

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE FAMILY OF WILLIAM BENNIE LEGGATE OF STRATHAVEN AND OF MARJORIE
CONSTANCE KNIGHT OF LONDON.

Most families know something of their origins, and interest in our ancestors is natural. Many people, Madge and I included, want to know as much as they can, and to go as far back as they can, but finding out the whole family tree has always been a daunting task. Records can be obscure or lost and often they are stored in hard to find locations. People often give up when the task turns out to be a lot harder than they anticipated. Archives are stuffed full of records about royal families, yet even with kings and queens the records are generally what's called "dry legal documents" - just lists and formal papers but no record of intimate moments.

We rarely get to "hear" their own words. We rarely find details of the everyday comings and goings - the minutiae of a life. When a two hundred year old family journal emerges or is found in some dusty cupboard we literally fall on it. We love to read the small everyday detail and what often grabs us is the very ordinariness, the day to day things that always tell us much more about lives in times past than the formal historical records that remain. The day-to-day things that our ancestors did are food and drink to historical writers and novelists and most of them work hard at getting as close to the past as possible.

My family's interest in our genealogy began about twenty-five years ago - in California - when a gentleman in San Jose decided to come to Scotland to trace his roots. His name, like so many of the Leggate family was John and he was on a mission. He was on a quest and he began his searches in a village about three and a half miles from Strathaven where he made contact with a large family of farming people called Leggate. Very shortly after his arrival, wheels were put in motion to get the whole lot of us together. It was to be a gathering of the Clan Leggate and most of the ensuing workload fell to a very capable young woman by the name of Lillian Meikles - born Leggate. I have to take my hat off to her for the incredible amount of research and time she invested in putting it all into a proper order so that we all understood where we were on the family tree.

Unfortunately, the John Leggate from California passed away before the family tree was completed, but his wife and family decided that they would make the trip from San Jose to Strathaven and have a proper get-together at a local hotel, and that's exactly what happened. We all had a lovely time, a "big time", as they say in the USA.

The formal dinner was accompanied by wines from California, and the family from San Jose were presented with a painting of Strathaven Town where their family tree began long ago. Since then, there have been a number of visits from both sides, which have kept the Leggate flame burning.

It was my son John's idea that I should put pen to paper and make a record of my life. I had never admitted as much but for some time it had been an ambition. I had a desire to do just that. After all, I am the patriarch in Strathaven and I'm doing it for the sake of the family, especially the families down the line who I'm sure at some stage in their lives will be eager to know about the past, about the people who will, in time, be their ancestors. They will want to know as much as is possible about what their ancestors did; what they thought and what they lived through.

My son David loves to rummage around in charity shops and such places to see if he can come up with things of interest for his friends and us. About four years ago he came up with something special. His find was a Who's Who type of book and he decided to go through it and see if there was anybody from the Leggate family in there. He found a William Muter Leggate - a Bill Leggate, son of a farmer from Broadlees Farm in Chapelton who had married the daughter of a J. Gilchrist of Crossways, Chapelton in 1911.

In time this William Muter Leggate had become no less than the Minister of Interior Affairs in the old Rhodesia - now called Zimbabwe, of course. He had also been decorated. In 1924 he had been awarded the CMG (the Companion of St. Michael and St. George). This was interesting because I was once given the job of renovating an entire farm premises in Chapelton for a man called Mr Tom Anders. It was a job that kept me busy over a number of years and gave me a lot of pleasure.

However, for the purposes of researching the family history in serious depth and making family trees, it became obvious that a full-time professional should be employed. This is where Anthony Adolph came in. He

is a leading genealogist, one of the best, an expert in the field of genealogical and archival research into family history, and the author of books on the subject. We also decided that for a full picture of as much immediate family history as possible my mother's side should not be forgotten. Overall, what has emerged so far is fascinating. In the following pages, Anthony Adolph reveals some of his methods. In its own way it's as interesting as a detective story and sometimes more complex than we imagined. He was able to take our Leggate ancestors a long way back and worked closely with my son John.

- William Leggate 2013

NOTES FROM ANTHONY ADOLPH: THIS INCLUDES ANTHONY ADOLPH'S CV AND NOTES ON HIS RESEARCH INTO THE LEGGATE'S OF STRATHAVEN.

The first step was when John Leggate made contact with me and we had a discussion of my own credits and suitability for this task. I asked him what I was required to do and how far back I should go and then John sent me all the existing material he had.

Born in 1967, I was educated at St George's College, Weybridge and studied Medieval History at Durham University. Encouraged to pursue a career in genealogy by Sir Conrad Swan, York Herald of Arms (and later to become Garter Principal King of Arms), I studied at The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies under Cecil Humphery-Smith, O.B.E., F.S.A., who was proud to trace his 'pedigree of learning' back, teacher-by-teacher, to the great Stuart antiquarian, Sir William Dugdale (1605-1686).

I continued to lecture there and worked for twelve years as a researcher and latterly Research Director for The Institute's supporting firm of professional genealogists, serving meantime, from 1990 to 1998, as Hon. Secretary of English Record Collections.

I became freelance in March 2003, and since then I have worked as a professional genealogist, writer and broadcaster.

John Leggate listed some details as follows:

1. I am John Stephen Leggate born in 1947 (Bellshill)
2. My father William (Bill) was born in 1922 (William Bennie Leggate) - SUBJECT of the biography
3. My father's father John was born in 1897
4. My father's grandfather was born in 1869 and married to Margaret Campbell (born Isle of Mull – and died in 1907)
5. My father's great grandfather was Robert (1838) and married to Martha Scade (confirmed from local grave yard)
6. Before Robert Leggate we are a bit uncertain – but my father knows every grave stone in the parish and will help trace or confirm information
7. My father suggests that some records may have been kept in Lanark – the county town
8. A branch of the family went to the 1849 gold rush in California...and the tail of that family currently lives in San Jose
9. A near relative may have been William Muter Leggate (Ministry of the Interior, Rhodesia) - born in Broadlees
10. There is a gravestone to John and James Leggate dated 1812 – not sure of the relevance
11. My mother is Marjorie Constance Knight born in 1922 in Tottenham to Stephen and Sophie Knight – both cockneys i.e. Born in sound of Bow Bells
12. Regards

We left it until he could obtain and send a copy of the family history that already exists, and which a cousin of theirs prepared a few years ago. I would then work on adding to it with the best records available. From what I had seen already, I wrote back: "The potential links back to many generations of tailzers (tailors), including

probably some female lines of Flemish origin, is absolutely fascinating.” The hare was up and running and it wasn’t long before I was able to send the following report.

Anthony Adolph reports:

The aim of this project was to gain documentation on the earlier known generations of your Leggate family and to see how far back the line could be traced. It was known that John Leggate was born about 1867 or 1869, son of Robert Leggate (1838-1906) a shoemaker and Martha Scade (1843-1904), who married in 1864. Robert was the son of John Leggate and Margaret Fleming. They lived in Strathaven, Lanarkshire.

We started by checking which year of birth for John was correct, and it turned out to be 1867:

Reference 645, Year 1867, District Glassford, Entry 19

Name/Sex	John Leggate, Male
Date/Place	25 th March 1867, 2:30pm, Westquarter
Father	Robert Leggate, Shoemaker (Master)
Mother	Martha Leggate, maiden surname Skade
Parents' Marriage	17 th June 1864, Strathaven
Informant	Robt. Leggate, Father
Registered	5 th April 1867

We then proceeded to work back up the family line, looking for the marriage certificate for Robert and Martha and the details are: -

Reference 621, Year 1864, District Avondale, Entry 20

Date/Place	17 th June 1864, (illegible) Street, Strathaven, after banns according to the forms of the United Presbyterian Church
Groom	Robert Leggate, Shoemaker (Master), Bachelor
Groom's Age	26
Groom's Address	Sandknowe, Strathaven
Groom's Father	John Leggate, Shoemaker (Master)
Groom's Mother	Margaret Leggate, maiden surname Fleming
Bride	Martha Scade, Domestic Servant, Spinster
Bride's Age	20
Bride's Address	Westpark in the parish of Avondale
Bride's Father	John Scade, S&C H.L. [this almost certainly stands for “silk and cotton hand loom”] Weaver, deceased
Bride's Mother	Janet Scade, maiden surname Henry, deceased
Witnesses	A. Leggate, William Wilson
Registered	20th June 1864

(Unfortunately, the precise address where the marriage took place was not legible).

From this we know that Robert was 26 when he married, so was born in about 1838 and his parents were John Leggate and Margaret Fleming. Martha was 20 and her parents were John Scade and Janet Henry.

I next checked the census to find out where Robert Leggate was born. The 1871 census shows him with his family as follows: -

Census Year 1871, Parish/District Glassford, Ref 645, Enum Dist 1, Schedule 61
Address - Balmoral Cottage

Name	Rel	Mar	Age	Occupation	Birthplace
Robert Leggate	Head	Mar	32	Shoemaker Employing 1 man and 1 boy apprentice.	Lanarkshire, Strathaven
Martha Leggate	Wife	Mar	27		Ayrshire, Darvel
Jessie Leggate	Dau		5	Scholar	Lanarkshire, Glassford
John Leggate	Son		4		Lanarkshire, Glassford
Margaret F. Leggate	Dau		2		Lanarkshire, Glassford
Isabella H. Leggate	Dau		1m		Lanarkshire, Glassford

This shows that Robert was born in Strathaven.

I next looked for Robert's birth. It is important to note that this took place before 1855, which was the start of compulsory statutory registration in Scotland. Prior to that date we rely on the Church registers, the main ones being the Old Parochial Registers (OPRs). These are far from complete and so it is regrettable but not surprising that there was no sign of Robert's birth. His parents' marriage was registered, as follows: -

OPR for Avondale, Ref 621/2

1818. Nov 7. John Leggate & Margaret Fleming.

Unfortunately this gives very little information. It is not clear if the date of 7th November 1818 was for the marriage or the proclamation of banns.

To trace back further, I looked for the death certificate for John Leggate. First I looked for him in the census to find his age and birthplace. The 1861 census shows him as follows: -

Census Year 1861, Parish/District Avondale, Ref 621, Enum Dist 15, Schedule 115
Address - Sandknowe

Name	Rel	Mar	Age	Occupation	Birthplace
John Leggate	Head	Mar	65	Shoemaker (Master)	Lanarkshire, Strathaven
Margaret Leggate	Wife	Mar	67		Lanarkshire, Strathaven
Archibald Leggate	Son	Unm	30	Shoemaker	Lanarkshire, Strathaven

(Master)

From this we know that John was 65 in 1861, so was born in about 1796 and he was born in Strathaven. I looked for his death and found that he died in 1878: -

Reference 621, Year 1878, District Avondale, Entry 122

Name	John Leggate, lately Shoemaker (Master), widower of Margaret Fleming
Date/Place	24 th December 1878, 0:30am, Sandknowe, Strathaven
Sex/Age	Male, 83
Father	John Leggate, Shoemaker, deceased
Mother	Isobel Leggate, maiden surname Martin, deceased
Cause	Old Age
Informant	Archd. Leggate, Son, present
Registered	26 th December 1878

This tells us that John's parents were John Leggate senior and Isobel Martin. John junior was aged 83 when he died, so was born in about 1795, which matches his age in the census. The problem with the Avondale OPRs for this time is that the mother's name was not included. However, based on John senior's occupation, I believe the following is the right birth for John junior: -

OPR for Avondale Ref 621/2

1795. [Birth] September 18. [Child's Name] John. [Parent's Name and Surname] John Legat, Shoemaker.

John Leggate senior and Isobel Martin married in 1770: -

OPR for Avondale, Ref 621/1

1770. Feb 11. John Legat & Isobell Martine.

There are records of some deaths in the Avondale OPR and there is a match for the death of Isobel Martin but not John senior. Isobel died in 1827: -

OPR for Avondale, Ref 621/4

1827. 30 Nov. Isobel Merten spouse of John Leggat late --- maker interred in the 1.

The fact that John was referred to as "late" means that he was already deceased. His occupation had a blank space before the word "maker" and I assume this was meant to be shoemaker.

It was possible to trace back one further generation with a high degree of certainty. In Scotland at that time, it was very common to name the first son after the paternal grandfather. The first son of John Leggate, Shoemaker, was named Robert, born in 1774. Given his age at marriage, John Leggate senior would probably have been born in the mid to late 1740s. On that basis, it seems likely that the following is the right entry for his birth: -

OPR for Avondale, Ref 621/1

1747. 8 Nov. Jo[hn] son to Robt. Legat, Mason, Strath[aven]

The earliest Leggate birth in the Avondale OPR was 1745 so this was as far back as we could go.

The Old Section of the Monumental Inscriptions for Avondale or Strathaven was checked but there were no surviving Leggate family gravestones listed. This, I realise, is at variance with what you told me: it is possible that there has been a crossed wire here or, maybe, gravestones which were legible before are no longer so.

I next looked for the death of Margaret Fleming, wife of John Leggate junior. She died in 1878, only a few months before her husband: -

Reference 621, Year 1878, District Avondale, Entry 35

Name	Margaret Leggate, married to John Leggate, Shoemaker (Master)
Date/Place	10 th April 1878, 1:30pm, Sandknowe, Strathaven
Sex/Age	Female, 84
Father	Archibald Fleming, Blacksmith (Master), deceased
Mother	Margaret Fleming, maiden surname Orr, deceased
Cause	Old Age
Informant	Archd. Leggate, Son, present
Registered	11 th April 1878

This shows that Margaret's parents were Archibald Fleming and Margaret Orr. We could pursue and expand the Fleming line in the next round.

I also looked for the deaths of Robert Leggate and his wife Martha Scade. Robert Leggate died in 1906: -

Reference 621, Year 1906, District Avondale, Entry 27

Name	Robert Leggate, Shoemaker (Master), widower of Martha Scade
Date/Place	3 rd April 1906, 6:45pm, Sandknowe, Strathaven
Sex/Age	Male, 68
Father	John Leggate, Shoemaker, deceased
Mother	Margaret Leggate, maiden surname Fleming, deceased
Cause	Carcinoma of (illegible), about 6 months
Informant	John Leggate, Son, present
Registered	5 th April 1906

Martha Scade died in 1904: -

Reference 621, Year 1904, District Avondale, Entry 52

Name	Martha Leggate, married to Robert Leggate, Shoemaker (Master)
Date/Place	27 th October 1904, 4pm, Castle Street, Strathaven
Sex/Age	Female, 61
Father	John Scade, Weaver, deceased
Mother	Janet Scade, maiden surname Browning
Cause	Cancer of Liver 1 year, Ascitis 1 month
Informant	Robt. Leggate, Widower, present
Registered	28 th October 1904

This has Martha's mother down as Janet Browning, whereas on the marriage of Martha, her mother is given as Janet Henry. As Janet gave the latter information herself, but was dead when her husband said "Browning", we can guess that the correct surname was Henry. We had gone back as far as was possible on the Leggate line, so now we turned to the Scades. Martha Scade was born in Loudoun, Ayrshire, in 1842: -

OPR for Loudoun, Ref 603/3

1842. Martha lawful Daughter of John Scade Weaver and Janet Hendry in Darvel was born upon the 25th day of October 1842 and baptized privately.

This shows that Martha's mother was indeed Janet Hendry (Henry and Hendry are exactly the same surname in Scotland). John Scade and Janet Hendry (or Hendrie) married in 1821: -

OPR for Loudoun, Ref 603/4

1821. 5 Oct. John Scade and Janet Hendrie both in this parish gave in their names and were regularly proclaimed.

To trace back further, I looked for the death of Martha's father, John. He died in 1862: -

Reference 603, Year 1862, District Loudoun, Entry 58

Name	John Scade, Greenwich Pensioner and Muslin Weaver, widower of Janet Hendry
Date/Place	12 th June 1862, 6:30am, Townhead, Darvel
Sex/Age	Male, 81 years 11 months
Father	Thomas Scade, deceased

Mother	Margaret Miller, deceased
Cause	Debility from Old Age
Informant	William Scade, Son
Registered	13 th June 1862

This shows that John's parents were Thomas Scade and Margaret Miller. Note that John was a Greenwich Pensioner, so had been in the Royal Navy. The census shows John was born in Glasgow.

The next steps here would be to obtain details of all the children of the earliest Robert Leggate besides his son your ancestor John (who was born in 1747), as these were not all noted this time. Then, we could seek the origins of John Scade in Glasgow and trace the line further back, and it would also be very interesting to seek John Scade's Royal Navy papers. These could add a lot to your family story. Following this, we could see how far back we could explore up the other family lines, such as the Flemings, so as to create a fuller picture of all your family's ancestry. If you would conform, I would be delighted to proceed with this work over the next few weeks.

When you decide that you have had enough research undertaken I will draw up a family tree showing the essential details reported here, which will help with the writing up of the narrative and which might make a useful addition to the book itself. The line back from you is:

John S. Leggate b. 1947 – William Leggate b. 1922 – John Leggate b. 1897 – John Leggate b. 1867 – Robert Leggate b. 1838 – John Leggate b. 1795 – John Leggate b. 1747 – Robert Leggate or Legat, mason of Strathaven, probably born about the 17102/1720s.

END of first round

Second Round:

In this second round of research we have undertaken some in-filling, and then endeavoured to take the Leggate line as far back as possible.

We sought any other births to Robert Leggat (or similar), Mason in Strathaven, so that they could be added to your family history. The birth in 1747 of his son, John, was found in the previous research. Other children were:

OPR for Avondale, Ref 621/1
 1744. 22 April. George son to Robert Ligate Mason in Strathn.
 1745. 9 Nov. John son to Robert Legate Mason in Strathaven.
 1749. 31 Dec. Thomas to Robt. Ligat Wright in Strathn.

The 1745 John, born in the year of Bonnie Prince Charlie's uprising, must have died young, to be replaced with your John two years later.

There was also a William, born in 1748:-

1748. 28 Aug. Will. Son to Robt. Ligat in Coldstream

Since this Robert's address was Coldstream, we are not sure that it was the same father, though he may of course have gone there for work: both are in the same parish. No occupation was given.

Next, we checked for the births of any other children for John Leggat (or similar) and his wife, Isabel Martin. The birth of their son, John, was found in 1795. Between 1770 and 1827 we found:

1771. **Margaret** daughter to John Legat Shoemaker in Str. born May 8th
 Aug 1774. **Robt.** son to John Legat shoemaker in Strathen. born the 6th current
 Oct 1776. **Archibald** son to John Liggate shoemaker in Strathen born the 27th and baptized the 30th
 1778. **Robert** son to John Ligate shoemaker in Strathen. born March 12th
 1780. **Isobel** daughter to John Ligate Shoemaker in Strathaven born Sept 21st and baptised 24th
 1783. **Archd.** Son to John Legat shoemaker in Strathaven born 6th March
 1785. [Born] Sept 26th. **George** lawful son to John Legat shoemaker in Strathaven
 1788. [Born] April 14. [Baptized] April 20th. **John** lawful son to John Legat shoemaker in Strathaven
 1790 [Born] Oct 10. **James** lawful son to John Legat shoemaker in Strathaven (not paid)
 1793. [Born] Jul 1. [Baptized] July 7th. **Janet** lawful daughter to the said John Legat shoemaker in Strathaven (paid)

This gives a very consistent picture of John working as a shoemaker in Strathaven.

The Robert born in 1774, above, must have died young, to be replaced by the second Robert born in 1778 and it was he who had found on the Internet:

name:	Robert Leggate
death:	1855
place:	Strathaven, Lanark
age:	77 Years
gender:	M
occupation:	Pauper (Shoemaker, Journeyman)
note:	Born at Big Close, Strathaven. In Strathaven since his Birth
father's name:	John Leggate (Deceased)
father's occupation:	Shoemaker
mother's name:	Isobel Martin (Deceased)
spouse's name:	Single

We checked the 1855 death certificate for Robert Leggate to fill in the missing details. He died on the 4th August 1855 in Townhead, Strathaven. The cause was "Paralysis & long illness nearly 20 years". He is buried in the burial ground of Strathaven. He was not married and the informant was George Leggate, his brother. No baptism for a George had been found in the foregoing register search.

Now we looked at the early births in Avondale for the name Leggat (or similar). The first was in 1703, then there was a gap to 1744 and I checked up to 1760. Those found were as follows (excluding the ones found already: -

1703. 26 Nov. John son to George Ligat in Whytecraigs
1744. 12 Apr. Jean daughter to George Legat in Grange.
1746 22 Mar. James son to George Legate in Grange
1750. 18 Feb. Bathia daughter to Will. Ligat Mason in Strathn.
1751. 24 Feb. John son to George Legat in Coldstream
1751. 27 Oct. Isobella to Will. Ligat Wright in Strath.
1754. Apr. William son to W. Legat in Strathn. born the 2nd inst.
1756. 7 Mar. Janet daughter to George Legat in Coldstream
1756. Jun. John son to William Legat Mason in Strathn. Born the 14th instant.
1759. Jun. (blank) to William Legat Wright in Strathn.

A wright is someone who made things, usually from metal or wood, but here we seem to have a second instance, as with Robert above, of a man sometimes described as a mason and other times as a wright. We can guess that Robert and William may have been brothers, and maybe George was one too. The father of them all could be John son of George, or they could all, equally, have been younger children of that same George.

At any rate, it suggests that the family were from Whytecraigs in the very early eighteenth century. There is a Whytecraigs near Newton Mearns, but there is a Whytecraigs farm in the parish of Glassford, which adjoins Avondale, and indeed some of your family were later born in Glassford (some of the children of Robert and Martha Laggate, as revealed by the 1871 census). Perhaps the missing births/baptisms of George, William and your Robert will be there instead.

The Avondale marriages contained references to your surname from 1710 onwards. The records actually go back to 1681, so this suggests that the family had come into the parish sometime perhaps not too long before 1710.

OPR for Avondale, Ref 621/1

1st June 1710 John Stuart and **Mary Ligat**
17th November 1711 William Miller and **Mary Ligat**
9th December 1725 Thomas Brounlee and **Isobell Ligat**
28th November 1727 William Leiper and **Mary Ligatt**
22nd May 1729 John Craig and **Isobell Ligatt**
17th November 1743 Andrew Burnlee and **Margaret Ligat**
1st April 1743 **George Ligate** and Agnes Hamilton
21st May 1743 **Robert Ligate** and Janet Gibson
26th November 1748 **Will. Ligat** and Janet Cullen

The 1743 marriage must be that of your ancestors, the parents of your forebear John who was born in 1747.

George Black's Surnames of Scotland lists LEGAT with variants Leggat, Leggate, Leggatt, Legget, Liggat and Lygate, and indicates that it could sometimes be confused with the surname Lidgate. He suggests two possible origins. First, it may be from the Old English personal name Leodgeard, which may have been used by Anglians settled in Dark Age Lanarkshire, and secondly from the office of legate, as in an ambassador or delegate (from

the Middle English legat or legate – and Dr Black comes down heavily on the latter derivation. He cites the following early references:

Adam Legate, who rendered to Exchequer the accounts of the bailies of Stirling in 1406 appears again in 1412 as burgess of Stirling.

Walter Leget or Legat of Scotland had safe conducts into England in 1421-2.

Master John Legat had a safe conduct to pass to Rome in 1448.

Thomas Legat of Tayn witnessed a notarial instrument in 1477.

Laurence Legat possessed a tenement in Irvine in 1540.

Archibald Legate was burgess freeman of Glasgow in 1574.

John Leggat was baxter [baker] and burges of Stirling in 1591.

Thomas Ligat is recorded at the kirk of Steuartoune in 1670.

Six brothers named Leggat from a place called King Edward (Black does not say where this is) served in the Great War.

Irvine and Glasgow are both, of course, quite close to Strathaven and are probably the most relevant to your line.

In advance of drawing up a full family tree, this is my summary now of your direct line:

John S. Leggate b. 1947 – William Leggate b. 1922 (married Marjorie Knight) – John Leggate b. 1897 (married Jane Bebbie) – John Leggate b. 1867 (married Margaret Campbell) – Robert Leggate b. 1838 (married Martha Scade) – John Leggate b. 1795 (married Margaret Fleming) – John Leggate b. 1747 (married Isabel Martin) – Robert Leggate or Legat, mason of Strathaven, probably born about the 17102/1720s (married Janet Gibson) – who was probably a son or grandson of George Ligat of Whytecraigs (born in the 1670s or 1680s) – maybe descended from Laurence Legat who possessed a tenement in Irvine in 1540 or Archibald Legate, burgess freeman of Glasgow in 1574 and perhaps ultimately derived from Adam Legate, who rendered to Exchequer the accounts of the bailies of Stirling in 1406 appears again in 1412 as burgess of Stirling, and who is the earliest known bearer of the surname found so far.

My suggestion for continuing with this line would be to seek the “missing” births/baptisms of George, William and your Robert about the 1720s in the Old Parochial Registers of Glassford, which cover Whytecraigs, the place I think was your ancestors’ ancestral home.

John Scade

In the course of exploring we noted the following, from the 1871 census, which I think relates to a brother of Martha Scade, the wife of Robert Leggate: -

Census Year 1871, Parish/District Loudoun, Ref 603, Enum Dist 8, Page 36
Address – Ronald Comp Road (unclear)

Name	Rel	Mar	Age	Occupation	Birthplace
John Scade	Head	Mar	49	Cotton Weaver	Ayrshire, Loudoun
Christ. Scade	Wife	Mar	46		Ayrshire, Loudoun
Janet Scade	Dau	Unm	20	Cotton Weaver	Ayrshire, Loudoun
James Scade	Son		16	Cloth Cutter	Ayrshire, Loudoun
Christina Scade	Dau		15	Housemaid	Ayrshire, Loudoun
Marion Scade	Dau		11	Scholar	Ayrshire, Loudoun
Martha Scade	Dau		3		Ayrshire, Loudoun
Janet Scade	Dau		1		Ayrshire, Loudoun

In this round we also made searches for the Greenwich pension records of John Scade. He died in 1862 and was described clearly on his death record as a Greenwich Pensioner. I am afraid that our results are disappointing for, despite searching high and low; we simply have not found him in the places where he should, as Greenwich Pensioner, appear. That he died in Darvel and was a muslin weaver tells us immediately that he was an out-pensioner, i.e. his pension money would have been sent up from Greenwich, as opposed to him living in the hospital at Greenwich. He is not in the Naval Medals database. He is not in the indexes to the Navy Pay Office certificates of service (indexed by initial letter only), ADM 29/100. There were several John Slades listed, and in case this was a mis-recording of "Scade" we examined their records. One related to a John Scade of Gillingham, Kent who was active 1815-1839; one was a John T. Slade active in the 1830s and 1840s only; and the other was active 1810-1834. None of these seem to fit date-wise, let alone spelling-wise. We also considered the alternative spelling Skade, but that did not help us. We tried the Greenwich Hospital Certificates of Service for Navy Ratings (1790-66), ADM 73/26, 27 & 28.

These are the only records which provide any semblance of index coverage. Most other records are arranged by dates of service and the ships on which men served, and of course we know neither, so I am afraid we're not going to be able to find the nice details about his service in the Navy for which I had hoped. There is no more we can do practically on the naval angle, but next time we could explore the ancestry of John Scade and his parents Thomas Scade and Margaret Miller.

Fleming

Earlier, we had found the death of Margaret Fleming, wife of John Leggate junior in 1878 and learned that her parents were Archibald Fleming and Margaret Orr. Archibald Fleming died before 1855 and there were too many possible matches for his death in the OPRs to be able to say which was the right one. Margaret Fleming was born about 1794. A search was made in the OPRs but there was no trace of her birth. There were, however, two siblings' births, as follows: -

OPR for Avondale, Ref 621/1 and 621/2

December 1782. **Isabel**, Dau to Archd. Flemming & Margt. Orr in Lochar, Bridgend, born 2nd Baptd 11th.

May 1786. 15th. **John**, son to Margt Orr and Archibald Fleming Smith at Lochar, Bridgend.

There was no record of the marriage of Archibald Fleming and Margaret Orr, but it would have been some time before 1782. If Archibald was of normal age when he married, he would have been born between about 1740 and 1762. A search was made for a possible birth in Avondale but there was no match in that timeframe. A search was also made for a possible death for Archibald Fleming. There was a likely death in 1831:-

OPR for Avondale Ref 621/4

July 18 1831. Archibald Fleming smith in the

This entry stops at the word "the" and, maddeningly, the age was never filled in. It seems very likely that this is your Archibald's death, as the occupation matches.

You mentioned earlier that parts of Strathaven were named after Flemings and that there were stories of people coming from Flanders. Black's surname dictionary tells us that the surname does indeed denote origins in Flanders. Large territories in the Upper Ward of Lanarkshire were later in possession of a family of this name. Their residence was Boghall Castle near Bigar. Theobald the Fleming (*Theobaldus Flamaticus*) had a

grant of land on the Douglas Water from the abbot of Kelso between 1147-60. Baldwin the Fleming was sheriff of Lanark about 1150. Jordan Fleming was taken prisoner at Alnwick along with William the Lion in 1174. About 1177 Symone Flamench witnessed a charter by Eschina, wife of Walter the Steward. Ricardus Flammanc witnessed a charter by Robert Bruce about 1190, and as Flamanc he attested a charter by William Bruce to Adam de Carlvle, about 1194-1214. Between 1189-99 William Flandrensis witnessed gift of the church of Gutherin (Guthrie) to the Abbey of Arbroath by William the Lion, and probably within the same dates he witnessed the grant of the lands of Herol (Enrol) to David de Haia, son of William de Haia. Symon Flandrensis was one of the perambulators of the lands of Kinalchmund between 1211-14. Adam Flamanke witnessed resignation of lands in Annandale about 1245. William fflamang witnessed a grant by Hugh de Bygris, 1228, Bartholomew Flamang attested an agreement between the bishop of Moray and John Byseth in 1258 and about 1260 Duncan [note the Gaelic forename] Flandrensi witnessed a donation to the Abbey of Paisley. William le Fleming, knight, of Lanarkshire, rendered homage, 1296. His seal bears a fesse surmounted of a bend, *Sr Willi Flandrensis*. Matheus de Flandre witnessed a charter by Herbert de Maxwel to Paisley about 1300. James Fleeman or Fleming (1713-1778), was the fool, as part of the establishment of the family of Udny of that ilk, the last family in Scotland, it is said, to have maintained one.

Black notes the following spellings: ffieming 1681, fflemyng 1437, Flamyng 1343, Flemen 1539, Flemmavng 1322, Flemmvnge 1427, Flemvn 1511, Fleymen 1652, Fleyming 1645, Flemyne 1512, Flemynge 1424, Flimer 1665, Flymen 1653, Flymyng 1392; Flimimg, Phylemen.

Your Archibald Fleming was presumably descended from some of the foregoing people, whose roots lay, in the early middle ages, in Flanders.

We may not be able to piece together Archibald's immediate ancestry but we can search back in Avondale before 1740, just in case (and look for Margaret Orr's baptism as well) and also go back over the period 1765-1740 to see what Flemings there were there and what they were doing (were any others of them smiths?). If Archibald came from elsewhere it might be difficult to pick up the traces, unless of course we found an Archibald whose father was a blacksmith too.

END

Third round

The aim of this third stage was to continue investigating your Leggate, Scade and Fleming ancestors, but first you asked me to do some extra work, concerning John Leggate, who was born about 1920 son of John Leggate and Jane Bennie. You thought he served in the Royal Navy in the Second World War and died more "than 20 years ago" in Greenock perhaps of alcoholism. The aim was to see if he had any descendants.

We started by searching for the birth of John:

Reference 627, Year 1920, District Cambuslang, Entry 161

Name/Sex	John Leggate, Male
Date/Place	14 th February 1920, 3:10am, 244 Hamilton Road, Cambuslang
Father	John Leggate, Shoemaker, Journeyman (Driver R.F.A.)
Mother	Jane Bennie, Farm Servant (Domicil 19 Ledgate, Kirkintilloch)
Parents' Marriage	(blank)
Informant	Jane Bennie, Mother, John Leggate Father, 19 Ledgate Kirkintilloch

Registered

2nd March 1920

The parents had not been officially married at this stage. There is an amendment to this certificate (RCE Vol 4, Page 45) which states that John Leggate's birth was legitimised by the subsequent marriage of his parents on the 27th February 1920 in Glasgow.

A search was then made for John junior's death certificate to see if he was married and to find the cause of death. He died in 1964 in Greenock:

Reference 640, Year 1984, District Greenock, Entry 328

Name	John Leggate, Car Park Attendant, Single
Date/Place	1 st May 1984, 1645 hours, Inverclyde Royal Hospital, Greenock, usual residence 12 Whitelees Road, Greenock
Sex/Age	Male, 64, born 14 th February 1920
Father	John Leggate, Postman, deceased
Mother	Jane Leggate, maiden surname Bennie
Cause	Carcinoma of Oesophagus
Informant	James Leggate, Brother, 45 Newton Road, Strathaven
Registered	2 nd May 1984

So that was how he died, though he may of course have been an alcoholic as well. This shows that John was not married and so, presumably, did not have any descendants – no legitimate ones, at any rate.

These documents provide three occupations for the father John (1897-1979) – a journeyman shoemaker (i.e. an unapprenticed shoemaker), a driver for the Royal Field Artillery in and just after the Great War, and later a postman.

If you were interested in having his naval service papers you could write (you would have to contact them personally as a next of kin) to the Directorate of Personnel Support (Navy) at:

Navy Search
TNT Archive Services
Tetron Point
William Nadin Way
Swadlincoate,
Derbyshire,
DE11 0BB
navysearhpgrc@tnt.co.uk

They would probably want certified proof of John's death (which we can provide).

The aim of this third stage was to continue investigating the Leggate line. We had traced back to Robert Legat, mason (and later wright) in Strathaven, who married Janet Gibson in Avondale in 1743. They had sons baptised there – George (1744), John (1745), your ancestor John (1747) and Thomas (1749) (and maybe William in 1748, whose father John was listed without occupation at Coldstream). On the basis of names this Robert

looked likely to have been a younger son of George Ligat in Whytecraigs, whose son John Ligat who was baptised in Avondale in 1703 – though Robert could in fact have been a son of this John.

The Avondale parish register starts in 1681 for births. This register appears to be fairly regular. The marriage register begins in 1709. Between 1681 and 1735, as we know, the only Legat or similar birth in Avondale was the John found in 1703 in the previous research, son of George of Whytecraigs.

The clue here was that we should also look in the parish of Glassford, which includes Whytecraigs Farm, and which adjoined Avondale, and see what Leggat or variant entries appeared in the registers. Glassford's birth and marriage registers for Glassford both begin in 1692 (with a gap in the births and marriages from 1726 to 1731). There were no death/burial registers, as is sadly typical in Scotland.

There were three Legat births in Glassford, from 1692 to 1735, as follows:

OPR for Glassford, Ref 645/1

1705. August 21 Baptized Thomas Legat Son to George Legat in Chappelton

1708. May 9. Baptized James Legat son to George Legat in Hamilton Parish.

1711. April 8 Baptized Robert Legat son to George Legat in Hamilton Parish.

These births follow on very well from the John Ligat born in 1703 in Whytecraigs to George. Chappelton (or Chapelton) is in Glassford but is very near the border with Avondale. It is in turn 2 or 3 miles north west of Whytecraigs. It looks like the family then moved further north into Hamilton parish, and we found the following (and just the following) in the Hamilton OPRs:

OPR for Hamilton, Ref 647/2

May 1713. Imprimis George Ligate in Moorhead and Isabell Hepburn his lawful married wife had their eldest daughter born and brought forth on Thursday right about 12 of the clock on the 2d of April 1713 and baptized Margaret Sabbath forenoon the 3d of May 1713 in the Kirk of Hamilton by Mr Rott. Wylie Minr. there. Wits John Barton and John Naismyth Church Officers there.

These were the only Legat births anywhere in Avondale, Glassford or Hamilton with any father's name from 1650 to 1735. There was no record of the marriage of George and Isabell Hepburn.

They are excellent results, though, as the 1711 baptism of Robert Legat could very well be your ancestor Robert, who married Janet Gibson in 1743. He would have been a very plausible 32. The sister Margaret is probably the one who later married Andrew Burnlee in Avondale in 1743.

We also looked at any other Legat or similar marriages in Hamilton, Glassford and Avondale from 1600 to 1720. We found the following:-

OPR for Hamilton, Ref 647/1

1657. 28 Jan. Alexr Legat in Bothwel, Margaret Young this [parish]

1658. 9 July. James Legat, Jean Cliland both in this parish

OPR for Avondale, Ref 621/1

1710. John Stewart in Netherfield and Mary Ligat June 1.

1711. Nov 17. William Miller in (illegible) and Mary Ligat.

OPR for Glassford, Ref 645/1

1712. November 20. Married John Legat & Helen Steil of Glassford & Stonehouse.

None of these fit into the family tree we have established, but it is highly likely that you descend from either Alexander and Margaret or James and Jean – George of Whytecraigs was almost certainly a son or grandson of either of them.

In terms of resources, we appear to have gone as far as we can with kirk registers, unless there are any in the early registers of Bothwell (which is just north of Hamilton). Other sources for such country parishes likely to mention the Leggates are scant. One which could be tried would be the 1694 hearth tax records for Lanarkshire. This could conceivably pick up George's own father in Avondale, Glassford or Hamilton. George was mobile and always "in", so never a landholder. He was probably a *hind*, a farm labourer who moved about and was hired where and when work was available.

Your line now appears to go back:

John S. Leggate b. 1947 – William Leggate b. 1922 (married Marjorie Knight) – John Leggate b. 1897 (married Jane Bebbie) – John Leggate b. 1867 (married Margaret Campbell) – Robert Leggate b. 1838 (married Martha Scade) – John Leggate b. 1795 (married Margaret Fleming) – John Leggate b. 1747 (married Isabel Martin) – Robert Leggate or Legat, mason of Strathaven, baptised in Glassford in 1711 (married Janet Gibson) son of George Ligat of Whytecraigs/Chappelton/Moorhead in Hamilton (born in the 1670s or 1680s). He was probably a son or grandson of either Alexander Legat in Bothwell who married Margaret Young in Hamilton in 1657 or James Legat who married Jean Cliland in 1658 in Hamilton. They may in turn have been descended from Laurence Legat who possessed a tenement in Irvine in 1540 or Archibald Legate, burgess freeman of Glasgow in 1574 and perhaps ultimately derived from Adam Legate, who rendered to Exchequer the accounts of the bailies of Stirling in 1406 appears again in 1412 as burgess of Stirling, and who is the earliest known bearer of the surname found so far.

Also in this round we tried to make some more progress with the Scade family. We picked up here by seeking the Scades in the 1861 census. We found:

Census Year 1861, Parish/District Loudoun, Ref 603, Enum Dist 8, Page 4
Address – Darvel Village

Name	Rel	Mar	Age	Occupation	Birthplace
John Scade	Head	Wid	80	Cotton Weaver	Lanarkshire, Glasgow
William Scade	Son	Unm	31	Cotton Weaver	Ayrshire, Darvel
Robert Scade	Son	Unm	23	Cotton Weaver	Ayrshire, Darvel
Janet Scade	Dau	Unm	21	Housekeeper	Ayrshire, Darvel

We could not find the family in the 1851 census but the 1841 census shows them as follows:

Census Year 1841, Parish/District Loudoun, Ref 603, Enum Dist 8, Page 9
Address – Darvel

Name	Age	Occupation	Birthplace
John Scade	60	Cotton H.L.W. Navy P.	Scotland, not Ayrshire
Janet Scade	40		Ayrshire
John Scade	15	Cotton H.L.W.	Ayrshire
Marion Scade	12		Ayrshire
William Scade	10		Ayrshire
James Scade	8		Ayrshire
Margaret Scade	6		Ayrshire
Robert Scade	4		Ayrshire
Janet Scade	2		Ayrshire

H.L.W. is short for Hand Loom Weaver. Navy P. is short for Navy Pensioner.

On his death record, John was supposed to have been a Greenwich Pensioner but we have already looked for him and not found any trace. In 1841 he just said 'navy pensioner' and maybe this is where the misunderstanding had arisen, as many merchant and Royal navy sailors received pensions from Trinity House and maybe we will find John in those records instead.

In 1861, John said he was from Lanarkshire but there is no sign of any Scade (or similar) births anywhere in the (Church of Scotland) Lanarkshire registers between 1750 and 1800 and no sign of marriages or deaths either, so we can deduce that they may have been of another religious denomination. There were some Scades in East Lothian but no obvious connection to our family. We can look next for his parents Thomas Scade and Margaret Miller dying between 1862 and 1855. If we do not find anything more then we may not be able to trace this line further back so could move on instead to your Fleming and Hendry ancestors. This brings us up to budget. There is much more still that we can do, looking for Leggates in the 1694 Hearth Tax Returns and the early registers of Bothwell, look for John Scade in the Trinity House pensions and seek the deaths of his parents and if we get stuck we can move on to the Flemings and Hendrys (Janet Hendry was the mother of Martha Scade who married Robert Leggate). If you would like to allow a renewed budget we can proceed.

I sent you the main report for this round on 18 January but then realised that there was a little more to come.

On the Leggate line we had taken your line back to George Legat in Whitecraigs (1703) and thought he was probably from Hamilton. In order to find out more we examined the Hearth Tax returns for Lanarkshire which survive for the year 1694. Glassford's list does not include the names of individuals, but the one for Avondale does and this lists George Liggat and James Legat. The place where they lived within Avondale was Lochar Water. The image ([NRS E69/15/1, p. 104](#)) is here – you can enlarge it by clicking on it.



We have now traced your Leggate line as far back as we believe we can go reliably.

Scade

It was narrowly possible that Thomas and Margaret Scade, the parents of your ancestor John Scade of the navy, may have died in or after 1855, when General Registration started. The death records are so good it was worth a look – but sadly they had died before then. They have not been found in the 1851 or 1841 censuses either. The indexes to the Old Parochial Registers which have survived do not reveal him so the trail has run rather dry here! Besides your John's family, the surname is very rare: the 1851 census shows only *one* other person with this surname – Helen Scade aged 72, a widow born in Kelso. The OPRs show a Scade family in East Lothian and another in Roxburghshire but there was nothing which obviously connected them to your family.

Dr Black tells us that Scade, Skaid or Scad or Sked was a surname in Braemar and Cromar in the 1500s. Helene Skayde was in Millades in 1583. James Skaid was a tenant of the mylne of Dunatye in 1600. Alexander Scad the younger in Dawen, was charged with resettling members of the outlawed Clan Gregor in 1636. Payment was made to William Sked in Falsyde (Fawsyde) in 1674. William Sked was in Fausyde in 1683 Robert Sked in Belhaven was juror at an assize in Dunbar in 1688, and the surname, wrote Black, persisted in Midlothian. The majority of these earlier references, though, are from the north-east, between the Cairngorms and the coast of Aberdeen, so presumably that is where your earlier Scade ancestors came from.

Hendrie/Hendry

Martha Scade's mother was Janet Hendrie or Hendry and she married John Scade in 1821. We searched for Janet's death to find the names of her parents. She died in 1860:-

Reference 593, Year 1860, District Galston, Entry 56

Name	Janet Scade, wife of a Cotton Weaver
Date/Place	25 th May 1860, 1pm, Priestland, Galston
Sex/Age	Female, 64
Father	John Hendry, Cotton Weaver, deceased
Mother	Marion Henry, maiden surname Browning, deceased
Cause	(illegible), buried in burial ground of Darvel, Loudoun
Informant	William Scade, his mark, Son, present
Registered	31 st May 1860

As we know, Janet could not be found in the 1851 census anywhere in Scotland and she had died by 1861. The 1841 census simply shows her to have been born in Ayrshire, so we must look for her there and the fact that he mother was a Browning is a good clue we can exploit as well. Hendry, as I found recently after much searching for another case, can also be rendered Henderson, so there is still potential for being able to trace this line further back.

Fleming Line

Margaret Fleming was married to John Leggate and we know from previous research that her parents were Archibald Fleming and Margaret Orr. We checked the OPRs but there was no record of the birth of Margaret Fleming. However, we did find reference to the parents, in the context of a birth for a son, John, born in 1786:-

OPR for Avondale, Ref 621/2

1786. [Born] May 11 [Baptised] May 15. John son to Margt Orr & Archibald Fleming Smith at Lochar Bridgend.

Archibald Fleming and Margaret Orr married in 1778:-

OPR for Avondale, Ref 621/2

1778. Nov 14. Archd Fleming and Margt Orr [both in this parish]

The next step here would be to seek possible baptisms for both Archibald and Margaret and see what evidence there is for both surnames further back in the Avondale registers. We can also seek John Scade in the Trinity House pensions (which cover many members of the merchant navy as well as members of the Royal Navy) and look again under Skade, Skaid, Skayd, Skaide, Skayde, Skad, Scad. On the Hendry side we can seek Janet's parents John Hendry and Margaret Browning in case they died between 1855 and 1860 and failing that we can seek possible baptisms for either of them and see where the two surnames are found together in Ayrshire. Hendry, as I found recently after much searching for another case, can also be rendered Henderson, so there is still potential for being able to trace this line further back.

Over and above this, maybe there are elements of the lower part of the chart that you would like to be documented. We don't know so much about John Leggate (1867-1949), for example and it would be very interesting to trace back your Campbell ancestors in Mull and try to discover to which branch of the extended clan of the Dukes of Argyll they might belong, and also to look at the Bennie family. A quite different kettle of fish would be the Knight ancestors of your own mother, in London.

END

Ancestry of Marjory Constance Knight, wife of William Bennie Leggate

The aim of this round of research was to trace the London ancestry of your mother Marjory Constance Knight born on 28 October 1922. Her parents were Stephen Knight born on 2 June 1896 in Bermondsey or Shoreditch and Sophia Burns born on 6 August 1897 in East London – possibly Hoxton. This couple married on 31 July 1920 at St Mary's Church, Edmonton: Stephen's father was Richard James Knight a customs officer and Sophia's father was Henry Alfred Burns, a fitter.

Round 1

Knight

We started by seeking the Knights in the 1911 census returns. (*Census returns* are one of the very best tools available for genealogists. Although some head-counts were made from 1801 onwards (in order to see how many men might be mobilised in the event of Napoleonic invasion), they are generally only of use to us from 1841, when everyone was enumerated by name, with adults' ages rounded down to the nearest five years and stating whether each person was born in their county of residence or not. From 1851 to 1911, after which confidentiality rules prevent their use, they include names, precise ages and places of birth- exactly what genealogists want to take the next step back. Sadly, they can be difficult to search, they do not all survive and there are omissions and errors, deliberate and accidental, to throw us off the true scent. Despite these drawbacks, they are a marvellous genealogical tool, leading us, eventually, to the parishes where baptisms may be found before General Registration began in 1837, and also a splendid window on the world of our ancestors, revealing their interrelationships and living conditions throughout the Victorian era. The dates and reference numbers of the censuses were as follows: 6 June 1841, HO 107; 30 March 1851, HO 107; 7 April 1861, RG 9; 2 April 1871, RG 10; 3 April 1881, RG 11; 5 April 1891, RG 12; 31 March 1901, RG 13; 2 April 1911, RG 14. Note that many pages are known to be missing from the 1861 census).

The 1911 census for 42 Brettenham Road E., Upper Edmonton shows Stephen Knight aged 14, occupation "at home" (scored out) born in Stepney, with his siblings Adelaide Knight, 18 and born in Poplar, and William Edward Knight aged 23, a floor cloth labourer born in Aldgate. They lived with their step-father William Grimes, 49, widower, floor cloth labourer at a floor cloth factor, born at "Laylum" (ie, Laleham, Middlesex). Also present were his children Ellen, 21, Edward, 18, floorcloth labourer, Thomas, 12, floorcloth labourer and Sidney, 8.

Emily Rosannah had in fact married William Grimes in 1901 in the Edmonton registration district and she died in 1910 aged 51, also in Edmonton, as Mrs Grimes. The child Sidney was presumably hers by her second marriage.

The 1901 census for 42 Brettenham Road, Edmonton shows Emily R. Knight, widow aged 42, a general shopkeeper on her own account, born in Clerkenwell, with her children Richard J. Knight, 17, a cook's assistant born in Stepney, William E., 13 born in Ratcliffe and Adelaide L., 8, born in Bromley, Kent, it says, but maybe it should say Bromley by Bow. Revealingly, the next door neighbour was William Grimes, widower!

Stephen Knight was born on 2 June 1896 at 7 York Square, Ratcliff, Stepney, son of Richard Knight, a customs waterman and his wife Emily Rosannah Knight, formerly Strains. In the 1901 census Stephen he was a five year old patient (born in Edmonton) of the Cheriton Cliff Villa Convalescent Home near Hythe, on the south coast: what his condition was is not stated, but maybe it had to do with the lungs, and he had been sent to the seaside for the fresh air. It was the sort of thing they did in those days.

The 1891 for 91 Kerbey Street, St Leonard's Bromley (by Bow) shows Richard Knight, 36, a Customs boatman born in Stepney with his wife Emily R., 34 a florist born in Clerkenwell and son William E., 3 born in Ratcliff.

Richard Knight seems to have died in 1898 aged 44 in the Edmonton registration district.

Richard Knight was a 27 year old bachelor and customs House officer of Foxhall Terrace, son of James Knight a customs house officer, when he married Emily Rosannah Strains, a 24 year old spinster of Foxhall Terrace, daughter of Henry Strains, a watchmaker, on 31 July 1881 at St Ann's Tottenham, before witnesses Henry Strains and Frances Nightingill Strains.

The 1881 census, which was taken in April that year, shows Richard Knight at 23 Copley Street, Mile End Old Town, aged 27 and born in London: there seems to be a ditto under his father's occupation, in which case he too was a 'Waterman of Customs'. He was with his parents James Knight, 61 (though the age is partially obscured) a 'Waterman of Customs' and Emeline, 59, and siblings Eliza, 21, a braider and Jane Maud, 19, an artificial flower maker. All were just given as being born in 'London', which is unhelpful.

The 1871 census shows the family at 76 White House Street, Stepney. As you can see it is badly faced, but it appears to show James Knight, age obscure (50?) a customs officer born in [illegible] and his wife Emeline, 47 born in St Luke's, Middlesex, and children William, 21, Elizabeth A., 19, staymaker, your Richard, 17 a ----- stamper, Stephen, 14 at school, Eliza, 11 at school and Jane, 9 at school, all born in Stepney, and also Elizabeth Smith, James's mother in law, 86 born in somewhere which looks like Norwich but may not be.

In 1861, they were at 25 King Street, Stepney. James Knight was 40, a Customs House Officer born in Lambeth and his wife Emelina was 39 and born in St Luke's, Middlesex. They had children James, 17, a cooper born in 'London', John, 13 at school born in St George in the East, William 11, at school born in Hoxton, Elizabeth A., at school, 9, Richard, 6 at school, Stephen, 4 at school, and Eliza, 1, all born in Stepney.

James Knight was a bachelor of full age (21 or more) and mariner of Britannia Row, son of John Knight, a customs officer, when he married Emmeline Smith, a spinster and minor (under 21) of 8 Rawstone Street,

Islington, daughter of William Smith a spring maker, on 20 February 1842 at Islington parish church before witnesses Jane Smith and John whose surname is badly written – it could be Rothes but at a stretch it could even be Barker.

Emmeline Knight seems to have died in 1885 aged 63 in the Stepney registration district.

There are a few small discrepancies in ages between some of the censuses, but nothing out of the ordinary and we must remember that different people may have given the information in different years.

We have found a reference to the birth of Richard Knight in Stepney in 1856, and we ought to obtain the birth record for completeness next time before proceeding back to seek James and John in the earlier censuses. Also, customs officers are well documented in terms of employment, so we could seek papers for the three generations of the three generations, Richard, James and John and indeed they could help pinpoint the origins of John too.

Burn

We started here by seeking Sophia Burns in the 1911 census. She appears as Sophi Burn, 14, employed in 'daily work', born at Westmorland Place, living at 143 Welhouse Road, with parents Alfred Henry Burn, 51, a cabinet maker born in Kent and Ellen, 46, born in Hammersmith: they had been married 17 years and had had seven children of whom three had died. Their other children present were Alice, 22, a French polisher born in Waterloo Road, Nellie, 16 a French polisher born in Westmorland Place, and Henry 7, born in Westmorland Place. There was also a 'lodger', Anne Dale, 4 born in Brent House, Hackney.

The surname in fact varies throughout the records – Burns or Burn. This is entirely normal and to be expected.

In 1901 they lived in part of 55 Westmoreland Place, Shoreditch (Hoxton). Henry Burn was 41, a warehouse porter and Ellen was 36. Their children were Alice, 12, 'Georgie' (a girl, who was presumably your Sophia), 3, Katie, 1 and Ellen whose age looks like '6' but maybe they meant 6 months (we could investigate). All were born in London.

Sophia Burn was born on 9 August 1897 at 82 Westmoreland Place, Hoxton New Town, daughter of Alfred Henry Burn a journeyman cabinet maker and his wife Ellen Burn late Callaghan formerly Grady.

A journeyman was a day-labourer who had not undertaken or completed an apprenticeship.

Ellen had been born Grady, and had been married before to a Callaghan.

Henry Alfred Burn was a 33 year old bachelor and cabinet maker of 78 Westmoreland Place, son of James Henry Burns a deceased jockey, when he married Ellen Elizabeth Callaghan a 28 year old widow of the same address (unless it was no. 75 – it is not clear), daughter of Thomas Grady, a deceased slater, on 18 June 1894 at St Mark's, Old Street, London before witnesses Alfred Edward Winter and Emily Rosina Williamson.

We have tried to find Henry Alfred Burn/Burns in the 1881 and 1891 censuses but we do not know where he was. It is possible he was out of the country, in the army or navy perhaps.

However, we think we have found him in the 1871 census. This shows Henry Burn aged 10 an errand boy born in Hothfield, Kent, living at 20 Harriett Square, Shoreditch, with his parents Henry Burn, 40 a coachman born in 'Middlesex, London', and Sophia, 37, born in Hothfield, and siblings Thomas, 8 at school born in Hothfield, George, 5 at school born in Shoreditch and John, 2 born in Shoreditch.

This Henry was born in Hothfield and not in London, as suggested in the 1901 census, but it is clear that whoever filled that in was rather lazy, not providing exact places of birth. In 1911 he said himself that he was

from Kent. As we can see below this Hothfield Henry was indeed "Henry A." Nor was his father a jockey, but we have here a groom who also worked with horses. Maybe he was rode race horses as well – children often glamorised their deceased fathers' occupations. We shall proceed with caution here and ensure in time that we have indeed made the right connection here, but we think at this stage that we have.

Hothfield is a little village just to the south of the North Downs, between Maidstone and Ashford.

In 1861, part of the family was at Hothfield Street, Hothfield, Kent. In a house hold headed by Mary Jones, widow, 70, an agricultural labourer's widow born in Boughton lived her son George Jones, 45, an agricultural labourer born in Hothfield and her married daughter Sophia Burns, 26, a groom's wife born in Hothfield, and Sophia's children Esther M. Burns, 4, born in St John's Middlesex and Henry A. Burns, 1, born in Hothfield.

Henry Burn was a 25 year old bachelor and groom of Thomas Street son of Henry John Burn a glazier when he married Sophia Jones at 23 year old spinster of Fuller Street daughter of Robert Jones a labourer on 28 July 1856 at St Matthias church, Bethnal Green before witnesses William and Amy Porter (Amy signed with a cross).

The 1891 census shows Sophia Burn, widow, 57, a domestic housekeeper born in Hothfield living in Hothfield Street with her brother George Jones, single, agricultural labourer born in Hothfield, their sister Eliza Jones, single, 60 born in Hothfield and Sophia's children Esther, 32 a seamstress born in Hothfield and John Burn, 22, a shoemaker born in Shoreditch.

Henry Alfred Burn seems actually to have been born Henry Alfred W. Burn in 1859 in the Ashford registration district, so the next step would be to obtain this birth and then we can seek the family in the earlier censuses.

END

Round 2

Letter to John Leggate: 'This is our second round of research into your mother's Knight and Burns ancestry. You kindly told me that your mother had written:

"Thank you for all of the information you sent about my Mum and Dad. I read it again this afternoon and was intrigued to piece together the jigsaw. I knew Dad was away for a while but he always said it was a Home and I wondered about that for years. I knew his mother bought the shop in Brettenham Road, Edmonton with money that she got when her husband died, he drowned in the Thames whilst at his work as a Customs officer. In fact she remarried, a Mr Wm Grimes and he kept the shop going till after the War. He was a fine gentleman, we used to visit most Sunday nights. The railway ran behind our backdoor at Tottenham and it was just 2 stops to Angel Rd, Edmonton. I liked that, I always got a 1d bar of chocolate from the machine on the platform. My only remaining cousin is Elsie and she was Aunt Ada's youngest daughter. Aunt Ada, my Dad's only sister lived up she was 104 and was alert to the very end. It has all brought back many happy memories."

It was interesting that Richard Knight had drowned. We would have obtained his death record but we reasoned that the incident would probably be detailed in his Customs service papers.

Knight

We had found compelling evidence to show that Richard James Knight the Customs Officer, who was born about 1855 in Stepney, was the son of James Knight, Customs Officer, and Emeline Smith. We had even found a possible birth record for him. On applying for it, however, we found that it related to a Richard who was son of Henry Knight, gas fitter of Park Terrace, Stepney and his wife Harriet Trotter. That was disappointing, but further research revealed our Richard's baptism. It took place at St Mary's parish church, Islington on 3 September 1856 (having been born on 22 July 1854) – he was baptised Richard Knight, son of James and

Emmaline Knight of Nelson Terrace, father's occupation: "customs". There is a corresponding birth, in fact, registered in Stepney in 1855 (September quarter, ref. 1c 496) but there is little point in applying for it (unless you particularly want it of course) as we know what will be on it. We can see that he did not official have the middle name James: perhaps he picked it up, at confirmation, perhaps. We also found the baptisms of some of Richard's siblings, at Islington:

Mary Jane, baptised at Islington on 11 March 1846 and born 16 February 1846, the father then being a clock spring maker of Charlotte Street

James Richard baptised at St John the Baptist, Hoxton on 6 January 1850, the father being a waterman of Queen's Place

Elizabeth Ann baptised 12 March 1852 at St Dunstan's Stepney (born 8 February 1852) the father being a waterman of 5 Wellington S[treet], Mile End Old Town.

So James went through a few jobs before he joined the Customs service. We are still unable to find him in the 1851 or 1841 censuses, and even searched the 1841 returns for Britannia Row, Islington – his address when he married Emeline – but without finding him or any Knights there. That does not matter but it would have been nice to have found him. I wonder, given his apparent absence and obviously aquatic predilections, if he might in fact have been in the Royal or Merchant Navy in those years, and away somewhere in the world, at sea.

Customs officers are sometimes quite well recorded so the next step was to seek material on the three generations of officials in your family. What sounds like a straightforward task turned out to be rather complex, though.

Before we knew about James's earlier careers as watch spring maker and son on we had looked for him in CUST 47 (Minute Books relating principally to appointments), specifically, CUST 47/664 (which starts on 12 February 1846) through to CUST 47/684 (which ends 31 December 1853) but then when we realised he may have started later we looked in CUST 47/685-698 (which ends at 2 August 1854) but without success, confidently expecting to find him, but we did not.

Instead of pursuing him further at this stage (we can come back to him later) we realised we must focus on his father John, not least to discover where he had come from. Searches in CUST 39 (Board of Customs and successor: Establishment; staff lists which contain details of staff employed by the Board of Customs and contain information concerning salaries, superannuation awards etc.), focussing on CUST 39/145-149, which cover the period 1803-1878 revealed (but I must stress that at this stage we have only searched up to 1857):

CUST 39/145 Permanent Superannuations: minute dated 13 January 1849, late port of service Bideford, J. Knight, late office – Corporal Guard – the word in between is abbreviated and I cannot make it out – port where paid Plymouth, age 62, length of service 32 years, salary £82-2-6, left due to dimness of sight, annual allowance £50, date of commencement 30 December 1848.

The 1851 census has a Chelsea Pensioner called James Knight aged 65 living with his wife and children in Collaton Raleigh, south Devon and, whilst we cannot be sure this is he, it seems reasonably likely and if so he is not our John. However, we also found:

CUST 39/146 J. Knight, boat guard, Whitby, 53 years old, 31 years' service, income £59-15-00, superannuation allowance £36-10-00, board's memorial dated 27 March 1852, treasure authority dated 7 May 1852. CUST 39/148 Permanent Superannuations: John Knight minute dated 13 May 1853, late port of service Deal, late

office C.B.C.G. [Customs Boatman Coast Guard] Kingsdown, port where paid Whitby, age 53, 31 years' service, , salary £59-15-00, reason for retiring asthma, annual allowance £36-10-00, started 27 March [1852]. (CUST 39/145 repeats this)

The 1851 census lists this John at Kingsdown, in a row of cottages occupied by coast guards, aged 52, a coast guard born in Linton, Devonshire, with his wife Susannah, 52 born in Staithes (not at all far from Whitby), Yorkshire and a son John aged 16 and born in Margate. This looked as if it could well be your ancestor John Knight: he was born about 1799 and his son James would have been born at roughly the time he entered the service.

However, searching forward we also found:

CUST 39/150, Permanent Superannuations dated 13 May 1859, John Knight, late port of service London, aged 64 and 11 months, tidewater, port where paid: London, 40 years service, salary £93-5-00, annual allowance £69-11-10, date of commencement 6 April 1859. CUST 39/151, Superannuations, detail the same person but adds that he retired due to "determination of blood to the head, &c" (whatever that means) and tells us that there was a Treasury Letter of 12 May 1859 and a minute dated 13 May 1859. (We searched in the Treasury papers (T2/246 & T2/248) for 1859 which may have contained more information but in this case did not).

This John would have been born about 1795 and of course your John's son James was born (about 1820/1) in Lambeth, which ties in with this John working in London.

The 1861 census shows this John as a retired customs officer living at 7 Henry Street, Stepney, aged 66 and born in Linton, Kent, with his wife Mary, 74, born in Sussex, a granddaughter Mary A. Knight, 15, a servant born in Stepney and a lodger, Ann Cocke, who was an upholstress from Thaxted, Essex. The 1841 census shows him in Gravesend with what appear to be daughters Elizabeth and Emma, both aged 10-15. In 1851 he is in Stepney at 7 Henry Street aged 57, a customs officer and his wife Mary was 59 and born in Petworth, Sussex: again was present the granddaughter Mary Ann Knight, 5, born in Stepney. In 1871 he was in Poplar at 7 Victoria Road, and his wife's place of birth was given as Lodsworth, Sussex.

The bizarre coincidence of their having been two John Knight customs officers, one born in Linton, Devonshire in 1799 and the other born in Linton, Kent in 1795 had me starching my head for a while, but the facts are plain. Because your ancestors lived in Stepney then the latter was the clear favourite and a search of the Linton, Kent baptisms using, at this stage, an index) showed:

<i>William Knight, son of Stephen & Ann Knight</i>	<i>14 May 1787</i>
<i>James Knight, son of Stephen & Ann Knight</i>	<i>21 August 1791</i>
<i>Mary Knight, daughter of Stephen & Ann Knight</i>	<i>8 October 1793</i>
<i>John Knight, son of Stephen & Ann Knight</i>	<i>13 July 1795</i>
<i>Henry Knight, son of Stephen & Ann Knight</i>	<i>30 July 1797</i>
<i>Sarah Knight, daughter of Stephen & Ann Knight</i>	<i>2 November 1798</i>
<i>Edward Knight, son of Stephen & Ann Knight</i>	<i>20 February 1800</i>

Richard Knight, son of Stephen & Ann Knight 20 February 1800

George Knight, son of Stephen & Ann Knight 30 January 1803

Here is surely John the Customs Office and the fact that his family used the names Stephen and Richard makes us confident that this is the right family.

Melville and Co.'s Directory of Kent, 1858, describes the village of Linton: [\[NB see illustration\]](#)

LINTON is a village, pleasantly situated on an elevated point, four miles south of Maidstone. The population in 1851 was 1,082. The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas, and is a neat edifice. The living is a vicarage; the Rev. Thomas King is the incumbent. The Maidstone union workhouse is in this parish, and will hold 500 inmates. Clock House is half a mile N.W.; Snode's Hole, one mile west.

The Church of Linton St Nicholas, where John Knight and his siblings were baptised, was originally built in Norman times. This was rebuilt and enlarged in the 13th or 14th century, and again between 1560 and 1565. The Archbishop's visitation of 1573 indicates that the Church then was in a good state of repair, but the Churchwarden and the Vicar were severely reprimanded for neglecting their duties.

The Church has been completely remodelled since the Knight children were baptised at St Nicholas. In 1860 the old tower was pulled down and the east central wall was removed. The church was then extended and a new tower built.

The engraving below shows the church as the Knight family would have known it:



This all looks right, but now we need to do some in-filling, looking for the baptism of James Knight in Lambeth about 1820/1 and see if he had siblings Elizabeth and Emma: if so we will know we have found the right person. Equally we may be able to prove the case by showing that the granddaughter Mary A. Knight born about 1846 in Stepney was identical with the Mary 'Jane' Knight baptised in Islington daughter of James and Emeline - (n.b. I have just rechecked each record concerned and we have not misread any of them: still, if the incumbent of Islington made a mistake and recorded Mary Ann as Mary 'Jane' we should not be too astonished) – but we have not found such proof yet. *Otherwise, this John might not be your ancestor after all – it may in fact have been the man from Linton, Devon.*

This brings us up to budget but further work would of course focus on proving this connection.

Burns

We had encountered some trouble with this family last time but finally it seemed highly likely that Henry Alfred Burn was actually born Henry Alfred W. Burn in 1859 in the Ashford registration district. We obtained the document and were very pleased to find that Henry Alfred Burns was born on 2 May 1859 at Hothfield, which is a village near Ashford, Kent, son of Henry Burn, a groom and his wife Sophia Burn, formerly Jones. This cemented that section of the family tree.

We already had the parents' marriage so the next job was to start looking for the father (James) Henry and Henry's father Henry James Burn in the censuses.

But we were completely unable to find Henry Burn/Burns born within two years of 1830 in the 1851 census. We even checked the 1851 census for the whole of Thomas Street, Bethnal Green (which was his address when he married Sophia Jones), without success. The troubles here are that "Burn" can be spelled in all sorts of ways (the family of the famous poet Robbie was originally Burness, and in London variants could go as far as Bourne and beyond), and that before he married he may have been anywhere at all with his horses.

We tried searching for Henry (James) Burn/burne/burns/burnes/burness/ bourn/bourne as a glazier in the 1851 and 1861 censuses – but we found precisely none of them. We also looked in the 1841 census (in which a blanket search by occupation is not possible) of London for Henry aged about 10 with a father Henry, regardless of occupation, but found nothing.

I fear that these absences may make it impossible for us to trace this line. There is in Marylebone on 18 August 1831 the baptism of a Henry John Burn son of John Henry Burn and his wife Susan, which could be the right person and if we check the original we *may* be lucky and find the father was a glazier, or a jockey – but otherwise we may have a very hard time cracking this one. Ironically, we may have better luck with the Joneses of Hothfield, Kent!

This brings us up to budget and perhaps that is the end of this research if the book is to be prepared, but if you ever want to come back to this we know where to restart on the Knights and Joneses and the Burneses too if you wish, and at the end of my earlier report I outlined what more could be done on the Scottish lines other than the Leggate line, which we can truly be said to have finished.

Anthony Adolph, 2014

Tracing Your Family History (Collins, 2004, reprinted in three editions)

Tracing Your Home's History (Collins, 2006).

Need to Know? Tracing Your Family History (Collins, 2007)

Tracing Your Irish Family History (Collins, 2007, and Firefly, 2009)

Tracing Your Scottish Family History (Collins, 2008 and Firefly, 2008)

Who Am I? The Family Tree Explorer (Quercus, 2009)

The King's Henchman: Henry Jermyn, Stuart Spymaster and Architect of the British Empire (Gibson Square, 2012)

Tracing Your Aristocratic Ancestors (Pen and Sword, 2013)

