

Oxford Genealogy

Bringing family history to life

Oxford Genealogy offers a family and local history research service to clients from all over the globe.

We specialise in presenting rigorously researched findings in a creative and engaging way. Many of our clients ask us to research histories to give as gifts to family and friends. We work closely within their budgets to produce something unique and personal, and offer tips and ideas for further research.

We also offer look-ups and supporting interpretations of documents and records held at the Oxfordshire Record Office and the Bodleian library, for which we hold full readers' tickets.

We have access to major online archive holdings and many years' experience in desktop and online publishing. Below are examples of some of our presentations.

However you'd like to learn more about your family history, we would be delighted to adapt our service to whatever you have in mind for your own project.



Contact us today to start your journey of discovery, bringing your family history to life.

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together in the house they grew up in, and which their parents rented, right next door to their sister Lizzie and working as labourers. The house must have seemed empty with just the two of them!

Gordon McCready's land

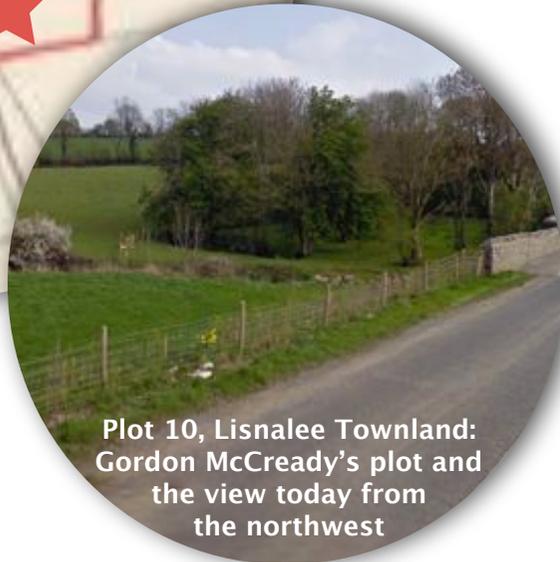
Essie Jane McCready was born in 1845 and her father is listed Gordon McCready who is to be found on the Griffith's valuations living and renting land and buildings in the townland of Keady More. A little more investigation shows that he lived, along with his daughter Essie, on a small plot of land just south of Mountnorris. Plot number 10 was 4 acres, 0 roods and 35

Then & now
imagery



purchases (There are 40 square Perches to a Rood and four Roods to an Acre). The rateable value of the land was £4 0s 0d and buildings was £0 15s 0d, with a combined value of just £4 15s 0d. We can see from the map that buildings

stood on the land which ran down to the Monaghans Bridge, still there today.



Plot 10, Lisnalee Townland:
Gordon McCready's plot and
the view today from
the northwest

Home Rule

By the beginning of the twentieth century the political situation in Ireland was on everyone's minds. The Third Home Rule Bill was proposed by the British Government in 1912 under which Ireland would be governed by Dublin. However, such was the resistance to this situation by the mainly Protestant north that a year of protests culminated on the 28th September 1912 with the signing by 237,868 men of the Ulster Covenant and by 234,046 women of the Ulster Declaration.

Historical
context

The petitions were signed throughout Ulster and among those that signed that day were xxx and his daughters xxx and xxx. Their signatures can be seen on the following page along with their townland of residence. They all signed at the Orange Hall, Bessbrook, and would have felt very proud to be part of something that would change the course of their region forever.

John is just six years old at this point, but would have felt part of the celebrations on that day.

Wealth in farming?

Joseph Firth was born in Pannal, Yorkshire, in 1818 to John and Esther. He is the first of three generations of Joseph Firths, all of whom are farmers. Joseph starts relatively modestly as an agricultural labourer, but works hard during his life to become a farmer of 27 acres by his 50s. As a young man he moves from Pannal to Otley, no doubt to find work, and he marries Alice Dalby in 1842 at the All Saints Church in Otley. Alice is from Hampsthwaite, near Harrogate, and they settle in and around Fewston and the hamlet of Jack Hill.

Their son Joseph does a little better. By the time he's 30 he's amassed a 40 acre farm in Birstwith, not far from his mother's birthplace. He goes back to Otley to marry his wife Emma Brunton in 1875, aged 24, and together they have four children. By 1912 Joseph has made a good living from the farming business and is able to hire a servant to help him out. At the start of the 20th century, he and his family are living relatively comfortably at the Vicarage Farm in Old Bramhope. The farm is still in existence today and operates as a boarding kennels for dogs and cats.

The next Joseph Firth, born when his parents were living at Jack Hill, helps his father with the farm until his marriage in 1912 to Hannah Bentley at the parish church St John the Divine, of Menston, six miles away, where Hannah was born, daughter of William and Cecilia.

Joseph and Hannah settle nearby, and don't have to wait long for their first child: no more than 8 months to be precise! Hannah, is born in the spring of 1913, but her parents had to wait until after the first world war for their second, and last, child to be born: Cecilia (or Sissy), after Hannah's mother. With no son, the name Joseph Firth dies after three generations: from humble beginnings in Pannal, to a farm with servants in Bramhope.

Maps & Photographs

Vicarage Farm, Old Bramhope, Leeds, LS21 3DB



Original
Signature Copies

Joseph Firth & Hannah Bentley's signatures on the wedding certificate

Joseph Firth
Hannah Bentley

Military explanations

He was awarded the Military Medal on 9th December 1916 which recognized bravery in the field. During his absence (and nine months after leave, presumably) Elizabeth gave birth to another two children, taking the total to seven by the time Jack returned from war. Whether it was his experience in the trenches,



Example of the Military Medal

Martha married Luke Lawson in the Methodist Chapel, Rainton



Church & chapel images

The disintegration of the xxx family

1897-1898 seems to be when the family started to implode. After Betsy left, something happened which caused Thomas Wharton to be charged and later convicted with criminal assault against his eldest daughter Betsy "who was a cripple" (according to Barnardo's intake). He was tried and found guilty at the Warwickshire Assizes on 10 Mar 1899 and received a seven year sentence.

Newspaper articles

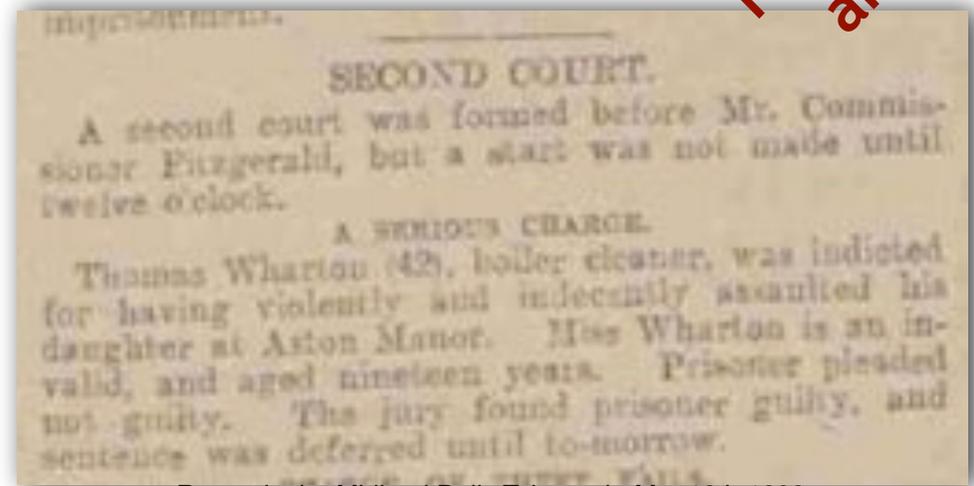


The single street of Mursley in Buckinghamshire where Cecilia was born

Sourcing old photos



St John Divine at Murston, where she is buried next to her husband



Report in the Midland Daily Telegraph, Mar 10th 1899

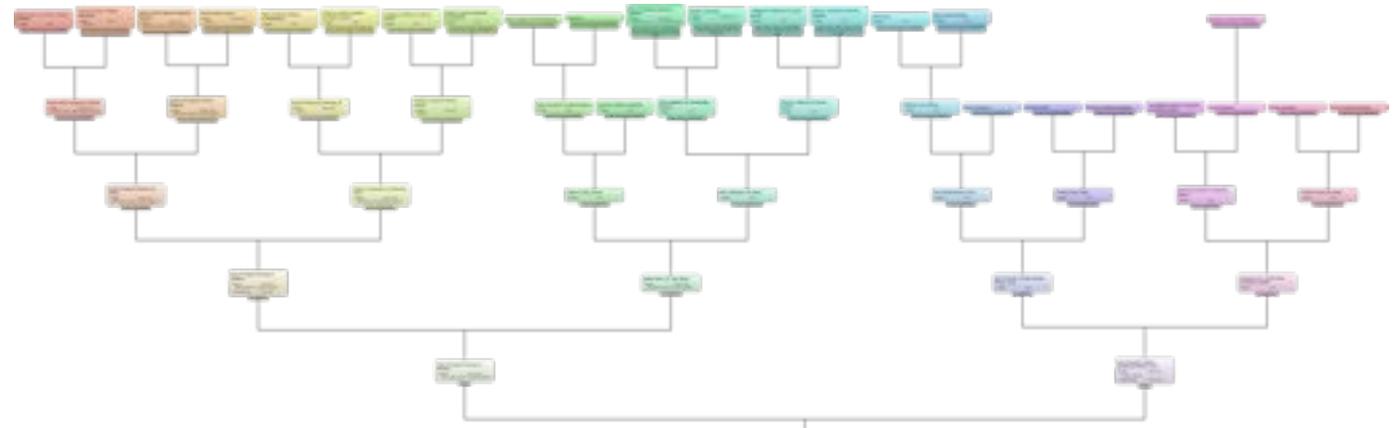
Birmingham Kelly's directories – for address of shop where the Whartons lived.

Poor law records at Birmingham City Archive – these will outline in detail the circumstances of the breakup of the Wharton family.

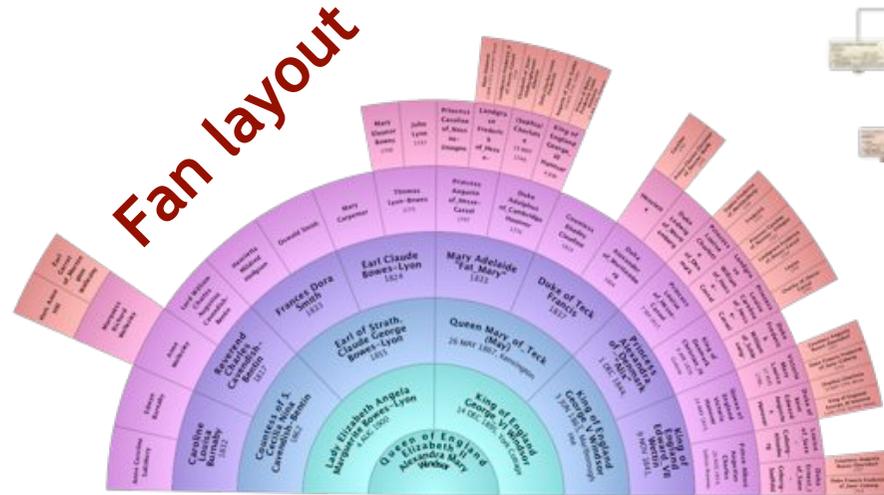
Criminal records at Birmingham City Archives – these will report the charges against Thomas Wharton.

Local papers at Birmingham City Archives – search around the dates of the above events in case they were reported in the local press.

Ideas for further research



Direct lineage chart



Fan layout

Lateral lineage chart

