

Mon. Jordan
1207 N. 71st St.
Chicago Ill.

Lord Mayors Office,
London Eng.

Dear Sir,

I wish you would
take the time to direct this
inquiry to the proper channels

I wish to get a birth
certificate of my son -

Charles Henry Jordan -
born Oct. 15th 1874 - and his
mother

Elizabeth Priscilla Jordan
(maiden name - Steward or Stuart)
born Feb 28th 1847 - and his
father, of whom we have
no record. So far as we
know they were all born
in London England.

abt 1884
Feb 1884

Would you be kind enough to give information concerning that branch of my family that originated in London Eng.

My Grandmother

Elizabeth Priscilla Jordan

Born Feb 28-1847 London Eng.

Her mothers Name
maiden name
Steward

She was married twice and had six children

Would like to know which were born under the name Jordan and what her other marriage name was.

Childrens names were

James Oscar Jordan Born Feb 1868 London

Charles Henry Jordan ✓ Oct 15-1874 ✓

James ? Jordan ✓ 1884 ✓

Two girls no record.

One Boy no record.

Information has it

She was married at one time at Poplar Church London England. It is my understanding that these three sons took the name of their stepfather who was Jordan, Is there any way to check the name of their real father under whose name they probably have their birth records.

Send me letter to Poplar Church London England
✓ ✓ Lord Mayor London England.
✓ ✓

M.K.
E.H.F.
1893

Genealogy Request Letter 1

As follows are transcriptions of the two scanned genealogy request letters seeking information about the family of James Oscar Jordan. As can be seen in the scan of the original first letter, this entire page is the scribbled through as if it was a draft and the author changed his mind. The 2nd letter includes additional information, as if the author, presumably also Charles Jordan learned a little more, possibly from his father James Oscar Jordan.

Chas. Jordan
1207 W. 71st St.
Chicago, Ill.

Lord Major's Office
London, England

Dear Sir,

Wish you would take the time to divert this inquiry to the proper channel.

I wish to get a birth certificate of my uncle

Charles Henry Jordan both October 15, 1874 and his mother¹

Elizabeth Priscilla Jordan²

(maiden name Steward or Stuart)

born Feb. 28th, 1847

and his father, of whom we have no record. So far as we know they were all born in London, England.³

¹ This Charles Jordan was born Charles Albert and he was born 30 September 1873. Later he used the middle name Henry. Charles was a brother of James Oscar Jordan and he lived in Chicago also.

² Elizabeth's maiden name was Steward. The birth information is almost correct. It was Feb. 27th, though the issue was it appears to have been close to midnight and the 28th was used pretty consistently by her thereafter.

³ Pencil in at an angle were two dates: about 1884 followed by a script J, and then Feb 1868 followed by a script J. These dates appear in the next letter. Thus they may be annotated comments, possibly by James Oscar Jordan.

Genealogy Request Letter 2

Would you be kind enough to give information concerning that branch of my family that originated in London, Eng.

My Grandmother

Elizabeth Priscilla Jordan (Her mother's name, maiden name Steward)

Born Feb. 28, 1847, London, England

She married twice and had Six children.

Would like to know which were born under the name Jordan and what her other marriage name was.

Children's names were:

1. James Oscar Jordan Born Feb. 1868 London¹
2. Charles Henry Jordan Born October 15, 1874
3. James ? Jordan Born 1884²
4. Two girls no record³
5. One boy no record⁴

Information has it, she was married at one time at Poplar⁵ Church, London, England. It is my understanding that these three sons took the name of their stepfather who was a Jordan. Is there any way to check the name of their real father under whose name they probably have the records.

Send one letter to Poplar Church, London, England⁶

Send one letter to Lord Mayor, London, England

¹ James Oscar Jordan was born 18 February 1868 as Joseph Canute Oscar Scholdberg.

² The full name was James Henry Jordan. He was found to have been born Dec. 26, 1879. He was the only child with Elizabeth's 2nd husband James Jordan.

³ The two girls were named Mary Elizabeth Scholdberg born 27 March 1870 and Elizabeth Ada Scholdberg born 23 March 1873.

⁴ The one boy was named Charles Edward Scholdberg. He was born 12 August 1871 and he died 19 March 1872. Thus it appears the parents tried the name Charles again on 30 September 1873.

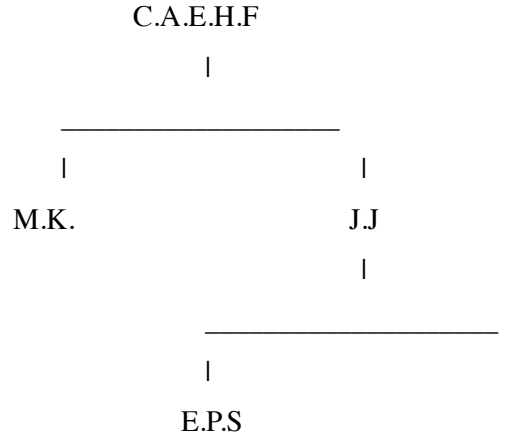
⁵ While it was found that the family came from and lived in Poplar, both of Elizabeth's marriage were actually at St. Mary Stratford Bow, Bow, England. Bow was just a few miles from Poplar.

⁶ In a different ink, next to this line and upside down are the initials M.K. If however, the chart is flipped upside-down, see next page, one can see a simple genealogy chart. See next page.

Genealogy Request Letter 2

Upside-down chart

On the previous Genealogy Request Letter 2, but upside-down is a simple genealogy chart written in black ink. It is reproduced here:



I believe the chart is an ascending chart as it goes from top to bottom. The interpretation of the initials are as follows:

1. C.A.E.H.F - Charles, Art, Ed, Herbert, Frances (the five children of James and Margaret Jordan)
2. M.K - Margaret Knowles, the maiden name of Margaret James Knowles
3. J.J. - James Jordan, or the man we know as James Oscar Jordan
4. E.P.S - Elizabeth Priscilla Steward
5. Blank - the unknown husband

The chart most likely was a way of sketching what the family knew and didn't know at that time.

Genealogy Letters and Chart Interpretation

My dad told me that his Uncle Charles J. Jordan tried to develop a Jordan genealogy in the 1930s and thus it is assumed that the two letters were written sometime in the 1930s, especially given Charles' Chicago address. Charles J. Jordan and his family lived in Chicago in 1930 as he was part of the April 1930 Census, but he also moved to California sometime before 1944 and probably much sooner. Herbert Jordan was in California as early as 1942 and during the mid-1930s James Oscar Jordan lived with Herbert Jordan upstairs at 6934 So. Throop St. Elizabeth Priscilla Jordan died 25 April 1931 in Chicago. Elizabeth would have known all the information but she had probably passed away or was too old and perhaps confused. Thus early to mid-1930s appears to be about the right timeframe for the letters.

The first letter has very limited information about the family and appears to be a start. By the time of the 2nd letter, presumed also to be written by Charles (Chuck) J. Jordan, much more information was included. There were really only three people that would have known anything at that time. Chuck's father, James Oscar Jordan, Chuck's Uncle, Charles Jordan (1873) and James Henry Jordan of Madison Wisconsin. And the person who would have known the most was James Oscar Jordan as he was the oldest, though only 7 years old when his father died in 1875. It certainly would have been presumed that James Oscar Jordan would have remembered what his previous name was and perhaps also which children were born as Jordans. However, given his young age and the fact that he was only 8 when his mother married James Jordan it is possible he did not have the story straight.

About 40 years after these letters, I had taken an interest in our Jordan genealogy. My father suggested that I contact his Uncle Chuck who he recalled had tried to put together a Jordan history in the 1930s. Chuck Jordan's letter to me is on the Jordan website. He had additional information that indicated that James Oscar Jordan was with his grandmother's first husband and James Henry Jordan was her second. However, he did not mention Poplar as a location and it took me until 1978 to work back to this locale. So it is good after all these years to see it as a match.

Uncle Chuck did not indicate in his letter that he had discovered the original name. So it is possible that he never did figure it out. My Grandma Jordan though said that she only heard it once. Margaret Graham, the first wife of James Oscar Jordan told it to her one day. All Grandma Jordan could remember was that it sounded like a Swedish name. I finally did figure out the unidentified father's surname after a decade of searching and it turned out to be Knut Oscar Scholdberg and he was born in Sweden. A nice match with what my grandmother remembered. Perhaps Margaret learned it from James Oscar while they were married or perhaps she learned it from her mother-in-law Elizabeth Jordan.

Given what I have learned of the state of the indexes to birth records and baptismal marriage records in Poplar over the years, I doubt very much that they received much if any information. Besides the fact that this information was charged for, and the fee was pretty substantial, the real problem is that the search information in the letter does not match the names and places in the indexes. A fact I only know too well as it took a decades and many retries to find our Jordan ancestors origins and records.

A final mystery is why were these documents in Herbert Jordan's possession as they were found a Herbert Jordan's metal green box at Tim Jordan's in early 2010. The letters were were on a single sheet of paper (front and back) and folded a number of times and opened and closed so much that the folds had ripped and it took some effort to figure out where the pieces fit. Though Chuck wrote the letters, somehow, his brother Herbert wound up with the them.

Dave Jordan

4/23/2010

Original Document Location: Green metal box at Tim Jordan's