

James Ellis (1814 – 1865)

James Ellis was born in Cornwall Englandⁱ on July 2nd 1814.¹ He was a laborer and miner in both the iron ore and clay mines the region of St Austell and Roche parishes of Cornwall England. We will continue to research for his family origins in this region.²

James and Mary Ann Luxon³ announced their marriage,ⁱⁱ and married, on September 24th 1836, witnessed by John Julyan and William Gilbertⁱⁱⁱ at the St Austell Parish Church of Holy Trinity^{iv} in St. Austell⁴ Cornwall England.⁵ James signed his marriage certificate and Mary Ann made her mark.

Mary Ann Luxon was born August 9th 1816 in Cornwall England.⁶ Mary was baptized on December 22nd 1816 in the clay mining village of Carn Rosemary in the St Austell region of Roche^v Cornwall England.⁷ Her parents were John Luxon and Jenifer Rous.⁸

- The parish of St. Austell is in the Deanery and Eastern Division of the Powder Hundred. It was originally bounded on the north by the parishes of Roche and Luxulyan.⁹

James was a laborer, and between 1838 and 1840 the family lived in Caudle Down located in St. Austell, Cornwall, Great Britain (England).¹⁰ In 1841-1844 the family lived in Stenalees^{vi} in St. Austell.¹¹ Also in the 1841 Stenalees Census record, a 25 year old John Ellis was a tin miner living with a 30 year old Anne Ellis.¹² These two people could be relatives of James Ellis.

ⁱ James Ellis's headstone indicated that he was born in Cornwall England. Cornwall is about the size, in square miles, of York County Pennsylvania where I live. Early 19th century Cornwall, when James was born, the county of Cornwall was largely a shipping, mining, and farm area 255 miles south of London England.

ⁱⁱ The record of marriage indicated there was no license, but a Banns, which is a "proclamation," a public announcement in a Christian parish church of an impending marriage between two specified persons. It is commonly associated with the Church of England. The purpose of banns is to enable anyone to raise any canonical or civil legal impediment to the marriage, so as to prevent marriages that are invalid.

ⁱⁱⁱ John Julyan was a witness to over 1,680 other marriages and William Gilbert to three other marriages: 1836 James Ellis and Mary Ann Luxon, witnesses John Julyan and William Gilbert; 1843 William Allen and Mary Nicholls, witnesses William Nicholls and William Gilbert; 1844 Thomas Truscott and Elizabeth Ivey Gellard, witnesses William Gilbert and David Truscott; 1888 William Kneebone and Sarah Jane Gilbert, witnesses William Gilbert and George Collins.

^{iv} The Church of Holy Trinity is the St Austell Parish. It was once part of the "Church of England". A Christian community possibly with Celtic roots was undoubtedly in existence in what is now St Austell in pre-Norman times. There has been a church building on the site of the town centre church – Holy Trinity since 1169; Part of the current building dates back as far as 1290.

^v Roche parish is located on high ground 5 miles north of St Austell, surrounded by moorland wastes. The clay-mining villages of Stenalees and Bugle (also once known as Carn Rosemary) are to the south-east. Tin was also once mined on the Goss Moor. Both the rivers Par and Fal rise in this parish. The chief villages were the Churchtown, Belovely, Tregoss and Tresease; <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/Cornwall/Roche>

^{vi} The towns of Caudle Down and Stenalees in St. Austell are within a half mile of each other.

By the time their son William was born, and baptized, the family moved to South Caudel Down, where James was a clay agent. ¹³

James was a miner in Cornwall area of England and one day he put on his Sunday church suit to go to the coal mines. When questioned about his attire, he reported that "Queen Victoria was coming to visit the mine that day." The Ellis, Toms, and Eden families were friends prior to their immigration to Pennsylvania. ¹⁴

The family left Liverpool Great Britain on the ship George Thacker, and entered America through the ports of Philadelphia in April 1849. When the ship arrived, the passenger list indicated; James 34 years old; Mary Ann 32 years old; Betsy 11 years old; Jane 9 years old; James 7 years old; William 4 years old; and Ann 1 year old. ¹⁵

The 1855 naturalization papers show the family living in Shannonsville, today it is known as Audubon, Lower Providence Township Montgomery County Pennsylvania. Shannonsville was north of Philadelphia and present day King of Prussia, Pennsylvania on Route 422 - the old Pottstown Road. When the family moved to the Pottstown area, they most likely traveled using this road. ^{vii}

James worked as a laborer, something digger, quarryman, engineer, and fireman. Besides residing briefly in Shannonsville and Pottstown, the family lived in Dale, Boyertown, and Reading, Berks County Pennsylvania.

In 1860 the family lived in Dale, (near Boyertown) Colebrookdale Township, ^{viii} Berks County Pennsylvania. Later during the 1860s the family's residence was at 765 West Philadelphia Avenue, Boyertown Pennsylvania. While living here, James Ellis died on January 21st 1865, Aged 51 years, 6 Months, and days. ¹⁶

The following is transcribed relating to the death of James Ellis:"On Saturday morning last, about 4 o'clock, as we learn from the Pottstown ledger, a fire was discovered in the two story frame building used as an engine house, at the mines of the Phoenix Iron Company, at Boyertown, Berks County. The flames had progressed so far, when discovered, that it was impossible to quench them, and the building was entirely destroyed. After the fire, the shocking discovery was made that the night engineer and fireman, James Ellis, had perished in the conflagration. His station was in the second story of the building, and it is supposed that the flames were ignited from the furnace below, in some manner unaccountable, and that the fire had progressed so far, when he discovered it, that his escape was rendered impossible. The deceased was a man pretty well advanced in years. He leaves a wife and several children residing in Boyertown..." ¹⁷

After James died, Mary Ann lived with her daughter Jane Ellis-Quick in the Reading 102nd District, Berks County Pennsylvania. It was here Mary would die, Sunday October 9th 1881, ¹⁸ aged 65 Years, and 2 months. She is buried in the Ellis family plot at the Charles Evans Cemetery, Reading Berks County Pennsylvania. ¹⁹

^{vii} Pottstown is located in the western most portion of Montgomery County. Chester, Berks and Montgomery counties all come together at Pottstown.

^{viii} The family lived in Colebrookdale Township, 765 W. Philadelphia Ave., Boyertown, PA 19512, Taylor~Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania 17372

Together James and Mary Ann had seven children.²⁰

- i. Elizabeth (Betsy) Ellis (1838-1913)²¹ Elizabeth married William Toms about 1858 in the Colebrookdale area of Berks County Pennsylvania.²²
- ii. Jane E. Ellis (1840-1912)²³ Jane married William Quick.²⁴ In 1911 she and William lived in Reading Pennsylvania.
- iii. James Luxeon Ellis (1842-1899)²⁵
- iv. William Henry Ellis (1845-1931)²⁶
- v. Annie Luxeon Ellis (1847-1911)²⁷ Annie married Jonas Burns Reifsneider,²⁸ and the family lived in Pottstown Montgomery County Pennsylvania.
- vi. George D. Ellis (1849-1907)²⁹
- vii. Mary Ann Ellis (1853-1915)³⁰ Mary married Cyrus C. Harbach, and they lived in Reading Berks County Pennsylvania.

Bibliography

1. The Old Series Ordnance Survey Maps of England and Wales, a Reproduction of the 110 sheets of the survey in Early State in 10 Volumes", held by the L.D.S. library, Salt Lake City Utah, U.S. and separately as 5 sheets by Lt. Col. Mudge in 1813. This image was taken from the original map.
2. James Ellis Will, 1865, Berks County Court House, Berks County, Taylor~Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania 17372
3. 1850 James Ellis Census: Upper Merion, Montgomery, Pennsylvania; Roll: M432_800; Page: 419A; Image: 152. Seventh Census of the United States, 1850; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M432, 1009 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
4. 1850 Elizabeth Ellis Census: Upper Merion, Montgomery, Pennsylvania; Roll: M432_800; Page: 414A; Image: 142; Seventh Census of the United States, 1850; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M432, 1009 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
5. 1860 James Ellis Census: Colebrookdale, Berks, Pennsylvania; Roll: M653_1073; Page: 171; Image: 175; Family History Library Film: 805073. 1860 U.S. census, population schedule. NARA microfilm publication M653, 1,438 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.
6. 1870 James L. Ellis Census: Reading Ward 2, Berks, Pennsylvania; Roll: M593_1307; Page: 816A; Image: 309; Family History Library Film: 552806. 1870 U.S. census, population schedules. NARA microfilm publication M593, 1,761 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d. Minnesota census schedules for 1870. NARA microfilm publication T132, 13 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.
7. 1870 George Ellis Census: Colebrookdale, Berks, Pennsylvania; Roll: M593_1305; Page: 170B; Image: 351; Family History Library Film: 552804. 1870 U.S. census, population schedules. NARA microfilm publication M593, 1,761 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d. Minnesota census schedules for 1870. NARA microfilm publication T132, 13 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.
8. 1870 Mary Allis (Ellis) and Jane Quick Census: Reading Ward 2, Berks, Pennsylvania; Roll: M593_1307; Page: 704A; Image: 84; Family History Library Film: 552806. 1870 U.S. census, population schedules. NARA microfilm publication M593, 1,761 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d. Minnesota census schedules for 1870. NARA microfilm publication T132, 13 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.
9. 1880 Mary Ellis and Jane Quigg (Quick) Census: Reading, Berks, Pennsylvania; Roll: 1101; Family History Film: 1255101; Page: 189A; Enumeration District: 048; Image: 0549; Tenth Census of the United States, 1880; (NARA microfilm publication T9, 1,454 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

End Notes

¹ James Ellis Birth Date: His birth date was taken from the inscription on his headstone at the Charles Evans Cemetery, 1119 Centre Avenue, Reading, Pennsylvania 19601-1409. James's place of birth is an assumption, based on his name, marriage, and occupation.

² James Ellis Family Origin: Ellis Family Cornwall research paper; Taylor-Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania, 17372, taylorgrahamlibrary.net

³ The Luxon Name: The name is spelled as it was transcribed in the St. Austell Parish Marriage record. The name has also been spelled as "Luxen" in the records for St. Austell Area Genealogy, Parish Church of Holy Trinity, and Marriage Registers, <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database>.

The family spelled it as "Luxeon", which also appears on page 18, Harrisburg Telegraph Thursday July 24th 1944.

Luxeon may have been from the place in Cornwall, which is normally spelt Luxulyan. Mining and quarrying are (or rather, were) major industries in Cornwall, particularly for tin and copper, and for china clay.

⁴ According to the West Briton newspaper; in 1837 for St. Austell there were 27 Wesleyan chapels, and one Church of England church - Holy Trinity, which seated at full capacity 1,850 persons - within the parish of St. Austell. The population of the parish at that time was over 10,000 persons (official numbers vary); hence, the obvious need for more places of worship; Churches and Chapels, compiled by J. Mosman, OPC, for the St. Austell Genealogy and History; <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com>

⁵ James Ellis and Mary Luxeon Marriage: The information came from the following record: Marriage Day Month: 24-Sep; Year: 1836; Parish Or Reg District: Austell, St.; Groom Fn: James; Groom Sn: ELLIS; Groom Age: Groom Residence: otp; Groom Condition: bachelor; Groom Signed / Marked (S/M): S; Bride Fn: Mary Ann; Bride Sn: LUXON; Bride Residence: otp; Bride Condition: spinster; Bride Signed / Marked (S/M): M; Banns / Licence (B/L): B; Witness Fn1: John; Witness Sn1: Julyan; Witness Fn2 : William; Witness Sn2: Gilbert; Transcriber: M Davey/J Mosman; St. Austell Area Genealogy, Parish Church of Holy Trinity, Marriage Registers, 1834 through June, 1839, <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database>.

⁶ Mary Ann Ellis Birth Date: The date was taken from the inscription on her headstone at the Charles Evans Cemetery, 1119 Centre Avenue, Reading, Pennsylvania 19601-1409.

⁷ Mary Ann Luxon Baptism: The information came from the following record: Baptism Day Month: 22-Dec; Year: 1816; Parish Or Reg District: Roche; Forename: Mary Ann; Surname: Luxen; Sex : dau; Father Forename: John; Mother Forename: Jenepher; Residence: Carnrosemary, St Austell: Father Rank Profession: miner; Notes: Transcriber Notes; Transcriber: John Evans; <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database>.

⁸ Mary Ann Luxon Parents: John Luxon (1788-1842) research paper; Taylor-Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania, 17372, taylorgrahamlibrary.net

⁹ St. Austell Area Genealogy, Parish Church of Holy Trinity, Census Records; Luxon and Ellis People

1. William Clemens married Elizabeth Ellis on June 4th 1764, witnessed by Richard Williams and Athanasius Ellis, minister Richard Hennah, sig. Clemus
2. Benjamin Bellman married Ann Ellis on February 19th 1775, witnessed by Athanasius Ellis and John Bellman
3. Charles Luxon married Constance Bray on August 27th 1831, witnesses John Bray and John Julyan
4. Richard Hancock married Jane Luxon on April 2nd 1835, witnesses John Julyan and James Gray
5. Samuel Sprague married Rebecca Ellis on December 3rd 1835, witnessed by Catherine Whetter and James Nankivell

Other Ellis and Luxon names for the Enumeration District 10 for the Civil Parish of St. Austell Census:

- 1841 Census - Book 3 Folio 29 Page 7
 - John Luxon, 51 years old, Tin Miner, In county
 - Jenifor Luxon, 49 years old, In county
 - Joseph Luxon, 18 years old, Clay Labourer, In county
 - John Luxon, 20 years old, Clay Labourer, In county
 - Nancy Luxon, 16 years old, In county
 - Jenifor Luxon, 13 years old, In county
 - Rachael Luxon, 8 years old, In county
 - Charles Luxon, 3 years old, In county
 - Emma Luxon, 13 years old, Female Servant, In county
- 1841 Census - Book 3 Folio 32 Page 12
 - James Elliss, 27 years old, Not in county
 - Mary Ann Elliss, 25 years old, Not in county
 - Betsy Elliss, 2 years old, Not in county
 - Jane Elliss, 1 year old, Not in county
- 1841 Census - Book 3 Folio 42 Page 11
 - John Ellis, 25 years old, Tin Miner, In county
 - Anne Ellis, 30 years old, In county

¹⁰ James and Mary Ann 1838 to 1841 Residence: The information came from an 1841 Carn Rosemary census record, indicating they were not in the county; And their daughters, Elizabeth (Betsy) Ellis, baptism record; Date: 1839, 6-Jan; Name: Ellis, Betsy; Father: James; Mother: Maryann, Abode: Caudle downs; Occupation: labourer (laborer); St. Austell Baptisms from Church of England registers, 1839; Transcribed by Julia Mosman, OPC, for the St. Austell History & Genealogy Website; <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com>

¹¹ James and Mary Ann 1840 Residence: The information came from their daughters, Jane Ellis, baptism record; Date: 1840, 6-Sep; Name: Ellis, Jane; Father: James; Mother: Maryann, Abode: Stenalees; Occupation: labourer (laborer); Officiant: Chas. Hocker; St. Austell Baptisms from Church of England registers, 1839; Transcribed by Julia Mosman, OPC, for the St. Austell History & Genealogy Website; <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~staustell/SubIndexes/StAustellBapIndx.htm>

¹² John Ellis 1841 residence: The information came from the 1841 Cornwall England census record; Book 3, Folio 42, Page 11; St. Austell Area Genealogy, Parish Church of Holy Trinity, Census Records; Ellis People; Website; <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com>

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- ¹³ James and Mary Ann 1845 Residence: The information came from their sons, William Henry Ellis, baptism record; Date: 1846, 7-Jun; Name: Ellis, William Henry; Father: James; Mother: Maryann, Abode: So Caudle Down; Occupation: clay agent; Officiant: F. Todd, vicar; St. Austell Baptisms from Church of England registers, 1839; Transcribed by Julia Mosman, OPC, for the St. Austell History & Genealogy Website; <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com>
- ¹⁴ Ellis, Toms, and Eden Families Were Friends, and Queen Victoria Story: The story was passed down through the family of Elizabeth (Betsy) Ellis-Toms to their great-granddaughter June Herb; from an email correspondent with June Rose, who lives in Pennsylvania, As far as "stories" that have been passed down thru the family, the main story I recall from my grandmother was about her grandfather, James Ellis. James was a coal miner in England and one day he put on his Sunday church suit to go to the coal mines. When questioned about his attire, he reported that "Queen Victoria was coming to visit the mine that day." JuneRose56@aol.com
- ¹⁵ Ellis Family Immigration: Ship Passenger List, National Archives Series No. 425, Microfilm No. 68, List No. 46, Taylor~Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania 17372
- ¹⁶ James Ellis Death Date: The information came from the inscribed on his headstone at the Charles Evans Cemetery, 1119 Centre Avenue, Reading, Pennsylvania 19601-1409
- ¹⁷ James Ellis Newspaper Report: The information came from the newspaper, Fire at Boyertown—Shocking Death; Saturday, Jan. 28, 1865 Berks & Schuylkill Journal, Reading PA; Taylor~Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania 17372.
- ¹⁸ Mary Ann Ellis Death: The information came from a newspaper, Deaths, Page 4, Tuesday October 11, 1881 Reading Times & Dispatch, Reading PA, Taylor~Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania 17372
- ¹⁹ Mary Ann Ellis Death: The information came from a newspaper, Deaths, Page 4, Tuesday October 11, 1881 Reading Times & Dispatch, Reading PA, Taylor~Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania 17372
- ²⁰ James Ellis Children: The children's names came from his will, James Ellis Will, 1865, Berks County Court House, Berks County, Taylor~Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania 17372
- ²¹ Elizabeth (Betsy) Ellis-Toms (1838-1913) research paper; Taylor-Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania, 17372, taylorgrahamlibrary.net
- ²² The marriage between Elizabeth Ellis and William Toms came the James Ellis's will, June 24th 1864; Taylor~Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania 17372
- ²³ Jane E. Ellis-Quick (1840-1912) research paper; Taylor-Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania, 17372, taylorgrahamlibrary.net

²⁴ The marriage of Jane E Ellis to William Quick came from James Ellis's will, June 24th 1864. The spelling of the Quick name and Jane's middle name came from the Wills and estate Records of Berks County Pennsylvania. Taylor ~ Graham Family Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs PA, 17372

²⁵ James Luxeon Ellis (1842-1899) research paper; Taylor-Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania, 17372, taylorgrahamlibrary.net

²⁶ William Henry Ellis (1845-1931) research paper; Taylor-Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania, 17372, taylorgrahamlibrary.net

²⁷ Annie Luxeon Ellis-Reifsneide (1847-1911) research paper; Taylor-Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania, 17372, taylorgrahamlibrary.net

²⁸ Jonas Burns Reifsneider Name and Spelling: The information came from Bob Reifsneider, Orange Park, Florida, bobR@aol.com.

²⁹ George D. Ellis (1849-1907) research paper; Taylor-Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania, 17372, taylorgrahamlibrary.net

³⁰ Mary Ann Ellis-Harbach (1853-1915) research paper; Taylor-Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania, 17372, taylorgrahamlibrary.net