

Hundred-year-old bride

It is a sad fact that not everybody gets recorded in a census. There can be a variety of reasons for this. Errors on behalf of the enumerator or collector of the census. Errors on behalf of the head of household or the person filling out the household census return. Confusion as to who is counted in and who is counted out. Even spending the evening out in the open could account for a person not being recorded.

However, in most cases where census records can't be found it's mostly because they've either been destroyed or been damaged and have become unreadable. Or, the writing is illegible or the spelling is such a wild variation from the actual name that the best AI couldn't connect it to the actual person.

Notwithstanding the above my starting point is always that a person IS to be found in the census and it's just a matter of tracking them down. And there are numerous techniques that can be deployed to do this whenever a simple search based on name and approximate age fails to find the subject at hand.

Leaving aside known destroyed or lost records 'no shows' in the census record are, in my experience random events and the randomness suggest they should be one off. So, whenever a person fails to show up in four consecutive censuses then that needs a fuller explanation as it suggests they have been recorded but just haven't been found yet. It was this situation that I was presented with when I was looking into the family of a fellow researcher who had their ancestor's 1905 marriage record and the 1921 English census record but little else.

Their age and place of birth in the 1921 census return suggested that they should also be in the English census records for 1911, 1901, 1891 and 1881 but, try as I did, I couldn't find them. As a result, I decided to do a deep dive into this person's family to see what I could uncover and whether he was hidden away in the household of some distant relative. In the process I discovered four separate branches of this family whose shared roots are very likely unknown to current day descendants and whose connection may not have been otherwise easily established. So, if you have an interest in the Bride family of Ireland and Lancashire, read on.

Who's Johnie?

My fellow family historian's frustrations related to a John Anderton born in 1874 who married Annie Swain in 1905 at Oldham, Lancashire in the northwest of England. The marriage register recorded their respective fathers as John Anderton, a 'commercial clerk' and John Joseph Swain, a 'painter (journeyman)'. Both men were deceased at the time their children wed.

The 1921 census record indicated that John had been born in Liverpool about 40 miles from Oldham but in the same county of Lancashire. The 1939 English and Welsh Register of all residents taken at the outset of World War II recorded John's birthdate as 25 February 1874 which is out by 1 year when compared with the age '48 years and 4 months' recorded on 19 June 1921 when that year's census was taken. Based on this John's birth should have been registered in the first quarter of either 1873 or 1874.

The General Register Office index of births lists 13 John Andertons registered in those periods, seven of which were in the county of Lancashire. Alas, none were at the Oldham registry office.

In 1939 John was living in Don Valley, West Yorkshire and had been for some time according to the Electoral Rolls. Whilst I have not purchased the full record I believe the death registered at Don Valley in the 4th quarter of 1944 [Volume 9c Page 799] of a 70 year old John G A Anderton is our John. Of the seven registered births referred to above only one matched this age and these initials, namely John Godfrey Aylward ANDERTON. His birth was registered in the 1st quarter of 1874 at West Derby & Toxteth Park, Vol.8b, Pge 568, mother's maiden name; BRIDE.

From this I identified the marriage of a John Anderton and Elizabeth Bride at St Paul's Liverpool on 21 February 1870. They were recorded in the 1871 census residing at 61 Netherfield Road North, Liverpool. We will come back to this address later. This John senior was recorded in the 1870 marriage register and the 1871 census as a 'clerk'. The same profession as that of our John's father as recorded in the 1905 marriage register.

This couple had three children; our John G A in 1874; Sophia Elizabeth in 1872; and Alice Maud in 1879. Sadly neither of John's sisters survived infancy.

Our John's namesake father died of a Gastric Ulcer when John was just 7. His father had clearly been in some distress because on census night 1881 he was at the Walton workhouse which will have doubled as a hospital, and he died there several weeks later on 20 May 1881.

Where's Johnie?

I don't know where John and his mother were on census night 1881. They don't appear to have been in the workhouse with their father/husband. John's mother remarried in 1883 to a widower named Charles Rawstron however she died shortly after and was buried on 1 October 1885 at St Mary's, Mellor, Lancashire. John was 11 years old when he became an orphan.

This raises the question of whether John was then taken in by one of his many aunts and uncles. His father was one of seven of children. One of these Andertons, James George born 1846 died as a teenager but the other 5 siblings all lived long enough to see in the twentieth century. They can all be found in each of the decennial censuses taken during their lifetimes through to at least 1901. Our orphaned John is not to be found with any of them. John and his mother were not with any of them on the night of the 1881 census.

On John's mother's side there were fewer relatives that could've taken him in, and it was while researching this family I identified other Bride branches and later I outline the evidence I have for linking them. Before that let's consider the immediate family of John's mother.

Uncle John and Aunt Susannah

Elizabeth Susannah BRIDE had been born in the East End of London in 1847, the youngest of three children born to the chemist John Bride and Susannah Loader. John Bride was originally from Ireland while his wife hailed from Portsea, Hampshire in southern England.

Our John Anderton's only maternal uncle and his only maternal aunt were also born in London; Susannah Ann Bride b.1840 and John Grant Bride b.1843.

The Bride family were living at No.1 Jeremiah Street, Poplar, Middlesex (now Greater London) on 6 June for the taking of the 1841 census. Included at this residence was an Anne Bride aged 50 born Ireland which I presumed to be the mother of John.

In the 1840 marriage record, 1841 census, and the childrens' baptism records John Bride is recorded as a 'Chemist'. In 1851 the family were at Liverpool, Lancashire in the Parish of Saint Mary's on census night. John Bride's profession was recorded as "M.D. Edinburgh in general practice". In the marriage records of his children he is consistently described as a Surgeon.

Wherever a document from the 1840's records a middle name for John Bride it is given as Millingen or a variant spelling thereof. In the 1851 census his middle initial is given as 'G' not 'M'. In the 1853 Gore's Directory of Liverpool & its Environs he is recorded as John Godfrey Bride and in his only son's 1879 marriage record he is again John Godfrey, not Millingen. Come 1850 he seems to have changed his middle name. Very curious.

John Grant Bride, like his father entered the medical profession as a general practitioner. He married Emily Mary Fisher in 1879 and in the 1881 census they were living in Warrington, Lancashire. Two servants were with them on census night, but our John and his mother were not. In the 1891 census the good GP, now widowed, was boarding in London recorded as a "Physician Surgeon, practising as a Surgeon".

I'm not sure what became of Uncle John. There appears to be little scope for his being directly involved in our John Anderton's upbringing. In 1884 before his wife had died and when John's mother was still alive Dr. John Grant Bride sailed to Australia where he worked as a physician in Melbourne before returning to England. His wife does not appear to have gone with him. In the early 1900's he was doctoring in East Africa. The most recent record I can find for him is the 1909 Medical Register where he is listed as living at 16 The Avenue, Bedford Park, London.

The eldest of the Bride children, Susannah, married in London in 1863 to Thomas Grieves, a Forgerman or Smith originally from Northumberland in England's northeast. They had 7 children, but Susannah died at the age of 44, predeceasing her sister and our John's mother by a year. Susannah's first born was named John Millingin Grieves.

So, whoever took our John Anderton in after he was orphaned it does not appear to have been anyone from the immediate family of either of his Parents. John's maternal grandparents had both died long before John was born while his father's father died in 1882. John's paternal grandmother lived to the ripe old age of 84 dying in 1903 but if the census record is any guide she too did not take in the young John Anderton, the only surviving child of her eldest son!

An Irish Matriarch

I mention above the 1841 census where the Bride household included an Irish woman named Anne Bride and speculated that she may be the mother of the chemist/surgeon John, and so I searched for a death record for her after 1841. I couldn't find anything however I found a

record for a similarly aged woman in the 1851 census in Liverpool and you will recall that the chemist John was with his young family in Liverpool at that time.

This Anne Bride, 62 years old and originally from Ireland, was not in the Bride household on census night however she was in the same parish of Saint Albans, Liverpool residing with her daughter Mrs Jane Atkinson also born in Ireland, along with two Atkinson children born in Liverpool. A check of the GRO birth index for these two girls confirmed that Mrs Atkinson had once been a Miss Bride.

I was able to identify a marriage record of a William Atkinson and Jane Bride at St John's Liverpool on 15 November 1847. One of the witnesses was a William Bride. Jane's father was recorded as a farmer named John Bride (in chemist John's 1840 marriage record his father was given as John Robert Bride dec'd). I speculated this family might be a branch of John's Bride line who could've taken our John Anderton in when he was orphaned.

A search through the census records enabled me to track this Atkinson family but unfortunately failed to show up any John Anderton in this household or any male of any name who could possibly be our John. Of course, at this point it was still pure speculation that the Irish Liverpoolian Anne Bride had anything to do with the Irish Anne Bride in London in 1841 or indeed the Bride family of our John.

Under the same roof

On closer inspection of the census records a very curious coincidence was revealed. I mentioned above that in the 1871 census John Anderton senior and his new wife Elizabeth née Bride were living at 61 Netherfield Road North, Liverpool. As it transpires there were in fact two other households at that same address on census night. One was of a middle-aged Irish couple named Michael and Mary Tiernan while the other was the very same Atkinsons detailed above, including the now '86' year old Anne Bride.

It seems to me more than a coincidence that the Atkinsons with the elderly Irish matriarch named Anne Bride just happened to be residing at the same premisses as Mrs Elizabeth Anderton whose Irish grandmother went by the same name and was the same age. However, as tempting as it is this does not establish any filial link.

Fortunately, however there is another piece of evidence which I believe settles the matter beyond doubt. As mentioned above I had earlier looked for a death record for Anne Bride after her appearance in the 1841 census. I was somewhat off the mark. Anne Bride appeared in another 3 censuses and died just a few weeks before the English census of 1881. The following appeared in the Liverpool Mercury on 24 January 1881.

DEATH OF A CENTENARIAN.—Our obituary records the death of Anne Coates Bride, grandmother of the late Dr. Bride, of this city, at the age of 109 years. A correspondent writes—"She was possessed of all her faculties to the last; she could read and write perfectly, and could thread her own needle, sewing being her principal pastime. A few years ago she undertook a journey of several miles by herself to visit one of her grandchildren, and was delighted with her out. Her remains were followed to the grave by a great number of great-grand and grand children, deeply deploring their loss."

While this appeared in the Brighton Gazette on 27 January 1881.

DEATH OF A CENTENARIAN.
A Liverpool paper announces the death of Mrs Anne Bride, whose age is set down at 106 years, and states that the age of the old woman is authenticated. She was the wife of John Bride, who was a sergeant in the old Irish constabulary.

You can't always believe what's in the Press

This needs a little unpacking. Firstly, the ages don't match – and I don't just mean that one newspaper reported it as 106 years and another 109. Both are at significant variance with the ages given in the censuses. Which were -

Census Year	Age	Calculated birth year
1841	50-54 (rounded down to 50)	1786-91
1851	62	1788-89
1861	76	1784-85
1871	86	1784-85

None of these potential birth years get you even close to 106 in 1881. This raises the spectre that this centenarian is yet another Anne Bride. And there would be something in that except for the fact that this 106yo Anne who died 17 January 1881 at 2 Curzon Street, West Derby had her death notified to the Registrar by her daughter, Jane Atkinson of the same address. This was unquestionably the same Anne who had lived with the Atkinsons since at least 1851, who for whatever reason aged a decade on her death bed.

But there is much more that these reports reveal. Firstly, "*grandmother of the late Dr. Bride, of this city*" I believe is a reference to Dr John Grant Bride born 1843 who by 1881 was practicing in Warrington 15 miles east of Liverpool. I have seen the term 'late of' in publications of this period refer to a place or occupation rather than the mortal life of the subject. Dr John Grant Bride was very much alive in 1881 but 'late of Liverpool'. It is also possible this is a reference to his late father, but he would be a son, not a grandson of the

deceased. In any event this links our John's Bride family with the Atkinsons. The reference to the Dr Bride for my mind clearly places old Anne Bride at the heart of our John's family and establishes Mrs Jane Atkinson as the sister of the chemist John Bride.

Secondly, *"A few years ago she undertook a journey of several miles to visit one of her grandchildren..... followed to the grave by a great number of great-grand and grand children"*. There were 7 surviving Atkinson grandchildren. I have not identified any marriages for them, and it was the case that in 1881 at least 4 of them were single and seemingly childless.

A 'great number' suggests that more than the Atkinsons were counted in the mix. Our John Anderton was in Liverpool then, was he one of the mourning great-grandchildren? In London there were 5 Grieves 'great-grandchildren', one a babe in arms. Did they make the trip north for the funeral? Or was the columnist taking a little poetic licence in his account of the burial?

Anne's full name is given as Anne Coates Bride. This is the first time I have come across the name 'Coates'. Was it Anne's middle name or her maiden name?

And the search continues

At this point I am still none the wiser as to what happened to our John between the time he was orphaned in the mid 1880's and when he married in 1905. Where did he go? What did he do? So far, every line of enquiry has drawn a blank.

Tantalisingly, the account of Anne Bride's funeral suggested a more numerous set of Bride descendants than I had been able to account for. And I was reminded that there was a William Bride, witness to the Atkinson-Bride marriage of 1847. Was he another sibling with a family in Merseyside?

A search of the census records covering Liverpool districts surprisingly threw out just a handful of 'William Bride's. This was both a relief and a worry. Maybe there wasn't that many more Brides to be found after all. But one listing did jump out at me. It was from the 1871 census of a William Bride born 1822. Jane's year of birth was circa 1819 and chemist John's, 1813 so that was well within scope.

The census record revealed this William Bride to be a 49-year-old customs officer who had been born in Ireland. He had a 48-year-old wife named Ellen, also Irish, and a 13yo daughter Elizabeth who had been born in Bermondsey, London. Also in the house was a 2-year-old Liverpudlian granddaughter named Susan Bradley. All very promising I thought.

I was then able to locate census records for 1841, 51 and 61. I haven't identified any records of William after the 1871 census. William married Ellen Morris at St Mary Lambeth, Surrey (now part of Greater London) on 15 February 1841. His father was John Bride (dec'd). This marriage took place just under 12 months after chemist John married his wife on the other side of the River Thames.

William and Ellen had 6 children. I followed them all through the census records. Three of them made it into the 20th century. If our John Anderton ever spent time with them, it was never on a census night. The evidence that this William Bride was related to our John

Anderton was circumstantial at best but birth records for William's only son, Thomas introduced yet another striking co-incidence.

Thomas Bride was born in Liverpool on 18 May 1850, and he was baptised at 5 weeks at St John, Liverpool on 23 June as Thomas Coates Bride. This was the same spelling C-O-A-T-E-S as used in Anne Coates Bride's obituary. This must be more than a co-incidence!

But of course, in the cold light of day all I had to link chemist John, Jane and William was as follows –

- The surname Bride
- Father's name John
- (a) William Bride witnessed Jane's marriage
- The presence of the (middle) name – Coates, and (I suppose)
- Ireland, London and Liverpool.

Not enough to meet the genealogical standard of proof, though I can imagine many would happily run with it.

Getting over the line

However, there was one further line of inquiry. On census night 1861 William, Ellen and their 6 children were at 20 Redmond Place, Liverpool. Along with them was William's brother-in-law 58yo John Galvin and a 17-year-old niece Elizabeth Galvin. John Galvin was a joiner from Ireland and his daughter was also Irish, born in Cork.

This suggested the possibility of yet another Bride sibling, a Mrs Galvin. The 1851 census reveals her to be Letitia in her mid-forties and from Ireland. I can find no other records for her. Her husband was recorded as a widower in the 1861 census.

With their daughter born in Ireland circa 1844 I do not expect to find John and Letitia in the 1841 English census. I have also not found a record in the 1841 English census for Jane Bride. Assuming Letitia and Jane were sisters did they cross the Irish sea together some time between little Elizabeth Galvin's birth in 1844 and Jane's marriage to William Atkinson in 1847? Did William then travel north from London to join them followed by chemist John and mother Anne later in the decade. It would certainly all fit.

If only I could link these branches with a connection putting them in the same place at the same time. Anne Coates Bride's obituary satisfies me that chemist John and Mrs Atkinson were siblings. The 1861 census links William Bride to Mrs Letitia Galvin as brother and sister. Odds are this William was the witness to Jane's nuptials, but I wouldn't stake my house on it.

And then it struck me. I had been obsessively trying to find members of these various families under the same roof on census night and as a result failed to pay due attention to that other event that brings families together – weddings.

It's a sign

I had of course considered the possibilities regarding the 'marriage witness' William Bride but did nothing to demonstrate if he was or wasn't the same man who married in London and

lived in Liverpool. I also hadn't reviewed all the witnesses to the numerous marriages that had taken place across all these families. So, I did just that and the below table lists all the witnesses I am aware of related to the respective marriages of the potentially four Bride siblings and their children.

Groom/Bride	Witness	Relationship (if known)
Letitia Bride	unknown	
Elizabeth Galvin (1)	Frederick Tate	husband's bother
	Sophia Godfrey	
Elizabeth Galvin (2)	Albert Lange	
	Elizabeth Bride	cousin??
John Millingen Bride	Martha Salton	
	William Loader	wife's father ?
Susanna Ann B	George Loader	maternal uncle/cousin?
	Eliza Buches	
John Grant B	Charles John Fisher	wife's brother
	Julia Washbourne Gibbs	
Elizabeth Ann B (1)	Thomas Worrall	
	Emily Jane Worrall	
Elizabeth Ann B (2)	John Hall	
	Charlotte Thompson	
Jane Bride	William Bride	brother??
	Joseph Mills	
Jane Atkinson	No marriage identified	
William Massie Atkinson	No marriage identified	
Ellen Atkinson	No marriage identified	
John Bride Atkinson	No marriage identified	
Thomas Atkinson	No marriage identified	
Susan Atkinson	Never married	
Maria Esther Atkinson	Never married	
William Bride	Robert White	
	J L Gawler	
Annie B	William Warwick	
	James Atkinson	
Susan B	Edward Reading	
	Mary Ann Reading	
Ellen B	James Scott	
	Jane Bradley	sister-in-law ?
Thomas Coates B	James Cairns	brother-in-law
	Letitia Clayton	sister
Letitia B	William Foulkes	
	Ellen Bride (X mark)	mother ??
Mary Elizabeth B	Richard Barnes	
	Clementina C Barnes (X)	

Critically this identified an additional link between the otherwise unconnected Bride branches. As I detailed above, we have established that Letitia and William are related. Also, John and Jane are related.

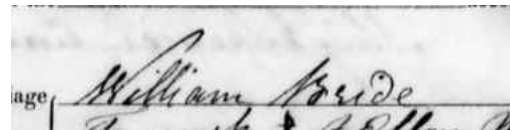
The question is are all 4 related as siblings of the same family. I would argue that a demonstrable connection between these family groupings will do that, and I believe we potentially have two. In addition to Jane Bride's 1847 marriage being witnessed by a William Bride, Elizabeth Galvin's second marriage in 1869 was witnessed by an Elizabeth Bride.

The only identifying information related to a marriage witness is the signature. No other records are kept. If then William Bride's signature matches that in Jane's marriage record then I would argue this is evidence he is her brother, or at the very least a close relation. And, if the signature of Elizabeth Galvin's witness is the same as that of John Anderton's mother then I would argue that is evidence the two were cousins making Mrs Letitia Galvin and chemist John Bride sister and brother.

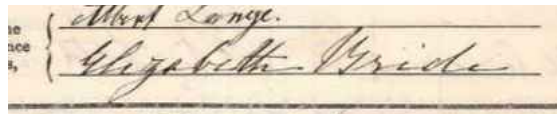
And what was the verdict? You can see for yourself.



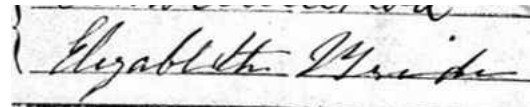
Signed 1847 - witness to Jane Bride's marriage



Signed 1841 - groom at own marriage



Signed 1869 - witness to Elz Galvin's 2nd marriage



Signed 1870 - bride at own marriage

I'm not a handwriting expert but in my mind there is no doubt these two sets of signatures were by the same hands.

Conclusion

The above I believe provides sufficient evidence to conclude that Letitia Galvin née Bride born circa 1805, Charles Millingen/Godfrey Bride born circa 1813, Jane Atkinson née Bride born circa 1819 and William Bride born circa 1822 were the children of John Bride and Anne Coates Bride (c.1785-1891). In summary this is based on –

- Anne's death notified to the registrar by her daughter Jane Atkinson,
- Anne's obituary naming John's son Dr Bride as her grandchild,
- William witnessing Jane's marriage,
- Letitia's husband identified as William's brother-in-law in the 1861 census, and
- John's daughter witnessing the second marriage of Letitia's daughter.

Finally

The challenge I set myself remains unfulfilled. I still do not have a record of John Anderton (1874-1944) in the censuses of 1881, 91, 1901 or 1911. And on that I will admit defeat, but I hope that any benefit others can extract from the above goes some way to easing the frustration that this particular brick wall remains standing.

Census records aside there is still much to be researched on this family and I've annexed to this paper a few bullet points on possible next steps. These are in no way intended to be exhaustive. More 'a starter for 10'.

Thanks go to SH whose post on FaceBook's Ancestry UK page prompted this exercise. I found the chase exhilarating. Many thanks go to all those fellow researchers who publish

their work on the web. Much of the above has been drawn from that work, though of course any errors are mine.

Should you find any errors in what I have said or wish to challenge and/or add to the analysis please feel free to email at gatp63@hotmail.com . All my research and supporting documentation can be found at my ZZ Odds and Sods Family Tree at Ancestry.co.uk.

Glenn Palmer

London

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www.FamilyHistoryResources.co.uk

Next Steps

Genealogy is a never-ending jigsaw puzzle. Each end point is just a stepping stone to the next generation. Attention now needs to turn to Ireland. If you are minded to take up the challenge these are my suggestions for areas of research –

John Bride –

- birth before 1785
- marriage to Anne (Coates) circa 1800
- death before 1840
- middle name Robert
- name Millingen/Mellingin/Millengen
- a member of the Irish Constabulary, possibly sergeant
- lived Cork (possibly Belfast see Jane 1891 census)
- child baptisms (at least the following)
 - Letitia
 - John
 - Jane
 - William

John Galvin

- marriage to Letitia Bride before 1845
- child baptisms at least Elizabeth circa 1844