

Webbon to Webber: How DNA Helped Me Solve a Century-old Family Mystery

David Jay Webber

INTRODUCTION

On my father's father's side, my great-grandparents were George Franklin Webber and his wife Rexa Lorie Wavle, who were married in East Freetown, New York, on 28 February 1917. To the best of his knowledge, George had been born in New York City in 1896. Because he did not know the day on which he had been born, in later years he chose October 19, 1896, as a legal date of birth. He also did not have a middle name, until he adopted Franklin as a second given name, in honor of his friend Franklin Van Herp. George died in Philmont, New York, on 10 April 1980.

Rexa was born in Solon, New York, on 6 June 1898, and died in Valatie, New York, on 5 December 1972. Her family origins are well known. She was the daughter of Milton A. Wavle and his wife Alice L. Meacham, who had been married in Cincinnatus, New York, on 26 November 1896.¹ In addition to Rexa, Milton and Alice Wavle also had a son, Chauncey Randall or "C. R." Wavle (1899-1955). Rexa and George Webber had one child, my grandfather Donald Milton Webber, who was born in East Freetown on 13 March 1918, and died in Orlando, Florida, on 21 March 1976. Donald was married twice. His first wife was my grandmother, Laura Lucille Carpenter (1920-1990). His second wife was Veronica Jessie Gosney (living).

THE MYSTERY

For many years very little was known about the origins of George Webber. His family members had always understood – based on what he had told us – that he spent several years of his childhood at St. Joseph's Home in Peekskill, New York (a Roman Catholic orphanage). In George's later years he had no memories of his life before his time there. He did not know who his parents were, or anything about them. I wrote to St. Joseph's Home early in 1980, asking for whatever information they had about him in their files. In response I received these data from Sister Alice Flood, Recorder, on 25 January 1980:

George Webber

Age 5

Admitted: October 3, 1901 – New York City

Father & Mother: unknown

"Child was found in the street. Whereabouts of parents unknown. No proper guardianship."

Discharged: November 9, 1911

Mr. C. Finnerty, Main Street, Peekskill, N.Y.

¹Milton A. Wavle, the son of James Wavle and his wife Nancy Philena Totman, was born in March of 1870 in East Freetown, and died on 1 August 1948 in Scott, New York. Alice L. Meacham, the daughter of William Chauncey Meacham and his wife Wrexavilla Rorapough, was born on 25 August 1872 in Cincinnatus, and died on 22 April 1943 in Scott.

In his later teen years George Webber “ran away” from Mr. Finnerty, and went to central New York with a band of cattle drivers. He eventually became a cattle buyer.

SOME CLUES EMERGE

This is all I knew, or thought I knew, about George Webber’s origins, until 2012, when a friend shared with me an article that had appeared in the *New York Times* on Tuesday, 24 September 1901. This article was about my great-grandfather, and about the extraordinary things he experienced before his entrance into St. Joseph’s Home:

FIVE-YEAR-OLD BOY DESERTED.

Unknown Man Left Him in the Rooms of the Hebrew Sheltering Guardian Society.

Agents of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children are seeking the parents of a five-year-old boy who says his name is George Webber, who was abandoned in the reception room of the Hebrew Sheltering Guardian Society, Broadway and One Hundred and Fifty-first Street, Sunday afternoon. An unknown man brought the little boy there and asked to see Mrs. Fardwick, the matron. The pair were left alone then, and when the attendant returned a few minutes later the man had gone away. The following letter was found upon the child:

Kind Friend: The little boy who has this letter is an orphan, and I wish to ask a favor of you, to give him a home, as I am out of work and cannot keep him, and I don’t want to put him out on the street. I am a friend of yours; you know me well from One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Street, and also from Cincinnati. I do not care to say my name, but you will call me to your mind. I hope and pray you will take him in, and I will be of many thanks to you. I will come to see you as soon as I get work.

A FRIEND.

New York, Sept. 22.

Policeman Flahive of the West One Hundred and Fifty-second Street Station was called and took charge of the boy, who was turned over to the care of the society yesterday by Magistrate Crane, in the Harlem Police Court, pending a further examination on Friday. The child gave his name and age, and said he thought his father was alive, but nothing else could be learned from him that would help the authorities to return him to his legal guardians.

So, George was not actually “found in the street” after all. I wrote to the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children in Manhattan, asking what they had in their archives about this case. On 6 March 2012, I received this information from Joseph T. Gleason, Director of Archival and Administrative Services at the Society:

On Sunday, the 22nd of September, 1901, at 10:50 at night, an officer of the 33rd precinct of the New York City municipal police informed The Society (NYSPCC) that he had in charge a child who gave his name as George Webber who by every indication did not know where he lived. The child, whose age was estimated to be about five years, based upon his appearance, identified his parents as Will and Hattie and said his father worked on the trains system. The officer stated that based upon the child’s description, “trains” probably referred to the elevated system.

George had been left at the reception rooms of the Hebrew Guardian Society by a person unknown, who departed shortly thereafter without speaking to anyone. Attempts to obtain additional information from the little boy were unsuccessful. On the child’s person was a letter, the contents of which were provided to and published by the newspapers in an effort to elicit further information or to facilitate contact with the parents or other relatives. [This letter, referred to as being contained in the NYSPCC

file, is no longer in that file, so it is fortunate that it has survived in a newspaper file.]

The little boy was brought before the magistrate on the following day at which time the matter of the child's disposition in the matter of having "no proper guardianship" was adjourned for hearing on Friday, September 27th, and the child was committed temporarily to the care and custody of the NYSPCC. No further information about the child or his parentage or relations was ever discovered. Officials of the Hebrew Guardian Society additionally expressed doubt that the boy was Jewish since upon a physical examination it was discovered that he was uncircumcised. Attempts to locate the father in connection with the railroad proved fruitless.

After several adjournments, the matter was finally concluded on Thursday, October 3rd, 1901, when the magistrate committed the care and custody of the child to the Missionary Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis. The boy was brought forthwith to the reception house of that order by an officer of the NYSPCC and subsequently brought to reside at St. Joseph's Home in Peekskill, NY.

In December of 1902, with the approbation of the NYSPCC, George Weber/Webber was referred by the Bureau of Dependent Children of the New York City Department of Public Charities to the Catholic Home Bureau for Indenture with a suitable family.

The NYSPCC file contains nothing further.

The *New York Times* article and the material from the NYSPCC files answered a lot of questions, but also raised several new questions. Who was the mysterious man who brought George to this Jewish orphanage, at the corner of Broadway and 151st Street in Manhattan? In the letter that he left with George, why did he write so cryptically? How much of what he said was true? How did George come to be in his custody? Clearly this man was not his father. When the authorities questioned little George about his father, he did not say that the man who had brought him was his father. What he did say is that he thought his father was alive – which contradicted the man's claim that George was an orphan.

The identification of George's parents as "Will" and "Hattie" prompted me to search in various records from New York City and surrounding areas, looking for a William Webber or Weber, and/or a Hattie or Harriet Webber or Weber, who might possibly have been his parents. I did not find any likely matches. And so that is where things stood, until early in 2019.

DNA DRAWS MY ATTENTION TO ERNEST AND CAROLINE (SCHMITT) WEBBON

In December of 2018 I took an autosomal DNA test with Ancestry.com. When my profile was posted on the Ancestry.com website, I noticed that several known relatives of mine had already submitted their DNA, and were (as I would expect) identified as being close matches to me. These included two of my first cousins – grandchildren of my grandfather Donald Milton Webber through his second marriage. These also included a third cousin – a great-granddaughter of Rexa Wavle's brother C. R. Wavle.

But also among the people whose DNA profiles were identified by Ancestry.com as showing a significant amount of shared DNA with me, were six persons whose names I did not recognize, but who – according to their linked pedigree trees – all shared a common descent from a couple who had lived in Manhattan, and later in Brooklyn, New York, in the nineteenth century: Ernest William Webbon and his wife Caroline (or Carrie) Schmitt. One of these persons descended from Ernest and Caroline's daughter Rosaline S. (or Rose) Webbon, who married William Earnest Schmierer; four of them descended from their daughter Lillian (or Lillie) Webbon, who married (1st) Edward Duryea Stoveken and (2nd) Charles W. Brixius; and one of them descended from their son William Earnest Webbon.

My Webber cousins in the Ancestry.com database, with whom I share descent from a common grandfather but not from a common grandmother, were also within the kinship

circle of these Webbon descendants. But my Wavle third cousin was not. This indicated that my kinship with these Webbon descendants was through my great-grandfather George Webber, and not through his wife Rexa Wavle. Ancestry.com calculated that these people were related to me somewhere in the range of 4th, 5th, or 6th cousins. This meant that the most recent common ancestors for all or most of us would probably be a set of George Webber's grandparents, or something close to that. So I took a closer look at the family of Ernest William Webbon and his wife Caroline Schmitt!

ERNEST W. WEBBON AND HIS FAMILY'S ORIGINS IN ENGLAND

Ernest was born in Wandsworth, London, England, in July of 1854. He was the son of George Aaron Webbon and his wife Mary Ann Wilson, who had been married in Bermondsey, Southwark, Surrey, England, on 24 October 1848. At the time of their marriage, "George Aron Webbon" was a Bachelor of full age, occupation "Bookmaker," son of "George Aaron Webbon" whose occupation was "Tailor"; and "Maryann Wilson" was a minor Spinster, daughter of "John Thomas Willson" whose occupation was "Paint Colourer." The bride and groom, at the time of their marriage, were both living at 12 Weston Street. "George Aram," the son of George Aram Webbon and his wife Charlotte, had been baptized in Kennington, London, on 24 April 1829, when his father's occupation was given as Tailor and his parents' residence was given as Bowyer Lane. In adulthood, George altered his middle name from Aram to Aaron. "Mary Ann," the daughter of John Wilson and his wife Mary Ann, was born in the Parish of St. Mary Newington, Surrey, on 18 April 1831, and was baptized there on 18 May. There were six children in George and Mary Ann Webbon's family: John (who died in childhood), Percy John (who died in childhood), Madeline, Avis Sarah, Ernest William, and Alice.

George Aram (or Aaron) Webbon was the son of an older George Aram Webbon (or Wabon), who had been born at Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, England, on 26 December 1793 (baptized on 7 January 1794), and who died at the St. Mary Newington Workhouse in Surrey on 29 October 1841. The elder "George Aram Webbon," Bachelor, and "Charlotte Shepton," Spinster, both "of this Parish," were married in St. George Camberwell, Surrey, on 8 December 1828. Charlotte had been born at Exeter, Devon, in 1790. She died at the St. Mary Newington Workhouse on 19 July 1858, age 66, and was buried in the Brookwood Cemetery in Brookwood, Surrey, on 23 July. This couple had three children: George Aram (Junior), Alice Mary, and Ann Elizabeth.

It was no doubt a traumatic and unsettling experience when, on 6 March 1841, this entire family was admitted to the Christ Church Workhouse in Southwark, Surrey. On this occasion the members of the family were described as follows: George Webbon, born 1792, Tailor, Married, not able-bodied, disabled by "Tumor on Bowels"; Charlotte Webbon, born 1795; George Webbon, born 1828; Alice Webbon, born 1833; and Ann Webbon, born 1835. The three children were admitted "With Parents." On the 1841 British census, "George Webbon," age 45, occupation "Tailor," was a patient at St. Thomas's Hospital in Southwark; while his wife "Charlotte Webbon," age 40, and their children, were residents at the St. Mary Newington Workhouse. On this census, Alice and Ann are listed together, but the names of their mother and brother each appear in different places. One of many sad things about Victorian-era workhouses was the way in which they divided families. (George, the father, died not long after this census was taken.) Charlotte Webbon was discharged from the Christ Church Workhouse on 17 March 1842. Charlotte Webbon was discharged from the Christ Church Workhouse again on 18 January 1845. Charlotte Webbon, born 1790, a widow, occupations "Servant" and "Charwoman," able-bodied, was again admitted, on 1 January 1851, to the Christ Church Workhouse in Southwark, for the cause of "Distress." On the British census later that year, "Charlotte Webbon," age 61, a widow, occupation "Washerwoman," a native of Exeter, was a resident of the St. Mary Newington Workhouse. She was discharged from the workhouse upon her "own request" on 28 September 1851. Charlotte was discharged

again, "To Service," on 11 May 1854. On 12 November 1856, Charlotte Webbon, "Destitute," was admitted once again to the workhouse. Her final "discharge" from the workhouse was recorded on 19 July 1858, because she was "dead." This unceremonious entry marked the end of the tragic Dickensian life that Charlotte (Shepton) Webbon had led since the onset of her husband's debilitating intestinal tumor 17 years earlier.

The marriage of the parents of Mary Ann Wilson (wife of the younger George A. Webbon) had taken place in the Parish of St. George Camberwell on 12 May 1828, when "John Thomas Wilson," Bachelor, and "Mary Ann Ward," Spinster – both "of this Parish" – were wed. On the 1841 British census, "John Wilson," age 30, "Portrait painter," was the head of a household on Brick Lane at Christ Church Spitalfields, in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. Also in the household were Mary Wilson, age 35, John Wilson, age 8, Mary Wilson, age 10, and Sarah Wilson, age 1. On the 1851 British census, at 33 Camden Street in St. Mary Newington, "John Thos. Wilson," age 42 and married, was the head of a household that included also his wife Mary Ann, age 47 and married; his son John Wilson, age 17; his daughter Sarah Wilson, age 11; his son James Wilson, age 9; and his son William Wilson, age 5. John Thomas, John, Sarah, and James were all said to have the occupation of "print colourer." John Thomas Wilson was said to have been born in Beckenham, Kent, England, and his wife Mary Ann was said to have been born in St. George's, Southwark. The "John Wilson" of Carrington Street who was buried on 6 July 1853 in the Parish of St. George, Hanover Square, London, at the age of 43, was probably our John Thomas Wilson.²

While still legally married to Mary Ann, the younger George A. Webbon entered into a long-term cohabiting relationship with a woman named Emma Elizabeth Barnes (1832-1871), with whom he had eight more children: George, Roderick, Frederick, Cordelia Mary, Frank, Ann, William, and Matilda. George A. Webbon's youngest child with his wife Mary Ann (a daughter Alice) was born probably in 1855, and his oldest child with his paramour Emma Elizabeth (a son George) was born in 1856. Webbon family researcher George Herbert Sidney Ross writes that "No marriage [was] found for George Aram Webbon & Emma

²There were two artists living and working in London in the early Victorian era who were known professionally as "J. T. Wilson." One was our John Thomas Wilson, and the other was someone named Joseph Thomas Wilson. British art historians have confused and conflated these men and their work. The fact that they were each married to a woman named Mary Ann does not help! But they were indeed two separate persons. In the 1841 census, when our "John Wilson" was listed as a "portrait painter" in the Christ Church Spitalfields neighborhood, "Joseph T. Wilson" was listed as an "artist" in the St. George the Martyr neighborhood. In the 1851 census, when our "John Thos. Wilson" (a native of Beckenham, Kent) was a "Print Colourer" in the St. Mary Newington neighborhood, "Joseph T. Wilson" (a native of St. George Hanover Square) was a "Portrait Painter" in the St. Marylebone neighborhood. A well-known series of watercolors of inns and taverns in and near London were painted by "J. T. Wilson." The "Watercolour World" web site identifies the painter of these works as John Thomas Wilson, but they were actually the work of Joseph Thomas Wilson. On the 1861 British census, "Joseph Thos. Wilson," a "Painter in Watercolours," was living with his wife Mary Ann in Godalming, Surrey, in the household of another "Painter in Watercolours," Myles Birket Foster. Historian Mary Marshall notes that "it was Myles' brother Dodshon Foster who commissioned Wilson to draw the watercolours of hundreds of inns and taverns in London and the suburbs. The majority of them appear to have been done between 1865 and 1870" ("Licensed to Sell: The Brentford Magistrates Court Pub Watercolours," *The Honeslaw Chronicle*, Spring 2017, p. 23). We observe, however, that the form and style of the "J. T. Wilson" signatures that appear on the watercolors are significantly different from the form and style of the "J. T. Wilson" signature that appears on an extant 1853 painting of "A Baby Girl in a Bonnet." We can therefore conclude tentatively that the 1853 artist was probably our John Thomas Wilson, who likely died not long after the execution of that painting.

Elizabeth Barnes so [it is] possible they were not married.” What Ross thinks is “possible” was actually the case, because George Webbon was already married to someone else. Ross located the birth records of six of George and Emma’s children, and observes that these children “took their father’s surname for their second Christian name and their mother’s surname for their surname on the relevant birth registers. But [in] all later information the name ‘Barnes’ was dropped and they all used the surname ‘Webbon’.”

After the death of Emma (in Southwark on 13 December 1871), “George Aaron Webbon” married Sarah (Cummington) Daniels (1845-1929). This marriage took place on 20 June 1873, in Shoreditch. At the time of their marriage, George was a widower of full age, occupation “Clicker,” and was the son of “George Aaron Webbon” whose occupation was Tailor. “Sarah Daniels” was a widow of full age, and was the daughter of George Cummington whose occupation was Book Manufacturer. The bride and groom were both living at 2 Wellington Place. George A. Webbon lived in various locations in and near the city of London until he moved to Plymouth, Devon, England, in 1880 or 1881. (He was living at 7 Laxon Street in Bermondsey in 1851; on Clerkenwell Close in Clerkenwell, Middlesex, London, in 1861; on Dudley Street in St. Giles, Middlesex, London, in 1871; at 6 Rupert Court in Rupert Street, London, in 1880; at 53 Richmond Street in Plymouth in 1881; at 34 St. Andrew Street in Plymouth in 1891; and at 2 Mainstone Avenue in Plymouth in 1901 and in 1902.) George Aaron Webbon died in Plymouth on 8 April 1908. His occupation at various times was given as boot closer, inn keeper, and boot maker.

Meanwhile, this George A. Webbon’s first (legal) wife Mary Ann (Wilson) Webbon, and her four surviving children, had emigrated to the United States. They were living at 215 Christie Street in Manhattan when “Avis Wibbon” died there on 9 February 1860, at the age of 7. Her birthplace was given as England. On the 1860 federal census (as enumerated on 30 June) we find a family in Brooklyn headed by Mary A. Weben, age 28; and including also Madeline, age 9; Ernest, age 8; and Alice, age 6 – all born in England. By 1862 Mary Ann had moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where “Mary Ann Webbon” died of consumption at the age of 31 on 19 August 1862. At the time of her death she lived at “1219 Word St.” in Philadelphia. She was buried on 22 August in the Philadelphia Cemetery, also known as the Ronaldson Cemetery. (That cemetery, located at 9th & Bainbridge Streets, was removed in 1950 to a section of the Forest Hills Cemetery in the Somerton neighborhood of Philadelphia. The remains of approximately 13,500 persons were disinterred and then reinterred in the new location.)

Mary Ann’s mother and several of her siblings also emigrated to the United States. The passenger manifest for the *Ship Southampton*, sailing from London to New York, dated at New York 19 May 1855, shows Mary Ann Wilson, age 50, traveling with Sarah Wilson, age 30 [sic], James Wilson, age 11, and William Wilson, age 9 – all of them originating in England, and intending to live now in the United States. John Thomas Wilson (Junior), an older son in this family, also emigrated to the United States. In 1861 he was an “Artist in Painting” in Folkestone, Kent, England (as per the British census that year), but soon thereafter moved to Mobile, Alabama, and later to New Orleans, Louisiana, where he worked as an artist and as a photographer. (He died in New Orleans in 1890).

On the 1860 census for Brooklyn, Mary Wilson, 55, with Wm. Wilson, 15, occupation Artist, both born in England, were living in the same house as Mary Ann Webbon and her children. Also in this house were Richd. Quinlan, 22, born in Pennsylvania, with Sarah Quinlan, 20, born in England, and William Quinlan, 2, born in New York. In Manhattan on 23 March 1867, Sarah Quinlan, age 27, born in London, England, and the daughter of “John Thomas Wilson” and “Mary Ann Ward,” married George Murgatroud, age 24, born in Halifax, England. In the 1878 edition of *Trow’s New York City Directory*, there are separate entries for George

Murgatroyd, clerk, "227 S. 5th av.," and for Sarah Murgatroyd, artist, "227 S. 5 av. & 381 Canal." The Canal Street location must have been her studio.

When "Ernest William Webbon" of 263 Hudson Street in Manhattan, occupation jeweler, became a naturalized United States citizen on 18 October 1876 (at the New York County Superior Court), the official witness was "William Wilson" of Hoboken, New Jersey, whose occupation was upholsterer. William Wilson's serving as a witness to this important event suggests that he also had some kind of relationship with Ernest.³

Ernest's sister "Maderlene Webbon" married "Donald McGregor" in Manhattan on 2 October 1869. At the time she stated that she was 20 years old; that she had been born in England; and that her parents were George Webbon and Mary Ann Wilson.

CAROLINE (SCHMITT) WEBBON AND HER FAMILY'S ORIGINS IN GERMANY

"Ernest William Webbon," occupation "leveler," of Hoboken, and "Annie Caroline Schmitt," of 416 Broadway in Brooklyn, were married in Brooklyn on 17 May 1873. The groom, age 21, was said to have been born in London, England, and to be the son of Charles Webbon and Mary Ann Wilson. (Considering that Ernest was probably only about four years old when he had last seen his father; and considering that his mother had been dead for over ten years, it seems that Ernest had forgotten his father's given name.) The bride, age 21, was said to be the daughter of Henry Schmitt and Martha Stear, and to have been born in New York.

But the bride had actually been born in Mainz, Germany, before her family's emigration to New York. "Maria Caroline," daughter of "Henrich I. Schmitt" and his wife "Maria Martha Stüer," was born in Mainz on 15 December 1851. Her birth and marriage records, taken together, indicate that her full name was probably Anna Maria Caroline. Her father "Heinrich," the son of Rudolph Schmitt and his wife Maria Elisabetha Antonia Haase, had been born in Mainz on 24 December 1819, and was baptized the following day at St. Ignatius' Church in Mainz. Her mother "Maria Martha," the daughter of Jakob Gerhard Stüer and his wife Maria Sara Brehm, had been born in Mainz on 24 December 1830, and was baptized the same day at St. Martin's Cathedral in Mainz.⁴

³William Wilson, age 40, occupation upholsterer, appears on the 1870 federal census for Jersey City, New Jersey (directly adjacent to Hoboken), with his wife Jane, age 30, and their children William (age 11), Walter (age 9), Albert (age 5), and Emily (age 3). William and Jane, and their sons William and Walter, were all born in England; their son Albert was born in New York; and their daughter Emily was born in New Jersey. The 1880 federal census for Jersey City shows William Wilson as an "Upholster" living at 550 Montgomery Street with his wife Jane and their six children. William, age 48, and Jane, age 39, were both born in England. William and Jane Wilson's sons William (age 21) and Walter R. (age 19) were born in England; their son Albert (age 14) was born in New York; and their son Charles (age 10) and daughters Grace (age 6) and Florence L. (age 2) were born in New Jersey. These data, taken together, indicate that the William Wilson family emigrated from England to New York between 1861 and 1865, and moved from New York to New Jersey between 1865 and 1868. Ernest Webbon's mother Mary Ann had a brother William Wilson who was born in or around 1846, but William Wilson the upholsterer was born in or around 1831. He was therefore not Ernest's uncle, but perhaps he was a younger brother of Ernest's grandfather John Thomas Wilson and a granduncle of Ernest.

⁴Taking these lines back another generation in Germany:

Rudolph Schmitt was born in Mainz on 17 May 1799, the son of Ignaz and Barbara Katharina (Wolf) Schmitt. He died in Mainz on 8 July 1836. Rudolph's wife Maria Elisabetha Antonia Haase was born in Mainz on 3 March 1793, the daughter of Johann Baptist and Maria Anna (Brust) Haase. She died in Mainz on 5 July 1861. Rudolph and Maria Elisabetha Antonia were married in Mainz in 1820.

Jakob Gerhard Stüer was born in 1799. His wife Maria Sara Brehm was born in 1795. They

“Henricus Schmitt,” age 29, and “Maria Martha Stüer,” age 18, were married at St. Martin’s Cathedral on 14 February 1849. They had four children: Elizabeth Katharine, Anna Maria Caroline, Johanna Gertrude, and John. (When their daughter Elizabeth Schmitt married Edward Bishop in Manhattan on 31 December 1877, she was identified as the daughter of Henry Schmitt and Martha Stear. When Elizabeth [Schmitt] Bishop, as a widow, was remarried in Manhattan on 7 May 1896 to Thomas Osborne, she was identified as the daughter of Henry Schmitt and Marthe Stuer, and was said to have been born in “New York, N.Y.” But she, too, had actually been born in Mainz, on 6 December 1849.)

It is not known for sure when the Schmitts emigrated to the United States, but “Schmitt, Henry I.,” a native of Germany residing at 259 East 14th Street in Manhattan, died there of “Misinar” at the age of 42 on 7 September 1861. He was buried in the Wards Island Cemetery. On 3 May 1874, in Manhattan, his widow Martha Schmitt married Adam Diehl. Martha was said to have been born on 24 December 1830 in “Mainz, Hessia, Darmstadt,” to parents “Jacob Gerhard Stuer” and “Sarah Brehm.” Adam was said to have been born on 25 April 1819, also in “Mainz, Hessia, Darmstadt.” Adam Diehl had served in the Union Army during the Civil War. He enlisted on 12 September 1861 as a Private in Company G, 45th Regiment, New York Infantry; and was discharged on 2 December 1862. Adam died in Manhattan on 8 March 1888, leaving Martha a widow for the second time.

In the “Special Schedule” of the 1890 federal census for veterans and veterans’ widows, “Martha, widow of Diehl, Adam,” is listed as a resident of 41 East 4th Street in Manhattan. “Martha Diehl,” 59, also appears as a resident of Manhattan on the New York City “Police Census” of that same year. In the 1900 federal census, Martha Deahl, born December 1830 in Germany, widow, was living at 65 Avenue A in Manhattan. She stated then that she had immigrated to the United States in 1849, but that is too early, because children born after this were born in Germany. The widow “Martha Diehl,” age 77, occupation midwife, residing at 321 East 15th Street in Manhattan, died of chronic nephritis on 17 April 1907, and was buried in the Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn on 19 April. She was described as the daughter of Jacob and Sarah Stürr, and as a native of Germany who had lived in the United States (and in the City of New York) for 60 years – which would place her arrival in America in 1846 or 1847. But again, she was not actually in America that long.

ERNEST AND CAROLINE: THEIR LIVES TOGETHER AND APART

Martha’s son-in-law and daughter, Ernest and Caroline (Schmitt) Webbon, had nine children together: William Earnest, Carolina P., Rosaline S., Lillian, Daisy L., an unnamed son (who apparently died soon after birth), Violet, Madeline, and Rudolph P.

“Ernest Webbon” and his wife “Carolina Schmitt” were living in Manhattan on 14 February 1876, when their daughter “Carolina” was recorded as being born there. The death of “Carolina P. Webbon” on 7 August 1876, at the age of 5 months and 7 days, took place in Newark, New Jersey. Soon after the birth of their daughter Rosaline, in Manhattan on 20 April 1877, Ernest and Caroline and their family moved to Philadelphia, where Ernest’s mother had died, and where he himself had no doubt lived for a part of his childhood. On 10 February 1879, “Ernest W. Webbon, Philadelphia, Pa., assignor to W. H. Sheafer & Co., same place,” filed for a patent on an “improvement in the art of making Roman bracelets” that he had devised (*Official Gazette of the United States Patent Office*, Vol. XVII [1880], p. 358). This patent – number 224,620 – was granted on 17 February 1880.

The entry for “Webbon, William E., jeweller,” living at 3633 Warren Street in *Gopsill’s Philadelphia City Directory for 1879*, is no doubt a reference to Ernest William Webbon.

were married in Mainz on 18 November 1828.

Ernest and his family were still living in Philadelphia when his daughter Lillian was born there on 14 August 1880, but not long after that the family moved to Staten Island, New York, where his daughter Daisy was born in July of 1881. (When "Lillie Webbon" married "Edward Duryea Stoveken" in Brooklyn on 6 February 1898, she stated that she was 21 years old; that she had been born in Philadelphia; and that her parents were Earnest Wm. Webbon and Carrie Smith. When "Daisy Webbon" married "Walter Chase Riley" in New York City on 30 June 1900, she stated that she was 23 years old; that she had been born in Staten Island; and that her parents were Ernest William Webbon and Caroline Smith.)

By the beginning of 1883 the family had moved again, since we find that "Ernest William Wibbon," birthplace England, and his wife "Carolina Schmitt," birthplace New York City, were in Washington, D.C., when the birth of an unnamed son on 29 January 1883 was recorded in the District of Columbia records. The following year the Webbons were back in Staten Island – living on Prospect Street – where their daughter Violet died of "cholera infantum" on 28 June 1884 at the age of 2 months and 16 days, with burial in Woodlawn Cemetery. She had been born in Staten Island, and her parents were identified as Ernest W. Webbon, birthplace England, and Caroline Smith, birthplace New York City. In 1886 Ernest was a member of the 9th Regiment, National Guard, State of New York, then headquartered at 113 University Place in Manhattan. In the *Annual Report of the Adjutant-General of the State of New York* for 1886 (published in 1887, p. 425), and again in the *Annual Report* for 1887 (published in 1888, p. 488), "E. W. Webbon," a Private in Company B of the Ninth Regiment, was listed among those who had qualified as "marksman" in each of those years. On 13 July 1888, Ernest and Caroline's daughter Madeline, aged less than a year, died in Manhattan. In Madeline's death record, her parents were identified as E. W. Webbon and Caroline S. Webbon. In January of 1889 their son Rudolph P. was born in Manhattan.

"Ernest W. Webbon," age 35, and his wife "Caroline S. Webbon," age 38, appear on the 1890 "Police Census" for New York City, as residents of Manhattan, together with five children: "Ernest W.," age 17; "Rose," age 14; "Lillie," age 11; "Daisy," age 9; and "Rudolph," age less than a year. On the 1892 New York state census, we find in Brooklyn a family consisting of Ernest Webbon, age 40, occupation "Jewery"; Carrie Webbon, age 41; William Webbon, age 18; Rosy Webbon, age 14; Lillie Webbon, age 11; Daisy Webbon, age 10; and Rudolph Webbon, age 1½. Ernest was said to have been born in England. All the rest were said to have been born in the United States.

Ernest was not, however, physically residing with his family in Brooklyn in 1892. By June of 1891, when *Williams' Cincinnati Directory* for that year was published, "Webbon, E. W.," was listed as living at "101 W. 7th" in Cincinnati, Ohio. His occupation was "foreman, Fox Bros. & Co." (This was a wholesale jewelry business.) "Webbon, E. W.," appeared in the 1892 edition of this directory with the same occupation, but was then living at "247 Park Av." In the 1893 edition, "Webbon, Ernest Wm.," still with the same occupation, was a resident at "14 Myrtle Av"; and his son "Webbon, Wm. E., jeweler," was with him at that address. (Ernest does not appear in these Cincinnati directories before 1891.)

When Ernest went from New York to Cincinnati, he seems to have done so in the company of a woman named Frances Lauerbach. And in Cincinnati they then began living together as husband and wife. When "Frances Webbon" died of typhoid fever in Cincinnati on 21 March 1893 at the age of 37, she was said to be married, to be a native of "New Y. City," and to be the daughter of Louis and Mary Lauerbach. Her last place of residence was given as 14 Myrtle Ave., where we know Ernest Webbon was also living in 1893.

Not long after the death of Frances, Ernest began the process of securing a divorce from his legal wife Caroline. On 23 August 1893, the *Cincinnati Enquirer* published a legal notice that "Ernest W. Webbon" had sued "Caroline S. Webbon" for divorce in the Common Pleas Court. A brief article accompanied this notice:

AN ABSENT WIFE.

Ernest W. Webbon's wife, Caroline S., did not like married life with him. At any rate she deserted him several years ago, and also is charged with habitual drunkenness for several years. He sued for divorce yesterday. They were married in 1873 in Brooklyn, N.Y. Bright & Friedman, attorneys.

This was not a fully accurate description of the situation, since it was Ernest who had physically removed himself from the family residence in New York when he relocated to Ohio. Another article appeared in the same newspaper on 11 October 1893 (in which Ernest's name was misspelled), after the divorce was granted, under the headline "A Woman Whose Drunken Habits Ruined Her." In this article it was admitted that Ernest had left Caroline, and not the other way around; but this abandonment was justified on the basis of Caroline's abuse of alcohol:

A DRUNKEN WOMAN.

Emmet W. Webbon got a divorce from Caroline S. Webbon. They were married in 1873. Some years after the marriage she began to drink to excess, and despite her husband's efforts to reclaim her she went from bad to worse, and he had to leave her. However, he gave her money for the support of herself and the children, but he could not do anything to reclaim her from her habits. G. G. Bright, attorney.

About a month and a half later, in Cincinnati on 30 November 1893, Ernest married Johanna Elizabeth Hatzig, a native of Ohio. He and Johanna then lived briefly in Syracuse, New York, where "Webbon, Ernest W.," working as a papermaker, and living on "Cannon nr. E. Colvin," appears in the 1894 edition of *Boyd's Duplex Directory of Syracuse*.

Caroline Webbon, still in New York, was unaware of any of this. When she found out about the divorce and her husband's remarriage, she was not pleased. The legal proceedings that she then initiated against Ernest are described in an article in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, published on 15 June 1894:

A CINCINNATI DIVORCE

METAPHORICALLY SLAPPED IN MRS. WEBBON'S FACE.

Unlooked For Evidence in a Trial for Abandonment in the Gates Avenue Police Court – Deserted With Her Two Children After Many Years of Married Life.

Some peculiar testimony was adduced yesterday afternoon in the Gates avenue police court during the trial of Ernest W. Webbon, who was accused of abandonment by his alleged wife, Caroline S. Webbon. The defendant is a wood engraver and until a few months ago resided in Cincinnati, where he earned all the way from \$15 to \$40 per week. He married the complainant about 19 years ago and lived with her in Brooklyn for ten years, after which he went West and has not lived with her since. At the same time he contributed to her support and that of her two daughters. Since February last he made no remittance, but returned shortly afterward to Brooklyn with another woman, who, he claimed, was his lawful wife.

It appears that Webbon secured a divorce from his first wife, the decree being granted by a Cincinnati court, and the notice of the action was served on the defendant by publication. Mrs. Webbon claims that she knew nothing of her husband's move, but since he failed to send her any money she did her best to eke out a living by the scanty earnings of her two daughters and what little remuneration she received as the janitress of the flat in which she lives at 64 Clifton place. Mrs. Webbon bases her present claim for support on the alleged invalidity of the Cincinnati divorce.

At the trial yesterday a certified copy of the decree was produced and counsel for the defense argued its validity on the ground that a federal statute expressly

provides that a decree granted in one state shall hold in any other. The counsel for the other side declared that the decree was not properly obtained and Justice Connolly considered the question such a delicate one that he resolved to reserve decision for a few days. Webbon and the complainant are each about 45 years old.

This article would appear to be in error when it suggests that Ernest had not been living with Caroline for about nine years. As far as I can tell Ernest was still living in New York until the second half of 1890 or the first half of 1891. And Ernest and Caroline's son Rudolph Webbon was born in Manhattan in January of 1889. It is odd that Rudolph is not referred to in the article as a minor child of Ernest for whom financial support should have been provided. Two daughters alone are mentioned. But if Rudolph had been conceived in a liaison between Caroline and another man while Ernest was away in Ohio, we would expect Ernest to have brought that up as a further justification for the divorce. When "Rudolph Webbon" married "Louise Lederle" in Brooklyn on 26 November 1914, he stated that he was 25 years old; that he had been born in "Manh. Boro., N.Y."; and that his parents were Ernest Webbon and Carrie Schmidt. (Rudolph P. Webbon died in Queens on 16 September 1917, at the age of 28.)

The Sun (a newspaper based in New York City) also reported on this court case, and provided a few more details – although it gave the wrong name for the defendant! In the 16 June 1894 issue of that publication, we read:

A SURPRISE FOR MRS. WEBBON.

She Seems to Have Been Mistaken When She Thought She Was Webbon's Wife.

Charles S. Webbon, a wood engraver, left his wife and two children about ten years ago to go West and better himself in business. After his departure Mrs. Webbon became the janitress of a flat house at 64 Clifton place, Brooklyn.

Webbon wrote to her regularly, and sent money until February last, when his correspondence ceased. A month later he returned to Brooklyn and married another woman. Mrs. Webbon discovered him and had him arrested for abandonment. When the case came up in the Gates Avenue Police Court yesterday Webbon's lawyer asked Mrs. Webbon:

"Is this man your husband?"

"Of course he is," promptly replied Mrs. Webbon.

"Are you sure?" the lawyer asked her again.

"Positive," exclaimed the woman.

Then the lawyer astonished her by producing a certified copy of an absolute divorce obtained in Cincinnati by Webbon on the ground of his wife's habitual drunkenness. Justice Connolly suspended the hearing until he could investigate the Cincinnati divorce.

I have not found a follow-up article stating this in so many words, but it would seem that in the 1894 court case, Justice Connolly eventually ruled that Ernest's divorce from Caroline had not been legally obtained, and therefore that Ernest's second marriage was not valid, so that he was still legally married to Caroline. Financial support for Caroline was no doubt ordered. But Caroline was apparently not satisfied with the awkwardness of this situation. This notice appeared in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* on 5 February 1900:

Mrs. Carrie E. Webbon of 281 Wythe avenue has brought a suit in the Supreme Court against Ernst Webbon for absolute divorce. They were married in 1873.

Wythe Avenue is in Brooklyn. But not long after this court filing, Caroline Webbon moved to Staten Island. In the 1900 federal census, Caroline Webbon, born December 1850, was enumerated at 324 Van Pelt Avenue in Staten Island (on 9 June) as the head of a household which also included her son William E., born February 1871; her daughter Daisy, born July 1882; and her son Rudolph P., born January 1889. Caroline identified herself as a widow. At

this time in history the stigma that was attached to divorce led many divorced women to say that they were widowed. By the following year, however, when *Uppington's General Directory of Brooklyn 1901-1902* was published, this family had moved back to Brooklyn. "Webbon, Carrie, wid. Ernest W.," was living at 526 Central Avenue, and "Webbon, Wm. E., coupler," was living at 244 6th Street.

In the 1900 census, Ernest Webbon, born July 1855, occupation Jeweler, was living at 256 West 129th Street in Manhattan with his (second) wife Johanna, born November 1864. In the 1910 federal census, Ernest W. Webbon, age 54, and Johanna E., age 46, were living on Christie Street in Overpeck, New Jersey, with their son Richard R., age 4. Ernest was then the owner of a jewelry store (which was located in New York City). The 1910 census also reports that Ernest was born "At Sea." Other records over the years state variously that he was born in New York, in Pennsylvania, and in England – which was his actual place of birth. Ernest's grandson Lester Edward Stoveken told his own daughter Geraldine Ellen that his grandfather "Ernest William Webbon was born in England."

Overpeck is the name of a New Jersey township that is coextensive with the incorporated village of Ridgefield Park, New Jersey. Ernest W. Webbon was elected to the Ridgefield Park Board of Commissioners in 1912, and the board then selected him as the first mayor of the village. He served as mayor until 1916, and also served briefly on the Bergen County (New Jersey) Board of Freeholders. In an article on "Ridgefield Park's 3 Former Mayors and Their Records," in the 4 December 1926 issue of the *Bergen Evening Record*, Ernest's political career is described as follows:

Ernest W. Webbon was the first Mayor of the village under the Commission form of government. He had been a member for a short time of the old Board of Trustees, displaced by the new government.

Mr. Webbon was, in 1911, the president of the Republican Club and an active worker in the ranks of that party. When there occurred a vacancy in the big board..., Mr. Webbon was picked for the place and appointed by the Board.

He was one of the successful candidates at the election for commissioners in 1912...

When the first small Board of Freeholders was elected In 1915, Mayor Webbon was nominated and elected for the one-year term, but, after a short time, was compelled to tender his resignation for the reason that his business as a jeweler in New York City required too much of his time to give the political position what it required.

He continued to serve as Mayor of Ridgefield Park to the end of his term, shortly after which he removed, with his family, to Norfolk, Va., where he was also in the jewelry business. He remained in the south for two years and then returned to the Park.

Mr. Webbon owns a home in Christie street and re-occupied it on his return north.

Ernest and Johanna were enumerated in Ridgefield Park on the 1915 New Jersey census (when their son was identified as Richard R. J. Webbon), and they were living there also on the 1920, 1930, and 1940 federal censuses. (Richard R. Webbon, who was born in Ridgefield Park on 31 August 1908, followed the example of his father in public service. In later years he was the Coordinator of Urban Affairs, and the City Clerk, for the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia. He died in Virginia Beach on 24 June 1985, at the age of 76.)

Ernest Webbon's ex-wife "Caroline Schmidt" died of "Cerebral Apoplexy" at St. Mary's Hospital in Hoboken on 21 November 1915. It was stated on her death certificate that she was divorced; that she had been born in New York on 18 December 1852; that the name of her father (born in Germany) was Charles Schmidt; and that the name of her mother (also born in Germany) was unknown. Caroline's daughter "Mrs. Stoveken" – the informant for these data – did not correctly remember the name of her grandfather Schmitt, and did not

remember the name of her grandmother Schmitt at all. The name "Webbon" does not appear on the certificate, which could suggest that after her divorce Caroline had gone back to her maiden name. But according to the register of burials for the (Episcopal) Church of the Holy Cross in Jersey City, New Jersey, "Carrie (Schmitt) Webbon" was buried on 24 November 1915 at The Evergreens Cemetery in Brooklyn.

The *Norfolk and Portsmouth (Virginia) City Directory 1920-1921* lists "Webbon, Ernest W." – a "jeweler" at the "Gale-Ford Co., Inc." – as a resident of 130 Kimball Terrace in the Chesterfield Heights neighborhood of Norfolk. After his two-year sojourn in Virginia, when Ernest returned to his previous residence in Ridgefield Park, he opened a jewelry store in an adjacent community. This store, "E. W. Webbon & Son," was at 9 Queen Anne Road in Bogota, New Jersey. The place where the store was located is now directly beneath the Interstate 80 expressway.

Ernest Webbon's second wife Johanna Elizabeth (Hatzig) Webbon died in Ridgefield Park in 1942. An article published in the *Hackensack Record* on 31 October 1942, reporting on "Services for Mrs. Webbon," stated that she was 78 years old; that she had resided at 73 Christie Street in Ridgefield Park; and that her funeral had been conducted that day at the Snell Funeral Home by Rev. Robert Megaw, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. The article also stated:

Mrs. Webbon was the wife of Ernest William Webbon, who was the first mayor of Ridgefield Park. They have been Park residents since 1902. Burial was at George Washington Memorial Park, Paramus.

Ernest himself died in Ridgefield Park on 25 November 1943. His obituary was published in the *Bergen Evening Record* on 26 November 1943:

ERNEST WEBBON, FORMER MAYOR, IS DEAD AT PARK
*Retired Jeweler, 96, Was First Executive Under Commission Rule
Services Tonight*

Ernest William Webbon, first Mayor of Ridgefield Park, died in his sleep from a heart condition at his home, 73 Christie Street, Ridgefield Park, yesterday. He was 92.

Mr. Webbon was born in New York City. He was a jeweler, but had been retired for many years. He formerly had a shop on Queen Anne Road, Bogota.

Mr. Webbon was a member of the Board of Trustees before 1913 when he became the first mayor under the commission form of government. He served with Harry Ayers and Adolf Dexheimer as the other commissioners. He resigned after a term and a half to become a member of the Bergen County Board of Freeholders.

He was a charter member of the Men's Club of the Presbyterian Church and was also a member of the now extinct Junior Order. He belonged also to the Bergen County Republican Club.

His wife, Johanna E. Webbon, died last year. He is survived by his son, Richard J. Webbon; granddaughter, Lorene, and daughter-in-law, Lois Webbon, all of Ridgefield Park.

Services will be held at the Snell Funeral Home tonight at 8:30 with the Rev. Robert Megaw officiating. Burial will take place tomorrow at 11 A.M. at the George Washington Memorial Park, Paramus.

Two different ages at death are given: 96 (in the headline) and 92 (in the body of the article). Both are wrong, since Ernest was actually 89 at the time of his passing. His place of birth (given as New York City) is also wrong. Ernest's surviving children and grandchildren through his first marriage are not listed, even though we know that he was not estranged from them (or at least not from all of them). Ernest's grandson Lester Stoveken, who grew

up in Jersey City, knew his grandfather, and told his own daughter Geraldine that “he went to the jewelry shop several times.”

A shorter obituary for “Ernest Webbon,” published in the *New York Times* on 27 November, adds a little more information:

RIDGEFIELD PARK, N.J., Nov. 26 – Ernest Webbon, former Councilman, Mayor and Freeholder, died yesterday of a heart attack at his home, 73 Christie Street. His age was 92.

Mr. Webbon, a retired jeweler, had been in business with his son, Richard W. Webbon, with whom he lived. He was elected Councilman here in 1911 and, when the commission form of government was adopted in 1913, became first Mayor, serving for four years. In 1918 Mr. Webbon was elected to the Bergen County Board of Freeholders. He was a charter member of the Union League Club of Hackensack and the Overpeck Boat Club.

His wife died a year ago.

WILLIAM E. WEBBON AND HIS WIVES: A CLOSER LOOK

William Earnest Webbon, who has already been mentioned several times, was the oldest child of Ernest Webbon and his first wife Caroline Schmitt. On his World War I draft registration card, which he filled out on 12 September 1918, “William Ernest Webbon” stated that he had been born on 15 February 1873. As best as I have been able to determine (sifting through a lot of conflicting information regarding his date of birth and his age at various points in his life, and taking note of the fact that his parents were married on 17 May 1873), I believe that this was off by one year, and that William was actually born on 15 February 1874. William also indicated on this card that his residence at the time was 350 West 24th Street in Brooklyn.

William Webbon’s first wife was Mary Jane (or Mamie) Forman, whom he wed in Brooklyn on 28 April 1894. At the time of this marriage, “William E. Webbon” stated that he was 21 years old; that he had been born in “N.Y.”; and that his parents were Earnest W. Webbon and Carrie Smith. We learn from the baptismal records of St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church in Jersey City that Mary Jane Forman was born on 7 June 1876 (and was baptized on 26 June). She was the daughter of Frederic Henry Forman and his wife Jeannette Liddell Parker. When “Mamie Forman” married William E. Webbon, she stated that she was 18 years old; that she had been born in “Jersey City”; and that her parents were Fred Forman and Jennette Parker.

“Frederic Forman,” age 21, son of Geo. and Elise Forman, and “Janette Parker,” age 18, daughter of John and Jane Parker, had been married in Jersey City on 26 June 1872. They had four children together, all born in Jersey City: John (born 1873; died 1 July 1885 in Brooklyn), Mary Jane, Regina (or Jane) (born 3 August 1878; baptized at St. Paul’s Roman Catholic Church in Jersey City on 30 May 1879), and William S. (born 22 August 1880). Frederic Henry Forman had been born in Germany in March of 1850, and while still in infancy – later in 1850 – had come to the United States, presumably with his parents. (Aside from Frederic’s 1872 marriage record, however, his parents are not documented in America.) Jeannette Liddell Parker had been born in Jersey City on 9 April 1853. Jeanette’s father was John Parker, the son of Robert Parker and his wife Euphemia (or Fannie) Ronald. John was born in Falkirk, Stirling, Scotland, on 8 April 1824, and died in Jersey City on 8 December 1864. He was buried in the New York Bay Cemetery in Jersey City. Jeanette’s mother was Jane Young, the daughter of James Young and his wife Janet Liddell. Jane was born in Falkirk on 13 July 1823, and died in Jersey City on 9 March 1894. John Parker and Jane

Young, who were married in Falkirk on 18 April 1847, had seven children: James Young, Jeanette Liddell, Jane Young, Robena, Ann M., Eva Rollins, and Clara.⁵

Jeanette (Parker) Forman, the wife of Frederic Forman, died in Brooklyn on 9 July 1887. The following year Frederic married Clemenita Jane Brown, who was born in Brooklyn in August of 1867, and died in Queens, New York, on 24 December 1941. Frederic himself died in Queens on 8 February 1937, and was buried in the Lutheran All Faiths Cemetery at Middle Village, Queens. Frederic and Clemenita had seven children together, all born in Brooklyn: Samuel Wewitzer Vane (born 5 December 1888), Adelaide (or Addie) (born 28 December 1891), Frank H. (born 17 August 1894), Frederick Henry (born 4 February 1896), Estelle Elizabeth (born March 1899), John (born 21 February 1901), and Ruth (born 1905).

“William Ernest Webbon” and “Mary F. Webbon” – maiden name “Forman” – had a son, born at their home at 60 Hemlock Street in Brooklyn, on 28 June 1896. The birth certificate for this child does not include his given name. It is sometimes the case that such birth records omit a given name for the child, if the child died at or soon after birth – before a name had been given to him. But no 1896 death record for this Webbon child has been found. And sometimes the given name of a child who survived is not provided, if the parents had not yet decided on a name before the birth was reported by the attending physician.

The birth certificate states that this was Mary’s second child. I believe that her first child was the “Arthur W. Webbon” who died of “infantile debility” 12 hours after his birth, on 28 July 1895, at his family’s residence at 76 Van Siclen Avenue in Brooklyn. Arthur was buried the next day in The Evergreens Cemetery. The Coroner’s Certificate of Death for Arthur does not give the names of his parents.

Mary (Forman) Webbon probably died soon after giving birth to the son who was born in 1896, since by the time of the 1900 federal census her husband “William E.” was living without her in the household of his mother in Staten Island. William was described in the census as single, rather than more precisely as widowed; but since he was not described as married, we can assume that Mary was dead by 1900. It is possible, however, that she was still alive, but had separated from William. In this census William’s mother Caroline is described as a widow, even though her former husband Ernest Webbon was still alive. William Webbon’s marital status might also have been fudged in a similar way on this census.

In Jersey City on 1 September 1904, “William Earnest Webbon” of 179 Jay Street in Brooklyn, age 31, born in the United States, son of Earnest William Webbon and Carrie Smith, occupation “Steamboat Captain,” married “Stephanie Harriet Jablonski” of 402 Fairview Avenue in Jersey City, age 23, born in Poland, daughter of John Jablonski and Mary Romaine. This was said to be his second marriage and her first marriage. In the 1900 federal census for Brooklyn, “Stepany,” born in Poland in July 1880, had been listed as a daughter in the household headed by her mother “Jabloski, Marion.” In the 1910 federal census for Brooklyn, where “Stephanie H.” was now living with William Webbon as his wife (at 170 Prospect Avenue), it was said that she was 28 years old, and had been in her current marriage for 9

⁵Taking these lines back another generation in Scotland:

Robert Parker was born in Larbert, Sterling, on 29 July 1797, the son of Joseph and Agnes (Dunlop) Parker. Robert’s wife Euphemia (or Fannie) Ronald was born in Falkirk on 24 December 1798, the daughter of John and Margaret (Turnbull) Ronald. Robert and Euphemia were married in Falkirk on 16 April 1819.

James Young was born in Falkirk on 28 February 1778, the son of Robert and Robina (Glen) Young. He died in Falkirk on 17 March 1840. James’s wife Janet Liddell was born in Falkirk on 3 November 1788, the daughter of John and Janet (Stirling) Liddell. She died in Jersey City on 21 June 1870. James and Janet were married in Falkirk on 1 April 1806.

years – which would mean that she and William had gotten married in 1901. But that was three years before they actually were wed. Might they have been living together as husband and wife intermittently for three years before they were legally married? Is it possible that in 1901, when William and Stephanie Harriet seem to have entered into some kind of marriage-like relationship, William's first wife Mary Jane was either still alive, or was not known to be dead? This would have prevented William and Stephanie Harriet from getting married legally until such time as Mary Jane either died, was known to be dead, or was declared legally dead.⁶

In the 1905 New York state census, this couple appears to have been enumerated twice. And there are differences in the information that is provided in each enumeration. Living at 239 Front Street in the Second Assembly District of Brooklyn, as enumerated by census-taker Bernard Wolfson, "Webbon, William" was said to be 32 years old and to be employed as a "railroad worker"; and his wife "Hattie" was said to be 24 years old. Living at 172 17th Street in the Ninth Assembly District of Brooklyn, as enumerated by census-taker T. W. Cusack, "Webbon, William E." was said to be 31 years old and to be employed as a "Diamond Setter"; and his wife "Estephanie" was said to be 23 years old.

It would seem that during the window of time when the census was being taken, in the month of June, this couple moved from one Brooklyn neighborhood to another Brooklyn neighborhood. The two residences were about three and a half miles from each other. These are almost definitely the same people, counted twice, and not two separate couples, since on other censuses during this general time frame – before and after 1905 – only one man named William Webbon, born in the 1870s, was living in the New York City area. At different times through the years, Stephanie Harriet's first given name appears in some records, her second given name (or its diminutive form "Hattie") appears in some records, and both of her given names (or the first name and the middle initial) appear in some records.

"William E. Wabbon" and "Harriet Jablonski Wabbon" had a son Ernest William, who was born in Brooklyn on 25 November 1905; and who died there, as the son of "William E. Webon" and "Harriett Jablonski," on 4 December 1905. Little Ernest was buried the day after his death in Holy Cross Cemetery in Brooklyn. One "Hettie Webbon" was interred on 29 April 1910 in the same plot where baby Ernest had been buried (Plot 76 of Row 37). She was probably a daughter of William and Stephanie Harriet who died at or soon after birth. Another son, Theodore Romaine Webbon, was born to "Wm. Ernest Webbon" and "Stephanie Hattie Jablonski" in Brooklyn on 20 November 1909. In adulthood this son was known as Theodore Roman Webbon. (He died in Bridge City, Texas, on 14 October 1995, at the age of 85.)

William Webbon, over several years, went back and forth between two main occupations, or perhaps pursued both of them simultaneously. As already noted, in 1905 he was described both as a railroad worker and as a diamond setter. In the 1893 Cincinnati directory he was described as a "jeweler," and in the record of his marriage to Mary (Mamie) Forman in 1894 he was described as a "Diamond Setter." We recall that his father was a

⁶As we have seen, William Webbon's father Ernest had lived with a woman (not his wife) in a cohabiting arrangement from 1891 to 1893, in Cincinnati. And as we will see, William, in his third "marriage," later lived in such an arrangement himself. So, William at least may have had few compunctions against this sort of thing. We do note, however, that in 1904 Stephanie Harriet was said to be living in Jersey City, and not with William in Brooklyn. The officiant at William's first wedding in 1894 was a Baptist minister. But when William and Stephanie Harriet were married in 1904, the officiant was a justice of the peace and not a clergyman. This might have been because a pre-marital cohabitation – which would have been contrary to traditional Christian moral standards – had made them ineligible for a church wedding. But their having a civil rather than a religious ceremony might also have been because it was a Catholic-Protestant union that was not approved of by the bride's family or by their priest. More research may solve this puzzle and answer these questions.

jeweler, so this seems to have been the “family business.” But when William and Mary had a son in 1896, in that record William was described as a “coupler” on the “elevated R.R.” On the 1900 federal census, when William Webbon was living in Staten Island with his mother, he was doing something altogether different: working as a “Laborer” in a “Sugar House.” But in the Brooklyn directory for 1901-1902 he was said once again to be a “coupler.” At the time of his second marriage in 1904 William was a “Steamboat Captain,” but on the 1910 federal census he was said once again to be working for the “Rail Road,” as a “Conductor.” In the July 1912 issue of *The Railroad Trainman* magazine (published by the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen), “W. E. Webbon, No. 829, 172 Prospect av., Brooklyn, N.Y.,” was identified as the secretary of the Grievance Committee for the (unionized) employees of the Bush Terminal Company. In 1914 and again in 1915, “Webbon, William E.,” was listed by the Steamboat Inspection Service of the United States Department of Commerce as an operator of a motor vessel, having been licensed as such in the local district of New York, N.Y.

William’s original father-in-law, “Formann, Fredrick,” was described as a “laborer” on the 1880 federal census, when he was living at 16 Clark Place in Jersey City; but the next year, in the Jersey City directory for 1881, Frederic H. Forman was described as a “switchman.” In the 1900 federal census, when “Forman, Frederick H.,” was living at 910 Madison Street in Brooklyn, his occupation was “tower switchman.” In the 1910 federal census, when “Forman, Frederick” was living at 377 Lexington Avenue in Brooklyn, his occupation was described as “Railroad.” So, he also worked for the railroad, and may have helped his son-in-law get his initial railroad job. (The 1878 Jersey City directory states that Frederic Forman was living on Pamrapo Avenue near Bergen Avenue. His occupation then was “laborer.” The 1881 directory states that he was living on Douglass Avenue near Bergen Avenue.)

When William Earnest Webbon filled out his World War I draft registration card in 1918, his occupation at that time was “Chauffeur” for the “Auto Car Company,” located at 523 West 23rd Street in Manhattan. Also on his draft registration card, he identified his wife “Hattie Webbon” as his “nearest relative.” Around this time, however, William began a relationship with a woman named Alice V. (Mears) Todd. She, too, was already married, to Charles David Todd.

Alice V. Mears had been born in Southwark St. Saviour, London, England, on 11 September 1887. On the 1920 federal census, she and her husband Charles Todd were living at 435 West 54th Street in Manhattan, with four sons: Robert, Francis, Arthur, and Warren. But the youngest son – who had been born in Manhattan on 14 November 1919, and whose full name at birth was Warren William Todd – was actually the biological son of William Earnest Webbon. The Todd family residence was less than two miles from William Webbon’s place of employment, and as a chauffeur, who no doubt would have driven around that section of Manhattan quite a bit, he could easily have met Alice in conjunction with his job.

Before long, Alice and her husband Charles Todd separated; William Webbon and his wife Stephanie Harriet separated; Alice and William began living together as husband and wife (yet without being legally married); and William acknowledged Warren as his son. DNA evidence (on Ancestry.com) confirms this paternity, since known descendants of Warren Webbon share a significant amount of DNA, and therefore a relatively close kinship, with known descendants of the sisters of William Webbon. The descendants of Warren Webbon would not be related to the descendants of those sisters unless Warren was related to those sisters – who were, in fact, his aunts. It is also reported by a great-grandson of Alice (Mears) (Todd) Webbon, that his own father – Alice’s grandson through one of her older Todd sons – “thought that his grandmother (Alice) was involved with William Webbon before she was divorced from Charles.”

In time, Warren took the surname Webbon. When he was baptized at St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in Holbrook, New York, on 11 April 1935, his name was entered

on the baptismal certificate as “Warren William Todd Webbon.” After that, in how Warren identified himself, the name Todd was dropped altogether, and he became simply Warren William Webbon. (He died in Sonora, California, on 1 October 2003, at the age of 83.)

The 1925 Jersey City directory lists three residents of 171 Culver Avenue in that city: Hattie Webbon, widow of Wm.; Stephanie Webbon, widow of Wm.; and Theo. R. Webbon, a student. Stephanie Harriet is obviously listed twice, under each of her two given names. She was also not actually a widow, since William Webbon was still alive – although her marriage to him had effectively come to an end. And their son Theodore was living with her. In the 1936 city directory for Port Arthur, Texas, Stephanina Webbon, widow of Wm. E., was living with Theo Webbon (her son) at 2040 10th Street. Theo’s occupation was given as “eng Gulf Refg Co Marine Dept.”

Stephanie Harriet and William remained legally married until 1939, when “Stephanie H. Webbon vs. William E. Webbon” appeared under “Divorce Suits Filed” in the 15 October 1939 issue of the *Port Arthur News*. On 14 December 1939, in Jefferson County, Texas (in which Port Arthur is located), “Stephanie H. Webbon” and “William B. Towell” were married. In the 1940 federal census, “Towell, William B.,” age 58, a native of England; his wife “Stephanina,” age 53, a native of New York; and his step-son “Webbon, Theodore,” age 30, a native of New York, were living at 5052 7th Street in Lakeview, Port Arthur. The 1940 city directory for Port Arthur shows “Towell, Wm. B.,” a marine engineer, living with his wife “S. Hattie” at 5052 7th Street. On 16 October 1940, when “Theodore Roman Webbon” filled out his World War II draft registration form, he indicated that he had been born in Brooklyn on 20 November 1909, and that his current residence was 5052 7th Street in Port Arthur. When asked to give the name of someone who would always know his address, he wrote “Hattie Towell,” and identified her as his mother.

“William E. Webbon” served for at least two years in the New York Guard. On 8 October 1920 he enlisted for one year in the Headquarters Company of the 71st Infantry Regiment (garrisoned at New York City). He was discharged on 7 October 1921, and reenlisted in the Service Company of the same regiment on 23 November 1921, presumably for one more year. He claimed at the time that he was 42 years old. If he had given his correct age – 47 – he may not have been allowed to reenlist.

William and Alice were living at 144 East 40th Street in Manhattan in 1933. They were living in Holbrook when the 19 May 1937 issue of *The Mid-Island Mail* (published in Medford Station) reported – under “Holbrook News” – that “The Islip Town Board appointed William Webbon of Veronica Street as a special constable without pay last Tuesday.” Alice died in 1941. When “William Ernest Webbon” filled out a World War II draft registration form on 27 April 1942, he was living at 31-81 31st Street in Long Island City, Queens. He said that he was employed by the “M. M. T. Co.” at 80 Lafayette Street in New York City, and that he had been born in New York City on 15 February 1879. (This was five years off from what I believe was his actual year of birth.) When asked to give the name of someone who would always know his address, he wrote “Mrs. Lena Webbon.” This was the wife of his son Warren. “William E. Webbon” died in Hempstead, New York, on 16 February 1956. He is buried with Alice in the Union Cemetery in Sayville, New York. The years of birth for Alice and William as inscribed on their common gravestone – 1889 and 1871 respectively – are both incorrect.

William’s obituary appeared on 23 February 1956 in *The Leader*, published in Freeport, New York:

WILLIAM E. WEBBON DIES
Was Theatre Doorman

William E. Webbon, 85, who several years ago was doorman at the Freeport and Grove Theaters, died last Thursday after an illness of about three years. He had

been confined to Meadowbrook Hospital since last April 21.

Born in New York City, Mr. Webbon moved 25 years ago to Holbrook, L.I. where he joined the volunteer fire department. After the death of his wife in 1941 he returned to New York City until 1950 when he moved to Freeport and made his home with a stepson, Robert Todd of 506 Archer street.

Earlier in his career Mr. Webbon was a restaurant and railway worker. A former drummer, he at one time led the drill team for a Loyal Order of Moose lodge in New York City.

The Rev. John J. Madden recited the Rosary Friday night at the Chester A. Fulton and Son Funeral Home. Prayers were recited Saturday morning at 10 A.M., followed by burial in Union Cemetery, Sayville.

Mr. Webbon is survived by his son, Warren; three stepsons, Robert, Frank and Arthur Todd, and seven grandchildren.

The obituary does not mention it, but various articles in Long Island newspapers, concerning the activities of the Holbrook Republican Club and of the Holbrook Community Club, identified William Webbon also as a member of those organizations.

THE MYSTERY IS SOLVED: BUT SOME QUESTIONS REMAIN

After reviewing all the information that was available about this Webbon family, and taking into consideration the DNA evidence of a close genetic connection between George Webber and that family, I concluded that the son of William Earnest Webbon and his first wife Mary Jane Forman, who was born in Brooklyn on 28 June 1896, was my great-grandfather George Webber. His parents had apparently not yet decided on a name for their baby when the attending physician reported this birth to the city clerk. But when they did then name him George, this would make sense as a family name, since the mother's paternal grandfather was named George Forman. (It is unlikely that the parents were thinking of the father's paternal grandfather George Aaron Webbon – who was still living in England at the time – when they chose a name for their son. But they might have been.) When my great-grandfather George was brought to the Hebrew Sheltering Guardian Society in September of 1901, his age was estimated at five years, and that would have been correct. Also, little George's statements on this occasion – that his father was alive; that his father was named "Will" or William; and that his father worked on the "trains" or on the elevated railroad – are a match for William Earnest Webbon's life circumstances at that time. And little George's statement that his mother was named "Hattie" matches the name of William Earnest Webbon's second wife, whom he married in 1904, but with whom he seems to have had some kind of relationship already in 1901. (If George's actual mother had in fact died when he was an infant or a toddler, this would explain why he would have had no memory of her.) When William Webbon died, therefore, he was actually survived by *three* sons: not only by Warren (whom his obituary does name), but also by George and Theodore (from whom he was separated and estranged).

There are two plausible scenarios for how a five-year-old boy named George *Webbon* came to be identified by the authorities as a five-year-old boy named George *Webber*. First, as a young lad still learning how to pronounce his words, George's diction and articulation may have been lacking when he told the authorities in 1901 what his surname was. If he had dropped or minimized the final "n" sound, the name he gave them could have sounded like *Webbah*. And in view of the way in which a New York City accent drops the final "r" sound for a word that ends with the letter r, what they heard as *Webbah* would have been written as "Webber," since people from New York City pronounce the name Webber as *Webbah*.

Or second, if the person who interviewed young George did understand him when he said what his surname was, and if in his interview notes he wrote that name (as it sounded to him) as "Webben," those who then saw these handwritten notes and used them as the

basis for publicizing this case, could easily have misread “Webben” as “Webber” – which is a more common name. A handwritten “n” and a handwritten “r” – especially at the end of a word – can easily be confused. They therefore would have identified George, and publicized his name, according to this misreading of the interviewer’s notes. Since George was only five, and was probably unaware of all the things that were going on around him and on his behalf, we should not expect him to have caught and corrected such a mistake. And the interviewer may not have been involved in the publicizing of the case, so that he likewise may not have been in a position to catch and correct the mistake.

And so, when the authorities who were investigating this case asked the personnel department of the elevated railroad system if there was or had been an employee named William Webber, the answer was No. If they had asked instead if there was or had been an employee named William *Webbon*, there would probably have been a different answer. And little George’s life would probably have taken a very different path. As it was, he was processed into the “system” as “George Webber,” and that is the name by which he was known during his residence at St. Joseph’s Home. In time he forgot that he had ever had a different name.

Returning to the question of the identity of the mysterious man who brought George to the Jewish orphanage in Manhattan on 22 September 1901, we would note that in the letter that was left with George, the person who brought him there stated that he was a “friend” of Mrs. Fardwick – the matron of the orphanage – and that she knew him well “from One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Street, and also from Cincinnati.” The reference to Cincinnati points to George’s grandfather Ernest Webbon as the man who brought him to the orphanage that day – in view of the fact that Ernest had lived in Cincinnati for a time in the 1890s. And according to the 1900 census – taken just one year before George was dropped off at this orphanage – Ernest and his second wife Johanna were then living in the same borough (Manhattan) in which the orphanage was located, just one and a half miles south of that facility.

I do not know why Ernest wrote in the letter that he did not care to give his name. I do not know why he described George as an orphan, or why he did not identify himself as the boy’s grandfather. The letter suggests that Ernest had been taking care of George for a while, but that he felt at this point that he could not “keep him” because he was then “out of work.” Also according to the letter, Ernest was confident that Mrs. Fardwick would be able to call him to mind, based on the hints he gave regarding their previous places of association. But Mrs. Fardwick appears not to have remembered Ernest – or at least she chose not to tell the authorities that she knew who he was.

In the letter Ernest expressed an intent to “come and see” Mrs. Fardwick again as soon as he got work, presumably to pick up George and take him home. But Ernest never did take little George home again. Did he come back for him at a later time, only to learn that he had not been admitted to that orphanage after all? Did he then look for him, and fail to locate him? I would like to think that he did, but I do not know. If George’s grandfather Ernest, George’s father William, or other members of the Webbon family, did later try to track George down, they might have been hindered in their attempts to find him by the fact that his surname had been changed, so that in all the pertinent custodial and guardianship records he was now identified as George Webber and not as George Webbon. Being told that there was no boy named George Webbon “in the system” might also have led any relatives who were looking for him to conclude either that he had died, or that he had been adopted. But again, I do not know if anyone from the family later tried to locate him.

And why was George living with Ernest Webbon and his (second) wife Johanna, rather than with his own father William Webbon, in September of 1901? Had William entrusted his son to them, to be cared for by them, after the death of George’s mother? At this time in history, a widowed father of a young child would usually arrange for his child to live with a female relative until such time as the widowed father got remarried. Then, as a general rule,

the child would resume living with his father, and would be cared for by the new step-mother. Might a scenario like this have played out in the William Webbon family? But might it also be the case, that William Webbon's presumed new fiancée Hattie did not feel capable of taking care of this child from her future husband's first marriage, or did not want to do so?

Or, might Ernest have taken his grandson George from the custody of his son William because of concern for George's well-being? We do need to consider a troubling report regarding William's character and behavior. Warren Webbon's daughter Debra Jean, in recalling her father's description of *his* father William Webbon, recounted that "His father was extremely mean" and was quite an "ugly" person. Warren had hinted to his daughter at various times that, as a boy, "he had been abused regularly" by his father. If William had already begun to exhibit such traits in his treatment of Warren's older half-brother George, could this have been a reason why Ernest had removed George from William's home, and had taken him into his own care? When Ernest brought George to the orphanage, yet declined to give his name or to identify the family to which George belonged, might this have been because Ernest did not want George to be returned to William's custody? Might Ernest have concluded that it was better for George to be in an orphanage, at least temporarily, than to be with an abusive father?

Muriel (Anderson) Webbon was married to Warren Webbon from 1943 to 1953. Regarding her father-in-law William Webbon, she recounted to me in a telephone conversation on 15 October 2020 that "He wasn't too close with my husband. I think there was resentment there. They weren't that close." She also recalled that William "was a small man, about 5' 5" and slight build, and he always liked to dress nice." Another interesting fact that she shared was that "William Webbon's middle name is Earnest, and he spelled it with an 'a'. ... He always had to spell it out for people. I don't know why it was that way, but that's the way he did it."

There is an unfortunate gap in the documentation of George's membership in the Webbon family, where we would have expected to find such documentation, in the 1900 federal census. If George Webbon had been born in 1896, and was still alive in 1901, he should be on the 1900 census. But I have not been able to find him there. He is not shown in the household of his paternal grandfather Ernest Webbon and his second wife Johanna, in Manhattan. He is not shown in the household of his paternal grandmother Caroline (Schmitt) Webbon in Staten Island, where his father William Webbon was living at the time. He is not shown in the household of his maternal grandfather Frederic Forman and his second wife Constania, in Brooklyn. It is possible that he was living in one of those households, or in the household of another relative, but was missed by the census-taker. Mistakes like that are known to have happened. It is also possible that in 1900 George was living with someone else, with a different surname, and that George's surname in the census was not differentiated from the surname of the head of the household in which he was a resident.

As an experienced genealogist, taking note of the fact that the 1896 birth record for the Webbon son does not include a given name, and taking note of the fact that there is no boy of the right age shown to be living with any Webbon relatives in the 1900 census, I would ordinarily have concluded that this child probably did not survive. But I did not conclude that in this case, because DNA does not lie. My great-grandfather was a close relative of these Webbons. And the description of his family that little George gave to the authorities in 1901 matches what we know about the then-current life circumstances of William Earnest Webbon and his (future) second wife Hattie (Jablonski) Webbon.

One way of decisively confirming that I truly had figured out George Webber's identity, would be if a male-line Webbon descendant and I were to undergo Y-DNA tests; and if the results of these tests would then be compared. A Y-DNA test, in contrast to the broader autosomal DNA testing that Ancestry.com does, is able to show whether two (or more) men share specifically male-line ancestry with each other; and if so, approximately how many

generations back their respective lines of descent branch off from their most recent common male-line ancestor.

Warren Webbon's grandson Jeremy Warren Webbon agreed to join me in undergoing a 111-marker Y-DNA test through FamilyTreeDNA. The results identified our haplogroup as R-M198 (also known as R1a1a), and showed that he and I share 109 out of 111 markers, with only two mutations or variations between us. FamilyTreeDNA explains the significance of that large amount of common Y-DNA for those who share it:

Tightly Related. A 109/111 match indicates a close relationship. Most matches are 7th cousins or closer, and over half are 4th or more recent cousins.

If my great-grandfather George Webber was indeed an older half-brother of Jeremy's grandfather Warren Webbon, that would make Jeremy and me to be second cousins once removed. According to FamilyTreeDNA, based on its analytical comparison of Jeremy's and my Y-DNA profiles, there is an 85.19% chance that we have a common male-line ancestor within four generations. And, as I have concluded, we do in fact have a common male-line ancestor within four generations: William Earnest Webbon, who was Jeremy's great-grandfather and my great-great-grandfather. Also according to FamilyTreeDNA, there is a 91.92% chance that we have a common male-line ancestor within five generations. That would be William's father Ernest William Webbon – Jeremy's great-great-grandfather and my great-great-great-grandfather. Any descent from Ernest to me would indeed have to be through his son William, since of Ernest's three sons who lived to adulthood, only William could have been the father of a boy (George) born in 1896. In 1896 Ernest's son Rudolph was only seven years old, and Ernest's son Richard had not yet been born. George was not himself a son of Ernest either, since he did not identify the man who had brought him to the orphanage as his father, and we can have little doubt that this man was Ernest Webbon.

The results of our Y-DNA tests confirm my identification of William as George Webber's father. I do not know why George Webber (originally Webbon) was never reunited with his father or grandfather, and why he became permanently separated from his family. This remains largely a mystery. But the identity of the family from which he was tragically separated is now no longer a mystery.

WABONS AND WABORNES: THEIR DEEP NORFOLK ROOTS

Because my own surname (also in its previous forms and spellings) is involved here, I will include now some additional information that I have learned about earlier generations of my male-line ancestry. The elder George Aram Webbon or Wabon (1793-1841) – already mentioned as the grandfather of Ernest William Webbon and the great-grandfather of William Earnest Webbon – was the son of William Wabon and his wife Alice Aram. Alice had been baptized at Wells-next-the-Sea on 26 September 1762, as the daughter of William Aram and his wife Sarah.⁷ William Wabon and Alice Aram were married at Wells on 24 November 1785. They had five children: Elizabeth Sarah, Ann, William, James Aram, and George Aram (Senior). A census of Wells taken in April of 1793 shows that "Wm. Wabon," with five people in his household, was a resident of the "Plummer's Hill" neighborhood of the town. "William

⁷William Aram and Sarah Dicks were married at St. Margaret's Church in King's Lynn, Norfolk, on 8 November 1759. William Aram, the son of John Aram and his wife Jane, had been baptized at Holkham, Norfolk, on 26 December 1728, and was buried at Wells on 18 May 1774, aged 46. Sarah Dicks had been baptized at Holt, Norfolk, on 17 September 1737. As a widow she married Loades Jary in Wells on 15 May 1776. "Sarah, wife of Loads Jary (Aram widow)" was buried at Wells on 17 October 1785, aged 64. Sarah's parents, William Dicks or Dix "of Kelling" and Tamesin Fisher "of this Parish," were married at Baconsthorpe, Norfolk, on 29 June 1727.

Wabon, Husbandman,” age 34, was buried at Wells on 29 October 1794. In Wells on 9 November 1795, “William Eams, singleman, & Alice Wabon, widow, both of this parish,” were married.

William Wabon’s father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, in the male line, all bore the given name Joshua. Alice Aram’s future first husband “William, son of Joshua & Anne Waborn,” was baptized on 16 September 1761 at All Saints’ Church in Warham, Norfolk. “Joshua Waborn of North Creek” and “Anne Griffin of this parish” were married at St. John’s Church in Stiffkey, Norfolk, on 19 October 1747. “Ann,” the daughter of Absalom and Ann Griffen, had been baptized there on 2 February 1723/24.⁸ The burial of this “Joshua Wabon, tailor,” on 15 December 1796, is recorded in the register for All Saints’ in Warham. This Joshua’s baptism on 16 February 1723/24 – as “Joshuah ye son of Joshuah Wabon & Mary his wife” – is recorded in the records of the Priory Church of St. Mary and the Holy Cross in Binham, Norfolk. These parents – “Joshua Waybourne” and “Mary Roberts” – had been married at All Saints’ Church in Bodham, Norfolk, on 18 February 1722/23.

Taking this line back another generation, “Joshua ye soñ of Joshua Wabon & Añ” was baptized on 11 February 1693/94 at All Saints’ Church in Wighton, Norfolk. The parents – “Joshuah Weybourn” and “Anna Moody” – had been married at St. Martin’s Church in Hindringham, Norfolk, on 18 April 1693. “Joshua Wayburn” was buried in Hindringham on 21 September 1727. Going back yet another generation, “Joshuah ye sonne of John Wabourne by Ann his wife” was baptized at St. Nicholas’s Church in Wells on 25 March 1665. John’s wife Ann was buried in Wells on 3 April 1670, and on 30 October 1670, also in Wells, “John Waborne, widower,” and “Bridgitt Tillman, singlewoman,” were married. (“Bridget Waborne, widow,” was buried in Wells on 1 April 1706.) This John Waborne was the son of William Waborne and his wife Ann Firth. “Williā Waborne and Añ firth” were married in Wells on 14 October 1620. “John the sonn of Williā Waborne” was baptized in Wells on 12 June 1626. John’s mother “Ann Wabourne, widow,” was buried in Wells on 15 July 1666.

This “William Waborn” had been baptized on 20 November 1597 at the Priory Church in Binham. Previous to this, according to the Binham records, one Rebecca Waborne was baptized there on 22 August 1591; and one Margaret Waborn was baptized there on 2 March 1693/94. These three baptismal entries do not identify the father of the child, which is the case with most baptismal entries in the Binham records before 1599. Beginning in 1599 the father’s name is then consistently given in baptismal entries. The Binham register accordingly goes on after this to show these baptisms: Katharine, daughter of William Waborn, on 2 August 1601; Anna, daughter of William Waborne, on 14 August 1603; Thomasine, daughter of William Waburne, on 24 July 1608; and Cicely, daughter of William Wabourne, on 20 November 1609. During this time frame, William Waborne was listed as the father of all the newborn Waborne children in this parish whose father was identified. We can conclude, therefore, that he was the father also of the newborn Waborne children whose father was not identified in the records. So, the father of the William Waborne who later lived in Wells, and who was baptized in Binham in 1597, would have been this earlier William Waborne. From Binham records we also know the names of the mothers of these children. William Waborne and Agnes Berry had been wed in Binham on 21 June 1590. Agnes was the mother of William’s five older children (including our William). Anne, the wife of William Waborne, was buried at Binham on 21 January 1605/06. (At this time in history, “Anne” often functioned as a diminutive form of “Agnes,” which was generally pronounced *Annes*, with a silent “g”.) Widower William Waburne and widow Anna Hutchynson were married in

⁸Before 1752, in England, the new year began on March 25, not on January 1. An event that was recorded at the time as having taken place in February of 1723 – which was the case with this baptism – would be understood today as having taken place in February of 1724.

Binham on 20 January 1606/07. Anna was the mother of William's two younger children. The father "Willm. Waborne" was buried in Binham on 5 November 1629.

To help make these connections and relationships more plain and easier to understand, I include here a direct line of descent, encompassing seventeen generations, from my earliest known male-line ancestor to my eldest grandson:

1. William Waborne (156– -1629), m.1590 Agnes Berry (d.1606); parents of
2. William Waborne (b.1597), m.1620 Ann Firth (d.1666); parents of
3. John Waborne (b.1626), m. Ann — (d.1670); parents of
4. Joshua Wabon (1665-1727), m.1693 Anna Moody (b.1672); parents of
5. Joshua Wabon (b.1694), m.1723 Mary Roberts; parents of
6. Joshua Wabon (1724-1796), m.1747 Anne Griffin (b.1724); parents of
7. William Wabon (1761-1794), m.1785 Alice Aram (born 1762); parents of
8. George Aram Webbon (1793-1841), m.1828 Charlotte Shepton (1790-1858); parents of
9. George Aaron Webbon (1829-1908), m.1848 Mary Ann Wilson (1831-1862); parents of
10. Ernest William Webbon (1854-1943), m.1873 Anna Maria Caroline Schmitt (1851-1915); parents of
11. William Earnest Webbon (1874-1956), m.1894 Mary Jane Forman (1876-189–); parents of
12. George Franklin Webber (1896-1980), m.1917 Rexa Lorie Wavle (1898-1972); parents of
13. Donald Milton Webber (1918-1976), m.1937 Laura Lucille Carpenter (1920-1990); parents of
14. David Milton Webber (1938-2008), m.1959 Joy Ann Balint (living); parents of
15. David Jay Webber (living), m.1984 Carol Ruth Wimble (living); parents of
16. Paul Morgan Edward Webber (living), m.2010 Ruth Marie Wilde Gullixson (1989-2012); parents of
17. John Wilde Webber (living)

Regarding the origin of the Webbon-Wabon-Waborne surname, British researcher John M. Wyborn states that "The name appears to be derived from Weybourne near Cromer in Norfolk, where at one time there was an important priory, then the most celebrated place in the northern half of that county." The village of Weybourne – spelled Waborne or Wabourne in earlier records – is 13 miles directly east of Wells and nine miles northeast of Binham. John M. Wyborn notes that a knight named "Thomas who took the name 'de Waborne' and lived in the reign of King John had a lordship in this town in the 21st [year of the reign] of Henry III, and his grandson, Thomas, in the 34th year of the same reign held his land without being a knight" (quoted in S. Fletcher Weyburn, *Weyburn-Wyborn Genealogy* [1911], p. 112). The land holdings of this younger Thomas – whose father was named William de Waborne – involved "a whole fee," and included a "third part of this town." (John Chambers, *A General History of the County of Norfolk* [1829], Vol. II, p. 793). John M. Wyborn also observes that

The various methods of spelling the name have been adopted at different periods and in different localities. In the reign of King Edward I and previously it was generally spelt "Wabourne" – variously contracted and sometimes to "Wabon"; "Wybourne" – also contracted even to "Wyborn"; and "Wybarne" or "Wybarn." ... As regards the influence of locality on the earlier methods of spelling, that of Norfolk appears to have been "Wabourne," of Kent "Wybarne," and of Oxon and Middlesex "Wybourne" with various forms of contraction according to the fancy of the scribe. There is a modern example of the Norfolk form of the name in the shape of a will of one Nathan Wabon of Wells next the sea, which was proved in 1767... (Quoted in Weyburn, pp. 112-13)⁹

⁹My late daughter-in-law Ruth Marie Wilde (Gullixson) Webber, and through her my eldest grandson, descend from the Kent branch of the Waborne-Wyborne-Weyborn family. Their descent from Sir Thomas de Wyborne of Shoreham, Kent, is as follows:

Norfolk County records do indeed utilize many different spellings of the name. After George Aram Wabon (Senior) and his brother James Aram Wabon moved from Norfolk County to Surrey, near London, the spelling of their surname became standardized in the records there as Webbon. A wry commentator, in speaking of the residents of this family's ancestral seat in Norfolk, notes that "Weybourne" is "pronounced Webbon, as along with much of Norfolk the village refuses to comply with the generally accepted rules of the English language." This suggests that the Webbon spelling is a more phonetic representation of how the name was always pronounced, regardless of how it was otherwise spelled. And what does the name mean? One historical commentator has noted that "Weybourne derives from 'felon's stream' and may have been a place where criminals were drowned." Another writer opines differently:

The village's name origin is uncertain. The second element is 'stream'. The specific may be a pre-English river-name, or perhaps, 'weir/mill-dam stream'... Other suggestions such as the Old English 'wearg', 'felon' and 'wagu', 'quagmire' are less likely.

In the Middle Ages, the de Waborne family also had associations with Binham, and with the Benedictine monastery that was located there. Certain lands and privileges "were conveyed to the prior of Binham, by agreement made between Thomas, son of William de Wabrun, and Lady Albreda his mother, and the prior," during the reign of King Henry III. "This Thomas Waborn conveyed by fine, in the 35th [year of the reign] of Henry III, to Richard, prior of Binham, the 4th part of a fee in Kelling and Salthouse, the prior engaging to find Thomas, for life, several pittances of meat, drink, oats, etc." And "William de Waborne, son of Sir Thomas by Albreda his wife, leased to the prior of Bynham, all his lands, except what Richard de Grey held of his stepmother, the Lady Agnes, for 30 years, and gave lands to the said priory" (Francis Blomefield, *An Essay Towards a Topographical History of the County of Norfolk*, Vol. 5 [1775], pp. 934, 965).

Thomas de Wyborne (1475-1532), m. Elizabeth de Goodborough (1480-1570); parents of Richard de Wyborne (1516-1587), m. Elizabeth — (surname unknown); parents of Richard Wyborne (1542-1584), m. 1565 Elizabeth Baker (1545-1602); parents of John Weyborn (1568-1630)*, m. Joan Gouldocke (b.1576); parents of Abigail Weyborn (1619-1664)**, m. 1639 Richard Brownson (1615-1687); parents of Samuel Bronson (1662-1742), m. 1687 Sarah Gibbs (1667-1741); parents of John Judd (1699-1797) m. 1732 Mercy Bronson (1712-1737); parents of Noah Judd (1737-1822), m. 1760 Rebecca Prindle (1740-1838); parents of Jemima Judd (1761-1838), m. 1781 Samuel Woodruff (1759-1847); parents of Enoch John Woodruff (1786-1855), m. 1808 Catherine M. Ensign (1791-1823); parents of Catherine Maria Woodruff (1809-1837), m. 1831 Vernon Dyke Taylor (1798-1864); parents of Timothy Dwight Taylor (1832-1900), m. Mary Kirkham (1839-1921); parents of Catharine Elizabeth Taylor (1864-1908) m. 1886 John Clark Mattison (1862-1944); parents of Mary Pemelia Mattison (1890-1928), m. 1915 Raymond Stuart Farrell (1889-1977); parents of Kathryn Louise Farrell (1918-1990), m. 1937 Francis A. Wilde (1909-1994); parents of John Raymond Wilde (1947-1990), m. 1985 Diane Marie Falkenberg (living); parents of Ruth Marie Wilde Gullixson (1988-2012), m. 2010 Paul Morgan Edward Webber (living); parents of John Wilde Webber (living)

*John Weyborn was a brother of Thomas Wyborn (1580-1656) who emigrated to New England from Tenterden, Kent, in 1638. Thomas settled first in Duxbury, and later lived in Scituate, in the Plymouth Colony. Eventually he moved to Boston, in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

**Abigail Weyborn emigrated to New England from Wrotham, Kent, and settled in Hartford, in the Connecticut Colony, where she met and married Richard Brownson. Richard had emigrated from Earls Colne, Essex, in 1635. He settled first in Hartford, and with Abigail later lived in Farmington, in the Connecticut Colony.

The medieval de Waborne, while supportive of the church and its institutions, were not, however, always on the right side of the civil law. In the 52nd year of the reign of Henry III, Thomas, son of William de Waborne, “was sued for pourpresture, the building a house on the public way, and the house was awarded to be pulled down” (Chambers, p. 793). Henry de Grey “in the 18th [year of the reign] of Edward I recovered damages (and the King his forfeitures) against William de Waborne, for taking 3 hares in his lordship of Sheringham” (Blomefield, *An Essay Towards a Topographical History of the County of Norfolk*, Vol. 8 [1808], p. 163). (Sheringham is three miles east of Weybourne.) Due to the paucity of records in this earlier period, it is not possible to know what the precise line of descent might have been from these de Waborne to the William Waborne who lived in Binham at the turn of the seventeenth century.

Where did this William Waborne of Binham originate? In view of his first marriage taking place in 1590, we can surmise that he was born in the mid- to late-1560s. The Binham baptismal records go back to 1559, but his baptism is not in those records. In fact, before 1590 the Waborne surname does not appear in the Binham records at all. William Waborne has not been found in the church records of other communities in the region, either. This includes parishes with surviving records from the time frame when William would have been born, so that we are able to know that he was not born in those places (e.g. Warham, Wighton, and Wells); and this includes parishes without surviving records that go back that far, so that we are not able to know whether or not he was born in those places (e.g. Hindringham, Bodham, Weybourne, and Sheringham). There are, however, records of two cases in the Court of Common Pleas during “Hilary Term, 1584” (January-March, 1584/85), associated with Norfolk County, that involved one “William Waborne.” William Waborne of Sheringham Hythe, warrener, was sued together with three other men for “trespass: close” by Simon Munford; and William Waborne of Sheringham, warrener, was sued together with three other (different) men for debt by John Norton, gentleman. It is very possible that this is our William Waborne, who as a young single man would have left Sheringham, after the stress of these legal disputes, to get a new start in life at Binham, 12 miles away.

CONCLUDING REFLECTIONS

*God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform;
He plants his footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm.
Deep in unfathomable mines of never-failing skill
He treasures up his bright designs, and works His sovereign will.*

– William Cowper

*“And now, I pray, let the power of my Lord be great,
just as You have spoken, saying, ‘The Lord is longsuffering and abundant in mercy,
forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty,
visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation.’
Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy...”
Then the Lord said: “I have pardoned, according to your word...”
(Numbers 14:17-19a, 20)*

Princeton, Minnesota
2s September 2025



This photograph was taken in 1907. George Webber/Webbon was living here at the time.

Form 95. **CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH, BROOKLYN.** 9356

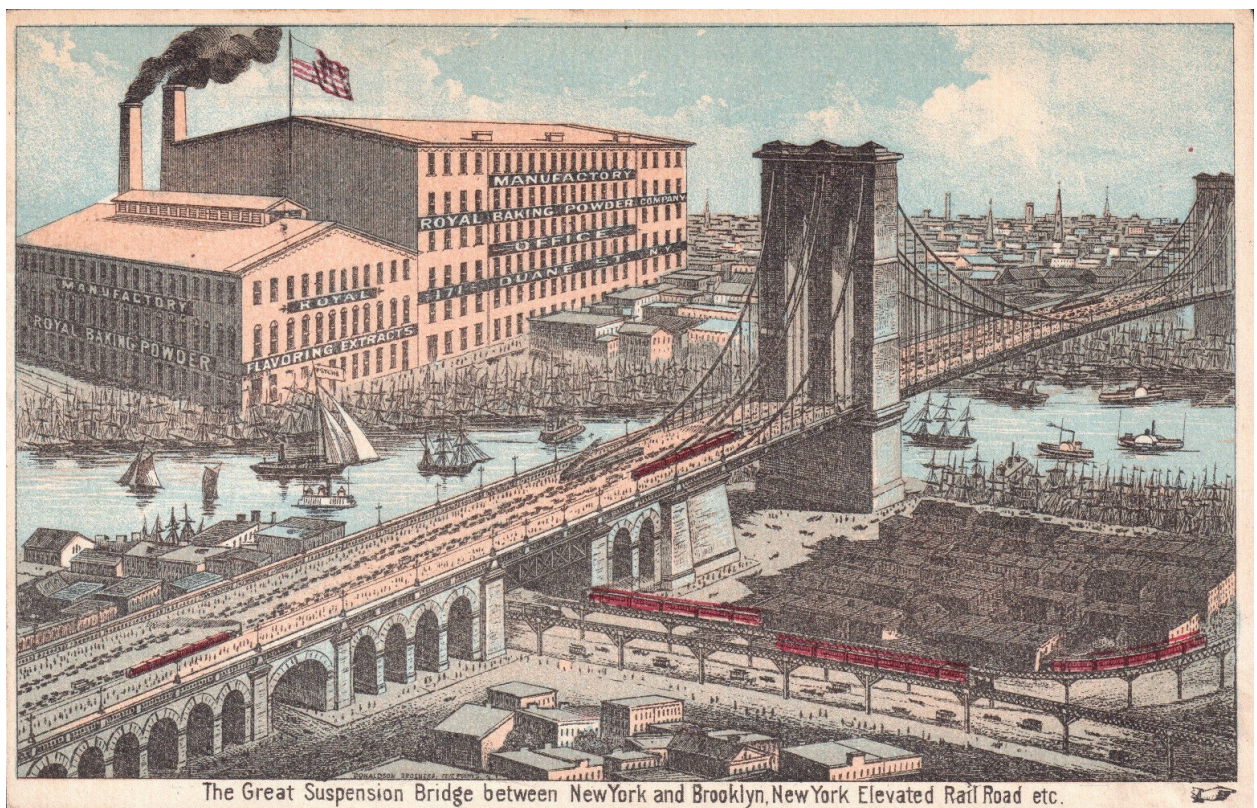
1.—Full Name of Child Webbon

2.—Sex: Male, Female* 3.—No. of Child of Mother, 2; 4.—White, Colored*
 5.—Date of Birth, June 28 1876; 6.—Hour of Birth, A. M.; 1230 P. M.;
 7.—Place of Birth, 60 Henlock St. 26 Ward; Mother's res. 60 Henlock St.;
 8.—Mother's Full Name, Mary F. Webbon; 9.—Age, 20 years;
 10.—Mother's Maiden Name, Forman; 11.—Birthplace, U.S.;
 12.—Father's Full Name, William Ernest Webbon; 13.—Age, 25 years;
 14.—Father's Occupation, Coupler Elevated R.R.; 15.—Birthplace, U.S.;
 16.—Medical Attendant, F. A. Jewett; Address, 282 Hancock St.;
 17.—Person making this Return, **FILED** Power, M.D.

* Cross off words not required.
 † If in Public Institution, state name.
 ‡ Insert State or Country.
 § Use two certificates for twins.

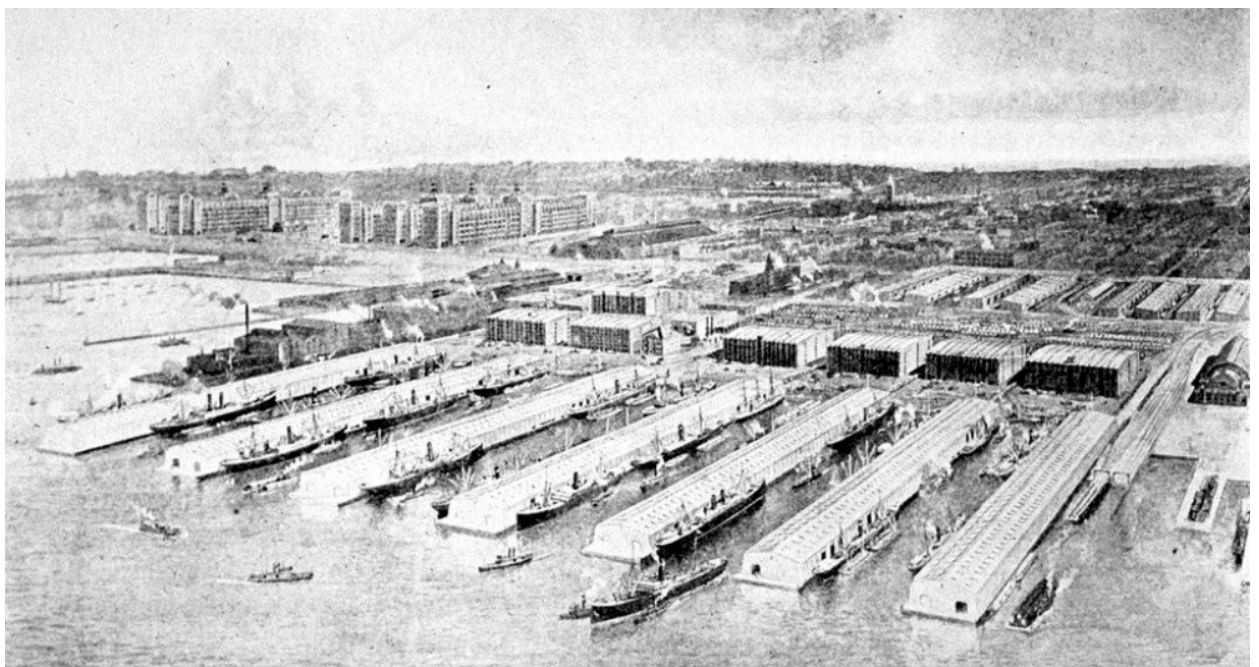
JUL 2, 1895 **BROOKLYN, N. Y.** Date of Return, July 1 1876

BUREAU OF RECORDS





Bush Terminal, Brooklyn, New York



Bush Terminal piers (early 1900s)

All the following blanks are required to be filled.

OF THE GROOM:

Name *William E. Webbon*

Residence *Brooklyn*

Age *21* Color

No. of Marriage*

Occupation *Diamond setter*

Place of Birth *N. Y.*

Father's Name *Ernest W.*

Mother's Maiden Name *Carrie Smith*

OF THE BRIDE:

Name *Mamie Forman*

Maiden Name }
if a Widow }

Residence *Brooklyn*

Age *18* Color

No. of Marriage*

Place of Birth *Jersey City*

Father's Name *Frederick*

Mother's Maiden Name *Jennette Parker*

We, the Groom and Bride named in the above certificate, hereby certify that the information given is correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

William E. Webbon Groom.

Mamie Forman Bride.

* On this line state whether 1st, 2d, 3d, etc., Marriage.

FORM C.

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE, BROOKLYN, 1634

I hereby Certify, that *William E. Webbon* and

Mamie Forman were joined in Marriage

by me, in accordance with the Laws of the State of New York, in the City of Brooklyn,

this *28* day of *Apr* 189*4*

Witnesses:

Robert Robson

Rose Webbon

Attest

T. J. Whitaker

Official Station *Clergyman*

Residence *Brooklyn*

REGISTRATION CARD

SERIAL NUMBER	1740	ORDER NUMBER	2811
1 <i>William Ernest Webbon</i> (First name) (Middle name) (Last name)			
2 PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS: <i>350 - W. 24th St.</i> (No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)			
3 Age in Years <i>45</i>	4 Date of Birth <i>Feb. 15 1893</i> (Month) (Day) (Year)		
RACE			
5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> White	6 <input type="checkbox"/> Negro	7 <input type="checkbox"/> Oriental	8 <input type="checkbox"/> Indian Citizen
		9 <input type="checkbox"/> Non-citizen	
U. S. CITIZEN			
10 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native Born	11 <input type="checkbox"/> Naturalized	12 <input type="checkbox"/> Citizen by Father's Naturalization Before Registrant's Majority	13 <input type="checkbox"/> Debarred
		14 <input type="checkbox"/> Non-debarred	
15 I am not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject?			
16 PRESENT OCCUPATION <i>Schaeffer</i>		17 EMPLOYER'S NAME <i>Auto Car Co.</i>	
18 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: <i>523 - W. 23rd St NYC</i> (No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)			
19 NEAREST RELATIVE	Name	<i>Hattie Webbon</i>	
	Address	<i>350 - 24th St. BRONX NY</i> (No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)	
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE <i>William Ernest Webbon</i> P. M. G. O. (Signature of Registrant) FORM NO. 1 (Rev. 9-1-41)			

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

31-9-105-C

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT							
HEIGHT			BUILD			COLOR OF EYES	COLOR OF HAIR
21 Tall	22 Medium	23 Short	24 Slender	25 Medium	26 Stout	27 Gray	28 Brown
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
29 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, eye, or is he obviously physically disqualified? (Specify) <i>Broken foot.</i>							
30 I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:							
<div style="text-align: right;"> <i>W. H. Alcock</i> Date of Registration <i>9/12/41</i> </div>							
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 60px; width: 100%;"></div> <p>(STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)</p> <p>(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the area in which the registrant has his permanent home shall be placed in this box.)</p>							

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)

SERIAL NUMBER U 892	1. NAME (Print) WILLIAM ERNEST WEBBON (First) (Middle) (Last)		ORDER NUMBER
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) 31-81 31st St. L.I.C. Queens N.Y. (Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)			
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]			
3. MAILING ADDRESS Same (Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same)			
4. TELEPHONE none	5. AGE IN YEARS 63	6. PLACE OF BIRTH N.Y.C. (Town or county) (State or country)	
DATE OF BIRTH Feb 15 1879 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)			
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mrs. Lena Webbbon - 123 Cooper St. Babylon L.I.			
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS M. M. T. Co. (Mr. Kleppinger)			
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 80 Lafayette St. N.Y.C. (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)			
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.			
D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 4-1-42)		16-21630-2 William E. Webbbon (Registrant's signature)	

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION
White	5'4 1/2	130	Sallow
	EYES	HAIR	Light
Negro	Blue	Blonde	Ruddy
	Gray	Red	Dark
Oriental	Hazel	Brown	Freckled
	Brown	Black	Light brown
Indian	Black	Gray	Dark brown
		Bald	Black
Philipino			

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification

index finger missing on left hand

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Elizabeth H. Counts
(Signature of registrar)
Registrar for Local Board 239 Queens N.Y.
(Number) (City or county) (State)
Date of registration April 27, 1942

Local Board No. 239 23
Queens County 081
MAY 19 1942 239
37-19 (STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the registrant shall be placed in the above space)



Interior (lobby) and exterior views of the Hallenbeck-Hungerford Building, at 80 Lafayette Street in Manhattan. These photos were taken in 1915, soon after the construction of the building. In 1942 William Earnest Webbon was working for a company that leased space in this building.



Gravestone for William and Alice (Mears) Webbon at Union Cemetery in Sayville, New York



CARRIERS ENTERTAINED — Eager NASSAU REVIEW-STAR carrier boys press their tickets on William Webbon of Freeport, doorman at Rockville Centre's Fantasy Theatre. The boys were among 200 top carrier salesmen during August who were REVIEW-STAR guests at Skouras and Century Theatres in Rockville Centre, Hempstead, Freeport and Manhasset.

Photograph and caption as printed in the *Nassau Daily Review-Star* on August 29, 1952



506 Archer Street, Freeport, New York: William Webbon's last home

W150

Family Name		Given Name or Names	
WEBBON		ERNEST W	
Title and Location of Court			
SUPERIOR COURT, NEW YORK COUNTY			
Date of Naturalization	Volume or Bundle No.	Page No.	Copy of Record No.
Oct 18-1876	275	—	4134
Address of Naturalized Person			
263 HUDSON ST N.Y.			
Occupation	Birth Date or Age	Former Nationality	
JEWELER	—	See other Side	
Port of Arrival in the United States		Date of Arrival	
—		—	
Names, Addresses and Occupations of Witnesses To Naturalization			
1	WILLIAM WILSON		HOBOKEN N.J.
2	UPHOLSTERER		✓

ADDITIONAL FACTS OF RECORD

Note hereunder details of anything which appears in the court record to indicate that:

- 1 Naturalized person has died
- 2 Naturalized person has expatriated himself or herself
- 3 Naturalization has been cancelled by order of the court
- 4 Other important data

<p>Queen of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland</p> <p> </p> <p> </p> <p> </p> <p> </p> <p> </p> <p> </p> <p> </p> <p> </p> <p> </p>
--

1. Full Name of Groom, *Ernest William Weebbon*
2. Place of Residence, *Brooklyn, N. Y.*
3. Age, *21*
- 4.
5. Occupation, *Leveler*
6. Place of Birth, *London England*
7. Father's Name, *Charles Weebbon*
8. Mother's Maiden Name, *Mary Ann Wilson*
9. No. of Groom's Marriage, *First*
10. Full Name of Bride, *Annie Caroline Schmitt*
11. Maiden Name, if a Widow,
12. Age, *21*
- 13.
14. Place of Birth, *New York*
15. Father's Name, *Henry Schmitt*
16. Mother's Maiden Name, *Martha Stear*
17. No. of Bride's Marriage, *First*

N. B.—At Nos. 4 and 13 state if Colored; if other races, specify what. At Nos. 9 and 17 state whether 1st, 2d, 3d, &c., Marriage of each.

Brooklyn, *May 17th* 1873

We, the Groom and Bride named in the above Certificate, hereby Certify that the information given is correct, to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Ernest W. Weebbon Groom.

Annie C. Schmitt her + *Mary* Bride.

Signed in Presence of *Frank Belanger*
and *Sahanna Schmitt*

make and keep this registry required by the acts referred to in this section, and for every failure to do so, the officer shall be liable to a fine of ten dollars, which may be sued for and recovered in the name of said Board.

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

STATE OF NEW YORK.

133

I hereby Certify, that *Ernest William Weebbon* and
Annie Caroline Schmitt were joined in Marriage by me, in
accordance with the Laws of the State of New York, in the City of *Brooklyn*
this *17th* day of *May* 1873

Witnesses to the Marriage,

Frank Belanger

Sahanna Schmitt

Attest,

F. W. Hall

Official Station, *Clergyman*

Residence, *411 North 3d St*

William H. Hall

1 PLACE OF DEATH
County *Hudson*
Township
Village
City *Hoboken* No. *St Marys Hosp* Registered No. *2450* St. Ward

2 FULL NAME OF DECEASED *Caroline Schmitt*

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3 SEX *female* 4 COLOR OR RACE *white* 5 SINGLE *divorced*
MARRIED
WIDOWED
OR DIVORCED
(Write the word)

6 DATE OF BIRTH *Dec 18 1882*
(Month) (Day) (Year)

7 AGE *63* If less than 1 day less

8 OCCUPATION
(a) Trade, Profession or particular kind of work *Retired*
(b) General Nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or) employer

9 BIRTHPLACE (State or Country) *New York*

10 NAME OF FATHER *Charles Schmitt*

11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or Country) *Germany*

12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER *Unknown*

13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or Country) *Germany*

14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE
(Informant) *Mrs. Stover*
(Address) *716 Garden St*

15 *NOV 23 1913* *Sp. Kautz* REGISTRAR

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

16 DATE OF DEATH *Nov 21 1913*

17 I hereby certify that I have investigated the circumstances attending the death of the deceased and that the death occurred, on the date stated above at *m* and that in my opinion the cause of death was as follows:
Cerebral Apoplexy

Contributory (Secondary) *Goetting*

18 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients or Recent Residents)
At place of death *716 Garden St* In the State *New Jersey*

Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death?
Former or usual residence *716 Garden St*

19 DATE OF BIRTHAL *Nov 24 1913*

20 SIGNATURE *W. Neches*

14 H-1906.

THE CITY OF NEW YORK,
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

STATE OF NEW YORK.

CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF DEATH

Martha Diehl

Sex *Female* Color *white* Place of Death *15 av. a*

Age *77* Yrs. Mos. Days

Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced *widow*

Occupation *midwife*

Birthplace *Germany*

How long in U.S., if foreign birth *60 years*

How long resident in City of New York *60 years*

Character of premises, whether tenement, private, etc., if hotel, hospital or other institution, state full title *tenement*

Father's Name *Jacob Stern*

Father's Birthplace *Germany*

Mother's Maiden Name *Sarah*

Mother's Birthplace *Germany*

I hereby certify that I attended deceased from *March 12 1907* to *April 15 1907*, that I last saw *her* alive on the *15* day of *April* 1907, that she died on the *17* day of *April* 1907 about *8* o'clock A. M., or P. M., and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the cause of *her* death was as follows:
Chronic Nephritis

SPECIAL INFORMATION required in deaths in hospitals and institutions and in deaths of non-residents and recent residents.

Former or usual residence {

How long resident at place of death {

Witness my hand this *17* day of *April* 1907
(Signature) *A. S. Daniels* (M. D.)
(Residence) *321 E. 15 St.*



Manhattan and a part of Brooklyn in the mid 1850s –
when Ernest Webbon arrived in Manhattan from England with his mother and sisters,
and when Caroline Schmitt arrived in Manhattan from Germany with her family



Manhattan and Brooklyn in 1874 – the year William Webbon was born in Manhattan
(note the Brooklyn Bridge under construction)

7 OF EACH

RETURN OF A DEATH,
IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA.
PHYSICIAN'S CERTIFICATE.

1. Name of Deceased, *Mary Ann Webber*
2. Colour, *White*
3. Sex, *Female*
4. Age, *31 Years*
5. Married or Single, *Married*
6. Date of Death, *August - 19 - 62*
7. Cause of Death, *Consumption*
No. 8th Blair Ave M. D.
Residence, *N. 1108 Vine St*

UNDERTAKER'S CERTIFICATE, IN RELATION TO DECEASED.

8. Occupation,
9. Place of Birth,
10. When a Minor, } Name of Father,
 } Name of Mother,
11. Ward, *15th*
12. Street and Number, *1219 Wood St*
13. Date of Burial, *Aug⁵ 22nd 62*
14. Place of Burial, *Philadelphia Cemetery*
J M Hall UNDERTAKER.
Residence, *1313 Vine St*

Date of Certificate.

THIS CONSTITUTES ONE CERTIFICATE. TO BE RETURNED TO THE HEALTH OFFICE, WEEK, BEFORE 12 M.

1848 Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of St. George in the County of Surrey

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
198	24 th Decr 1848	George Aaron Hobson	24	Bachelor	Butcher	12 West Street	George Aaron Hobson	Tailor
		Mary Ann Wilson	24	Spinster		12 West Street	John Thomas Wilson	Print Colours

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England by me, J. F. Baker

This Marriage was solemnized between us, George Aaron Hobson in the Presence of us, John Thomas Wilson J. F. Baker

MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of Saint George Camberwell
in the County of Surrey in the Year 1848

George Aaron Hobson of this Parish
Bachelor

and Charlotte Shetton of this Parish
Spinster

were married in this Church by Banns with Consent of
this eighth Day of
December in the Year One thousand eight hundred and twenty eight

By me Chas. Gibson Hill

This Marriage was solemnized between us { George Aaron Hobson
Charlotte Shetton

In the Presence of { John Robinson
Samuel Miller

No. 156.

MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of Saint George Canterwell
in the County of Surrey in the Year 1828

John Thomas Wilson of this Parish
Bachelor
and Mary Ann Ward of this Parish
Spinster
were married in this Church by Banns with Consent of
this twelfth Day of
May in the Year One thousand eight hundred and twenty eight
By me John Lillie & Gill
This Marriage was solemnized between us { John Thomas Wilson
Mary Ann Ward
In the Presence of { Wm. Ward
Samuel Gillie
No. 120.

1785

(156)

Wells

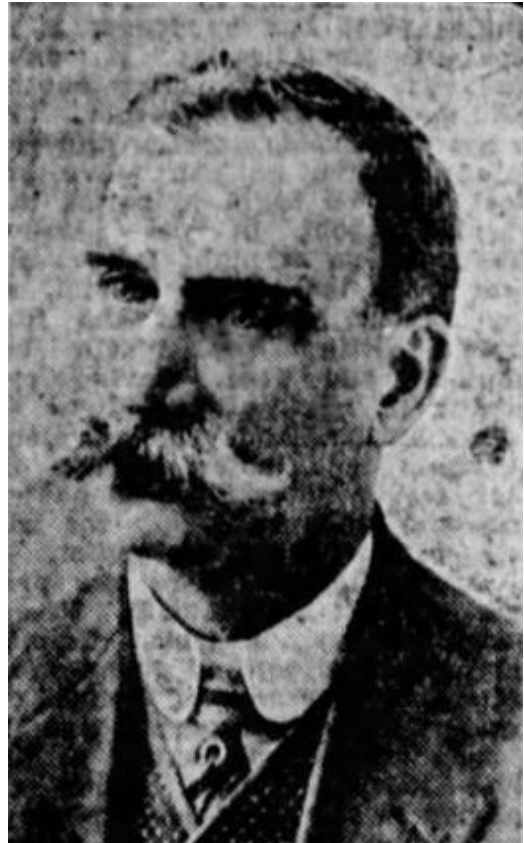
Banns of Marriage between Willm Wabon & Alice Aram, both single persons
of this Parish, were published Nov^r 6. 13th & 20th by Jas^r Robinson Rect^r.
N^o 615 Willm Wabon - of this Parish single man
and Alice Aram - of this
Parish single Woman - were
Married in this Church by Banns
this twentyfourth Day of November in the Year One Thousand Seven
Hundred and Eightyfive by me Jas Robinson Rect^r
This Marriage was solemnized between Us Willm Wabon
Mrs Alice Aram
In the Prefence of Wm & Elizabeth Aram
Ann Aram

1520		Mariagis
April	18	Robert Rice and Jean Duroff ^c
	20	Thomas Morina and Margaret both
May	1	Robert Chadd and Margaret Swartall
June	28	John Claxen and Anne Spershe
July	12	Richard Towne and Anne Raye
October	2	Robert Leade and Elizabeth Goudge
	9	Edwards Newton and Agnes Mastin
→	14	Willia waborne and An ffirth ←
	29	Robert King and An Spershe
Novemb	5	George Tydd and An Cawton

Entry for the marriage of "Willia Waborne and An ffirth" (William Waborne and Ann Firth) on October 14, 1620, in the register of St. Nicholas's Church in Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, England

Thomas Rice and Jean Duroff^c
 Thomas Morina and Margaret both
 Robert Chadd and Margaret Swartall
 John Claxen and Anne Spershe
 Richard Towne and Anne Raye
 Robert Leade and Elizabeth Goudge
 Edwards Newton and Agnes Mastin
 → Willia Waborne and An ffirth ←
 Robert King and An Spershe
 George Tydd and An Cawton
 Anno Domini 1620.

Entry for the burial of "Willm. Waborne" (father of the William Waborne married above) on November 5, 1629, in the register of the Priory Church of St. Mary and the Holy Cross in Binham, Norfolk, England



Images of Ernest William Webbon (1854-1943), paternal grandfather of George Webber/Webbon



73 Christie Street,
Ridgefield Park, New Jersey:
Ernest Webbon's home



First Presbyterian Church,
Ridgefield Park, New Jersey:
Ernest Webbon's church



Richard R. Webbon (1908-1985),
paternal half-uncle of George Webber/Webbon



Lillian (Webbon) Stoveken (Brixius)
(1880-1962), paternal aunt of
George Webber/Webbon



Daisy L. (Webbon) Riley
(1881-1964), paternal aunt of
George Webber/Webbon



Agnes Ronald (Parker) Fea (1828-1878), sister of John Parker and great-grandaunt of George Webber/Webbon.

Agnes Ronald Parker emigrated from Scotland to the United States in or before 1850. In that year, in Palatine Bridge, New York, she married fellow Scottish emigrant Alexander Fea. Agnes died and is buried in Cherry Valley, New York.



James Young Parker (1851-1917), brother of Jeanette Liddell (Parker) Forman and granduncle of George Webber/Webbon



Sisters of Jeanette Liddell (Parker) Forman, and grandaunts of George Webber/Webber: left to right, Ann M. (Parker) Whyte (1860-1946), Jane Young (Parker) Phelan (1856-1951), and Eva Rollins (Parker) Mitchell (1861-1942).



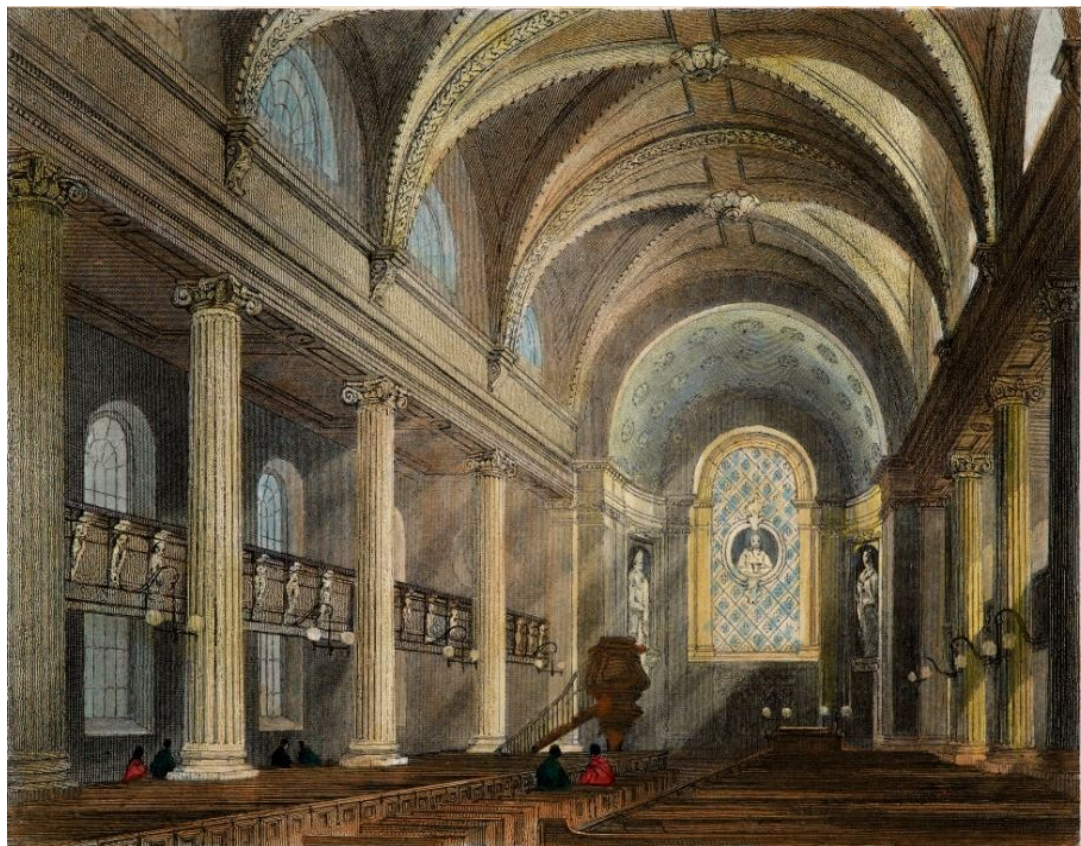
"Old" St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Jersey City, New Jersey.
Mary Jane Forman (Webbon), mother of
George Webber/Webbon, was baptized here on June 26, 1876.



Falkirk, Stirling, Scotland, as it appeared in 1850: hometown of John and Jane (Young) Parker, great-grandparents of George Webber/Webbon



St. Olave's Church, Bermondsey, Southwark, Surrey, England, as it appeared in 1831. George Aaron Webbon (Junior) and Mary Ann Wilson – great-grandparents of George Webber/Webbon – were married here on October 24, 1848.



St. Olave's Church interior, as it appeared in 1845



St. Mark's Church, Kennington, London, England, as it appeared in 1825.
Georg Aram Webbon (Junior) was baptized here on April 24, 1829.



St. George's Church, Camberwell, Surrey, England, as it appeared in 1827.
John Thomas Wilson and Mary Ann Ward were married here on May 12, 1828. George Aram Webbon/Wabon (Senior) and Charlotte Shepton were married here on December 8, 1828.
Both of these couples were great-great-grandparents of George Webber/Webbon.

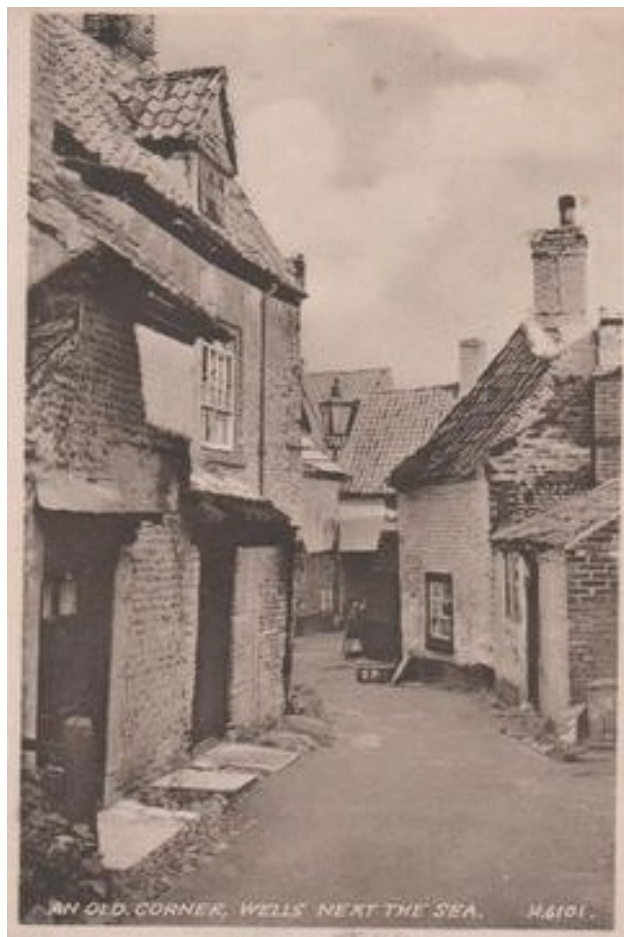


ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL, 1840.

George Aram Webbon/Wabon (Senior) was a patient here in 1841



St. Nicholas's Church, Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, England, after its destruction by fire in 1879

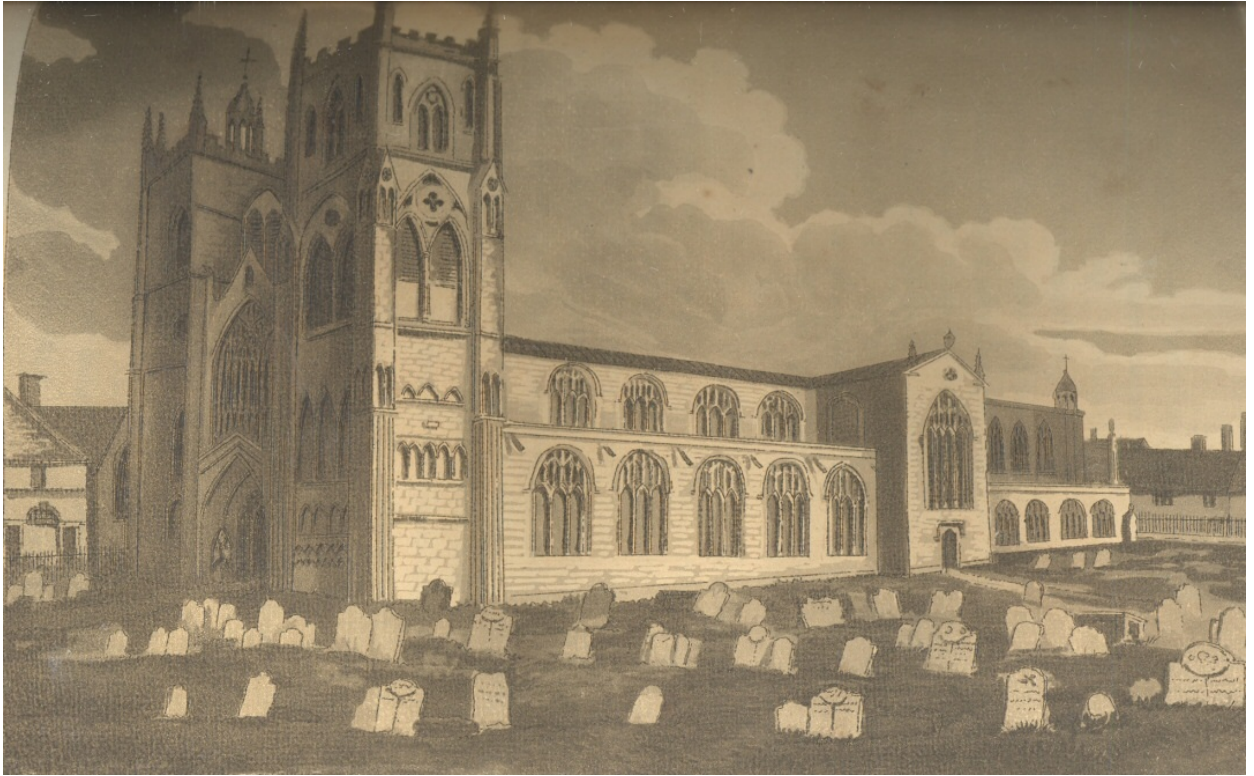




All Saints' Church, Warham, Norfolk, England. William Wabon – great-great-great-grandfather of George Webber/Webbon – was baptized here on September 16, 1761.



All Saints' Church, Wighton, Norfolk, England, as it appeared in 1823. The second Joshua Wabon – great-great-great-great-grandfather of George Webber/Webbon – was baptized here on February 11, 1694.



St. Margaret's Church, King's Lynn, Norfolk, England, as it appeared in 1812.
 William Aram and Sarah Dicks – great-great-great-great-grandparents of
 George Webber/Webbon – were married here on November 8, 1759.





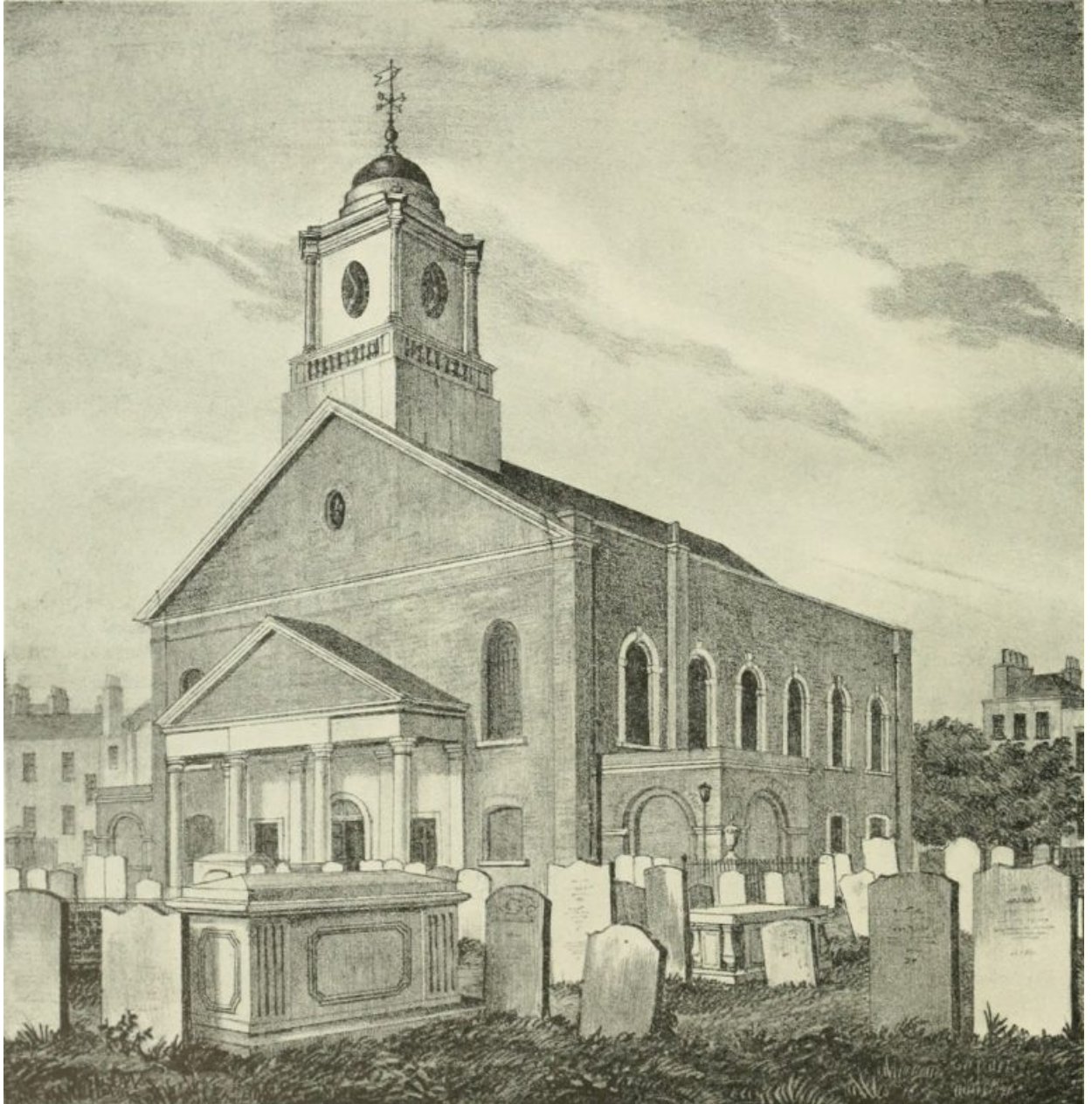
St. Withburga's Church, Holkham, Norfolk, England



St. Andrew's Church, Holt, Norfolk, England



St. Mary's Church, Baconsthorpe, Norfolk, England



"Old" St. Mary's Church, Newington, Surrey, England, as it appeared in 1827.
Mary Ann Wilson (Webbon) – great-grandmother of George Webber/Webbon –
was baptized here on May 18, 1831.



St. Martin's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Mainz, Germany, as it appeared in 1829. Henry I. Schmitt and Maria Martha Stür – great-grandparents of George Webber/Webbon – were married here on February 14, 1849. Jakob Gerhard Stür and Maria Sara Brehm – the parents of Maria Martha Stür – were married here on November 18, 1828.



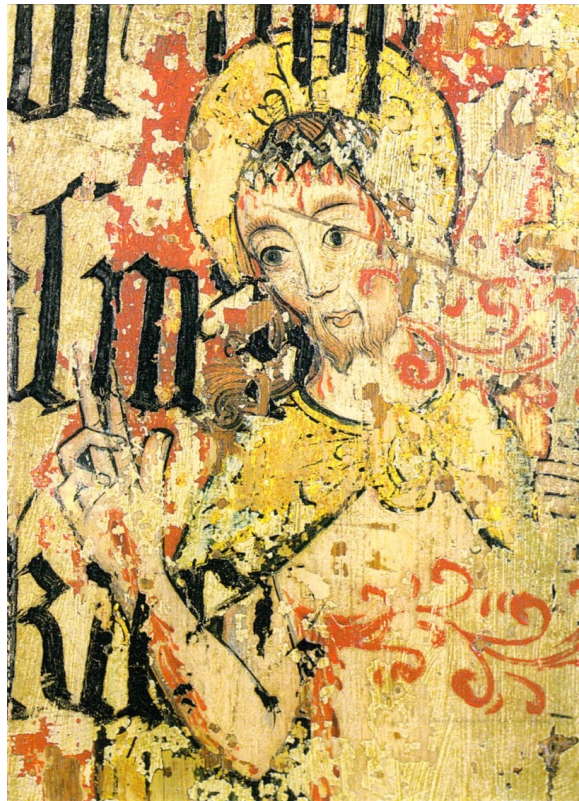
St. Ignatius' Roman Catholic Church, Mainz, Germany. Henry I. Schmitt – great-grandfather of George Webber/Webbon – was baptized here on Christmas Day, 1819.



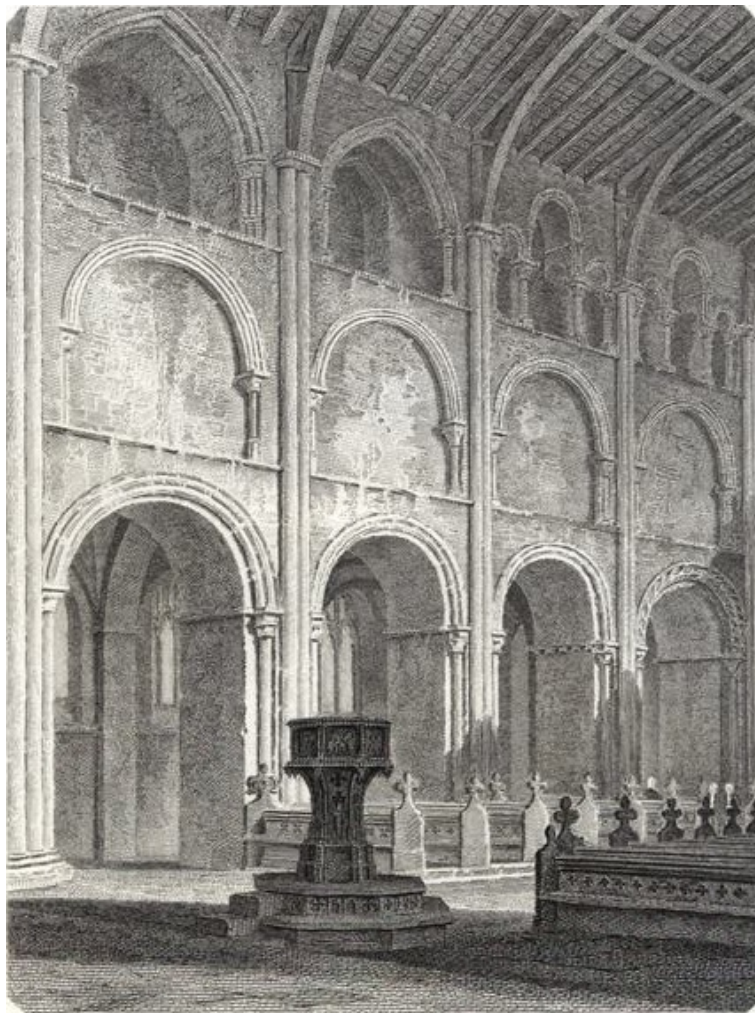
St. Mary's Priory, Binham, Norfolk, England, as it would have appeared in the Middle Ages



Priory Church of St. Mary and the Holy Cross, Binham, Norfolk, England, as it appeared in 1738.
 The third Joshua Wabon – great-great-great-great-grandfather of George Webber/Webbon –
 was baptized here on February 16, 1724.
 William Waborne – great-great-great-great-great-great-great-grandfather of George
 Webber/Webbon – was baptized here on November 20, 1597.



The Risen Christ, from the rood screen of the Binham Priory Church



Binham Priory Church interior view, showing the baptismal font, 1810



St. Martin's Church, Hindringham, Norfolk, England, as it appeared in the 1820s.
The first Joshua Wabon and Anna Moody – great-great-great-great-great-grandparents
of George Webber/Webbon – were married here on April 18, 1693.



All Saints' Church, Bodham, Norfolk, England.
The second Joshua Wabon and Mary Roberts were married here on February 18, 1723.



St. John's Church, Stiffkey, Norfolk, England.
The third Joshua Wabon and Anne Griffin were married here on October 19, 1747.
Anne Griffin was baptized here on February 2, 1724.



St. Mary's Church, North Creake, Norfolk, England.
When the third Joshua Wabon married Anne Griffin in Stiffkey he was said to be "of North Creek."



Lillian (Webbon) Stoveken (Brixius) with three of her children:
Alexander Kerpen Stoveken, Myrtle Lillian Stoveken, and Edward G. Stoveken
(aunt and cousins of George Webber/Webbon)



Earliest known photograph of George Webber/Webbon



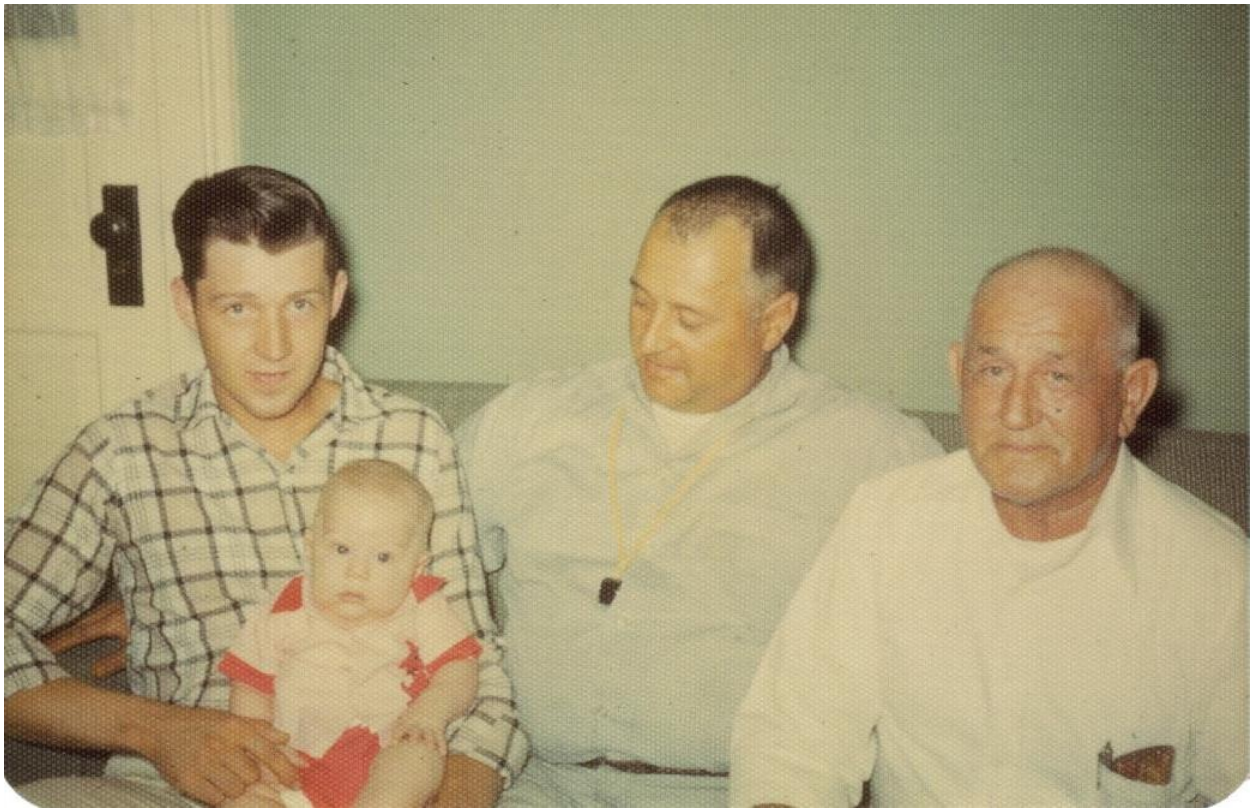
George and Rexa (Wavle) Webber on the day of their wedding (February 28, 1917)



Donald Milton Webber (George Webber's only child) at the age of six

My grandfather Donald Webber died on March 21, 1976, at the age of 58. I was 14 at the time. Later that year, because of my interest in family history even at that early age, his father George gave me the family photo album. With me he looked through it one last time, before I took it home. When he came to this picture, he paused, and with both a smile and a tear, he said, "That's my boy!"

What I saw in that poignant and unforgettable moment was the deep and proud love of a father for his son. George had no memory of ever having known such a love from his own father, but his son certainly knew such a love from him.



George Webber with his son Donald Milton Webber, his grandson David Milton Webber, and his great-grandson David Jay Webber



My great-grandfather and me not long before he died

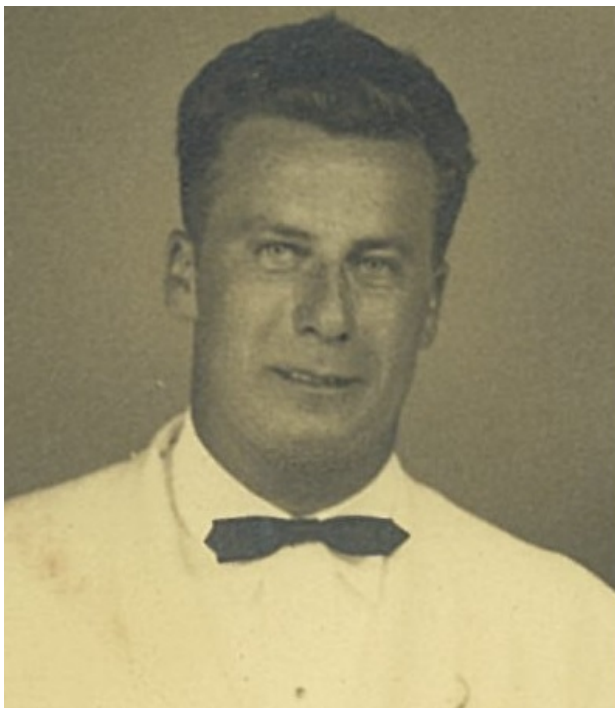
"Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations. Ask your father, and he will show you; your elders, and they will tell you." (Deuteronomy 32:7)



George and Rexa (Wavle) Webber on the occasion of their 49th wedding anniversary (February 28, 1966), with all their descendants at the time

They had asked their family not to throw them a big party for their 50th wedding anniversary. Their family listened. Instead, they threw them a big party for their 49th wedding anniversary!

"A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy habitation. God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; but the rebellious dwell in a dry land." (Psalm 68:5-6)



Warren William Webbon (1919-2003), half-brother of George Webber/Webbon



Alice V. (Mears) (Todd) Webbon (1887-1941),
step-mother of George Webber/Webbon



"A Baby Girl in a Bonnet," painted by "J. T. Wilson" in 1853.
The artist was probably John Thomas Wilson.

Might this have been a portrait of his own granddaughter Avis Sarah Webbon?



Modern views of Weybourne, Norfolk, England:
The medieval ancestral seat of the Webber-Webbon-Wabon-Waborne family



On September 22, 1901, my great-grandfather George Webber/Webbon was dropped off at an orphanage in Manhattan, under circumstances that I still do not fully understand, and was from that day forward separated from his family. In Phoenix, Arizona, on July 24, 2021 – after 119 years, 10 months, and 2 days – that physical separation symbolically came to an end, when my wife Carol and I met George's grandniece Michelle (Webbon) Byrge (wearing the hat), a granddaughter of his half-brother Warren Webbon.



David Jay Webber, Bruce Warren Webbon, and Muriel (Anderson) Webbon, at Klamath Falls, Oregon, on April 26, 2022.

*Muriel is the sister-in-law George Webber never knew.
Bruce is the nephew George Webber never knew. Now I know them.*



My son Paul Webber and me visiting the grave of William Webbon
(and his wife Alice) on September 12, 2022

EXCURSUS ON DNA: PROFILES, MATCHES, AND CONFIRMATIONS OF DESCENT

The increasing use of DNA in genealogical research has occasionally revealed an unexpected and theretofore unknown extramarital paternity event in an earlier generation of a researcher's ancestry, which by necessity then totally altered his understanding of his genetic origins and genealogical history. Such an event occurred in the case of the conception of Warren W. Webbon (1919-2003), for example. He was originally identified (on his birth certificate and in the 1920 census) as a son of his mother's husband Charles D. Todd, but even without DNA tests he was later accurately re-identified as the biological son of William E. Webbon (1874-1956). In other cases it has been determined, through DNA analysis, that a male ancestor who had become an orphan or a half-orphan, and who had then been taken in by relatives with a different surname, took their surname, and passed that second surname down to his descendants, rather than his original surname. And even without DNA, genealogical researchers have always known of instances in the past when a boy who was born out of wedlock took his mother's surname rather than his biological father's surname, and passed that maternal surname down to his descendants. In view of all this, can I be confident that my Webber-Webbon-Wabon-Waborne ancestry does in actual fact go back in an unbroken *genetic* sequence to my earliest known documented male-line ancestor William Waborne, who died in Binham, Norfolk, England, in 1629?

With respect to the documentation, I have been very fortunate in having been able to find birth or baptism records, and marriage records, that firmly link each generation in my Webber-Webbon-Wabon-Waborne line to the preceding generation, without any gaps, and without the need to make educated guesses, all the way back to William Waborne of Binham. Within this direct line there are no cases of an orphaned boy taking the Waborne surname from Waborne relatives with whom he went to live, and there are no instances of an out-of-wedlock birth from an unmarried Waborne woman. But what about the possibility of an undocumented extramarital paternity event at some point in the line? If a woman married to a Waborne had been impregnated by someone other than her husband, such a secret would likely have been taken by her to her grave. Today, DNA is exposing such secrets. Might DNA at some point expose such a secret in my male-line ancestry?

Y-DNA is passed on relatively intact over the generations from father to son, with no genetic dilution from the mother and with minimal mutations. In the Y-DNA database in FamilyTree DNA, no one with the surname Webbon, Wabon, or Waborne appears as a match for me except for Jeremy W. Webbon, with whom I share descent from William E. Webbon (my great-great-grandfather and his great-grandfather). But several people with the surnames Benson and Brew do appear as remote Y-DNA matches. Does this mean that at some point in my documented male-line ancestry, in a generation prior to William E. Webbon, a woman who was married to a man named Webbon, Wabon, or Waborne, may have conceived my ancestor through an extramarital liaison with a man named Benson or Brew? A son conceived in this way would legally have been the son of his mother's Webbon-Wabon-Waborne husband, and would have borne that husband's surname, even though biologically he would not have been his son.

This is possible, although it is not likely, since the Brew and Benson matches are remote and distant, and probably reflect descent from a common medieval or ancient male-line ancestor who lived before the advent of the Waborne, Benson, or Brew surnames. It is also possible that a female Benson or Brew ancestor conceived a son through an extramarital liaison with a man named Waborne or Wabon. If in the future more men named Webbon, Wabon, or Waborne enter their Y-DNA profiles in the FamilyTree DNA database, and are shown to be Y-DNA matches to me, this would confirm my descent from whatever male-line

ancestors we are documented to share in common. But so far this cannot be done, *through* Y-DNA, beyond William E. Webbon.

Through various *autosomal* DNA profiles that have been uploaded into the Ancestry.com autosomal DNA database, my descent from William E. Webbon's father Ernest W. Webbon (1854-1943), and from Ernest's father George Aaron Webbon (1829-1908), can, however, be confirmed. Several descendants of Ernest, through children of his other than his son William E., appear as autosomal DNA matches to me. So, my descent from Ernest (my great-great-great-grandfather) is easily confirmed. My descent from Ernest's father George Aaron Webbon can also be confirmed, although in a more roundabout way.

Warren W. Webbon's daughter Millie (Webbon) Dahl (Jeremy's aunt) is an autosomal DNA match to me. She is in fact my half first cousin twice removed. Millie is also an autosomal DNA match to Ian Paul Westwood, in Great Britain. Ian is a great-grandson of George Webbon (born 1856), a son of George Aaron Webbon and Emma Elizabeth Barnes. This younger George Webbon was a younger half-brother to Millie's (and my) ancestor Ernest W. Webbon, whose mother was Mary Ann Wilson (the first wife of George Aaron Webbon). There can be no common descent for Millie and Ian from a shared mother of their respective great-grandfathers – Ernest and the younger George – since Ernest and the younger George did not have the same mother. Millie and Ian's autosomal DNA match must therefore be the result of a common descent from the shared father of Ernest and the younger George, namely, George Aaron Webbon. Millie and Ian are in fact half third cousins to each other.

Unlike Y-DNA, autosomal DNA “dilutes” by approximately half in each descending generation, as DNA from mother and father combine in various ways, and as some DNA from each parent is not passed on. After several generations, shared autosomal DNA sequences from common ancestors can no longer be detected among distant relatives. So, Ian Westwood does not appear as an autosomal DNA match for me, even though he is distantly related to me. And Millie (Webbon) Dahl does not appear as an autosomal DNA match for Ian's son Benn Paul Westwood (whose autosomal DNA profile is also in the Ancestry.com database), even though she is distantly related to him. But enough of George Aaron Webbon's unique DNA remains identifiable in the autosomal DNA profiles of Ian and Millie to cause them to be matches to each other, since they are generationally not as far removed from George Aaron Webbon as Benn and I are. And the autosomal DNA evidence that proves that Millie is a great-great-granddaughter of George Aaron Webbon, also proves – indirectly yet decisively – that I am a great-great-great-great-grandson of George Aaron Webbon.

David Jay Webber
August 2, 2024