

Research conversations between Teresa Williams and Sarah Spink, keen amateur genealogist, historian and researcher.

Communications took place via email and Messenger between 21/9/18 and 4/10/18

**SS: Have found a John H.G. Coles living in Barry on 1939 register. Mother Doris B Coles but father is Thomas and John's dob is given as 20 Mar. 1928.**

**Doris B Copp married Thomas Coles qtr 4 1927.**

**There was a wedding party in Barry in 1927.**

*TW: On the photo it's July - are there sometimes discrepancies?*

**Not with something like that. This is clearly a family album and was compiled as photos were taken.**

**Ages can be incorrect on 1939 register but I have checked with birth registrations and it was 1928**

*Do you mean John Coles was born in 1928?*

**The one I found, yes.**

**Don't forget John Coles may be a child of a friend or a relation.**

*OK. Under the photo it says 1930 though. Yes I did wonder whose child it was. May have nothing to do with the wedding.*

**Wedding party 1927 Barry may not be Fred's but big coincidence otherwise. Guests wearing big coats for July though.**

*That's true*

**I may have incorrect John Coles though so will keep looking**

*And they did go to Barry if I remember correctly*

**John could be adopted of course. Pic taken 1930 could he have been born end of 1929? Suspect photos probably taken not long after birth. Why nurse holding him? Nanny? Assume not nun**

*I wondered whether it was a nursing/maternity home, like when they used to carry the baby out to the car when it went home*

**Could well be. No other children in album**

*There's the loose one just called 'twerp', aged one. Then one of a toddler on the beach, looks about 2 and I think it's the same child*

**Doris/Dolly could have come from Barry hence married there. Took baby John to her parents where photo taken. Alternative went home to mum's to give birth (less likely).  
What's the pic of 4 men standing outside a building in 1926?**

*Think it was the Pathé studios. And yes your Barry theory sounds good.*

**Sorry forget comments re John in Barry no mention of him being in Barry but Doris could still be from there. Note pic missing marked Fred and Dolly leaving for honeymoon above wedding guests pic. Question. Why not labelled 'our wedding' or Wedding Day. Think someone else attended wedding, took pics and kept them, more likely as friend or guest**

*Yes I agree. Think there was a close knit group of friends. Or as you said, could be a relative, brother maybe? There is a pic of 3 of them at woodside LTC in 1927 which I think could be in Cheshire.*

**Yes? I wondered if it was a lawn tennis club. London Teaching Centre.**

**Fred and Doris definitely got married in Barry in July 1927. The photo of them was taken outside same house as the Barry 1927 wedding party labelled pic. note shape of doorway, bricks, the bush in garden. July is qtr 3. Barry is in Cardiff registration district.**

**Possible candidates:**

**Frederick C Jackson m Doris M Corbin qtr 3 \*\***

**Frederick J C Matthews m Doris M Pettit qtr 3 \*\***

**Frederick G Merrifield m Doris E Bryant qtr 3 \*\***

**Frederick E. Stacey m Doris M Evans qtr 3 \*\***

**Of these:**

**Frederick C Jackson - can't find him easily with Doris on the 1939 Register. Doris May Corbin was born in qtr 4 1900 and was living in Cadoxton near Barry in 1911. Father was a house painter.**

**In 1939: Living Penarth**

**Frederick J C Matthews born 8 Sep 1898 Deputy Superintendent Board of Trade?**

**Fit profile of type of people in the album**

**Doris M Matthews born 12 Oct 1901**

**Plus one record still closed (so potentially a child)**

**But Doris was living in Cardiff at the time of the 1911 census where her father was a printing works manager so I doubt they moved to Barry.**

**I cannot find a birth for a Matthews with a mms Pettit.**

**Frederick G Merrifield born 26 Oct 1899 Instructor (nautical) navigation, technical college, Cardiff.**

**Doris E Merrifield born 4 July 1901**

**One child undisclosed**

**Plus**

**Bryan Merrifield born 19 Dec 1934**

**A Jean Merrifield was born in Cardiff district in 1931 and I believe that this is the undisclosed child.**

**FGM appears to have travelled a bit before returning to Cardiff and marrying. Unlikely to be him**

**Re Frederick E. Stacey - very difficult to find him with Doris in 1939. He may be Frederick E. Stacey b 6 May 1894 lodging at Imperial College Hospital, Prince Consort Road, Westminster. Married, occupation Certified Public Accountant. However I don't think it is him as I think I have spotted him living with a Mabel in Winchmore Hill in 1935.**

**Currently there is a Macintosh House in Beaumont Street, London. It was Marylebone Library but it is a relatively modern building and is being replaced by a hospital building. Unless there was a Macintosh House on this site in the 1920s we will have to discount it. I get the impression that Macintosh House we are looking for was possibly a Hall of Residence or a lodging house?**

**Need to know more about Elsie. Also what of Wood in Goole in 1919. Is there also a photo of a Daphne with a tennis racket. In the picture taken of two women and a man at Cheltenham, the two women look alike. Sisters?**

**You mentioned Cheshire in conversation? Why do you think there may be a link to Cheshire please?**

*I agree with the Macintosh House scenario, I spent quite a while looking at that. The one in London you mention was built in the 60s I think. I think the photo was perhaps uni / nurses etc?*

*I mentioned Cheshire because I thought Woodside LTC might have been there ( there is one there now anyway ). (Web address given).*

*Also, I tried to research Goole - I wondered whether it's now called RAF Snaith - although there are cadets at Goole. The RAF only was formed at about that time I think.*

*The other day I looked at faces in the photos with a magnifying glass. I wondered whether Elsie might be the same lady in the Cheltenham photos - the lady on the left (his right )? I also thought it could be the same person on the Isle of Wight 1925, and possibly the woman on the left, Richmond 1920. You're right, two of the women do look similar. And in the Jersey 1922 pic, there are two there that look potentially like Fred and Doris.*

*I also think that Fred might be the man at Richmond 1922 - face looks similar.*

*Yes, there is Daphne with a tennis racket. There are some older children in the sea somewhere, I think they might be someone else's children.*

*There are a few pages with writing but no photos - travel abroad - but they are post 1927, and I think it's the owner of the album who went (who isn't Fred). Think the owner is the man with the moustache*

**PS Does the writer mention any other names on these photo less pages?**

**(Ever hopeful) :-)**

**Any chance you could send a better copy of the Goole RAF pic please? At first glance I don't think the man standing at the back is wearing the same uniform as the other two. Do any of these 3 men crop up in other pics?**

*Do you think that could be Fred at the back?*

*No more names sorry*

*(pics) Same man in RAF?*

**Two men seated in Goole pic look a bit alike. Will check uniforms. Man front left has badge on his left cuff. Not sure that man at back is one at wedding, i.e. Fred.**

*Ah ok. Maybe a superior rank to the other 2?*

**Usually stripes near shoulder denote rank. Man on left looks a little older.**

**Man at back is officer, possibly 2nd Lt, from uniform. Doesn't have wings badge, nor do others.**

**Does not look like RAF uniform. Wonder if after WW1 they joined RAF. Join up photo?**

**Stripes near wrist on man on left show number of times wounded.**

*I'm with you on the thought that they were just joining up. Don't think the RAF was in operation until after the war?*

*I'll look at the photos again with a magnifying glass. Wonder whether the 'girls' photo is an equivalent?*

**RAF was formed 1 April 1918, amalgamation of Royal Flying Corps and Royal Naval Air Service**

*OK*

**...had to look it up in my book on dating military uniforms. I know many if not most members of army were not demobbed until 1919.**

*I see now why I'm confused about this, this photo comes later in the album, there are some 1920s ones before it, which was taken in 1919*

**Perhaps only acquired at a later date**

*True*

*(pic) Chap on right?*

*(pic) Poss 2 brothers on the right? (I feel like I'm clutching at straws!)*

**I hadn't seen your comment but had thought the same!**

*Taking photos on phone and zooming in is helpful!*

**And if brothers more likely to sit next to each other.**

*For a photo yes.*

*What could this be (pic of text)...No photo...*

**It is most likely a place in France. Cap D'Antibes**

*The writing underneath is a place in France too*

*(web address given)*

**Yes I found that. So not far from Manchester. But no other pics in that area.**

**That photo in Goole was taken in garden of upper middle class house with woman at side. Suggest at least one lived there.**

*Well I wondered what the woman was doing there but didn't think it could be her house!*

*She's a young woman, looks doting, hand in pocket, casual.*

**Possibly just been speaking to man at back judging by his stance.**

*And the smile.*

*I'm now shining a light through the back of the photos - I can see some have writing on, but so far is just what's been copied onto the page.*

**Have tried before to remove pics from albums when stuck in, really difficult and can ruin photos as have to dampen it. Best if can see using bright light.**

*That's what I'm trying, but they are stuck in very well!*

*Might have a name!!*

*(pic)*

*Jimmy*

**Would not have put name on back of photo if it was owner on album in pic**

*What if his wife took it? It says Jimmy and the name of the place*

**That makes sense. Someone had to take all photos of him who was close to him**

*And he is in it a lot.*

*Some have months as well as year on the back*

**Anything on back of John Coles as a baby?**

*On the one with the nurse holding him it says John Coles*

*Re photos below :*

*On the back I think this says Athertons (or similar ). I think they could quite possibly be the same two women in the very first photo - Richmond 1920.*

*Also I had another close up look at Macintosh girls - they are in a garden with canes and a watering can behind them . The staff photo is also in a garden, in front of a fence with either a long wooden bench or something else low level behind them.*

*(pics)*

*I think these could all be the same person, do you?*

**Yes, I think they could all be the same person. Certainly sisters if not same. First one looks slightly plumper and younger so if same person taken at earlier date.**

**NB I haven't checked back to see who they are in your album.**

*Glad you agree - the first one is Elsie .*

