High Court, Perth National Records of Scotland, JC26/1867/20)

controversial, but they may still have a role to play. There remains, for example, snobbery amongst some folks who will not consider the value of oral evidence in a family history. At times, there may well be issues with this—the current British royal family claims descent from Fergus Mor mac Erc, the king of 5th century Dalriada, the Gaelic kingdom founded in modern day Argyll by immigrant Irish settlers (believed to have been known to the Romans as the “Scotti,” from whom the name “Scotland” is derived). Apart from sources such as the Senchus Fer nAlban, Scotland's oldest census (www.tcd.ie/library/manuscripts/blog/tag/senchus-fer-n-alban/), there are few resources for much of the Dark Ages beyond the oral history that was passed down, and those that do often conflict with each other. The connection may be true, or it may have been embellished in the name of social advancement by previous Scottish kings; we simply cannot prove it one way or another.

And yet oral history itself was a massively important feature of many communities, not least amongst the Gaels of the Western Isles and on the mainland, for which bards would regularly record pedigrees to confirm the legitimacy of their clan chiefs. In some of Scotland's islands, parish records were not regularly kept until the nineteenth century, and yet the descent of recent generations can be remembered still through oral tradition in Gaelic. The absence of written documentation to corroborate the oral tradition does not necessarily invalidate such history, but it absolutely should raise the same questions that we must always equally apply to written records.

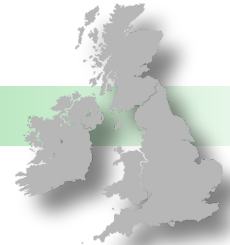
There is one final point to consider on oral history, and that is the evidential value of tradition that can be proved to be categorically wrong. Over a decade ago I wrote a book about the murder of my three times great grandmother Janet Rogers (m.s. Henderson) at Mount Stewart Farm in Forgandenny in 1866 (see *British Connections*, 2022 Q1). As a part of my book research, I visited the then owner of the farm and was told all sorts of wonderful stories, including information that the body of my ancestor had been found stuffed into a press (a cupboard) of the building, and that the “village idiot” had killed her. None of this was true (the killer was never found), but what it pointed to was a folk memory of how the story had

been preserved, albeit incorrectly, in the area for almost a hundred and fifty years. Many people growing up in the area in this period will have heard these tales, or others equally true and untrue, which formed a part of the backdrop to their own lives. It is for this reason that when carrying out genealogical research for clients, I always ask if there are any “stories” known about the family. It is surprising how often an element of truth will appear in even the most ludicrous of tales.

To summarise, question everything, learn about the sources you use, and trust nothing without corroboration. Where questions arise, do not be afraid to refer to the evidence, but make sure to include the doubts. Whilst you may well not be able to resolve the situation immediately, that does not mean you will not be able to do so in the future, or that someone picking up the research in the future will not be able to solve the problem. By understanding the nature of everything put before you, you will be in control of the research process and the family narrative, rather than having it be in control of you.

*Based in the Ayrshire town of Irvine, Northern Irish-born **Chris Paton** runs the Scotland's Greatest Story research service (<https://scotlandsgreateststory.wordpress.com/>) and the daily Scottish GENES genealogy news blog (<http://scottishgenes.blogspot.com>). Amongst his many publications are *Tracing Your Scottish Family History on the Internet*, *Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry Through Church and State Records*, and *Sharing Your Family History Online from Pen and Sword*, as well as *Down and Out in Scotland: Researching Ancestral Crisis from Unlock the Past*. Chris also tutors short courses through *Pharos Teaching and Tutoring Ltd*, including *Scottish Research Online and Scotland 1750–1850: Beyond the Old Parish Registers*.*





DNA Evidence for Irish Genealogy

1891 MORROW, ELLEN (Census 644/1 68/ 1) Page 1 of 23
 ©Crown copyright, National Records of Scotland. Image was generated at 09 May 2023 12:24

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the														
Civil Parish of		Quoad Sacra Parish of		School Board District of		Parliamentary Burgh of		Parliamentary Division of		[Page 1]				
Banony		Barrowfield		Glasgow		Glasgow		Bridgeton		Royal Burgh of				
Municipal Burgh of		Police Burgh of		First Burgh Ward of		County of		Village or Hamlet of		Island of				
Glasgow		Glasgow		Glasgow		Glasgow		Glasgow		Glasgow				
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE.	HOUSES. In- habited (1), or Building (2).	NAME and Surname of each Person.	RELATION to Head of Family.	CONDITION as to Marriage.	AGE (Last Birthday).	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION.	Employer.	Employed.	Whether Em- ployed, but working on own account.	WHERE BORN.	Gaelic, or G. & S.	Whether Blind and Deaf, Im- becile, or idiot.	Rooms with One or more Windows.
1	136 Bernard St	1	William Connell Isabella Do William Do John B. Do Janet B. Connell Do Mary J. MacKenzie Do Maggie Watt Do	Head Wife Son Son Daughter Daughter Daughter	Married Married Single Single Single Single Single	34 34 6 14 14 14 14	Railway Engine Driver Scholar Scholar Woolen Weaver Dressmaker Gasometer Fitter		X X X X X X X		Ayrshire Dalry Perthshire Perth Perthshire Perth Perthshire Glasgow Perthshire Perth Perthshire Perth Perthshire Perth Perthshire Perth			2
2	136 Do	1	Hugh Connell Janet Do Mary Do Janet Do Isabella Black Do William Black Do	Head Wife Daughter Daughter Daughter Daughter	Married Married Single Single Single Single	40 24 14 14 14 14	Gasometer Fitter Scholar Bus Driver Scholar Annuitant Commercial Clerk		X X X X X X		Perthshire Perth Perthshire Perth Perthshire Perth Perthshire Perth Perthshire Perth Perthshire Perth			1
3	136 Do	1	George Morrow Jane Do James Do Elizabeth Do Ellen Do	Head Wife Son Daughter Daughter	Married Married Single Single Single	40 24 14 14 14	Posters Labourer Carter Cotton Weaver Linen Weaver		X X X X X		Shetland Do Do Do Do			1
4	136 Do	1	William Campbell Barbara Do Henry Do Frank Do	Head Wife Son Daughter	Married Married Single Single	40 24 14 14	Linen Weaver Metal Smelter Cotton Weaver		X X X X		Perthshire Perth Perthshire Perth Perthshire Perth Perthshire Perth			2
5	136 Do	1	Alexander Cameron Margaret Do William Do	Head Wife Son	Married Married Single	40 24 14	Horizontal Carpenter Scholar		X X X		Ayrshire Glasgow Perthshire Perth Perthshire Perth			2
Total of Houses...		5	Total of Males and Females...		11/14						Total of Windowed Rooms,		8	

NOTE.—Draw the pen through such of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

[Scot.—Sheet C.

The 1891 Scottish census suggesting that Ellen was a daughter to George Morrow. 1891 Morrow, Ellen, Census RD 644/1 ED 68 p.1 Bridgeton. National Records of Scotland.

Irish family history research can be a tricky endeavour at times, for a variety of reasons. On the one hand, the survival rate of many records is not great, most notoriously because of the fire that engulfed the Public Record Office in Dublin in 1922, as well as the reckless destruction of many of the censuses pulped for paper in the First World War. But on the other hand we also have the quality of the records that were kept, with minimal details on family recorded in marriage and death records, for example, as well as the problems

caused by the registration process itself, such as early non-compliance by many to register events. Whilst non-Catholic marriages were recorded from April 1845 onwards, it would not be until January 1864 that all births, marriages, and deaths were required to be kept in registers by the state—but the public's participation rate was not universal from the outset, producing many gaps in the early records, particularly with births. When it comes to the quality of evidence that exists in surviving records, there is also one other factor to take

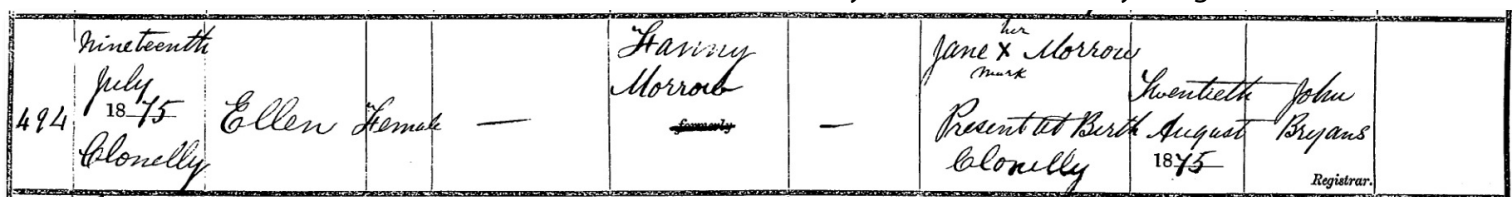
into account—the accuracy of the information that has been offered up by those acting as informants.

A particular challenge within my own ancestral lines is that of the Morrow family from County Fermanagh. My great, great grandfather, George Morrow, married Jane Mitchell in Ardess Parish Church (Church of Ireland), in the parish of Magheraculmoney, on 20th May 1846. At the time of the wedding, George was listed as being of full age and as being a labourer living in Tattykeel, with his fiancée resident in Ardess. The witnesses to the marriage were two relatives of Jane's, Edward Mitchell and Luke Mitchell, with the officiating minister being the Reverend Frederick McCullagh. Their daughter, Elizabeth, more colloquially known as Lizzie, was born in her home at Formil townland, in the district of Ederney, Irvinestown, on May 27th, 1867. Elizabeth was my great-grandmother.

George's family had moved over to Scotland shortly after this. In 1891, the census for Bridgeton in Glasgow showed that George and Jane had two daughters and a son with them—26-year-old James, 21-year-old Elizabeth, and 16-year-old Ellen. Whilst I have been able to find Elizabeth's birth record in Ireland, I have yet to find one for James, born circa 1865, and it seems possible that his birth was simply not registered. I did find a birth record for Elizabeth, but a real problem was Ellen, who was said to have been born in about 1875,

theory then became that Ellen was perhaps their granddaughter, but noted in the census as their daughter, perhaps to hide a stigma, such as illegitimacy. On this front, the birth in Clonelly fit circumstantially, with the Jane Morrow noted perhaps being Ellen's grandmother acting as the informant. If this was the case, George and Jane must have had a daughter also called Frances (Fanny is a pet form of the name). At a visit to PRONI in Belfast, I discovered from the Magheraculmoney parish records that George and Jane did in fact have other children baptised in Ireland. There was an earlier Elizabeth Morrow born in March 1847, who must have died in infancy; a daughter called Anne Jane Morrow, born in November 1848; and son Henry, born in November 1850. After this, however, no other child was noted to the couple until the existence of James, born circa 1865, leaving quite a gap of fifteen years. It was almost certainly the case that there must have been further children born in between—but who were they, and was Frances one of them?

Thankfully, documentary evidence no longer simply exists in paper form. Over the last three years, I have identified two further children to the couple, all thanks to DNA testing. My theory that there was a child called Frances or Fanny was eventually confirmed by DNA matches in the United States, from whom it has become clear that following the birth of Ellen in 1875, Fanny almost immediately emigrated, and then



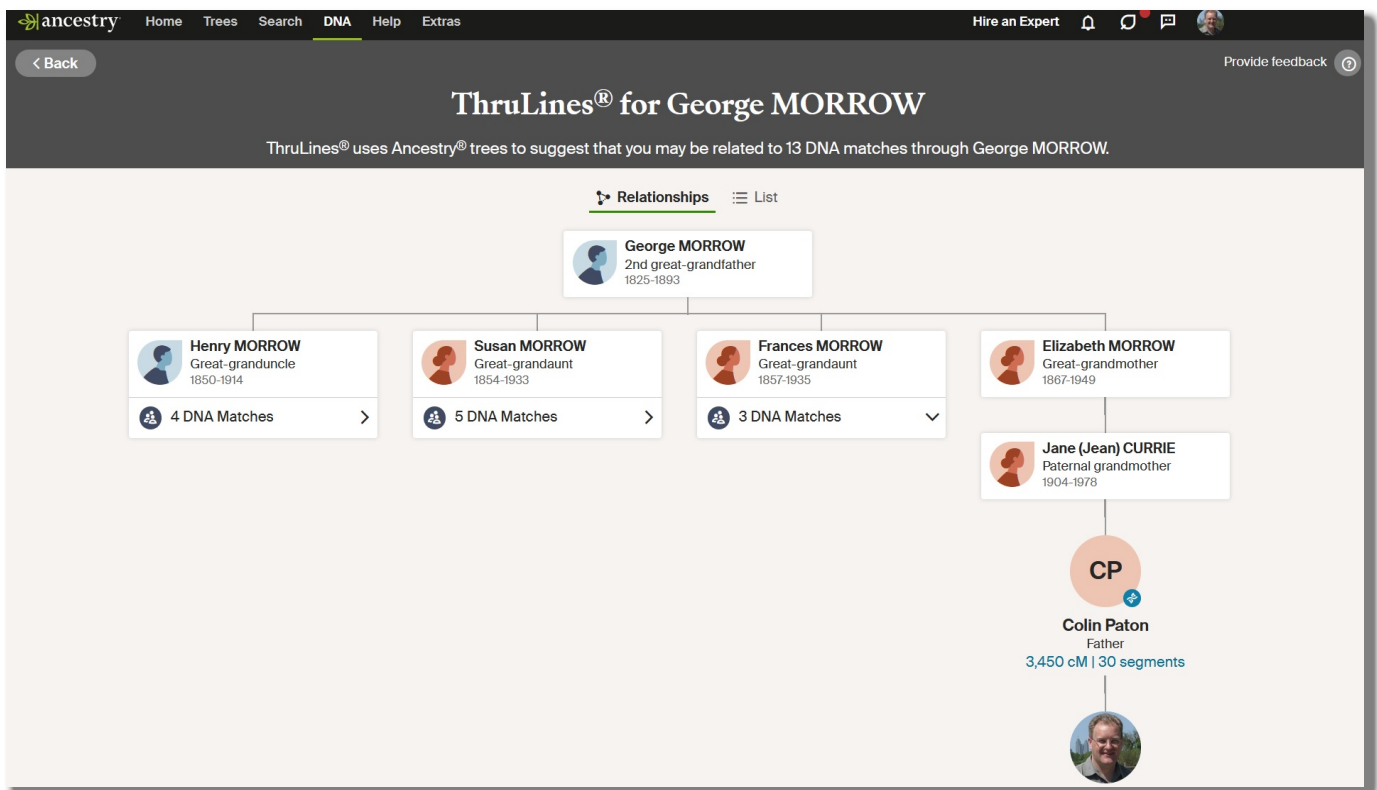
This birth entry from 1875 may have been for our Ellen, with a Jane Morrow listed as the informant—my great great grandmother?
IrishGenealogy.ie 1875 Ellen Morrow Group Reg ID 9084396 Irvinestown

but for whom no birth record could be found. There was only one birth entry for an Ellen Morrow found born in Fermanagh in Ireland at this stage, an illegitimately born daughter to Fanny Morrow on July 19th, 1875, at Clonelly in County Fermanagh. This birth was registered by a Jane Morrow.

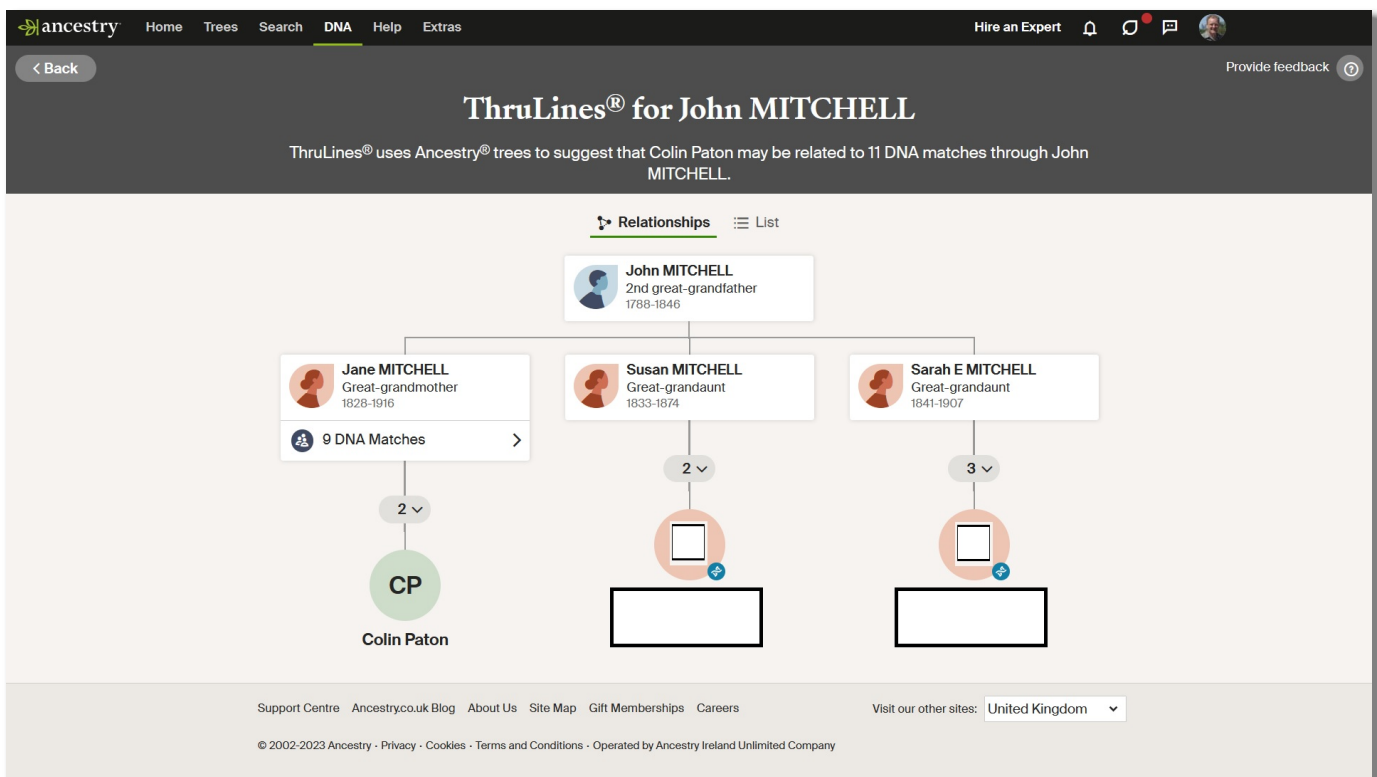
My real issue here was that if Ellen in Glasgow was indeed Jane Mitchell's daughter, Jane must have given birth in her fifties, with George aged about 51 also—which seemed to be stretching credibility. My working

married, leaving her daughter behind to be raised by her parents. The evidence in the States suggests that Fanny or Frances was born in about 1857, within the middle of the gap in the Morrow children.

Whilst DNA evidence in the States was able to provide the missing evidence to confirm this as the case, it was to be in Australia that I discovered that George and Jane had another child. Having identified from the parish records that the couple had a son called Henry, it was a contact from a distant relative in Queensland



AncestryDNA's ThruLines summarising the author's DNA connections to other children of George Morrow. www.ancestry.co.uk



AncestryDNA's ThruLines summarising the author's father's DNA connections to sisters of Jane Mitchell, George Morrow's wife. www.ancestry.co.uk

that would reveal what became of him. Henry was found to have married a 23-year-old Scottish woman called Susan Brown Stevenson, on January 28th 1887, in the Primitive Methodist Church in Yaamba, Queensland, in a ceremony according to the rites of the Primitive Methodists. In the record, Henry was noted as a 28-year-old stockman, and specifically as the son of George Morrow and Jane Mitchell. Erroneously, he was noted as having been born in Glasgow, rather than Fermanagh, but any fears that this was a simple coincidence of names elsewhere in the world were subsequently put to rest with several DNA matches to Henry's descendants.

So far, so good, but the real surprise was in the subsequent identification of another member of the Morrow family in Queensland, who in this case has been solely identified by DNA. I have made several matches with the descendants of a Susan Morrow from Fermanagh, Ireland, who was born circa 1854, and who emigrated to Queensland, Australia, marrying a George McLoughlin or McLachlan there on May 14th, 1877, and with whom she subsequently had seven children. This was a little more tricky to firm up, however, with several online trees suggesting that her father was a George Morrow, but that her mother was an Elizabeth Wilson, rather than a Jane Mitchell.

The clue to firming this up further, however, lay not just with the Morrow family, but with the Mitchell family of Fermanagh. From records in Ireland, I had previously identified that Jane Mitchell's parents, John Mitchell and Ann Wilson, had seven children in and around Enniskillen in Fermanagh, of whom my father, sadly now deceased, had DNA matches to the descendants of two of them—Susan Mitchell, born circa 1833, and Sarah Elizabeth Mitchell, born circa 1841. Susan and Sarah both emigrated to Massachusetts, and were married to two brothers, James and William Graham. Just for good measure, William had been previously married to another sister, Frances or Fanny Mitchell (for whom Fanny Morrow was possibly named).

So far, one of the descendants of Susan Morrow not only has matching DNA to known descendants of George Morrow, my 2nd-great-grandfather, but also to the sisters of my father's great-grandmother Jane Mitchell, which would seem to suggest that she is

indeed another lost child of George and Jane—she has both Morrow and Mitchell connections. However, there is still a theoretical possibility that an unknown sibling of George had married a sibling of Jane yet to be identified, or that George may have fathered a child with one of Jane's siblings. As such, whilst I consider this enquiry to be approaching the “end game” on the proof stakes, thanks to the strong DNA links, to truly satisfy the genealogical proof standard, the hunt for primary records concerning Susan's life in Australia continues.

The moral of this story is that there are two areas where the failure of surviving evidence from Ireland can be partially overcome – the use of DNA, and the pursuit of Ireland's diaspora. Happy hunting!

*Based in the Ayrshire town of Irvine, Northern Irish-born **Chris Paton** runs the Scotland's Greatest Story research service (<https://scotlandsgreateststory.wordpress.com/>) and the daily Scottish GENES genealogy news blog (<http://scottishgenes.blogspot.com>). Amongst his many publications are *Tracing Your Scottish Family History on the Internet*, *Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry Through Church and State Records*, and *Sharing Your Family History Online from Pen and Sword*, as well as *Down and Out in Scotland: Researching Ancestral Crisis from Unlock the Past*. Chris also tutors short courses through *Pharos Teaching and Tutoring Ltd*, including *Scottish Research Online* and *Scotland 1750–1850: Beyond the Old Parish Registers*.*



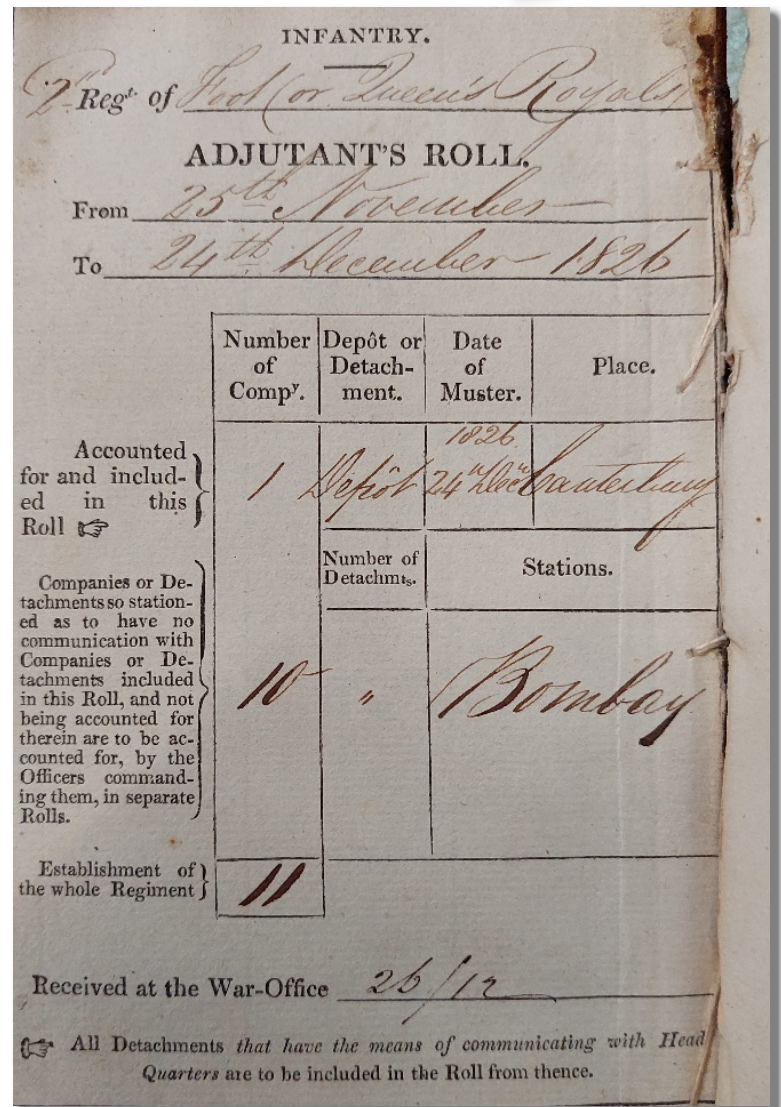


British Army Muster Rolls and Paylists

This article will look at the importance of muster rolls and paylists for the British Army, covering the period from 1708 to 1898: a period of enormous evolution and change which saw the old established regiments of foot making way for new county or Territorial regiments as part of Lord Cardwell's reforms in July 1881.

I always refer to British military research as akin to trying to piece together a jigsaw puzzle, but without necessarily seeing the picture on the jigsaw box lid! There are of course numerous resources for the British military historian, many of these now online, but many of these same resources are also incomplete. British army service records up to the beginning of the First World War—and now catalogued in series WO 97—had been extensively weeded by over-zealous Whitehall clerks long before the Luftwaffe tried to finish the job in 1940 by bombing the warehouse in Walworth, south east London, where these records were being held. Nevertheless, they still did a pretty good job, accounting for the destruction of about 60 percent of other rank service records from the First World War, all officers' service records, and millions of other documents besides. You can read the full depressing list here: <https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/the-1940-fire-at-arnside-street/>.

So it can be rather hit and miss when looking for a soldier's service record, and if he died in service before 1914, the chances are that his file will also have been pulled and destroyed. There are, however, thousands of muster rolls and pay lists which have survived and which, these days, are catalogued in seven series held at The National Archives in Kew, west London. These lists have not been digitised and may, due to the costs of doing so, never be digitised. Nevertheless, they are extremely useful, particularly so if there is no longer a



Early return taken from the muster for the 2nd Regiment of Foot when it was stationed at Bombay between the 25th November and the 24th December 1826 (WO 12/2033). It can be seen that 10 companies were based in Bombay, with a single company at Canterbury. The National Archives.

surviving service record. The muster rolls and paylists are held in the following series and cover the following periods:

WO 10: Royal Artillery 1708–1878; 2,877 volumes.

WO 11: Royal Engineers 1816–1878; 432 volumes.

WO 12: Household troops, the cavalry, Guards and the regular infantry regiments of the line. Also special regiments or corps, colonial troops, various foreign legions and troops, general states and musters of regimental and other depots, etc.; 1732–1999; 13,509 volumes.

WO 13: Militia and Volunteers 1778–1878; 4675 volumes.

WO 14: Scutari Depot muster books 1854–1856; 130 volumes.

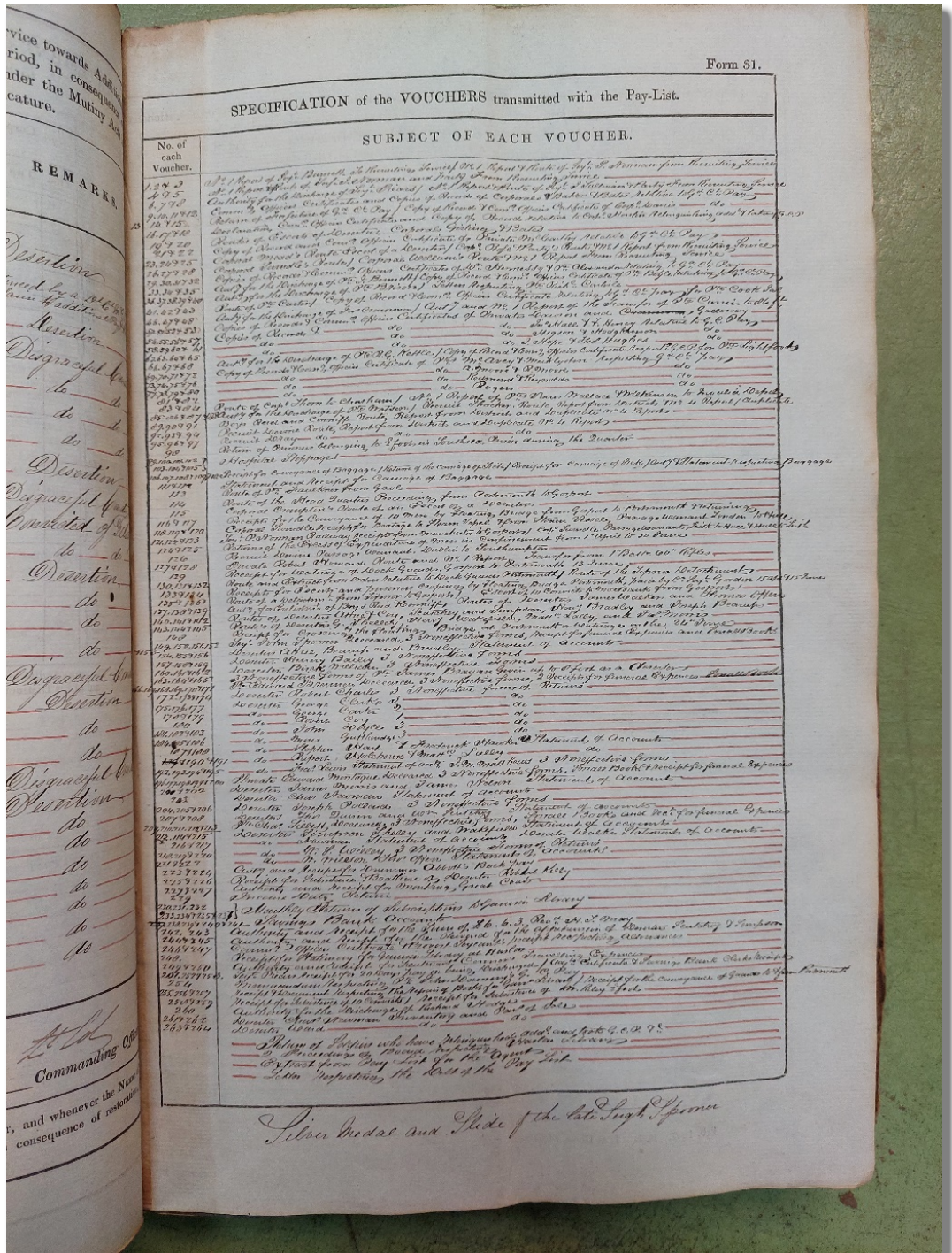
WO 15: Foreign Legions muster books, pay lists and courts martial registers 1854–1856; 102 volumes.

WO 16: Various regiments covering the period 1877–1898; 3,049 volumes.

A “muster” is a gathering together of an assembly and is a term traditionally used in connection with naval and military service. Both services, of course, had to be meticulous in accounting for the men under their commands, and so these are essentially financial accounts that give details of men’s pay and movements for any given period of time. Early paylists were completed as single monthly returns, but later returns covered three months, and they were bound into annual or sometimes two-yearly volumes. This means that if your ancestor served for 21 years, he could potentially appear in 84 separate bound volumes.

My usual starting point when researching an individual in one of these returns is to begin with a known date and place such as a census return or an entry in a

campaign medal roll. Then it is simply a case of calling up the relevant volume in WO 10 to 16 and finding your man. On the front or back of each return are the basic details stating the name of the regiment, where it was stationed, and the dates covered. The example above is an early return taken from the muster for the 2nd Regiment of Foot when it was stationed at Bombay between the 25th November and the 24th December 1826 (WO 12/2,033). It can be seen that 10



Muster roll, 2nd Regiment of Foot between the 1st April and the 30th June 1847. The National Archives.

companies were based in Bombay, with a single company at Canterbury.

Early returns also list the men by company, which means you will be able to see the officer who was in charge. Helpfully, the vast majority of the musters I have looked at, for infantry at least, record the men in rank and surname order. You will be able to see the strength of the unit and how the regiment was disposed. Senior officers are listed first, in alphabetical order, followed by NCOs, and rank and file. So if you know your ancestor was a sergeant, you should head straight for the page which list sergeants, and then find him listed alphabetically.

For most men, the entries in the muster rolls and pay lists are routine, often stating little more than how many days for which a man was paid. Occasionally there are annotations though, which might note that a man was stationed elsewhere, or was on a course, or was sick and in hospital. Pay particular attention to the left-hand column on these pages, which variously

records good conduct badges for men below the rank of corporal—men of the rank of corporal and above were expected to be well-behaved—and also be on the lookout for “vouchers.” The original vouchers no longer survive, but at the time, vouchers would have been transmitted with the pay list. Even so, there is a summary page within each pay list which explains what the voucher refers to. Make a note of the voucher number that appears next to your man’s entry and then look for the corresponding entry on the vouchers’ form within the payroll.

The example below shows just how many vouchers could be issued, in this case for the 2nd Regiment of Foot between the 1st April and the 30th June 1847. Voucher 98, for example, was a return of prisoners belonging to the 2nd Foot who were held in Southsea Prison during this quarter; voucher 115 showed Corporal Crampton’s route as the escort of two deserters, while vouchers 196 to 200 inclusive were all concerned with the deceased Private Edward Montague and included his soldier’s small book and

WO 12/3220 2nd Battalion, 14th Foot, covers the period April 1870 to March 1871

- 1) Cover
- 2) Inside cover
- 3) Showing the dates of this volume: 31st October to 31st December 1870
- 4) 5th line. 2493 Thomas Wormald paid from 16th December 1870, listed as a recruit who has joined this quarter. Voucher number 76
- 5) 5th line. Thomas enlisted on the 9th December 1870 at Westminster District, aged 13.
- 6) Voucher references 6 to 85 cite "No 1 Reports"¹
- 7) Return for 1st Jan to 31st March 1871
- 8) Rank is 'Boy' to 28th February 1871
- 9) Rank is 'Drummer' from 1st March 1871

WO 12/3221 2nd Battalion, 14th Foot, covers the period April 1871 to March 1872

- 1) Inside cover
- 2) 1st April to 30th June 1871
- 3) Paid for 91 days
- 4) 1st July 1871 to 30th September 1871
- 5) Paid for 92 days
- 6) 1st October to 31st December 1871
- 7) Paid for 92 days. Furlough between 1st and 31st December
- 8) 1st January 1872 to 31st March 1872

receipt for funeral expenses. In addition to this extremely useful and fascinating page of voucher returns, expect to find many other forms covering specific events.

There are forms covering allowances to discharged soldiers, travelling expenses of regimental officers, allowances in lieu of forage, rewards paid for the apprehension of deserters, rewards for distinguished service, pay forfeited by sentence of courts martial, and a return of men who fraudulently enlisted whilst still with the militia, and who were therefore liable to repay their bounty. One of the more interesting forms is the one which lists fines for drunkenness, and I see from one of the slides that I present in talks that these fines frequently extend across several pages. In fact, when you read these forms and see so many repeat offenders, you wonder how many of the Victorian soldiery earned any money at all!

As I mentioned earlier, when you first find your man in a muster roll and pay list, this is very much the start of your journey. Now, the task is to track back through earlier lists to find out when he enlisted, and forward through subsequent lists to find out when he left the army. To ascertain when he enlisted—or at least when he joined the particular regiment whose muster you are looking at—you can give yourself a head start by doing some research around his regimental number. Numbers were issued sequentially, so if your man's number were 1234 with the 2nd Regiment of Foot, you will need to do some research to work out when that number would have been issued. I have given talks and written articles about how to do this, elsewhere, but your best bet would be to run searches on Findmypast's British Army Service records' collection, focusing on the service number field.

Just as a man's first entry in a pay list will tell you precisely when he joined the regiment, so the final entry will tell you when he left, and the circumstances of that departure. There will also be a separate entry on one of the forms, which tells you his intended place of residence and maybe his next of kin. A man would cease to appear in a pay list if he transferred to another regiment or if he were discharged as time expired. Men who died in service are also recorded here. I recall, not so long ago, after having waded through numerous musters for a particular soldier, feeling genuinely sad

to see that he had died at sea whilst returning to the UK from his regiment's station in China.

Men could and did transfer between regiments, which can add to the length of time it takes to properly go through all of the relevant musters. Careful reading of each line entry is important if you are not to miss vital information.

As I mentioned, these musters and pay lists are not online, so you will either need to go to the National Archives in person or hire a researcher. I have carried out research myself, but it can be a time-consuming and therefore expensive exercise if you are having to pay someone to go through countless volumes. Typically, when researching a man in these collections, I photograph the front of the volume with the reference clearly visible and then make copies of the relevant pages—the cover page first, with the place/date information—and then all relevant pages after that. Later, back at base, I will transcribe the key points. In the example above, from WO 12/3220, Thomas Wormald of the 14th Foot, began his army career as a 13-year-old boy in December 1870 and in the first volume he was initially a "Boy" and subsequently a "Drummer." As far as he was concerned, the following volume in WO 12/3221 was unremarkable except for a period of leave in December 1871.

Expect to find more information in the paylists that were completed for units stationed in the British Isles. Those taken in India can give very little information apart from where the man was stationed, which, after all, is still valuable information. Note too, that whilst this article has focused for the most part on men serving with the regular army, the musters in WO 13—all 4,675 of them—deal with men who served with the Militia and Volunteers (including Fencibles and Yeomanry). Within this series you will also find Canadian militia and volunteers beginning at around WO 13/3674. Many men who joined the army as career soldiers had first tried their hand at soldiering with the Volunteer Force or the militia and so, if your man lived in Essex when he joined the army as a career soldier, it might also be worth checking militia/volunteer records in WO 13 to see if he had prior service with a local Essex unit. (Typing "Essex" in this series yields 79 results, mostly for the late 1700s and early 1800s).

The National Archives has helpful information about each of the series and the Discovery website is easy enough to use. The main WO 13 list, for example, is here: <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C14224>. There is also a helpful webinar which dates to 2014, narrated by TNA's former Principal Records Specialist in military history, William Spencer. You can watch that here: <https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/webinar-army-musters-just-accounts/>.

If you already have information about your ancestor in a series such as WO 97 or WO 96, it would, in my opinion, still be worth looking for muster roll and payroll information, but probably only if you can do it yourself, have time to spare, and can get to Kew easily enough. Make sure you pre-book and pre-order, and try to get a table close to the reading room lockers because if your ancestor had lengthy service, you will be backwards and forwards all day long.

Cite Your Sources

Sandra Roberts

When I was a composition instructor, I helped students support their research with reliable sources and accurate citations. However, English composition guidelines usually require citations in the Modern Language Association (MLA) style. (Some writing courses use American Psychology Association (APA) style.) Over the past few years, I've become better acquainted with the citation style that genealogists use: Evidence Explained (EE), which is an extension of the Chicago citation style.

Do we really need to learn to cite our sources? Yes, the standards of genealogical proof require genealogists to properly cite their sources.¹ Are there any tools or methods available to make the process easier? Yes,

Paul Nixon is a British military historian and author; the proud great-great-grandson of a Crimean War colour-sergeant; and the grateful grandson of a First World War veteran. Paul has a forensic knowledge of British Army regimental numbers and is the driving force behind the British Army Ancestors website at <https://britisharmyancestors.co.uk/>.



Image by Cottonbro Studio@Pexels.com

online resources are available. Can AI create our citations for us? No, not yet.

Arguably, the best examples of EE style are found in the publications of the National Genealogical Society, *NGS Magazine* and the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*. I've spent hours poring over the citations in these highly regarded journals. I've also spent some quality time with Thomas Jones's textbook, *Mastering Genealogical Documentation (NGS Special Topics Series Book 122)*. This clear, concise, and practical book can help any reader master the art and science of documenting research sources. The book was designed for the classroom,

but it was the perfect way for me to acquire a deeper understanding of EE style.

The first thing that struck me about EE is the level of freedom to reorder citation elements, if necessary. Other styles do not offer this kind of flexibility. However, in *Mastering Genealogical Documentation*, Jones encourages us to strive for the most effective format, and he provides a variety of common-sense options for citing our sources. He also describes the way citations should address the “Genealogy Standard 5” questions: Who, What, When, Wherein and Whereis.

[After answering the *who and what* questions,] [c]itations to publications often continue by answering *Whereis, When, and Wherein*, in that order. Citations to unpublished records most often answer *Whereis* last: *Who, What, When, Wherein, and Whereis*. Often those sequences can be improved. Variations are common, because researchers want their citations to be as clear as they can make them.²

Jones goes on to discuss the ideal order of citation elements:

Conventions exist for sequencing citation elements. Researchers, however, have the final decision. They have more flexibility with the placement of some components than with others. Ultimately, however, communicating clearly is more important than following any model or convention.³

Ancestry and other sources often provide citations for researchers. However, Jones cautions us against using pre-packaged citations because they may be incomplete. Instead, we should consider the source carefully and choose the right formatting option.

But what about AI—will it write our citations for us?

I asked Bard, Google's AI, to create a Chicago-style Evidence Explained citation for me, and I pasted in a URL from Ancestry. Bard wouldn't even try, but ChatGPT tried. Actually, it lied. ChatGPT just made up something fairly plausible. The URL I passed to ChatGPT was for a marriage record, but ChatGPT gave me a well-formatted—but nevertheless fabricated—citation for a birth record.

The problem is that many AI applications cannot see websites, particularly websites such as Ancestry, which are only available to subscribers. ChatGPT and Bing can read many websites, however, as long as no login is required. Here is an example using a blog post by The Legal Genealogist:

Me: *Please write a Chicago Evidence Explained style citation for this URL: <https://www.legalgenealogist.com/2023/04/17/attention-ny-researchers/>*

Bing: *Yes, I can help you with that! Evidence Explained is a great resource for creating citations in Chicago style.¹ Here's an example of how you can create a citation for the link you provided:*

“Judy G. Russell, ‘Attention NY researchers,’ The Legal Genealogist (blog), posted 17 April 2023, <https://www.legalgenealogist.com/2023/04/17/attention-ny-researchers/>.”

I hope this helps! Let me know if you have any other questions.

Again, currently Bing cannot read or cite FamilySearch and Ancestry web pages, and that makes sense. You can imagine the legal challenges that may result from this new technology. Still, I suspect that AI will eventually be able to create our citations for us—or at least it will be more help than it is today. Like teachers, we will need to spend a few extra minutes and check the student's work, just to be sure they're not bluffing.

If you'd like some additional support in your citation-building efforts, but you'd like to steer clear of AI because, quite frankly, you don't feel qualified to check AI's work, you might try cite-builder.com. Here is a review of this web tool on the Family Locket website: <https://familyloket.com/cite-builder-a-genealogy-source-citation-generator/>

Family Locket's Nicole Dyer and Diana Elder also provide help with citations. You could start with their podcast: <https://familyloket.com/rfp-188-revisiting-source-citations-again/>

And finally, Lisa Stokes is offering a course on source citations: <https://lisastokesheritageresearch.com/source-citation-course-information-page/>

I have not taken Lisa's course, but you may want to check out a podcast interview of Lisa on the Family

Locket website and see if it sounds like a useful endeavor for you: <https://familyloket.com/rlp-200-genealogy-source-citations-simplified-with-lisa-stokes/>

I thoroughly enjoyed Thomas Jones's textbook, *Mastering Genealogical Documentation*, and I will continue to use it alongside reference books such as Elizabeth Shown Mills's *Evidence Explained* and the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 17th edition.

Time to be Tourists

Megan Heyl

As we are gearing up for our trip to the British Institute in Salt Lake City (yes, we are going to drive from Holland, Michigan), my husband and I have been reminiscing about some things we discovered on previous road trips to Salt Lake City—because we always take time to be tourists!

A few years back, we were driving toward Lincoln, Nebraska, and a billboard caught our eye: Stauffer's Cafe and Pie Shoppe. The message was loud and clear: *Come for the food but leave room for pie.* Exit Now. And before I knew it, Jim had merged over a lane and taken the exit. He said, "I know how much you love pie, and we're hungry! The car needs gas too, so let's go!" We googled the restaurant, got an address, and we were there. So was half the town. This local family restaurant was obviously the place to be. The food was very good, and the portions were huge! A dry erase board displayed today's choices—about 40 pies! All baked fresh, and each slice was about a quarter of the pie. Nearly every patron left with a to-go box because they'd left room for pie, including us.

While we were there taking in the ambiance and aroma, I noticed an information tent on the table: *While in Lincoln, visit . . .* While flipping through the advertisements, I found one for the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Center, Wymore, Nebraska. Wait—what? Remember, I'm on my way to Salt Lake City, and I'm going to take a Welsh course taught by Darris Williams! I showed Jim, and he said, "Looks like we're

1. Sunny Jane Morton, "The Genealogical Proof Standard: An Expert Explanation for Guiding Your Research," *Family Tree Magazine* (Oct/Nov 2012), <https://familytreemagazine.com/strategies/genealogical-proof-standard/>

2. Thomas W. Jones, *Mastering Genealogical Documentation* (NGS Special Topics Series Book 122). (Arlington, Virginia: National Genealogical Society, 2017), 63-64.

3. Jones, *Mastering Genealogical Documentation*,



Susan Floress@Pexels

going to be getting to our hotel later than expected." And with another address in the GPS, we were off to Wymore: a one-hour drive south. Easy peasy. We're just five hours away from Sidney, our stop for the night.

Welcome to Wymore

According to Gwenith Closs Colgrove, president of The Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project (GPWHP), the museum was started in 2002 by three community leaders in Wymore, Nebraska, to recognize and honor the town's Welsh heritage. Shortly after the passage of the Homestead Act of 1862, Wymore attracted a large number of Welsh immigrants. About 75% of the old Wymore grave markers bear Welsh names, and of course, many of the early pioneers who came to southeast Nebraska were Welsh.

The Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project is the only

Welsh museum in the U.S. and Canada dedicated to those hearty souls who crossed the Atlantic with dreams of owning farmland. Attached to the Welsh museum is the Archive for Welsh America, the only such archive in North America. It houses one-of-a-kind artifacts, including the only microfilm of the early Welsh newspaper, *Y Drych*, which started in 1852.

After touring the museum, school, and railroad museum (a hit with Jim), we saddled up and headed for Sidney. The whole way there I kept saying, "Who would have thought there was a Welsh community here? And why didn't I know about this?"

Jim smiled and replied that maybe I should look for other Welsh points of interest in the continental U.S., and if these locations offer some sort of public transportation or a museum nearby, even better! We finally arrived in Sidney, checked into our hotel, and carried in our dinner, which consisted of leftovers from lunch, and oh—an extra piece of pie for each of us! Because of this trip, I am now a member of NAFOW, have been to two of their conferences, and look forward to many more. Make these adventures part of your bucket list when it is your time to be tourists!



Photos courtesy of the author



North American Festival of Wales Lincoln, Nebraska

August 30 - September 3, 2023

Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel

Room Rate: \$114 - \$134

www.nafow.org

Featuring Robat Arwyn, Ifor ap Glyn, Dylan Morris,
Rhys Meirion, Gwawr Edwards, and Triano





Application for ISBGFH Annual Membership

(1 Year Membership from the day you join or renew)

Last Name _____ First Name & Middle Initial _____

Last Name of Second Family Member (if a Family membership) _____

First Name & Middle Initial of Second Family Member (if a Family membership) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail _____

Cell Phone of Second Family Member (if a Family membership) _____

E-mail of Second Family Member (if a Family membership) _____

For individuals and families, the default method of delivering all issues of *British Connections*, the ISBGFH quarterly journal, is as an attachment to an e-mail message. There is an annual surcharge of \$40(\$50 if outside North America) if you want to receive *British Connections* in printed format via postal mail. Subscriptions differ from memberships in a few key ways:

- All subscribers (Library or Society) receive both an electronic (PDF) copy and a printed/mailed copy of each issue of *British Connections*
- Subscribers have no voting rights in the society
- Subscribers are not to provide access to their electronic copy beyond their members (in the case of societies) or patrons ("in house" or library card holders, in the case of libraries), except as explicitly agreed to by the ISBGFH Governing Board

Individual	\$35	
Family	\$45	
Subscription (Library or Society)	\$45	
Individual Lifetime	\$355	
Family Lifetime	\$380	
Surcharge for printed copies of <i>British Connections</i> (Ind. or Fam.)	\$40 (\$50 outside North America)	

Total Enclosed _____

Please make check or money order payable (in U.S. funds) to ISBGFH. Please mail completed form to: ISBGFH c/o Barbara Scanlon, 5050 Main Street, Apt. 511, Kansas City, MO 64112 (U.S.A.)

1 Jan. 2022 Revision

British Institute

In person again!



Thomas MacEntee

A Genealogist's
Guide to the
Technology Galaxy

OCTOBER 8-13, 2023
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

- Meet 'n' Greet 7-9p.m. MDT Sunday
- Courses will be held Monday-Friday, 8a.m.-12p.m. MDT
- Research in the FamilySearch Library

<https://www.isbgfh.com>



Paul Milner

Scottish Research:
The Fundamentals
and Beyond



Hori Robbins

Once More into the Breach: England
Research at the FamilySearch Library



Dan Poffenberger



David Rencher

Irish Law and Government Documents



Rick Sayre

