

British Connections

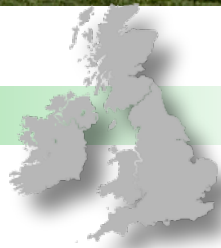
Official Publication of the International Society for British Genealogy
and Family History

Stories Revealed in Cemeteries and Death Records



Tracing *Irish* ancestors

Chris Paton



Glasnevin's Finest

Whilst most of my Irish ancestry is from the north's Protestant population, one ancestor of mine was suspected to have been born as a Roman Catholic in Dublin, despite later converting to Anglicanism. For over twenty years, I tried to prove her family origins in Dublin, but this year I finally made the breakthrough, thanks in large part to two sources—my own DNA and the pay-per-view burials website of the Dublin Cemeteries Trust at <https://www.dctrust.ie>.

My 3rd great-grandmother Teresa Mooney was somebody I first encountered when I discovered that she had married my 3rd great-grandfather Corporal Alexander William Halliday on the island of Corfu on June 27, 1862. Quite how she had arrived in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea is anybody's guess, but it seems likely that she had travelled there with her future husband's regiment, the 2nd battalion of

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The final resting spot of Teresa Burns, formerly Halliday, nee Mooney, in the St. Bridget's section of Glasnevin Cemetery (author's image).

the 2nd Regiment of Foot, to provide domestic help. Once married, Teresa accompanied her husband on his subsequent military postings; on October 7, 1863, she gave birth to my great-great-grandmother Florence Teresa Halliday on the island of Gibraltar, whilst on August 16, 1866, on the island of Bermuda, she bore a son named Alexander William Halliday after his father. Tragically, Alexander senior never got to see his son; he had passed away on the island on January 31, 1866, most likely from yellow fever.

With two young children to care for, Teresa was able to stay with the regiment by accepting a marriage proposal from another corporal in the same regiment, William John Burns. The couple married in Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, Ireland, shortly after on December 28, 1866, and I established that after William left the army in 1870, they soon produced two children: Sarah, born on March 1, 1871, at Church Lane, Dublin, and Teresa, born in Belfast on April 11, 1873.

I have yet to determine when William passed away, but Teresa was found to have ended her days in Dublin on May 16, 1919, aged 83, having lived for many years at Synnott Row with her son Alexander. From the "Burial Records and Genealogy" section of the [Dublin Cemeteries Trust website](#), I discovered that Teresa was buried in Glasnevin Cemetery, Ireland's national cemetery, in lair VH 265 within the St. Bridget's part of its grounds. Whilst her death record noted that she was the widow of a soldier, her Glasnevin burial record noted that she was the wife of an engine driver. The website

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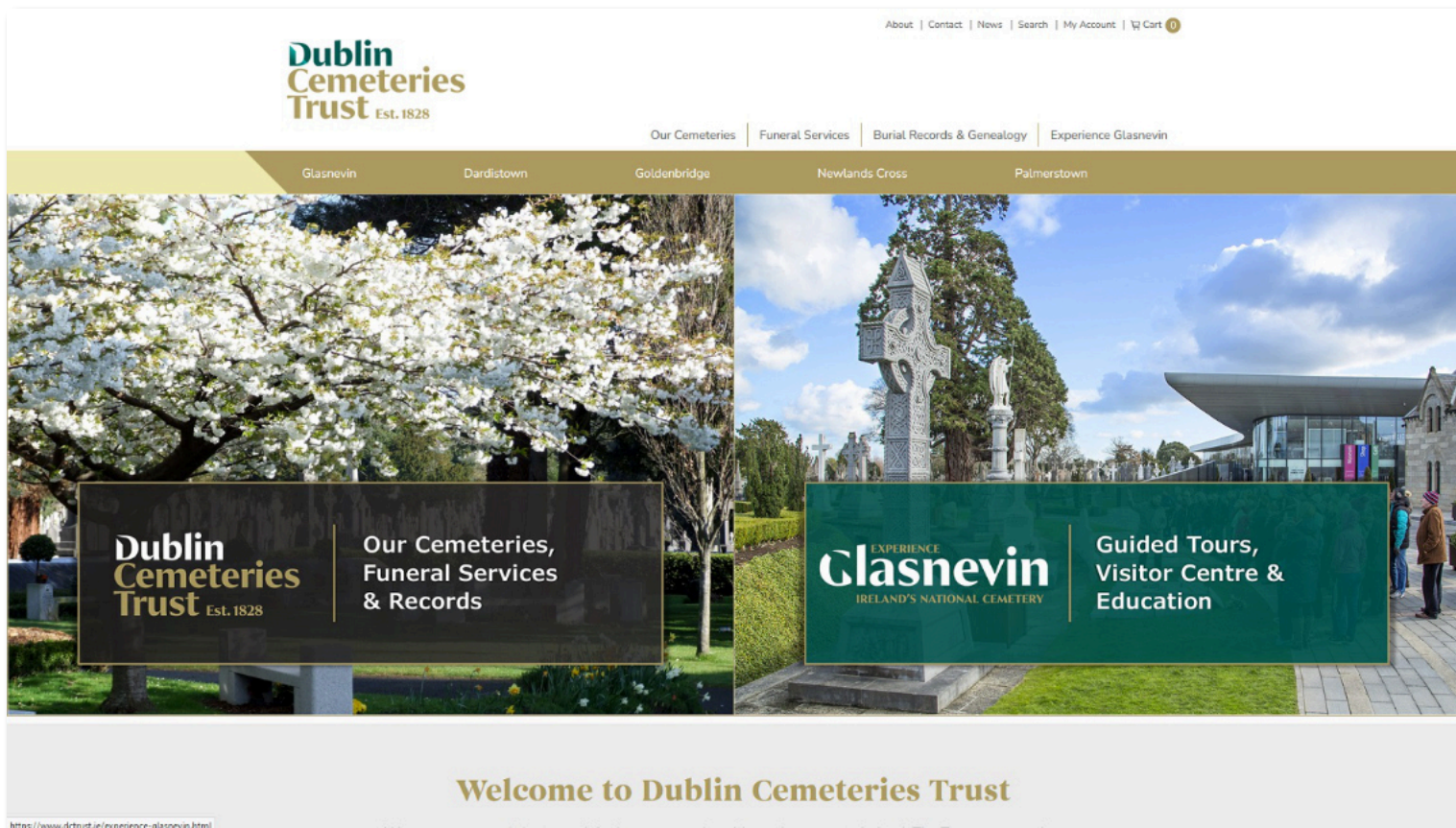
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The Dublin Cemeteries Trust website

allows for searches for an individual or a wider lair search, and in selecting the latter option, I confusingly discovered that there was a prior burial in the same lair, a 62-year-old Thomas Hogg who passed away in a different part of the city in 1911, someone I have still found no connection to. On a visit to Dublin in 2017, I visited the cemetery for the first time to pay my respects to Teresa, and was saddened to see that there was no grave marker at the plot to mark the existence of my most worldly travelled Irish ancestor.

The 1901 and 1911 censuses had both confirmed that Dublin was Teresa's place of birth, but in trying to identify more about her earlier background, I now had problems with the surname Mooney being very commonly found in the city. Her first marriage record from 1862, recorded by the British Army, helpfully noted her parents' names as Thomas and Mary Ann Mooney, whilst her subsequent marriage record to William Burns described her father Thomas to be a weaver by profession. Although her son Alexander was Roman Catholic, Teresa had

Year: 1872				AGES					RESIDENCES	Mark of Grave	
Date of Interment	Sexton's Number	Registrar's Number	NAMES	ADULTS Years	CHILDREN Years Months Weeks Days					Latitude	Longitude
December 12	170200	170755	Thomas Mooney	67					17 North Gloucester Place Dublin	N	51 27
Date of Death	Sex	Religious Persuasion	Rank or Occupation	If "Married," "Single," "Widow," "Widower," or "the Child of A B, of"	Name and Residence of Informant of Particulars				Date of Issuing Tickets for Interment		
December 11	Male	Catholic	Widower	Married	Thomas Mooney 4 Rathmines Avenue				December 12		

The 1872 Glasnevin Cemetery burial record of Teresa's father, Thomas Mooney.

married in an Anglican ceremony in Corfu, and later identified as Anglican in the 1901 and 1911 censuses. The only baptism record I could locate, however, was for a Teresa Mooney, baptised at the Roman Catholic St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral in the city centre on October 14, 1834, with her parents noted as Thomas and Mary Ann Mooney. This was the same cathedral which many years later would see the funeral of General Michael Collins.

With no further leads to pursue, I parked my research for many years. This year, however, I discovered a possible DNA connection between my uncle and the descendant of somebody called Thomas Patrick Mooney, who had married a Mary Bible in Dublin in September 1893. The possible connection to a member of the Mooney family was very small, at just 16cM, but I nevertheless set to work to try to either prove or disprove the link. This Thomas was Roman Catholic and a solicitor's clerk, and I soon established that he was born to another Thomas Mooney in March 1867. Could this Thomas senior have been a brother to Teresa?

Thomas senior had married a Jane Stephens on July 24, 1865, at the Roman Catholic Chapel at Rathmines, in Dublin's south side. Helpfully, the civil registration marriage record noted that his father, Thomas, was a weaver, but more encouragingly, when I looked up the parallel Roman Catholic marriage record on www.irishgenealogy.ie, it gave the names of both parents—Thomas Mooney and Mary McCaul.

I diligently continued and discovered that Jane and Thomas had three children—Thomas Patrick, born



Ireland's national cemetery, Glasnevin Cemetery (author's image).

on March 24, 1867, Mary Teresa, born on February 4, 1869, and Catherine, born on March 6, 1871. In examining their birth records, I was finally able to find the link I was looking for—my 3rd great-grandmother, as “Teresa Burns,” was the informant to her niece Catherine's birth registration on March 20, 1871, and noted as a resident at Church Lane,

Superintendent Registrar's District		Registrar's District								
Dublin South		Rathmines								
1871 Births Registered in the District of Rathmines				in the Union of Dublin South				in the		
County of Dublin										
No.	Date and Place of Birth.	Name (if any).	Sex.	Name and Surname and Dwelling Place of Father.	Name and Surname and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Qualification, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth, and Date.
160	March 1871 Church Place Rathmines	Catherine	Female	Thomas Mooney Church Place Rathmines	Jane Mooney formerly Stephens	Porter of Wine-Merchant	Theresa Burns present at birth Church Place Rathmines	Twentieth March 1871	George F. May Deputy Registrar	

The 1871 birth record of Teresa's niece Catherine Mooney, showing her (“Theresa”) as based on Church Lane, Dublin, and acting as the informant to the registrar.



Teresa's final residence was on Synnott Row, Dublin (author's image).

Dublin. Just nineteen days earlier, Teresa had given birth to her own daughter Sarah at Church Lane—this was the first crucial find in connecting her to her wider family.

Now on the right path, I persevered and discovered that Thomas junior's wife Jane had tragically died on April 4, 1873, in Rathmines, and that he had then remarried to a Bridget Maguire just a year later on May 3, 1874. This subsequent marriage record noted that his father was deceased at this point and had been a servant by trade. But now that I had another death in the family, I returned to the Glasnevin Cemetery website to look for Jane's burial—and suddenly, the floodgates opened.

I selected the wider lair search option for Jane's burial and discovered that there were eight burials within the same plot, lair number N I 277, all located in the St. Bridget's part of the cemetery, the same section where Teresa lies. In addition to Jane, I found the burial of her husband's second wife Bridget in 1895, and that of Thomas himself in 1918. Thomas's sister Mary Teresa was found to have died aged just 23 in 1892, and a grandson of Thomas and Jane was found to have passed away aged just 2 in 1898.

There were three other burials in the lair. The first was Esther McGuinness, aged 23, who died on May 28, 1875. I was quickly able to discover that she was in fact an Esther Mooney, who had married John McGuinness in the city just two years

earlier, with her marriage record noting her to be the daughter of Thomas Mooney, weaver—she was yet another sibling to Teresa.

Crowning all of these finds came the last two entries—Thomas Mooney, aged 67, who passed away on December 11, 1872, at 17 North Gloucester Place in the city, and Mary Ann Mooney, who died on January 1, 1899, at 23 Upper Tyrone Street, Dublin, aged 85. Their son, Thomas, was the informant for both entries—I had finally found Teresa’s parents, my 4th great-grandparents. Both were noted to be Roman Catholic, and in the images of the lair register (available for entries between 1828 and 1916), Thomas was found to have ended his final days as a news vendor, rather than a weaver, whilst Mary Ann was found to be a housekeeper.

The detailed lair registers from Glasnevin Cemetery—along with a stroke of luck through a DNA connection—were crucial to smashing this particular brick wall. All that is left for me now is to return to Dublin in the near future to once again pay my respects, but this time to the whole Mooney family.

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 Irish Family History on the Internet (2nd edition), Tracing Your Irish Ancestors Through Land Records, and Tracing Your Belfast Ancestors from Pen and Sword, as well as Sharing Your Family History Online. Chris also tutors short courses through Pharos Teaching and Tutoring Ltd, including two Irish themed courses, Progressing Your Irish Research Online and Researching Irish Land Records.



President's Message



Craig L. Foster, AG®

Presidential Message—Dying to Attend British Institute

“Marley was dead: to begin with.” Wait, wait. Wrong season. However, while it’s the wrong season, it’s the right topic. The theme of this edition of *British Connections* is death and dying. The closure of life can be a fascinating topic for genealogists and historians alike. We can study famous death quotes like English Nonconformist clergyman, Philip Henry, who started quoting 1 Corinthians 15:55, “Oh death, where is thy —” but died before being able to finish.¹ Or, Walter Raleigh’s final words shortly before being executed in the Old Palace Yard at the Palace of Westminster, “What dost thou fear? Strike, man, strike!”²

Of course, we can also discuss ways famous people have died. King Edmund Ironside, for example, was assassinated in 1016 while on the throne. Unfortunately for him, it was not the royal throne. It was the commode—a rather ignoble way for the illustrious noble to die. He was not alone, as King George II died in 1760, also while on the toilet. While articles will not be discussing a coup in the loo,³ this issue has some interesting and informative articles dealing with topics like death records, murder, and a mine disaster. So, pull up a chair or relax in a recliner, grab some snacks and a beverage, and read about death, dying, murder, and mayhem. And if you haven’t yet signed up for [British Institute](#), do so quickly. You’re running out of time.

1. Frederic Rowland, *The Last Words (Real and Traditional) of Distinguished Men and Women* (Troy, New York: C. A. Brewster & Co., 1900), 78.

2. *Ibid.*, 69.

3. I owe the use of that funny title to James Brigden, “The 8 Weirdest British Monarch Deaths in History,” *Sky History*, <https://www.history.co.uk/articles/weirdest-british-monarch-deaths-in-history>, accessed 15 August 2024.

On a much less depressing and certainly more lively topic than death and dying, I want to remind readers that we are quickly approaching [British Institute 2024](#). It's always an incredibly informative and genuinely fun experience. The classes being offered are superb. They include:

Jen Baldwin—Everyday Life in England:
A Journey Through Social History for
Genealogists

Annette Burke Lyttle and Steven W.
Morrison—Quakers in America, Ireland
and Britain

Helen Smith—Australian Genealogy
Unleashed: Finding the Lost in Australia

You will find more details about the classes online at the [ISBGFH website](#), where you can sign up. An added benefit to attending the classes in person is the opportunity to associate with fellow genealogists as you exchange research ideas and share stories. And, of course, another benefit is spending hours in the FamilySearch Library researching to your heart's content. We hope to see you in October in Salt Lake City.

Craig



From the Editor's Desk

Those Stories

Strangely suspicious biographies and family stories may spell more detective work for those of us who prefer to know the truth, but sadly, the information needed to prove or disprove a family story is often unavailable. Death records may be the exception. My family is infamous for telling creative stories about the ways in which people died—tall tales that bear no resemblance to official death records. Oddly, like a debunked social media post, these stories seem to create their own reality and hang on from generation to generation despite their obvious flaws—perhaps because they are more interesting than facts.

Which is more memorable—a story about a middle-aged ancestor who died of polio or a story about a young man who acquired a mysterious bacteria under his fingernails and died the following week? Easy!

Am I the only one who is a little bothered by the thought that inaccurate versions of my life and my family's lives will one day be on the lips of my descendants? I suspect this is already the case in discussions outside of my hearing, so why should I worry about things I can't control? On second thought, maybe I should write my own version before it's too late.

Write your own story, if you dare, but try to make it interesting enough to stick.

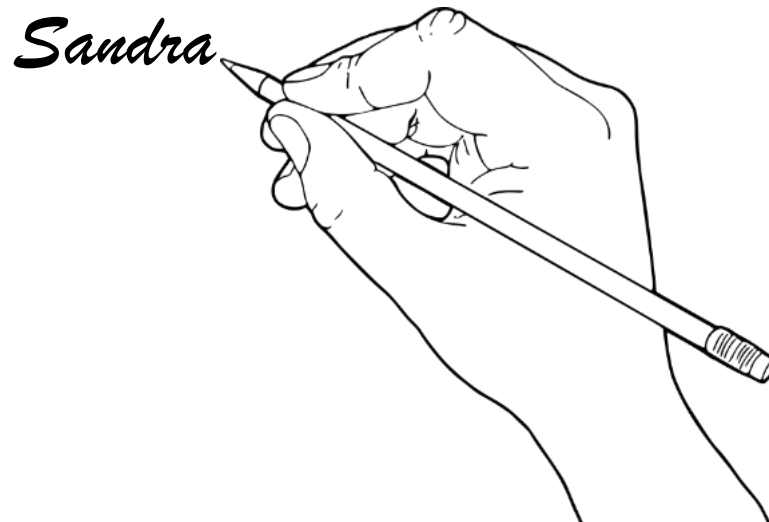
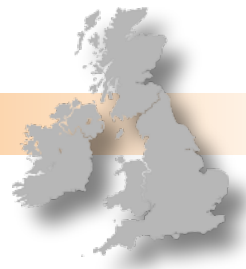


Image by GJD@Pixabay



Some of the 18 Hatchments restored and hung high on the upper wall of the aisle at St. Peter and St. Paul parish church, Lynsted, Kent (author's photo).

Explaining Funeral Hatchments

Have you wandered around an English parish church and seen large black lozenge-shaped frames, each with a coat of arms on it, hanging on the walls, or close to the ceiling, or in the tower, and wondered what they were? In reality, these days they could almost be anywhere in the church, even in the vestry or in storage. Or your parish may no longer have any. Today, if a church has one or more, they are usually briefly described in the guide

to the church. But rarely will they explain what they are and how they were used.

So, in this article, let's look at the purpose of funeral hatchments, how they were used, and their survival. We will provide a closer look at their design components and how they can be used for family history.

Historical Development

In the Middle Ages, in England, when a knight died, he would be laid out with his hatchment or achievement. That is, the shield, surcoat, sword, crested helm, and gauntlets. Only a few complete examples can be seen in churches. It should be noted that the helm, sometimes with the original crest, have survived in some churches.

As knights in armour disappeared from the English countryside, a way of acknowledging that the deceased (male or female) was from an armigerous family was needed.

In the first half of the seventeenth century, the custom was imported from Holland for painting the arms of the deceased onto a black board—more about the arms and the boards later. The custom spread rapidly. The board would be carried in the funeral procession as a mark that the deceased was from an armigerous family, i.e., entitled to the use of a coat of arms. After the funeral, the hatchment would be hung on the outside of the house, usually above or near the main doorway. It would hang for the full period of mourning, usually a year, after which it would be hung in the local church to which the family was connected. Sometimes at the time of the death, a duplicate hatchment was painted and hung in the church, which was in addition to the one to be hung on the house. There may be more than one hatchment for the death of the same individual when there was more than one house, say, one in town and one in the country. With multiple properties, surviving hatchments for the same person may be found in geographically dispersed churches.

The College of Arms claimed the right to marshall all funerals at which heraldry was displayed. In the early years, they provided the hatchments for the funerals. However, their exorbitant fees led to commercial painters supplying the hatchments at cheaper rates. The College of Arms sent their officers to many churches, tearing down hatchments produced by commercial artists. The College successfully brought lawsuits against the artists for infringing on their rights. Eventually, the College had to give way, and providing the hatchments became part of the duties of the local



Hatchment for an unmarried male. Roper arms—per fess azure and or a pale counterchanged three bucks heads erased or. Baron's coronet. Crest: A lion rampant sable holding a coronet or. Motto: Spes mea in Deo (My hope is in God) Supporters: Dexter a buck or, Sinister, a heraldic wolf regardant proper. All on a mantle gules and ermine. Probably for Philip, 9th Baron Teynham, died unmarried 13th June 1727; Henry 12th baron, died unmarried 10th January 1800; or John, 13th Baron, died unmarried 6th September 1824 (author's photo).

funeral undertaker. Large undertakers advertised this side of their business by displaying sample hatchments on their premises.

The fashion for funeral hatchments reached its zenith during the Georgian era, throughout the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, with its emphasis on pomp and display. Because the hatchments were on display for a year on the outside of residences, they would have been very common sight on houses in the more fashionable neighbourhoods of London.

The fashion for using hatchments was on the decline by the 1860s, but examples of their usage are known into the mid-twentieth century.

Survival

Over the centuries, there have been many hatchments created and used for the armigerous families around England. It is reasonable to assume that the earlier a hatchment was painted, the less will be the chance of its survival to the present day. See table of twenty-year periods (next page) for what has survived. One should assume that the figures for the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries should be raised to obtain a more accurate figure of their popularity. Some analysis



Hatchment for a deceased married female, survived by husband. Sinister background black. Sable on a fess or between three cats passant argent striped sable a cross formy between two crescents gules (Tyler) impaling Roper. Motto: Resurgam. Two cherubs heads above shield. For Betty Maria, daughter of Henry, 11th Baron Teynham, who married 1785, Francis Henry Tyler, of Lynsted Lodge, and died 1st March 1788 aged 26 (author's photo).

from records of hatchment painters suggest that between 1700 and 1900, over 100,000 were probably painted. Unfortunately for us, contrast this with the 4,831 known to have survived, approximately one in twenty.

Numbers of surviving hatchments by period, quoted in Titterton (p.17):

Period	No. Recorded
up to 1640	11
1641-1660	29
1661-1680	30
1681-1700	48
1701-1720	110
1721-1740	167
1741-1760	200
1761-1780	288
1781-1800	400
1801-1820	603
1821-1840	881
1841-1860	728

1861-1880	436
1881-1900	119
Post 1900	111

The most popular period was the 1830s, with 1837, the year of Queen Victoria's accession to the throne, being the most populous, with seventy-two having survived.

There are numerous reasons why the hatchments have not survived. These include fire, leaking church roofs, dampness, dry rot, and the death-watch beetle. Canvas is very susceptible to damp rot. Wooden hatchments or the frames to the canvas ones are susceptible to dry rot and beetles. Ironically, probably the leading cause of loss was the church restoration movement in the latter half of the nineteenth century, by which time hatchments were falling out of favour, and many of the connections with the heraldic families had or were disappearing. Plus, it did not fit with the current values of much of the Church of England at the time.

Upon finding a hatchment in a church, you can probably assume that there is some connection between the family and that parish church, so search for it. You cannot assume that the person is actually buried in that churchyard. For example, at Aldermaston in Berkshire, a parish of interest, as an incumbent minister was a relative, there are five hatchments to the Congreve family, only three of whom are buried there.

Survival seems to be better in rural rather than urban churches. Some towns have no surviving hatchments, even though they would have been expected, e.g., Bath and Cheltenham. The counties with the most surviving hatchments are Kent, Yorkshire, and Suffolk. They are rare in Scotland and Ireland.

Peter Summers began his survey of surviving hatchments in 1952, and the 10-volume record of the survey was published between 1974 and 1994. See Bibliography.

Hatchment Features

Size and Shape

Early in the seventeenth century, hatchments varied in size from 12 inches square to one *ell* square (one and a quarter yards square). Usually, they were painted on wood. With the progression of time into the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, two sizes became standard—one *ell* (yard and a quarter) and a yard and a half. Plus, there was a transition from painting on wood to painting on canvas with a black wooden frame.

The hatchments are square, with only a couple of known examples where the corners are not at right angles. The squares are always hung from one corner.

Marshalling

The marshalling of the achievement on a hatchment generally follows the normal rules of heraldry. This means that bachelors, husbands (wife surviving), and widowers displayed a shield with crest and mantling. For a wife (husband surviving) the arms are displayed upon a shield but surmounted by a lover's knot or cherub's head. Widows' and spinsters' arms were displayed on lozenges and again surmounted by a lover's knot or cherub's head.

The man's coat of arms is on the *dexter* side, while the wife's is on the *sinister* side. *Dexter* (Latin for right) indicates the right side of the shield, from the bearer's perspective, and the left from the viewers' perspective. *Sinister* (Latin for left) indicates the left side of the shield from the bearer's perspective, and the right from the viewers perspective.

During the late seventeenth century, multiple quarterings were very popular. After 1700, the majority are plain arms or quarterly of four. The most notable exception to these rules is the 1853



Outside of St. Peter and St. Paul parish Church, Lynsted, Kent the oldest part of which is thought to be part of the wall in the tower from 1180. It has features from the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, the chancel was rebuilt in the sixteenth century and it was restored in the nineteenth century (author's photo).

hatchment at Llanbedrog in Wales for Lt. Gen. Sir Love Parry Jones-Parry, which has 63 quarterings. This is illustrated in vol. 9 of *Hatchments in Britain*, page 70, with text description on pages 84–85. Have fun with that hatchment if he is on your family tree.

It needs to be pointed out that there are other ways of showing the coats of arms of wives, especially when there are multiple wives. These include smaller shields displayed with the arms of the husband marshalled with those of the wives, either in pretence or impaled. Good when there is more than two wives. The other method is to divide the shield per pale into three sections to accommodate the arms of the husband and his two wives. The process is reversed when an heiress has multiple husbands.

As might be expected in heraldry, there are numerous variations of relationships, all having an impact on the resulting coats of arms. Care is needed in studying the details.

Shape

The lozenge shape is characteristic of the hatchment. Think about carrying the square board or canvas in a procession. Carrying from one corner makes it easy to control. When mounted on the outside of a building, the shape is self-correcting in terms of its placement. If mounted as a square, it would regularly be askew.

Mottoes

The majority of hatchments have a motto written below the arms, though they occasionally appear above. Initially, the family motto was used. By 1700, this changed to a motto expressing a sentiment associated with death and life after death. The most common ones were *Resurgam*, *Mors Januae Vitae*, and *In Coelo Quis*. *Mors Januae Vitae* (Death is the gateway to life) was popular in the first half of the eighteenth century. It was soon pushed into second place by *In Coelo Quis*, which remained popular well into the 1800s. *Resurgam* increased in popularity from around 1780 and eventually become the most popular of the three. There is discussion of how to translate *Resurgam* as first person future, “I shall arise”, or the first person subjunctive, “Let me arise.” Generally, it is in the future tense. By the mid-1800s, the use of a death sentiment was decreasing, and by 1875, over seventy-five percent were using the family motto.

Crest

For men, crests used on hatchments follow the normal usage found on other heraldic achievements. The crest is placed above the arms and may be found crossing the division between a black-and-white background, if used. For women, the crest is replaced by a true lover’s knot or a cherub’s head.

Painting

Early in the seventeenth century, the hatchments were often painted by the College of Arms. These were expensive and fell out of favour, with people wanting cheaper options. Local painters took up the task. The service may have been provided by local undertakers or local coach builders. One major effect was that coats of arms are not always

accurate, including arms being for the wrong family member and incorrect colours being used.

Occasionally, a label with the name of the painter and date may be found on the back of the hatchment. Given the high-hanging placement in most churches, this will rarely be seen.

Accessing the Descriptions

By far the easiest way to learn if a hatchment exists for your ancestral lines is through the 10-volume set, *Hatchments in Britain*, edited by Peter Summers and John Titterton. The books are arranged geographically by county, then by parish, or location of institution, e.g., museum, in alphabetical order. The relevant counties are identified by volume in the bibliography. For each parish, any surviving hatchments are described in standard heraldic language. The description also usually identifies who the deceased person was, their spouses that may be shown on the hatchment, and when they died. There is a consolidated index to all the named individuals on the hatchments for each volume.

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2. Summers, P. G. “Hatchments” in *The Amateur Historian*, Autumn 1962, Vol. 5, No. 5, pp.146–150. Available <https://www.balh.org.uk/publication-tlh-the-amateur-historian-volume-5-number-5-autumn-1962>.
3. Titterton, John E. *The Development and Use of Hatchments: together with the Hatchments of Ireland and former British Colonies and Additions and Corrections to Volumes 1-8. Hatchments in Britain, Volume 10*. Chichester, West Sussex: Phillimore, 1994. Good description of design and use of funeral hatchments.

Other volumes in series edited by Peter Summers provide a catalog of known hatchments in respective counties.

- v.1 Northamptonshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire
- v.2 Norfolk, Suffolk
- v.3 Cumbria, Northumberland, Durham, Lancashire, Yorkshire
- v.4 Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Wiltshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire
- v.5 Kent, Surrey, Sussex
- v.6 Essex, Middlesex, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire
- v.7 Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Isle of Wight, Gloucestershire
- v.8 Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Cheshire, Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire
- v.9 Herefordshire, Shropshire, Wales, Monmouthshire, Scotland
- v.10 The Development and Use of Hatchments

When looking for information about specific hatchments, it is worth looking for the specific families and churches. These will usually give details on the families involved. Some examples follow.

- 4. Bolton, Margaret. "The Hatchments of St. Lawrence-in-Thamet." in *Bygone Kent*, Vol. 4, No. 11, November 1983, pp.671–675 (11 hatchments).
- 5. Dow, Leslie. "The Savage Hatchment at Long Melford" in *Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and Natural History*, Vol. 26, Pt. 3, 1955, pp.214–219 (Died 1635, one hatchment, with lots of quartering).
- 6. Redshaw, E.J. "The Spalding Hatchments" in *Coat of Arms*, Vol. IX, No. 66, April 1966, pp.60–65 (9 hatchments).

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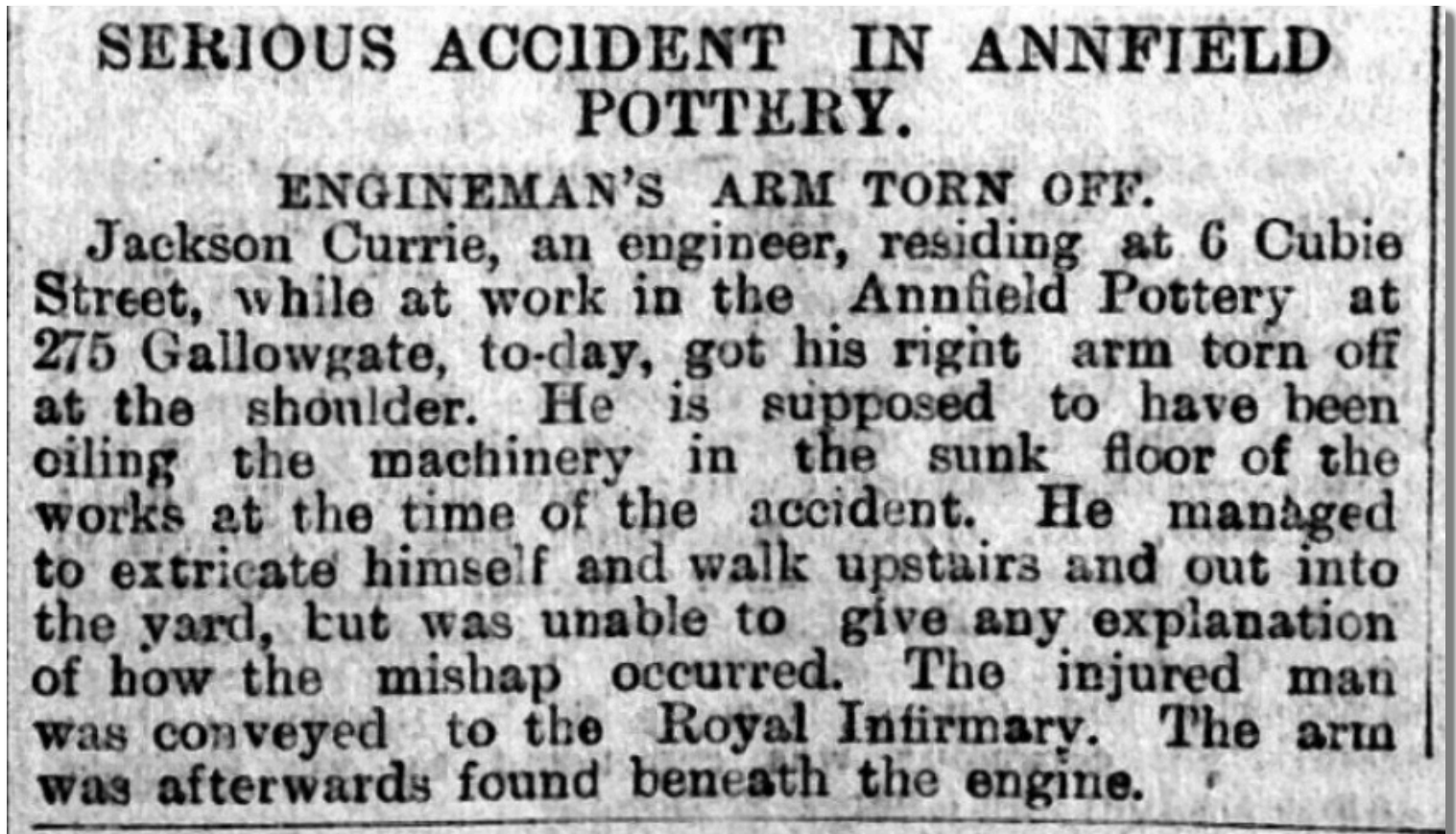
Paul is a recipient of UGA Fellow Award (2018) and the David S. Vogels Jr. Award from FGS (2019). He is the author of six publications providing how-to guidance for English and Scottish researchers.

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.





Scottish Death Entries



The Glasgow Evening Post of November 26, 1891 provides the gruesome details of Jackson's accident.

Scottish death records are by far the most detailed in the United Kingdom with regards to the information they carry. The records provide more genealogical information than their British equivalents, but in some cases, additional details can also be added to the records following the initial registration through a parallel documentary collection called the Register of Corrected Entries (RCE).

Civil registration of deaths started in Scotland in January 1855, and in the first year of registration, the registrars excelled in the details recorded. These include the name and occupation of the deceased, when and where he or she died (including the time of death), marital status and

name of the spouse, the names of both parents (including the mother's maiden surname), the father's occupation, the cause of death, the place of burial and the undertaker involved, and the names of any children born to the deceased, including their ages, and, if they died before 1855, their dates of death. This was a lot of information for the poor registrars to have to record, and from 1856 onwards, the details about the deceased's children were removed; details of the burial information remained in the records until 1860, at which point these too were removed. On the downside, the name of a spouse disappeared temporarily from the records between 1856 and 1860, although the marital status remained

1891 DEATHS in the District of Dennistoun in the County of Glasgow

No.	Name and Surname Rank or Profession, and whether Single, Married, or Widowed.	When and Where Died.	Sex	Age	Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father, Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Cause of Death, Duration of Disease, and Medical Attendant by whom certified.	Signature & Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Death occurred.	When and where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
1921	Jackson Currie	1891, November Twenty fifth	M	27	Robert Currie General Currie	Avulsion right arm at shoulder and compound fracture of left scapula - shock	Robert Currie Droghda	1891, November 27 at Glasgow
	longius received	at Royal Infirmary			W. J. Henderson	as certified by James Lusk M.D.		At Glasgow Registrar
	referred to	at Glasgow						
	Widow of Jackson Currie	at Glasgow						

Jackson Currie's death record from 1891, Dennistoun, Glasgow

documented. From 1967 onwards, the deceased's date of birth has very helpfully been recorded.

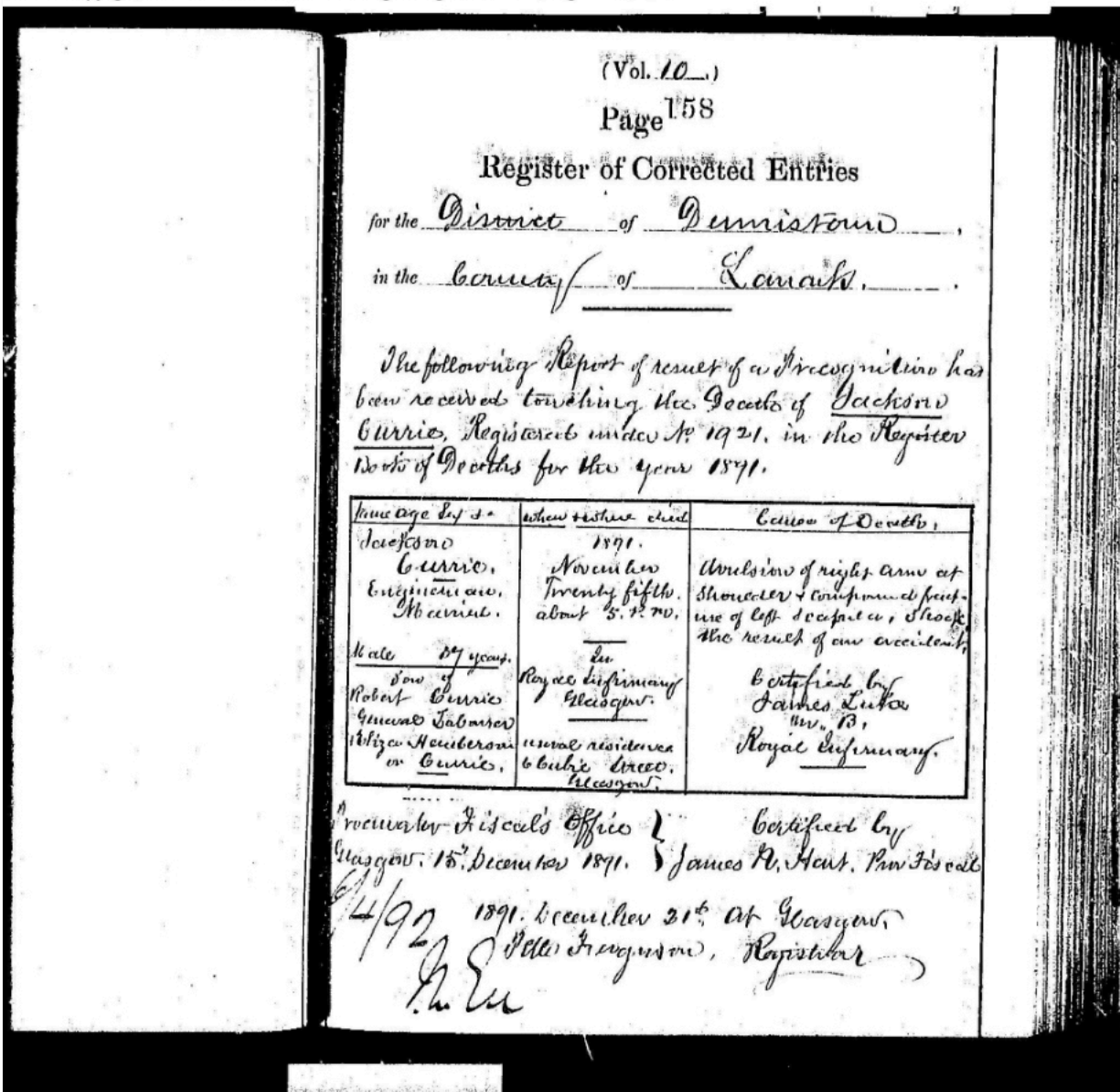
Scotland has no coroner system, unlike the rest of the UK, and in cases of suspicious or unusual deaths, the county's public prosecutor, known as the "procurator fiscal," was called in to make an investigation. In such cases, a preliminary cause of death may be noted in the death record, which can then be added to or amended in the parallel Register of Corrected Entries, a new form of register introduced in January 1860. Typical examples of where a fiscal may have made such an investigation include deaths due to violent or suspicious causes, deaths involving negligence, possible suicides, accidents, drownings, attempted abortions, poisonings, deaths related to infectious diseases, and deaths in legal custody. When such a record has been made, we are alerted to its existence by a margin note on the left side of the death entry, which details the relevant volume and page number to be consulted. Thankfully the records are free to consult on ScotlandsPeople (www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk) once the death record itself has been purchased, although the register cannot be searched as a database in its own right. Instead, a link will be found at the top of the page where the death record is presented, which will state "View 1st correction"—clicking on this takes a researcher to the relevant entry.

A good example lies with the record for the death of Jackson Currie in Glasgow on November 25, 1891, he being the brother of my great-great-grandfather,

Robert Currie, who acted as the informant to the registrar. Jackson had been noted in the record as a stationary engine driver, and the cause of death was noted to be "avulsion of right arm at shoulder and compound fracture of left scapula, shock." The left margin of the record noted that there was an additional entry in the RCE register, and upon its consultation the same cause of death was stated, with the words "the result of an accident" added. There are very few truisms when it comes to Scottish genealogy research, but one that stands up in most cases is that when the word "accident" is noted, we should head straight to the newspapers. In this case, an article was found in the British Newspaper Archive (www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk) in the *Glasgow Evening Post* of November 26, 1891, which stated the following:

**SERIOUS ACCIDENT IN ANNFIELD POTTERY
ENGINEMAN'S ARM TORN OFF**

Jackson Currie, an engineer, residing at 6 Cubie Street, while at work in the Annfield Pottery at 275 Gallowgate, today, got his right arm torn off right at the shoulder. He is supposed to have been oiling the machinery in the sunk floor of the works at the time of the accident. He managed to extricate himself and walk upstairs and out into the yard, but was unable to give any explanation of how the mishap occurred. The injured man was conveyed to the Royal Infirmary. The arm was afterwards found beneath the engine.



The RCE entry for Jackson's death highlights that it was due to an accident.

In some cases, the cause of death on the certificate may in fact remain blank if an active criminal investigation is ongoing, as can be seen in my article in the first quarterly edition of *British Connections* in 2022, which looked at the investigation into the murder of my 3rd great-grandmother Janet Rogers in Forgandenny, Perthshire, in March 1866. Whilst the cause of death was blank in the death certificate, the RCE entry noted that she died due to "Injuries inflicted on the head by someone unknown as certified by Drs. Laing, Bridge of Earn, and Absolon, Perth, who dissected body." This correction was only

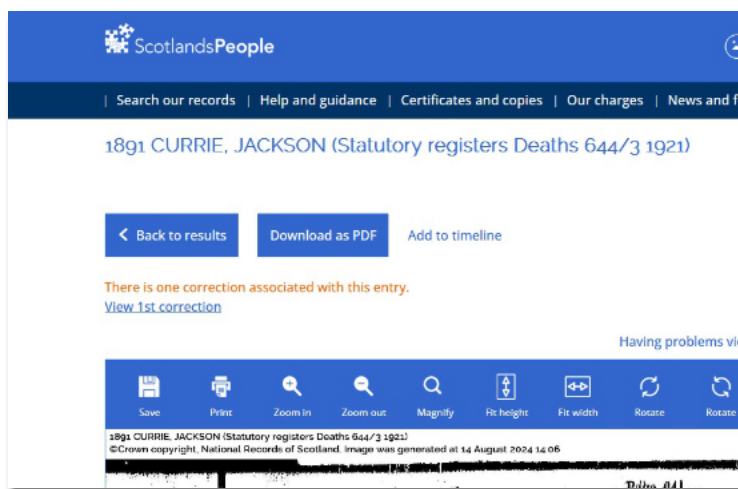
reported after the trial of a suspect in April 1867, the jury having returned a verdict of "non-proven."

An unusual case from 1865 Glasgow is cited in Ken Nisbet's publication, "The Register of Corrected Entries" (Scottish Genealogy Society, 2013), which notes two RCE entries recorded as a cause of the actions of one individual, a Dr. Edward William Pritchard. On February 25, 1865, Pritchard was the attending doctor who certified the death of his mother-in-law Janet Taylor, stating the death to have been caused by apoplexy and paralysis. A month later, on March 20, 1865, Pritchard further certified the death of his wife, Mary Jane Pritchard, noting the cause to be gastric fever. The authorities

were tipped off by an anonymous letter two days later that foul play was suspected. Both bodies were exhumed, and both were found to have been poisoned by antimony.

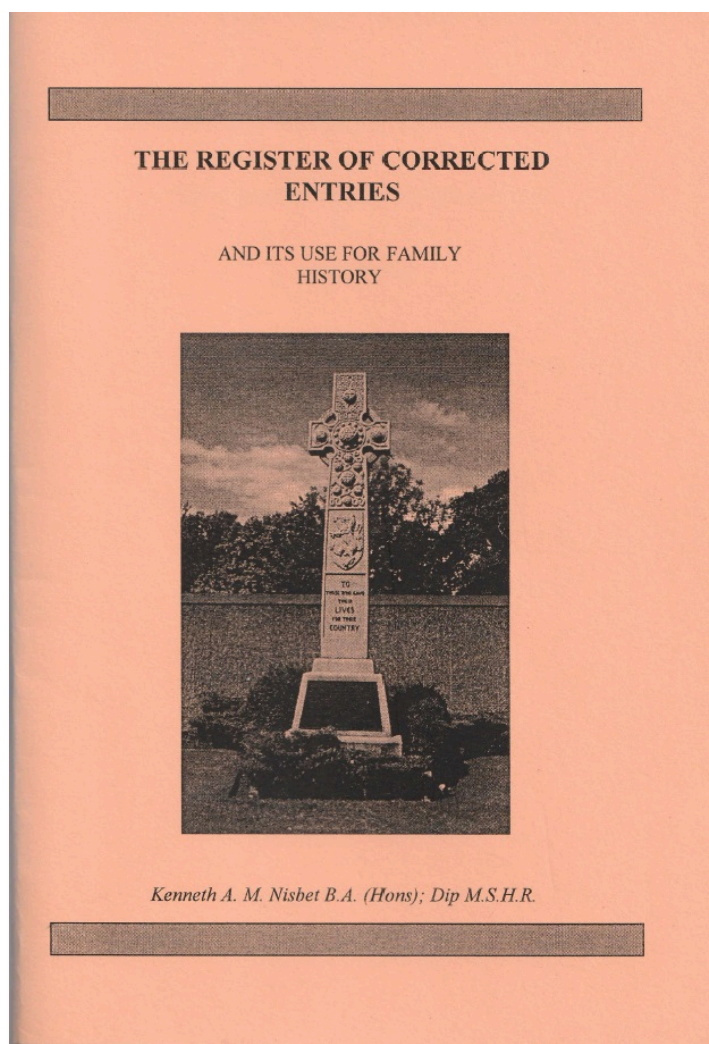
Pritchard was tried and found guilty of murder and was subsequently executed on July 28, 1865. RCE entries for both of his victims were then recorded in February 1866, noting that their causes of death were caused by “from Tartarised Antimony, Aconite & Opium, or one or more of them, or other poison.”

The Registers of Corrected Entries do not just apply to death entries; they can also be found for births and marriages, where they can be used to identify changes to the names of children after registration, the identities of fathers of illegitimate children taken through the courts in alimony cases,



Links to RCE entries will be found above the relevant death record at the top of the page; access is free.

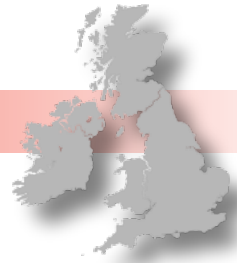
and registration for divorces, amongst other possibilities. The records should never be overlooked, for they may well transform a family story not immediately apparent from an initial registration.



Ken Nisbet's handy guide to RCE records is available from the Scottish Genealogy Society (www.scotsgenealogy.com).

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*.





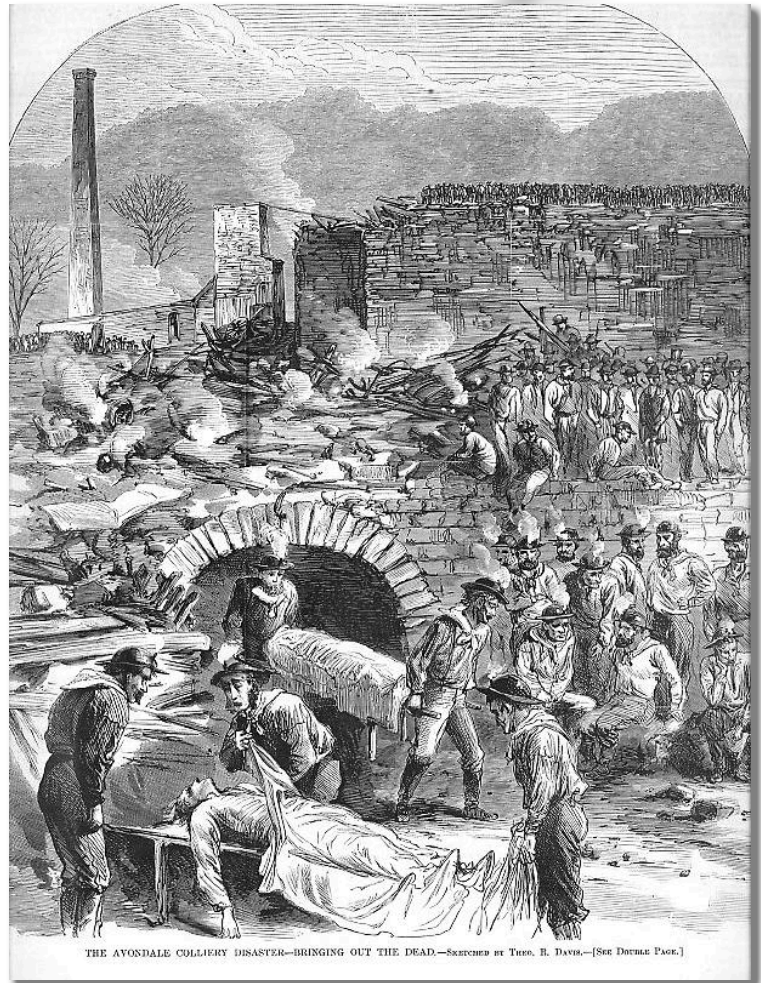
Eilir Ann Daniels

Foreign Fields that are Forever Wales: Welsh Graves in the US

The morning of September 6, 1869 dawned like a typical early autumn day for the residents of Plymouth township, Pennsylvania, as coal miners, many of them recent arrivals from Wales, travelled to their work in Avondale Colliery. Tensions had been running high during the summer when miners in some parts of the state had been striking for higher wages, but by the end of August, that strife was mostly behind them after they had accepted a new deal and had begun to return to work. However, while the future was looking more hopeful for the men who headed to Avondale that September morning, the journey for most of them that day would end in tragedy.

At 10:30 that morning, just a few hours into the shift, a fire broke out in one of the mine's furnaces, spreading along the wooden beams and planks used to buttress a shaft which, horrifically, served as the only exit route out of the pit. According to contemporary reports, the flames quickly turned into a raging inferno. Despite hundreds of people arriving at the site to take part in the rescue attempt, they were powerless to save the men who were trapped inside. Even after the fire had been doused, the toxic fumes that had accumulated made the situation dangerous for rescuers (and, indeed, claimed the lives of the first two volunteers). In total, 110 men died on that fateful day.

Many of the bodies were later taken by train to Scranton, accompanied by 4,000 people, to be buried in the city's Washburn Cemetery. One of



Avondale Mine Disaster. Harper's Weekly, 25 September 1869. Wikimedia, public domain, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Avondale_mine_disaster_dead.jpeg.

the miners laid to rest in that cemetery was a young Welsh man, Rees Lumley, who had only arrived in the US the previous year. Born in Dowlais, Merthyr Tydfil, around 1842, Rees's family had for many years toiled in different types of mines in different parts of Wales. The Lumleys were originally from rural Montgomeryshire (mid Wales), where many of the men worked in isolated lead mines of the Cambrian Mountains. Some, like Rees's grandfather, moved across the county border to



Chapels established by Welsh immigrants near to Avondale: Left: Welsh Presbyterian Church, Warrior Run (Postcard Collection, Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Wikimedia, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Warior_Run_PA_Welsh_Presby_PHS621.jpg). Right: Welsh Congregational Church, Shawnee Avenue, Plymouth, PA (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:PLYMOUTH_PA_-_1910_Welsh_Congregational_Church.jpg).

work in Cardiganshire's neighbouring lead mines, where they passed their mining skills down to their own sons. When the major coal mines of south Wales began to open in the nineteenth century, those skills were in great demand, and by the 1830s, Rees's father soon found himself at the centre of the Welsh Industrial Revolution, working in the coal pits that fed the insatiable furnaces of Merthyr Tydfil's ironworks. When he was still a young boy, Rees followed in his father's footsteps and began to work in the same mines.

Due to the particular nature of the district's geology and its coal seams, the South Wales Coalfield had the reputation at the time of being the most dangerous in the world. Miners and their families were under no illusion as to the perils the men and boys faced every day, for the threat of devastating accidents and explosions was ever-present. The hazards of a mining life formed an intrinsic part of life for Rees and his contemporaries in south Wales as they walked to work at the crack of dawn and spent most of the day underground in cramped, foul conditions, hewing the coal from the rocks for very low pay. Their wages did not represent the dangers

they faced and were always subject to a fluctuating economy.

Pay and work conditions were therefore permanent concerns, and they were the issues that primarily drove the waves of migration from this part of Wales to north America during the nineteenth century. Colliers were further motivated to make the move by advertisements placed in the Welsh press by US mine agents, and by the word-of-mouth recommendations of friends and families who had already ventured across the Atlantic.

Rees had married his wife, Ann Davies, in 1864, and three children, a boy and two girls, were soon born to them in Merthyr. The family, like most others in the town, were aware of the opportunities available for skilled miners in north America, and early in 1868, Rees made the decision, bought his ticket and sailed from Liverpool to New York on board the *City of Baltimore*, arriving there on 24 March 1868. As was often the custom, Rees travelled ahead of his wife and children to secure work and accommodation, but Ann was pregnant at the time and so she and the children did not sail to

the US until over a year later—they arrived in New York on 5 April 1869 on board *The Colorado*.

During the summer of 1869, the family were therefore only just starting to get to know their new country and to settle into their home located in the Turkey Hill district of Avondale. However, life would not have felt too strange as they would have heard Welsh spoken all around them, and they may well have attended one of the places of worship established by other Welsh people who had also only recently made the same move. Tragically, many of those people were to suffer the same devastating sorrow as Ann and her children in September.

All the men who died that day are named in the official accident report, which also includes some distressing descriptions of how they were found. Rees's entry states: "Rouse Lunley [sic], of Turkey Hill, head thrown back, and arms stiff above his head. Wife and three children."¹ He and most of the other victims were buried in Washburn Cemetery. Many of them, as well as a large number of their compatriots who were buried there before and after them, were first generation immigrants and had only lived in the US for a very short period of time—this is reflected by the fact that numerous gravestones have Welsh language inscriptions.

It is believed that Washburn is the largest Welsh cemetery in the USA, but it is, of course, not the only American cemetery that includes a large number of graves of interest to a Welsh genealogist. Countless headstones across the US point to the origins of those commemorated by them—the surnames, Welsh inscriptions and/or *englynion*² carved into the stones of course being the obvious clues.

Another notable Welsh cemetery is in Slateville, located in Delta, Pennsylvania. As the name implies, this community was a centre of the slate quarrying industry, and consequently attracted many experienced miners from the north Wales

slate belt. Their links to their mother country remained strong and are reflected on the headstones that commemorate them, as so many are written completely in Welsh, including the graves of Ellen, the wife of John D. Jones who died in 1888, and Jane, the wife of Thomas, J. Thomas who passed away in 1880 (pictured below).

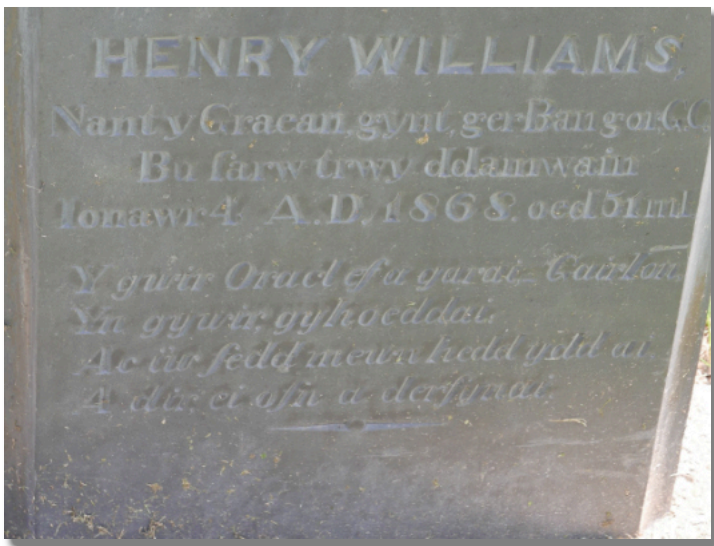


Slateville Cemetery. People's Collection Wales, <https://www.peoplescollection.wales/items/28157#?xywh=102%2C186%2C1118%2C516>.

Their tombstones don't directly enlighten us with regards to exactly where in Wales they were from originally, but some graves in this cemetery do. Take the headstone of Henry Williams (next page) who died on January 4, 1868, aged 51 years. It is again written in Welsh, and includes an *englyn*, but it also reveals he died as a result of an accident ("*Bu farw trwy ddamwain*"), and that he was originally from Nant y Graean near Bangor, North Wales—references which provide researchers with some useful clues that could lead to further searches, such as any accounts (potentially in the local newspapers) of the accident that may have befallen poor Henry, as well as information that could indicate Henry's origins and family back in Wales. Nant y Graean (also written as Nantygraean and Nantygraian) was a small farm, historically located in Llandygai parish not far from the slate-

1. The Avondale Mine Disaster, http://thomasgenweb.com/avondale_report3.html.

2. Englyn (plural "englynion") – a traditional type of Welsh short poem made up of a quatrain and specific syllable counts and rhymes, seen widely on gravestones.



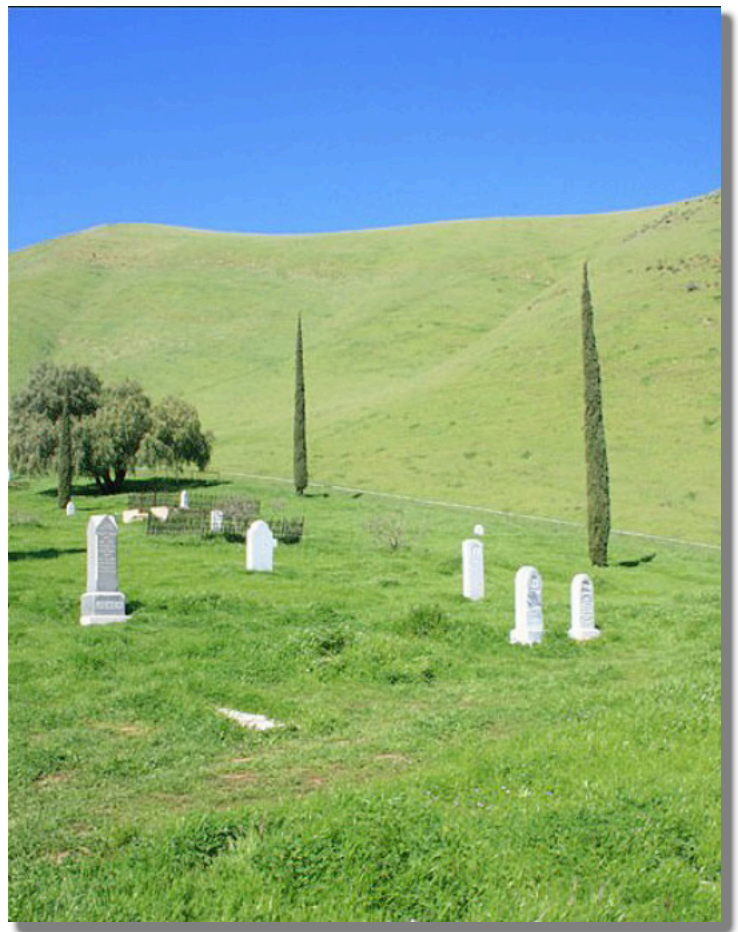
Henry Williams's grave. Source: People's Collection Wales. <https://www.peoplescollection.wales/items/604291#?xywh=-281%2C-1%2C2966%2C1806&cv>

mining town of Bethesda in the old county of Caernarvonshire in north Wales.

States such as Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Vermont include many such graves, which is unsurprising given how so many Welsh people settled in those places due to the coal, slate, and metal-smelting industries. But look further afield, and you'll find tucked away in different parts of the US headstones that help narrate the stories of Welsh families who ventured to destinations that are perhaps slightly less well-known back in Wales, but which nevertheless still retain not insignificant traces of links with the old country.

As their names imply, the Welsh Pioneer Cemeteries in Johnson and Clay Counties, Iowa, include the final resting places of those whose origins lay in Wales. There you'll find the surnames Bowen, Davies, Evans, Williams, Jones, and Roberts, among many other Welsh surnames carved into the gravestones, commemorating those who had ventured to America in search of the chance to own their own land and farms.

Other mid-western states also attracted Welsh families in search of their own land, in particular after the economic hardships back in Wales during the 1840s. Many of those farming families headed to the Blue Earth and Le Sueur counties of Minnesota, where some established a Welsh



Rose Hill Cemetery, Antioch, California. Heather Grimes, Wikimedia, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rose_Hill_Cemetery.jpeg.

settlement in South Bend. These pioneers and their children soon built over a dozen chapels, where Welsh was the language of worship. Hardly any trace of many of the original small chapels can be seen today, but some of the early settlers' gravestones remain and serve to remind us of the contributions made by them to this state's history. One of their main resting places is Elim Welsh Cemetery in Ottawa Township, Le Sueur County. Here lie whole families of Welsh settlers, including Edward and Anne Evans and nine of their adult children who had left Wales and their farm in Pennant near Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant (on the Denbighshire-Montgomeryshire border) in 1850, living first in Ohio before eventually settling in Minnesota.

Emporia, Lyon County, Kansas, was another destination for many immigrants from mid Wales, and it was that community's Lower and Upper Dry Creek Cemeteries (the former now known as

Evergreen Cemetery, the latter as Greenwood Cemetery) that became their final resting places. Margaret Jones, who was born in south Wales in 1808 and was the wife of one of the first elders of Emporia's Presbyterian church, was the first Welsh settler to be buried there in 1862.

Travel even further west and you'll find other settlements where a notable number of Welsh immigrants made their homes, often having first lived in the industrial centres of Pennsylvania and Ohio before venturing to new coal mining communities in California and Washington state. Today, many of those places are ghost towns where the solitary graves of past residents are silent epitaphs to once-bustling mining communities. The sister towns of Nortonville and Somersville in Antioch, California, are two such abandoned settlements, where the families of workers from the Black Diamond Mines lived. Rose Hill Cemetery was the final resting place of many of them, including Meredith Lewis, who was born in Dyserth, north Wales, in 1838, and who, along with at least three other Welshmen, was killed in an explosion in the mine in July 1876. A few years later, over 100 Nortonville residents of Welsh origin relocated to Washington state, where "these hardy Welsh people [came] to settle and make this area 'The best town on the map'"³—in order to work in another of the Black Diamond Coal Company's mines.

Over 200 people with links to Wales are buried in Black Diamond Cemetery, but they represent just a fraction of the countless numbers of families whose final resting places in the US will forever remind us of their stories and the journeys they made across the Atlantic from their birthplaces in Wales.

Sources

The Avondale Mine Disaster, http://thomasgenweb.com/avondale_report.html.

Findagrave.com:

1. Black Diamond Cemetery, King County,

3. Black Diamond History, <https://blackdiamondhistory.wordpress.com/2011/05/22/those-who-came-first-welsh-pioneers-of-black-diamond/>

Washington, <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/76714/black-diamond-cemetery>.

2. Elim Welsh Cemetery, Ottawa Township, Le Sueur County, Minnesota, <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/82212/elim-welsh-cemetery>.

3. Evergreen Cemetery, Emporia, Lyon County, Kansas, <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/92393/evergreen-cemetery>.

4. Rose Hill Cemetery, Antioch, Contra Costa County, California, <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/8307/rose-hill-cemetery>.

"The Welsh Settlements in Minnesota: The Evidence of the Churches in Blue Earth and Le Sueur Counties", Phillips G. Davies, *Welsh History Review*, vol. 13, nos. 1-4, 1986-87, pp. 1–154.

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.



Paul Nixon

Commemoration in the First World War: A Snapshot

Over the years, people have often asked me about the chance of finding a photograph of their First World War ancestor. It's an almost impossible question to answer, but from my experience, the odds are definitely improved if your ancestor was an officer who attended a public school and gave his life for King and country, particularly if that sacrifice happened in the first five months of the war.

After Lieutenant Claude Norman Champion de Crespigny was killed in action on the 1st September 1914, his death was widely reported. A quick search on the British Newspaper Archive reveals 95 articles for September 1914 alone, including portraits of him published in *The Gentlewoman*, *The Illustrated London News*, *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, *The Sketch*, *The Sphere*, *The Tatler* and numerous regional publications.

Lieutenant Champion de Crespigny, who was a serving officer with the 2nd Dragoon Guards, was one of the few soldiers in the First World War whose body was exhumed from the battlefield where he fell and brought back to England. He was interred in the family mausoleum at Champion Lodge—now Totham Lodge—at Great Totham, near Maldon in Essex and he is also



LIEUTENANT CLAUDE NORMAN CHAMPION DE CRESPIGNY, 2nd DRAGOON GUARDS (QUEEN'S BAYS), was born at Southsea on the 14th June, 1888, the fifth son of Sir Claude Champion de Crespigny, Bart., and Lady Champion de Crespigny. He was educated at Hawtrey's, where he was the swimming champion; Cheltenham College, where he won the quarter-mile under sixteen; and the R.M.C., Sandhurst. At the latter he won the saddle, and was a representative of the College in Athletics v. Woolwich.

DeRuvigny—Champion de Crespigny. Findmypast. Used with permission.

commemorated at the parish church in Hatfield Peverel, Essex. Obituaries would also later be published in Volume 1 of *The Bond of Sacrifice* and the *Marquis De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour*, both of which will be very familiar to First World War researchers.

DAY, REGINALD CHARLES WILLIAM, Canteen Assistant, H.M.S. Aboukir ; lost in action in the North Sea, 22 Sept. 1914.

DAY, THOMAS, S.P.O. (R.F.R., B. 7958), 292498, H.M.S. Hawke ; lost when that ship was torpedoed in the North Sea, 15 Oct. 1914.

DAYSH, FREDERICK ARTHUR GEORGE, Private, No. 8989, 1st Battn. Coldstream Guards ; served with the Expeditionary Force in France ; reported missing, 14 Sept. 1914.

DEACON, STANLEY DOUGLAS, Gunner, Immed. Class, R.M.A. (R.F.R., 37), 9576, H.M.S. Good Hope ; lost in action off Coronel, on the coast of Chili, 1 Nov. 1914.

Findmypast, used with permission.

As well as being a patriot, the Marquis de Ruvigny was also a businessman. The 27,000 obituaries, many published with photos, were paid for by grieving relatives and would ultimately fill five volumes. Here you'll find aristocrats like Champion de Crespigny but also ordinary men. These four men—a canteen assistant, a petty officer, a private, and a gunner—all share the same page as Claude Champion de Crespigny, as does Lieutenant Maurice James Dease of the 4th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, another well-documented soldier and one of the earliest recipients of the Victoria Cross during the First World War.

Like the Marquis De Ruvigny, editor and publisher Stanley Southey also saw an opportunity to tap into public grief and make some money whilst doing so. In September 1915, *The Truth* periodical reported,

Amongst the contents of the letter-boxes of those who have lost relatives in the war, circulars requesting biographical details of the deceased officer for publication in various Rolls of Honour invariably appear. One of these is issued by Stanley Southey, Heathfield Cottage, Keeton, Kent. He has in preparation a "British Roll of Honour," and he informs the bereaved widow or mother that the obligation rests seriously upon us to see that our children and children's children may adequately appreciate the price paid by their own kith and kin in readily devoting their lives to the great cause of Civilised Freedom; so for their sakes and our own solace after the war, it is of great importance that each may be able permanently to preserve in our own homes this British Roll of Honour so precious.

The 'obligation' is accentuated in a circular, where the information is vouchsafed that the production of the book will be 'costly.' Accompanying this is a form to fill up with personal particulars and concluding with a request for a statement of the number of copies of the volume required.

I do not know who Southey may be, but he makes up in impudence what he lacks in good taste. The publication of his 'so precious' Roll of Honour is, I presume, a commercial speculation, and there is certainly no obligation upon any one, least of all upon those bereaved by the war, to place in Southey's hands an order which will enable him to charge what he likes for the book when it is published.

As it transpired, Stanley Southey's British Roll of Honour would retail at five guineas and would run to multiple volumes. Today, the books are still costly, and it is not clear, ultimately, how many volumes were published. I read somewhere that thirteen separate volumes were published but this is probably a best guess. I have nine volumes on my shelves, beautifully published and seemingly printed on demand. Nevertheless, *The Truth* continued its attack. In November 1915, a second article appeared:

I called attention last September to the impudent circulars sent out by Stanley Southey, Heathfield Cottage, Keston, Kent, to the relatives of deceased officers asking for biographical particulars for a 'Roll of Honour' he is compiling and enclosing an order form for the work when published, which would

leave him free to charge what he liked. I find now that Southey is applying to the executors of deceased officers care of Messrs Cox and Co, asking for the names and addresses of the nearest relative. He states that he has found ‘this little attention and precaution have been much appreciated by the bereaved.’ Some simple folk might be flattered by Southey’s little attentions, but I should hope that executors generally would consider it their duty to protect the bereaved from biographers of this type.

Not all people shared this view, however. On Christmas Day 1915, the *Buckingham Advertiser* wrote,

We have had the privilege of seeing a volume of ‘The Roll of Honour of the Empire’s Heroes’ (Stanley Southey), which is a large handsome book. It contains excellent photographs of heroes and also most interesting biographies printed on glazed paper in the best possible style, with gold edges and bound in calf and purple cloth.

It is difficult to know when the various volumes were published. The volume cited by the *Buckingham Advertiser* is probably the earliest, and it cites the obituary of Captain Beverley Ussher of the Leinster Regiment, who was killed in action in June 1915. I have this particular volume—which also, incidentally, includes an entry for Lieutenant Claude Champion de Crespigny—my book being inscribed, “S J Charles from J H C Christmas 1915.” Research reveals that J H C was the Reverend James Hamilton Charles, the father of Second Lieutenant James Arthur Merriman Charles, who features in this particular volume. He received a bullet wound to his head in October 1914 and died in King Edward VII’s Hospital for Officers on the 10th February 1915. It must have been an agonising time for all concerned.

As well as appearing in Stanley Southey’s volume, Lieutenant Charles also appears in De Ruvigny’s *Roll of Honour, The Bond of Sacrifice* Vol I, and Volume I of the six-volume *Harrow Memorials of the Great War* which commemorates the 516 Harrovians who died in the First World War. His

portrait as a schoolboy at Harrow, is included in Findmypast’s small Harrow collection.

Southey’s various volumes are unpaginated and give no date of publication, although they appear to have been published between 1915 and 1919. I particularly like those volumes, such as the one I mention above, which can be attributed to particular soldiers. The volumes in my collection were purchased from booksellers as far afield as Canada and South Africa, with the latter volume including an extensive archive of material for Lieutenant Alfred Newsam Ella, a young victim of the 1918 influenza pandemic who died of double pneumonia in Salonika, exactly a week after the Armistice on the 18th November 1918. Southey devotes a little over two pages to him, but the personal archive, kept by Alfred’s mother, includes a lot of additional detail, including photos of his freshly dug grave, *In memoriam* notices from Dale College in South Africa, and a programme for a 1928 pilgrimage to Gallipoli and South Africa. There are also several postcards written by Lieutenant Ella to his mother.

Another Southey volume of mine, which contains the entry for Second Lieutenant Richard de Beauvoir de Lisle of the 97th Infantry, Indian Army was originally purchased by his mother and presented to Elizabeth College Library, Guernsey, where her son had been educated. He would be killed in action on the 21st January 1916. Elizabeth College appears to have held onto the book until 2010, when it was withdrawn, and I snapped it up from an antiquarian bookseller last year.

A third Southey volume in my collection was owned by Charles Vesey Macdonald Temple, father of Lieutenant Claude Castlemain Temple of the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles who was killed in action on the Somme in October 1916. A full-length portrait photograph has been pasted onto the endpaper of this particular volume, accompanied by a small biography. Meanwhile, on the front endpapers of the book, Temple senior wrote,

This book ‘Roll of Honour’ is a gift to my family from their affectionate father C V M Temple to be handed down from father to son in memory of my beloved

son Claude Castlemaine Temple, who fell in action at Hessar Trench opposite Regina Trench on the 2nd of October 1916; lieutenant in the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles Battalion, 3rd Division, 3rd BEF Brigade, France. Toronto 22nd June 1918.

Adding a further note on the title page, he wrote,

I donate this book to my dear son Arthur Maxwell Lyle Temple as a token of love and affection, this day 18th September 1920 and hope he will value it on account of his dear brother Claude who was killed in action.

I hope he valued it too, but at some point, perhaps many decades down the line, the book found its way out of the family and into my hands.

I suspect that Stanley Southey did rather well out of his enterprise, and today, the books are uncommon and generally difficult to get hold of. Building a complete collection is probably a hopeless task, as my own research suggests that each published volume could well be unique. For instance, I have two volumes on my shelf, which both begin and end with the same soldiers but contain unique entries. I would be interested in hearing from anyone who has a volume in their own collection so that we can compare notes!

A five-guinea book would have been out of reach for the majority of bereaved families, and this was certainly the case for Ellen Wickens, who had *in memoriam* cards printed for two of her sons when they were killed in action on consecutive days in 1916. She also responded to the newly formed Imperial War Museum when it appealed for photos for its Bond of Sacrifice collection in 1917, sending a studio photo of each of them. Ellen obviously had several copies of each photo printed, as I also have copies of each, purchased with other related ephemera a few years ago. Two of the photos she cut up, placing a head-and-shoulders crop of each brother in a double-sided gold locket, which she wore on a gold chain.

58360 Gnr Walter Charles Wickens of 107 Battery, XXIII Bde, Royal Field Artillery, was killed in action on the Somme on the 12th July 1916. "Charlie," to his friends and family, was a time-expired soldier

when he re-enlisted in November 1914. He arrived overseas in France on the 15th December 1915, and he was killed when a round exploded prematurely, with the same explosion also wounding a sergeant. Later, a lieutenant from 107 Battery wrote to Ellen Wickens. "Your son was very popular with his detachment and well thought of by his section officer."

G/1868 Corporal Herbert Henry Wickens of the 7th Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was killed in action on the Somme on the 13th July 1916, the day after his brother. On Friday 28th July 1916, the *Kent and Sussex Courier* reported,

Mrs J Wickens, who has three sons in the Army, received the sad news on Friday [21st July] that her youngest one (Herbert) was killed on the 13th inst, and this was followed upon Saturday morning that



Charlie Wickens, Imperial War Museum.

her second boy (Charles) had also been killed in action on the day after [sic].

Herbert Wickens was 29 years old and had joined the Buffs in September 1914. He had returned home on leave two months earlier, according to the newspaper, and was killed when he was struck in the throat by a piece of shrapnel as the battalion struggled to prize Trones Wood from enemy hands.

Herbert is buried in the London Cemetery and Extension at Longueval, and both he and Charlie are buried in Carnoy Military Cemetery. Both men are commemorated on the war memorial at Hawkhurst in Kent, the village where they had been born and grew up.

Ellen Wickens died on the 7th February 1920. She was 73. *The Kent and Sussex Courier* reported that

The death occurred somewhat suddenly on Saturday afternoon last, at her house in Station Road. Mrs. Wickens lost two sons killed in the war, the blow being so severe that she never seemed to recover from it.

Even though so many years have passed, when you read articles like these, or when you view a hand-written inscription in a memorial volume in memory of a dead son, the anguish is still tangible.



Herbert Henry Wickens, Imperial War Museum.

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/>.





Graveyard by Bibury Court in Cirencester, England, image by Ivan Drazic@Pixabay

England: Churchyards, Cemeteries, and Monumental Inscriptions

Claire V. Brisson-Banks BS, MLIS, AG®

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When looking for information concerning the death records of our ancestors in England, you will notice that multiple records are available. Some of them may actually be online in various locations. However, if you are unaware of even where to begin, you may get discouraged and give up. As a professional who has been led down the wrong path and wanted to give up, I ask you to please note that giving up never really helps. A better suggestion is that if you don't find your answer the first, second, or one-hundredth time looking, take a break and come back, as there are always new records that come to the surface that weren't there before.

First, understand that tombstones are called Monumental Inscriptions (MI).¹ Long before the Internet was conceived and gave us information at our fingertips, societies, associations, and organizations were formed to help genealogists find their ancestors. These groups still exist today, but they have adapted to the newer way of handling these situations. As time went on in the many parish registers, individual parish members noticed that some of the monumental inscriptions began to decay and were slowly becoming unreadable. Thus began the many groups that exist today as a way of preserving those records.

1. Monumental inscription, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monumental_inscription, Rev. 9 June 2022.

While ancestors may be recorded in the parish burial records, some may not be there, so local UK genealogical societies took on the task of recording all the tombstones. The first batch went up to 1850 and included a lot of churchyards.

The next batch ended with 1900, and volunteers began the recording process by hand, each with a small pad and pencil, but now it is done by laptop. This activity spread into Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. These record books, which were originally handwritten, were produced by each society in typed, printed book form to raise money. Eventually, the Genealogical Society of Utah copied them onto microfiche, and many of the societies sold them on CDs. Some became available online, while others were only available through individual societies. Therefore, it is important to know that these books exist. You can locate a genealogical society for the area of your ancestors by using [Genuki.org.uk](https://www.genuki.org.uk), which will tell you all the existing societies; you can also locate them by researching online in that area.² These types of records often help when all hope is lost.

When looking for records online, a simple entry like “England’s Churchyard Monumental Inscriptions” could lead you to what you are looking for, and this is a great place to start—a search on Google.com will bring up a list of places to start investigating. Of course, if you know where your family comes from, you could add that in the entry. Either way, checking out the results could lead you to stop for dinner.

Of course, there is always the chance that the tombstones are located on [FindAGrave.com](https://www.findagrave.com).³ I conducted a search for England’s Churchyard

Monumental Inscriptions in Cambridgeshire, as many of my husband’s family lived there, and many are still living there. Clicking on this link brought me to St. Clement’s Churchyard, where only 65 memorials have been completed. While this is not a lot, in a couple of years, it could be 500 memorials! FamilySearch should have a copy of the parish registers, and you could also search the burial records before July 1, 1837, when civil registration began. However, some parish records may be available later than that, but not that many. There is a link to search all of the parish registers for Cambridgeshire from 1538–1983.⁴ It is possible that these types of searches are set up similarly for other English counties.

Another location to search is [DeceasedOnline.com](https://www.deceasedonline.com).⁵ This is similar to [FindAGrave](https://www.findagrave.com), but there is a fee. Here, you can search the index to ensure they are listed and pay a small fee to view the whole entry. [BillionGraves.com](https://www.billiongraves.com) is another similar site that charges a small fee for a full search.⁶ Both FindAGrave and BillionGraves are included in the FamilySearch search index, which makes it easy to locate a family member if using their index.⁷ This cemetery (index) is under “Search” and is the last item on the search drop menu. So, when you get to this webpage, type in “England” and click on “Search.” All of the available websites they are plugged into will appear. There is also a My Relatives section, which you may click through to find someone on your tree. This is new, so I’m sure it will grow.

Another place to help you is the FamilySearch Wiki, which is also available from this same dropdown—it is the entry above cemeteries. Once you are on the Wiki page, type in England, and

2. Genuki, database with images (<https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng>: accessed 15 August 2024).

3. *FindAGrave*, database with images (<https://www.findagrave.com>: accessed 15 August 2024).

4. “England, Cambridge Parish Registers, 1538–1983,” database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org>: 15 August 2024). Citing multiple dioceses, parishes, and churches of Cambridgeshire, England.

5. Deceasedonline, database with images (<https://www.deceasedonline.com>: accessed 15 August 2024).

6. *Billiongraves*, database with images (<https://www.billiongraves.com>: accessed 15 August 2024).

7. *FamilySearch*, database with images (<https://www.familysearch.org>: accessed 15 August 2024).

when it brings up England, click “Cemeteries” on the right.⁸ Here there are multiple links to various locations that will help you research cemeteries. MyHeritage.com has a burial and cremation index from 1840–2014.⁹ Ancestry.com has “England and Scotland, Select Cemetery Registers, 1800–2024.”¹⁰ There are many links here to guide you with your research.

If your ancestors fought in the war, the Commonwealth War Graves will help you at <https://www.cwgc.org/>.¹¹ Here, you can enter a person’s name, and if they are buried in any of the many cemeteries around, you can find the information you need. There are multiple locations for you to find data that can lead you to find additional information in your quest to locate ancestors in England’s cemeteries. Note that civil death registration is available in multiple locations, some of which are listed already.¹² You can also find this area has multiple locations for these records, including the General Register Office in England. Note that death records will not give you the parents—only birth records have that information on them if it was given when registering an individual’s birth. All births, deaths, and marriages must be registered within 30 days. Of course, it took time for people to comply. Parish registers can help, too, if needed, as many are available online; some are not, but check for them to see if you can review them yourself.

There are many websites today that can help you. Cyndislist.com and EnglandGenWeb.org are two that are often overlooked. Cyndislist.com was started in 1996, and founder Cyndi Ingle still maintains it.¹³ Her England cemeteries and funerals page contains multiple links: <https://www.cyndislist.com/uk/eng/cemeteries/>. Another place to look is EnglandGenWeb.org, which Dale Schneider began in 1996 as a way to answer the ever-growing needs of genealogists worldwide who were researching their ancestors.¹⁴ You will find things like “British Strays buried in Canada,” “Pioneer Cemetery UK Strays,” or “Yukon Obits – UK strays,” and all are free. There are other things there, so look around; you may or may not find what you are looking for, but looking is always worth a chance.

Lastly, on FamilySearch.org, there is a grave series called England Records Beyond the Grave, Parts 1–8, taught by Raymond Naisbitt, M.Ed., AG®.¹⁵ It is a short series, but it is worth taking the time to watch it. You might also join the society your ancestors are from; the list of them is found at Genuki.org.uk, as mentioned before in this article. Not only are you supporting an organization, but their help is there when you need it, and they are always adding to their collections and providing resources for their members.

Happy hunting!

8. *FamilySearch*, database with images (https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/England_Cemeteries: accessed 15 Aug 2024).

9. *MyHeritage*, database with images (<https://www.myheritage.com/research/collection-10548/united-kingdom-select-burial-cremation-index-1840-2014?s=275764761>: accessed 15 Aug 2024).

10. *Ancestry*, database with images (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/9041/>: accessed 15 Aug 2024).

11. *Commonwealth War Graves Commission*, database with images (<https://www.cwgc.org/visit-us/find-cemeteries-memorials>: accessed 15 Aug 2024).

12. *FamilySearch*, database with images (https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/England_Civil_Registration#Deaths: accessed 15 Aug 2024).

13. Cyndislist, database with images (<https://www.cyndislist.com/uk/eng/cemeteries/>: accessed 15 Aug 2024).

14. EnglandGenWeb, database with images (<https://www.EnglandGenWeb.org/index.php>: accessed 15 Aug 2024).

15. Raymond Naisbitt, England Records Beyond the Grave, Parts 1 - 8, FamilySearch.org.



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