

Duckhouse Dilemmas

A One Name Study involves finding out as much as possible about everyone with the chosen name and trying to put them in families. There are many Duckhouses I have been able to connect into families, but some remain unattached for various reasons. Here are some of the problems!

In 1958 John T Duckhouse married Pauline M Jones in Walsall and in 1969 Leonard E Duckhouse married Pauline B Jones in Walsall. So working out the parents on any children with mother's maiden name Jones after 1949 is going to require inside knowledge!

A similar issue arises with **Smiths**. Frank Duckhouse married Lily Smith in Smethwick in 1910. Charles H Duckhouse married Annie Smith in Walsall in 1916. Leonard Duckhouse married Louie Smith in West Brom in 1926. Whilst some births to Smith mothers can be deduced from location, others can't.

Of course those with mother's maiden name of Duckhouse are also difficult.

Then there are the duplicate names where it is difficult to work out who did what:

Ada: there are 4 deaths for Ada Duckhouse:

- 1) born 1894 died 1895
- 2) born 1896 died 1963
- 3) born 1898 died 1982
- 4) born 1898 died 1983

The 1894 birth is confusing as there is an Ada born 1894 to George and Nancy, but she appears on the 1901 and 1911 censuses and married Harry Toombs in 1913. So I don't know the parents of Ada (1).

There are 3 marriages:

- a) Ada Greenhalgh married John Duckhouse in 1919
- b) Ada Simons married George Duckhouse in 1920
- c) Ada Goodhead married John Duckhouse in 1966

Which are most likely the remaining Adas (2,3,4), but which is which?

Ann: there are several Anns born about 1813 for whom there is no further trace. Also 2 Anns married in the 1830s with no obvious baptism. Ann married George Merrett in 1850 might be one of the former.

Annie: 1 birth (1902), 2 marriages (George W Price, 1923; David Franks 1927), 1 death 1927; all not yet connected.

Charles: There are several births and marriages for Charles born in the 1930s and 40s which I haven't been able to sort.

Daniel: There are 3 Daniels baptised:

- 1) 1817 in Bloxwich to Charles and Mary
- 2) 1823 in Huntington to Samuel and Elizabeth
- 3) 1826 in Stafford to Elizabeth

There are 2 marriages:

- 1) 1848 West Bromwich to Jane Darbyshire
- 2) 1849 Stafford to Rachel Corns

The 1851 census has Daniel and Jane in West Brom, with Daniel born in Huntington in 1825; also Daniel and Rachel in Stafford with Daniel born Stafford in 1827. From that I believe that Samuel's Daniel married Jane and Elizabeth's Daniel married Rachel. That leads me to suspect that I haven't uncovered a burial yet for Charles' Daniel. (I strongly suspect that Daniel and Rachel and family became known as Duckers in the Stockport area but I haven't followed that up yet.)

Dennis: There are 3 born 1930 and 1933 – and 2 marriages, but which belongs to which?

Edward: There are 2 marriages for Edward (1946, 1956) and only one suitable Edward (1918-78). Did he marry twice?

Florence E: There are 2 marriages (Leonard W L Secord in 1941; William J Saunders 1948) – are they the same woman?

Irene: There are 2 Irenes born (1921 and 1931) in Walsall, both have mother's maiden name Duckhouse – and there is just one marriage in 1951.

John: No surprise to find the Johns are too numerous to sort – I gave up trying!

Lawrence: is the marriage in 1967 to Violet Moliniero a second marriage for Lawrence born 1922?

Lucy: 2 marriage (1914 William Sheldon, 1917 Thomas Raybould) – they could be further marriages for Lucy Shakespeare as her first husband died in 1903, but why would the 3rd marriage use Duckhouse and not Sheldon?

Sarah J: married Albert Chester 1913 – but was she born 1862 or 1881?

Stephen 2 born (1946 and 1947) and 2 married (1968 and 1971) – which is which?

William: The William born 1814 to Joseph and Ann Padmore could be either the William who died in 1839 aged 21, or the William who “married” Prudence sometime before 1841 (if there was a marriage – they appear together on the 1841 and 1851 censuses), then “married” Mary before the 1861 (no marriage found). I have not found a death for him – in fact William, Mary and William's son John all disappear after the 1861 census (I haven't found evidence of emigration), but does seem to be a suitable death for Prudence in 1867 although I haven't found her in 1861.

I have made some assumptions, some perhaps a little dubious. For example, my 4x great grandmother Elizabeth Shaw married William Duckhouse in Lichfield in 1807 and they had 2 girls: Ruth baptised 1808 and Sarah born 1810, both in Huntington Cannock. Then there are 3 children baptised to Elizabeth Duckhouse: Daniel 1826 Stafford, Robert 1829 Baswich, Stafford and Elizabeth 1833 Stafford. In 1841 Elizabeth (daughter) is with her mother Elizabeth Godwin and her new husband. The marriage record shows Elizabeth's father was John Shaw. The lack of other candidates suggests strongly this is my Elizabeth, but it is something of an assumption to suggest she was mother of Robert and Daniel (the latter is of course not obvious on the 1841 census!) There are a couple of other children who could be related to William and Elizabeth too!

There are of course plenty of other "little" mysteries – why is there no death for someone, or no birth registration for someone else. All help appreciated!

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