

Family DM

The Jefcoates of West Ham

Page

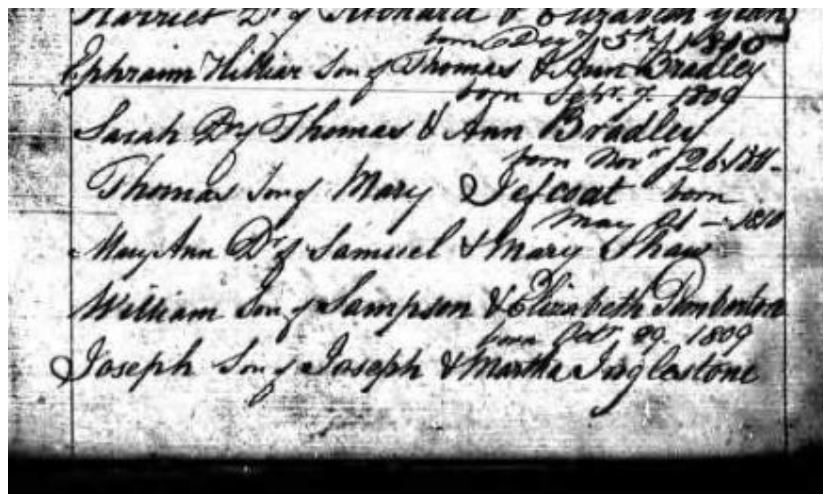
6.DM.1 Introduction

6.DM.3 A change of identity?

The Family Tree - (see the gedcom tree from the home page link)

Introduction

This family came to our attention whilst searching the census, a family that did not seem to fit in with any other. As we followed the generations back we came to a stop when we discovered the baptism of Thomas Jefcoate in 1812 at St Philips parish church in Birmingham, with his mother named as Mary Jefcoate, but no father mentioned. We therefore assume that she was a single woman. We cannot determine which family she came from.



Thomas grew up in Birmingham, appears to have got married to a girl named Rebecca, who was born in Loughborough (according to the census), and, between them, they founded a small dynasty. There is another story here that belongs to another family, family AF/AI. We could not find a marriage between Thomas and Rebecca. Looking at the GRO records, the mother's maiden name for all of their children was Jefcoat, same as the father's surname. Odd? As it turns out, Rebecca's parents were William (a boatbuilder) and Mary Jefcoate, née Newton. Not so unusual, as we have several other similar cases of same surname Jephcott/Jeffcoat marriages. However, there was a twist with this one. Thomas was not married to Rebecca. Rebecca was married to a cuckold by the name of John Stroud, so she was unable to marry Thomas. You will need to look at family AF/AI for more details.

By 1888, the Jefcoates (William and his brother George Henry and their families) had arrived in London. Mary's great grandchild William Jefcoate, a brassfounder, and his two wives raised their family in Canning Town, West Ham, Edmonton, etc. One of their sons, Frank Herbert, emigrated to the USA. His declaration of intention is shown on the next page.

No living Jefcoates descendants are known from this family.

As the family didn't start with a male Jefcoate, the DNA is broken. Another family mystery to add to our collection.

Over the years we have discovered many illegitimate births, where the name of the father is unknown. In the 21st century, it is quite normal, thus presenting an impossible task to family historians. Perhaps DNA testing will be the only answer!

No. 354379

ORIGINAL
(To be retained by clerk) of

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

(Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof)

STATE OF NEW YORK In the DISTRICT Court
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK of UNITED STATES NEW YORK, N. Y. at

I, FRANK JEFCOATE
 now residing at 167 E. 82nd St. New York, New York, NY
 occupation domestic service, aged 33 years, do declare on oath that my personal description is:
 Sex male, color white, complexion fair, color of eyes brown
 color of hair brown, height 5 feet 11 inches; weight 140 pounds; visible distinctive marks
birth mark on right cheek
 Language English; nationality British
 I was born in London, England on April 17, 1903
 I am married. The name of my wife or husband is Aine
 we were married on June 1, 1933 at New York NY; she or he was
 born at Stockholm, Sweden on March 23, 1903, entered the United States
 at New York NY on 1903 on April 29, for permanent residence therein, and now
 resides at 167 E. 82nd St. New York Have no children, and the name, date and place of birth,
 and place of residence of each of said children are as follows:

I have not heretofore made a declaration of intention: Number _____ on _____
 at LONDON, England
 my last foreign residence was _____
 I emigrated to the United States of America from Southampton, England
 my lawful entry for permanent residence in the United States was at New York, NY
 under the name of Frank Herbert Jefcoate on April 29, 1930
 on the vessel Leviathan

I will, before being admitted to citizenship, renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly, by name, to the prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of which I may be at the time of admission a citizen or subject; I am not an anarchist; I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States of America and to reside permanently therein; and I certify that the photograph affixed to the duplicate and triplicate hereof is a likeness of me: So help us God.

Frank Jefcoate
 Subscriber and sworn to before me in the office of the Clerk of said Court, at New York, NY this 31st day of May anno Domini 1934 Certification No. 2-34173B from the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization showing the lawful entry of the declarant for permanent residence on the date stated above, has been received by me. The photograph affixed to the duplicate and triplicate hereof is a likeness of the declarant.

Charles Weiser
 U.S. DISTRICT Court.
 By *[Signature]* Clerk

Form 2202-L-A
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
 IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

11-9652
 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1933

No 5125

[DO NOT ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH TO THIS COPY OF DECLARATION]

Enquiry

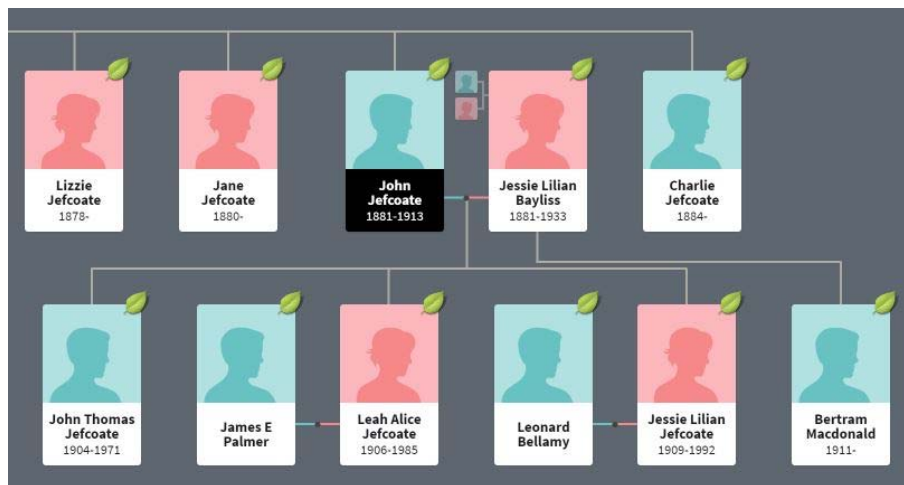
18th May 2020 – Lisa Gardiner joined TJS and enquired, 'Hi Jess, thank you for accepting me as a member of the group. I contacted you in the mid 90s (seems a very long time ago!) ref my grandfather Richard Lawrence Jefcoate born in Southend on Sea, Essex in 1908. He was the illegitimate son of Minnie Jefcoate. I've never been able to trace 'our' Minnie as my grandfather was unofficially adopted by the Gardiner family at the age of 3. Clearly, there is so much more information available on line now so I'm hoping to make a breakthrough and that this group will provide with me with extra information. My surname was Morris when I initially contacted you and I'm in the group photo taken at the gathering at Chatham dock yard back in 1996.'

We soon discovered Minnie Matilda Jecoate, born in 1891 in the West Ham district and linked her to this family.

Richard Lawrence Jefcoate, renamed Gardiner, is on the 1911 census with the Gardiner family. His marriage certificate states his father as Alfred Jonathan Gardiner. Any family mystery solved!

A Change of Identity?

Here we have a mystery. John Jefcoate born 1881 in Birmingham, married Jessie Lilian Bayliss in 1903. They appear to have had three children, according to the children's birth and/or baptism records. We cannot find John in the 1901 or 1911 censuses, so it is difficult to confirm his profession, other than with the baptism of Leah, where it is given as 'filer'. Here is a section of the family tree.



By the time of the 1911 census (shown on the next page), Jessie is living with her 'husband' Thomas Macdonald and their daughter Lily, aged 2 years. It states that they had been married for three years and that Jessie had had one child. All were born in Birmingham.

Questions:

1. What had happened to John?
2. What had happened to John Thomas born 1904?
3. Why was Lily living with them and not the other children?
4. Was Lily really a Macdonald?

We know that Leah later married a Palmer and became Leah Palmer and that Lily married a Bellamy to become Lily Bellamy. We also know that there was no marriage in 1908 and that there was no Lily Macdonald born in 1909.

We initially thought that they had changed their name to Macdonald to avoid creditors - or for some other reason. However, we found that John had died in 1913 and that Jessie and Thomas Macdonald had married soon after, in 1913. So, Thomas Macdonald was a real person. Indeed, Jessie must have been pregnant with their son Bertram in

The Jephcott Family – Chapter 6 – Family DM

the census year of 1911, as his baptism record shows (shown further on). She went on to have at least four other Macdonald children, the last when she was aged 43 years.

1911 England Census for Thomas McDonald														
Warwickshire > Birmingham > St George > 33														
No one else must be included. (For order of entries, names see Examples on back of Schedule.)														
	a.	b.	c.	d.	e.	f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.	l.	m.	n.
	Name	Age at Birth	Age in 1911	Sex	Single	Married	Widowed	Divorced	Children born alive	Children still living	Children who have died	Country of birth	Place of birth	Profession, trade, occupation, or service
1	Thomas M. McDonald	Head	32	Male										
2	Jessie M. McDonald	Wife	29	Female	3	1	1							
3	Lily M. McDonald	Daughter	2	Female										
4														
5														
6														
7														
8														
9														
10														
11														
12														
13														
14														
15														

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)			(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling)		
I certify that—			I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.		
(1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex column.			I have entered the names and surnames in Columns 2 and 3 respectively, and have entered their ages in the next column of persons.		
(2) After making the necessary corrections, I have compared all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be incorrect, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.			Signature <i>Thomas M. McDonald</i>		
Initials of Enumerator <i>DM</i>			3		
Total			Postal Address <i>25 Back Row, Buryhill, Bham</i>		
Males	Females	Persons			
1	2	3			

The baptismal record of Leah Alice Jephcott in 1906.

Does Leah Alice Jephcott match the person in your tree? ?
 Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1919 Birmingham, St Nicolas > 1905-1906

(1-2-07.) Shaw & Sons, Fetter Lane, E.C.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of St. Nicolas in the
 County of Birmingham in the Year One Thousand
nine Hundred and Six

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Names.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
April 30 th	Lily May	Albert + Lily May	Evans	13 Whitehouse Aston	Stamper	J. G. Faulkner.
No. 2209						
April 30 th	Leah Alice	John + Jessie	Jephcott	18 Court H.H. New Summery	Filer	J. G. Faulkner.
No. 2210						
		Arthur		13 th Row		

The baptismal record for Bertram Macdonald in 1911.

Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1919 for Bertram Macdonald							
Birmingham, St Nicolas > 1911-1919							
March 27 th	Oct 9 th	Gladys Winifred Mary	Alfred Ada Florence	Jones	11 Russell Place G. Russell	Printer	J. G. Faulkner
	No. 56						
Sept 6 th	Oct 15 th	Bertram Macdonald	Thomas Jessie	Macdonald	15 th Brearley St	Press- Dresser	E. Ash
	No. 57						

The mystery remains as to what happened to the two children, John Thomas and Leah when Jessie got together with Mr Macdonald. Perhaps they went to live with their father, who did not make a 1911 declaration for the census for them all.