

The Jordan Story

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Version: Wednesday, October 11, 2017

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Introduction

As follows is *The Jordan Story*, a compilation of what I have learned over three decades about the history of my Jordan family line. It is a long and complicated story but one I am sure you will enjoy.

This *Introduction* provides some background and housekeeping for this and related documents along with the relationship with the associated web pages.

For ease of use, the above [Table of Contents](#) includes active links along with a simplified genealogy chart to assist in selecting items of interest. Merely touch the line or page number to move to a section of interest.

In order to help preserve our Jordan family history and to make that history more widely available, [Our Jordan Family Web Pages](#) was created in the early years of the 21st century.

While quite successful in its goals, it became clear with the passage of time, that a web site with many hundreds of pages was not easy to print or to electronically download. Thus in the later part of the first decade of the 21st century, I began to compile various categories of information such as *Jordan Family Address Lists*, *Jordan Family Census Records*, *Jordan Genealogy Source Records*, *Oscar Scholdberg's Voyages*, *Recollections of the Jordans* and *the Jordan Stories* into pdf documents.

Such pdf files will make it easier to download files for preservation on our many computers and they will also allow much easier printing of pages and for studied analysis as desired. As part of this effort, a [Jordan PDF Downloads](#) web page was created. From this page, all currently available pdf's from [Our Jordan Family Web Pages](#) can be accessed.

You are encouraged to download the various Jordan, Scholdberg, and Steward pdf files, not only for your own study but to also help preserve for future generations hard to obtain data and information about our common Jordan, Scholdberg and Steward origins and history. Files are updated every once in a while, and checking about once a year is a reasonable frequency. Version dates are shown at the beginning of the [Table of Contents](#).

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Creation Date: about 2002

Modified: 10/10/2007, 4/3/2009, 1/3/2012, 12/7/2012, 10/11/2017

Contact

If you wish to comment, add information or just say hello, please contact [Dave Jordan](#) at djgenealogy@me.com.

What's New

Going forward it is intended to briefly describe what major items were added since the last version of this document.

1. 10/11/2017: Miscellaneous format updates.
2. 12/7/2012: Primarily formatting changes and fixes of a few typo's along with some reorganization.
3. 1/3/2012: Primarily formatting changes and fixes of a few typo's.
4. 12/28/2011: Updated *How to Say Scholdberg*.

File Connections

As follows are other files that connect with *The Jordan Story*. All are available at [Jordan PDF Downloads](#) as individual pdf documents with titles and file names as listed below.

1. *The Jordan Story*
File: Stories_Jordan.pdf
Summary: *The Jordan Story* provides a written history of the origins of our Jordan family. As part of this story there are many appendices and sections.
2. *Recollections of the Jordans*
File: Recollections_Jordan.pdf
Summary: *Recollections of the Jordans* provides a collection of short anecdotes and memories of our Jordan family.
3. *The Road to Poplar - Jordans*
File: Stories_The_Road_To_Poplar_Jordan.pdf
Author: Dave Jordan
Published: East of London Family History Society/Cockney Ancestor
4. *The Road to Poplar - Jordans*
File: Stories_The_Road_To_Poplar_Steward.pdf
Author: Dave Jordan
Published: East of London Family History Society/Cockney Ancestor
5. *The Road to Poplar - My Surname is What?*
File: Stories_The_Road_To_Poplar_Name.pdf
Author: Dave Jordan
Published: East of London Family History Society/Cockney Ancestor
6. *Lt. Edward C. Jordan - The War Years, Pilot, 603rd Squadron*
File: Stories_Jordan_Lt_Ed_Jordan_WWII.pdf
Summary: *Lt. Edward C. Jordan - The War Years, Pilot, 603rd Squadron* provides a history of Edward C. Jordan, son of Herbert A. Jordan during WWII.

7. *Historical Jordan Family Addresses*
File: Addresses_Jordan_Historical.pdf
Summary: Contains chronological address listings for various families in the Jordan/Steward/Scholdberg line.
Linkage: Elizabeth Priscilla Steward 1st married Knut Oscar Scholdberg and after his death she married James Jordan.
8. *Jordan Family Census Records*
File: Census_Jordan_Historical.pdf
Summary: Contains census transcriptions for various families in the Jordan/Steward/Scholdberg line.
Linkage: Elizabeth Priscilla Steward 1st married Knut Oscar Scholdberg and after his death she married James Jordan.
9. *Genealogy Records - Steward Line*
File: Records_Steward_Line.pdf
Summary: Contains transcriptions and some scanned records for various families in the Steward part of the Jordan/Steward/Scholdberg line.
Linkage: Elizabeth Priscilla Steward 1st married Knut Oscar Scholdberg and after his death she married James Jordan.
10. *Oscar Scholdberg's Voyage Records*
File: Voyages_Scholdberg_Records.pdf
Summary: The Oscar Scholdberg's Voyage Records file contains transcriptions of the ship records for many of Oscar Scholdberg's voyages. Such records include Ship Logs, Crew Lists, Crew Agreements, Consulate Certificates, and Release Agreements.
11. *Oscar Scholdberg's Voyages Chronology*
File: Voyages_Scholdberg_Chronology.pdf
Summary: The Oscar Scholdberg's Voyage Chronology file extracts information from Oscar Scholdberg's Voyage Records to construct a time-line of where Oscar Scholdberg was and what he was doing at various points in time.

Prelude

In January 1979, I wrote *The Story of James and Margaret Jordan*. Since that time, much new information has been found. In addition other stories about other branches of the Jordan family have become available. With the creation of Our Jordan Family web pages, I have decided to update and expand the various stories into a larger framework. The resulting, *The Jordan Story*, is a collection of short stories about different chapters and branches in the lives of descendants of Knut Oscar and Elizabeth Scholdberg. With time, others may contribute their own stories leading to a growing work on the origins and history of our Jordan family. Chapters authored by other than myself are indicated just under the main title and also in the associated *File Information* file at the end of each chapter.

One the confusions in our story is that the family's original name in England was not Jordan but Scholdberg. How our family name changed from Scholdberg to Jordan is an interesting one and a chapter in *The Jordan Story* will review how it happened. Basically it had to do with the 2nd marriage of Elizabeth Scholdberg to James Jordan. While the remarriage was the cause, there are a number of details that have taken many years to sort out.

The Jordan Story is divided into six major parts.

1. The first *Origins* focuses on early roots in England and Sweden.
2. The second part *Our Families in England* provides in-depth information about our Jordan, Scholdberg, and Steward families who resided for many years in Poplar, England.
3. The third part *Our Families in America* provides in-depth information about our Jordan and Steward families who resided for many years in Chicago and Madison, Wisconsin.
4. The fourth part *Closing* wraps up with some overall thoughts, a bibliography of suggested reading, and acknowledgements.
5. The fifth part is an *Appendix* which contains transcriptions of letters to various relatives seeking information about the Jordans.
6. The sixth part is a listing of *Associated Documents* that are related to *The Jordan Story* which exist as separate documents. These include detailed address data, census data, and genealogy records, voyage records, historical family letters, and other stories or articles.

While readers may wish to initially focus on stories in their branch, for those interested in every nugget of information on the life and times, you may wish to read the other stories to gain additional insights and find connections between them.

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 2/6/2003

Modified: 11/26/2009, 12/31/2011

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Reader Tips

The Jordan Story has been placed on *Our Jordan Family Web Pages* for easy distribution and updates.

The home address for *Our Jordan Family Web Pages* is:

<http://www.jordanstuff.net/ourhistory/Jordan/index.html>

Frequency of Updates

Current stories may occasionally be updated with new information and a date tag will show the latest date of the various stories. As new stories become available they will be added. Readers may wish to check the What's New page to easily identify when material has been added.

Printing

After being available for many years on-line, it was recognized that it was difficult to print the html version of our various family history web pages. To improve this situation, various sections of the html web version our family history are being made available as pdf files. These downloadable pdf files will allow preservation of our family history on our personal computers and will also allow better printing of various stories and genealogy data.

Related Information

While it's possible to just read *The Jordan Story*, there is much companion information contained in the Topics Section on *Our Jordan Family* home page. Topics include: *Address Data, Census Data, Family Overview Pages, Family Charts, Genealogy Source Records and Photos.*

Connections

Many readers will most likely be offspring of one of the Jordan, Scholdberg, or Steward families. It may be helpful to consult *Our Jordan Family Overview* page to figure out which family you are from and to learn some of the names and relationships. My purpose was not to create a detailed genealogy of all the offspring, so you may need to do a little research to first work your way back to a couple of original families. If you can't figure it out, drop me a line and I may be able to get you onto the right family.

The key families included in *The Jordan Story* are:

1. **The Knut Oscar Scholdberg and Elizabeth Priscilla Steward Family:** Knut and Elizabeth's children are Joseph Canute Oscar (1868), Charles Edward (1871), and Charles Albert (1873), and Elizabeth Ada (1875).
2. **The James and Margaret Jordan Family:** James and Margaret's children are Herbert A. (1898), Frances F. (1901), Edward A. (1902), Charles J. (1903), and Art S. (about 1904). Their current offspring is estimated in the hundreds..

3. **The James Jordan and Elizabeth Priscilla Steward Family:** James and Elizabeth Jordan's only child was James Henry (1879).

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 2/6/2003

Modified: 11/25/2009, 12/31/2011, 10/11/2014

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

The Beginnings

In 1974 my wife Elizabeth and I toured London, Brussels, Amsterdam and Paris. We enjoyed our trip immensely and when I got back I began to wonder about the origins of my European ancestors. I had always known that on my mother's side there were relatives from Holland and Bohemia. On my father's side, I knew the Pages were from Germany and the Jordans were from either Ireland or England. In reflecting on the memories of the streets I had walked and the buildings I saw in London and Amsterdam, I began to think about my ancestors and wondered if I had walked in their footsteps or seen their houses.

Then in 1975 Alex Haley, who was then publishing his book *Roots* wrote an article in the *Wall Street Journal* describing his genealogical research. I read it thoroughly and I thought I could do the same for my family.

In that time early period, I learned the basic principles of genealogical research. They were: 1) start with yourself, 2) talk to your mother and father about the family, 3) obtain records to work backward in time, since links are provided on these records to earlier records, and 4) contact relatives. The basic procedure was appealing and I have found the experience to be quite enriching in many ways. These include new contacts and friendships with many relatives that never would have been made otherwise, an increase in my understanding of history, and insights into the general behavior of people over the course of their lives.

While I am usually asked, "How far back are you?" I found that one does not need to go back three or four centuries to discover unknown or fascinating family history. Very interesting stories and mysteries have emerged from a look back encompassing just 50 to 150 years.

When my mom and dad visited in Matawan in the fall of 1975, I started the investigation. Some of the key information obtained from my father during that and subsequent discussions were: 1) that his Grandfather Jordan's name was either Oscar or James, 2) that his grandfather was either Irish or English, 3) that his grandfather was born in England about 1870, 4) that his grandfather had married Margaret Knowles from Montreal about 1896 in Chicago, and 4) that his grandfather had worked as an engineer at the Conway Building in Chicago.

Dad also told me that his great-grandmother's name was Elizabeth Priscilla Jordan. My dad, only eight at the time, remembered walking down a dark narrow corridor in her home on her funeral day. Later he found a funeral remembrance for me that showed her date and place of death and her birth date.

Dad also remembered that Elizabeth's parent's names were Joseph and Elizabeth Steward. He thought that Elizabeth Steward came to America and was that she was living in a nursing home in the early 1900s. He also remembered his father telling him that that when he was a boy that he took a long car trip to visit a relative. The location was far away and located by a big river and it is thought this might be when Elizabeth Stewart was in a nursing home.

My dad also remembered that his grandfather had two brothers. One was Charles Jordan whom dad saw once and who was referred to as Indiana Jordan because that was where he lived. The other brother was James Jordan of Madison, whom dad thought was a half-brother. My dad also thought there were a couple of divorces that occurred but he did not know between who or when. My dad was also able to tell me the names of all of James and Margaret Jordan's children and approximate dates of birth.

My dad also recalled that he had not seen his Grandfather Jordan since about 1936. After his Grandpa Jordan's retirement in the 1930s, my dad's father built an addition on his house at 69th and Throop for his father. It is believed the addition cost about \$1500. Dad said that the place was always a mess and that there were newspapers all over the place. After a while, my dad's mom Elizabeth grew unhappy because Grandfather Jordan expected her to take care of him, cleaning up and making his meals and thus he was asked to leave. Subsequently, dad told that me that his brother Herb saw Grandfather Jordan on a street corner in Chicago about 1940, which is the last time he was seen by our family.

In addition, my dad also mentioned that the stories he remembered about the Jordans usually included that they were a "bunch of pirates." He didn't really know what this meant, but he heard it often enough to think it important. A letter I got later from Uncle Chuck explained about the pirates, but as always things got a little twisted around.

These remembrances by my dad were the beginnings of my search and put me on the genealogy trail. I then started contacting my dad's brothers, uncles and distant cousins to learn more. What I learned was that each remembers a few facts or a little story about the family generally different than anyone else. Thus between them all, it is possible to assemble a story well beyond what one family knows. Coupling their remembrances with extensive records searches has led to an even bigger story, the one you are about to read.

And that's how I got started on my long adventure, one now lasting over a quarter of a century.

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 2/6/2003

Modified: 12/28/11

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Origins

The Steward Branch

Origins of Our Steward Family

Our earliest known Steward is John Isaac Steward born 1793-1796 in the County of Norfolk. Norfolk is a low-lying county to the northeast of London in East Anglia. It is on the coast. There was a decline in industry and agriculture during the Industrial Revolution, thus leading, perhaps the driver for John's move to Poplar in Middlesex County near London. John was a shipwright, and raised his family in Poplar, England, though it is not known whether he learned his profession in Norfolk or Poplar. A shipwright is a builder of ships.

Poplar is one of a number of small towns to the east of central London and is part of an East of London borough called Tower Hamlets because of its proximity to the Tower of London. The town of Poplar is located just to the north of the Isle of Dogs and is south of Bow. In the early 1800s the East and West India companies created huge docks and dry docks to the south of Poplar where the Thames began to flow south around the Isle of Dogs. These new docks provided huge number of jobs for those in the shipping industry.

We know about John Isaac Steward from his son's marriage registration, that is Joseph John Steward's. On it is listed his father's name and occupation. It has taken some time to determine more about the early Stewards but in 2006-2008 some of the pieces began to come together. See "Connecting to John Isaac Steward". A synopsis of his family is a follows.

John Isaac Steward married Sarah around 1820-1824. John was about 25-30 and Sarah around 20. Sarah, whose maiden name is not known was born in Chatham, County of Kent. Chatham is a large town that has developed around an important naval dockyard on the east bank of the River Medway to the southeast of London. Perhaps it is there John went to work to learn his trade as a shipwright, or perhaps they both met in Poplar if her family went there for work also. Someday, the marriage records for Poplar and Chatham will be checked and we will have a better idea of how events came about.

The available data suggests that my ggg-grandfather was born first. His year of birth has been narrowed to between 1824-1826. All census records indicate he was born in Poplar, England. However, he was not found in the Docklands Ancestors Parish Register Baptismal Registers index for All Saints Poplar. Thus he may never have been baptized or recorded or perhaps he was baptized in Kent.

A few years later, a second son who they named John Isaac Steward was born on 2 July 1828 and then on 2 May 1832 a daughter Mary Ann was born. Both John and Mary Ann were baptized 8 months later on 16 January 1833 at All Saints Poplar. I've seen these delayed baptisms before. Perhaps the parents hadn't got around to it, or perhaps the fees

were reduced, or what I've also observed was there was a sickly child they wanted to have baptized quickly. In fact, in the 1841 Census there is no mention of little Mary Ann.

Little John Isaac Steward born 1833 married Jane Ann Hooper in the 2nd quarter 1854 in Poplar England at about age 22. There have been many interactions between the Stewards and Hoopers families and this is another. They had a son name John T. Hooper 1855-56. Some evidence suggests that John Isaac Steward died about the 1st quarter 1865. If so, he would have only been about 36 years old. He was a laborer associated with ships.

Another daughter who John and Sarah named Elizabeth Sally arrived on 3 October 1836 and they waited eight years until 27 November 1844 to get her baptized. This baptism also took place at All Saints Poplar. Unfortunately, little Elizabeth Sally was not in the 1851 census and one would suspect that she had died also.

Some evidence suggests that mother Sarah died in the 2nd quarter 1851. If so she would have been only about 50 years old. John Isaac is guessed to have lived perhaps as long as 1871 when he would have been about 80 years old.

More information about their son Joseph Steward and his wife Elizabeth Holloway, my ggg-grandfather and ggg-grandmother is recorded in a later chapter. Son Joseph and John are the only of their children known to have made it to adulthood and have children.

Marjorie P. Hooper, researching STEWARDS in Poplar sent me the following extract from the 1821 Census. It will be of value as we learn a little bit more about the early origins of the Stewards in Poplar.

1821 Poplar Census Listings

1. Steward, Elizabeth: Steward and Son, Cooperage, Coldharbour
2. Steward, John: 4 East India Road
3. Steward, Robert: 70 High Street South
4. Steward, Peter: 250 High Street North
5. Steward, Richard: 3 Providence Court

Which of these Poplar Stewards are ours is not known, but the John Steward at 4 East India Road could be our John Isaac Steward.

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 2/6/2003

Modified: 1/14/2008,12/20/2011

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

A Steward/Hooper Connection

Background

In the late 1980s, Marjorie Hooper, a fellow member of the East of London Family History Society, contacted me regarding my interests in the Steward family. In her research on the Hoopers and Stewards she had obtained the birth registration for a Charles Hooper Steward born the 27th Feb 1851. The parents were listed as Joseph John Steward and Elizabeth Steward formerly Holloway. In her search for her Hoopers and Stewards she had come across the Charles Hooper Steward record. It turned out that I recognized the parents of Charles Hooper Steward, Joseph and Elizabeth Steward as my ggg-grandparents. My connection to Charles Hooper Steward is also through his older sister Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway Steward born 27 Feb 1847. Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway Steward is also my gg-grandmother.

Marjorie Hooper/Steward Line

Marjorie Hooper's grandmother was Ann Elizabeth Hooper who was married to William James Hooper. Ann Elizabeth Hooper's maiden name was Steward. For the 1881 Census, William and Ann Hooper lived at 10 Cording Street in Poplar. In 1851, our Charles Steward was born at 12 Chrisp Street, which is very near Cording Street.

Marjorie had obtained Ann Elizabeth Steward's birth registration and it showed that her Ann Elizabeth Steward was born 24 July 1847 at 10 Woolmore Street, Poplar. Ann Elizabeth Steward's father's name was John Joseph Steward and her mother's name was Ann Elizabeth Steward, formerly Rainer. John Joseph Steward was a shipwright.

From an index of Steward marriages in Poplar, two possible entries were found of a John Steward marriage. First there was a John Steward who married in Poplar in 1846; and second there was a John Joseph Steward who was married in 1852. It is not clear which is the correct one, but 1846 would appear to be correct based on the birth of Ann Elizabeth Steward in 1847. The answer to this is provided below in the March 30, 2006 e-mail from Diane Cusiel.

Linking my Stewards and Majorie's Stewards

In the early years of the millennium, the following hypothesis was offered to try to tie these two Steward lines together and to also provide a direction for the research. However, it was not to be but you may find it instructive to go through it anyway.

First, I assumed that Marjorie Hooper's John Joseph Steward and my Joseph John Steward were brothers, both born about 1825. Next I assumed that her John Joseph Steward married Ann Elizabeth Rainer about 1846. While my Joseph John Steward married Elizabeth Holloway in June 1848. If this were true, then her Ann Elizabeth Steward born about 1848 would be a first cousin to my Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway Steward and to my Charles Hooper Steward.

I further assumed that the father of the two brothers, John Joseph and Joseph John was named John Steward and that this John Steward was the

same listed in the 1821 census for Poplar at 4 East India Road (see Origins of our Steward Family). Our Joseph Steward's marriage registration indicates that his father's name was John Isaac Steward, a shipwright. Thus if Marjorie Hooper's John Joseph Steward's marriage registration also indicated that his father was John Isaac Steward, there would be a link between our families. No progress on this hypothesis occurred until a 2006 e-mail arrived from Diane Cusiel, shown below, the net result of which is that there appears to be no close relation as hypothesized.

Hooper Linkage

My Charles Hooper Steward linkage with the name Hooper is even more puzzling. Marjorie's Ann Elizabeth Steward born in 1847 married William James Hooper, but in 1870. However Charles Hooper Steward was born in 1851 when she was only four. So how did Charles Hooper Steward get the name Hooper?

Data obtained from the 1851 Census indicates that the Joseph and Elizabeth Steward Family lived at the same address as a Hooper family, 12 Chrisp Street. This was the Charles and Emma A. Hooper family. Perhaps the Hoopers were his baptismal sponsors and/or Emma A. Hooper was his aunt, although, it is also possible the Hoopers were just very good friends. In either case, relative or friends, it appears Charles Hooper Steward (1851) was named after the Charles Hooper who resided at the same address as his parents.

Diane Cusiel's March 30, 2006 E-Mail

In March 2006, Diane Cusiel, Ann Elizabeth Steward's g-granddaughter provided this background on the history of Ann Elizabeth Steward Hooper and the non-relationship to Charles Hooper Steward.

March 30, 2006 e-mail

Hello Dave,

I have just read about the Steward/Hooper connection on your family history website, and felt I just had to write to you.

John Joseph Steward was my gr gr grandfather, and he was born about 1824 in Gravesend, Kent. His parents were Richard Bray Steward (abt 1802-1874) and Ann Taylor. John Joseph married Ann Elizabeth Rainer in 1846 in Milton, Kent, and your information is quite correct about the birth of their daughter, Ann Elizabeth Steward on 24 July 1847 at 10 Woolmore Street, Poplar. But sadly the mother, Ann Elizabeth Rainer died in the March quarter of 1848, aged about 22. She died in Poplar, but I have the 1851 census which shows John Joseph and three year old daughter Ann Elizabeth living in Gravesend [Kent] with his parents Richard and Ann, and also their [Richard Bray Steward and Ann Taylor's] daughter Ann Elizabeth Steward, born about 1836 (just to confuse everyone!)

The marriage in 1852 in Poplar is the same John Joseph [Steward], and he married somebody called Maria. I have not bought the marriage certificate yet, so her surname remains a mystery to me. However they

stayed in the Poplar area, and had six children that I know of – Maria (b 1853), John Joseph (b 1855), Sarah (b 1858), Elizabeth (b 1860), Joseph (b and died 1860), Richard (b 1863).

In the 1861 census, the Steward family lived at 5 Queen Street, Bromley, Middlesex. Just down the road at No.7 lived the Hooper family, and they were still at those addresses in 1871. So Ann Elizabeth Steward married the boy next door, William James Hooper in December 1870. Ann and William were my great grandparents.

I am afraid that I do not know of a connection with [your] Charles Hooper Steward, but he did live very close and also the name is puzzling.

So perhaps there is a connection somewhere. Marjorie Hooper is my mother's cousin, but I don't think they ever met each other. My mother died in 1998, and I wish I could tell her that I have found Marjorie. We have only been in contact since Dec 2005, and Marjorie passed on some interesting dates and names that had eluded me. But there were a lot of Hoopers in that area in the mid 1800s, and I am sure they must all be related somehow, so there is still a lot of searching ahead!

I hope you did not mind me writing, but I thought that I should pass on my info, so you can see that your Steward family and mine are probably not connected, what a shame.

Regards,

Diane Cusiel (a Steward/Hooper descendant)

Diane Cusiel's April 15, 2006 E-Mail

Diane's 2nd e-mail provided information on the Charles and Emma A. Steward family that lived at 12 Chrisp Street in Poplar that appears to have lead to my Charles Hooper Steward being given the name Charles Hooper. See above Hooper Linkage.

April 15, 2006 e-mail

Dear Dave,

It does take a bit of time to get your head around these mysteries and tangled lives of our ancestors, and it is ok with me if you wish to amend the Steward/Hooper connection on the website. It was a big surprise to me to find it in the first place, because I was just doing some Google searches one evening, and then there were my great grandparents' names on your website! Such a pleasant and unexpected surprise.

I do believe that our Steward families connect somewhere further back in time. So many of my ancestors were in the Poplar/Stepney area in the 1800s because of the work opportunities, mainly due to the docks there. There were so many riggers, shipwrights, stevedores, lightermen, and tugboat captains and stokers in my family at that time. They had all migrated from the rural areas because I think that they wanted a better life than the conditions and wages of what an agricultural labourer could earn.

Regarding the Hoopers of Chrisp Street (neighbours of your Steward family), I have found a marriage of Charles Hooper and Emma Agnes

Emblem on freebmd – Sept Q 1841 in Shoreditch. I had thought that Emma might have been a Steward, but her name was obviously Emblem. Then there is a death of Emma A. Hooper in Sep 1866 in Stepney, aged 44, which would be correct going by her age on the 1851 census. I am also puzzled why Charles Steward had the middle name of Hooper, but as you suggested, there must have been a very close relationship between the two families, which we can only speculate on.

Charles Hooper did not stay a widower for very long, because I found a marriage in Mar Q 1867 in Stepney to a Harriet Nightingale, and have found them together right up to the 1891 census. I really believe that my Hoopers are connected to Charles, because on that census they have a niece, Louisa, living with them, who actually appeared on the 1881 census with William James and Ann Elizabeth Hooper, but Louisa was a cousin. I apologise if I am confusing you, because I even find it confusing and it is my family! But I think that Charles and my gr gr grandfather James Hooper (born abt 1820) could have possibly been brothers, because of the connection with Louisa. But that is another story, and a lot more research lies ahead.

If you need any more info, just let me know as I can scan Census pages and bmd certificates, so it will be easier to understand.

Best Wishes

Diane Cusiel

Summary

It appears there is no close connection between Ann Elizabeth Steward Hooper's Hoopers and Stewards and Charles Hooper Steward's Hoopers and Stewards.

For Charles Hooper Steward his name appears to be derived from the Charles and Emma A. Hooper family who lived at the same address as Joseph and Elizabeth Steward when Charles was born in February 1851.

And Ann Elizabeth Steward became a Hooper when she married the boy next door, Williams James Hooper in 1870.

Thus based on what we know these appear to be independent Steward and Hooper family lines. However, it is possible given the number of Steward and Hooper families in Poplar that at some point several generations back these Stewards and Hoopers families connect. Since I do not know the geographic origin of my Joseph John Steward it might be of use to remember that Diane's John Joseph Steward came from Gravesend, Kent to Poplar.

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 2/6/2003

Modified: 7/11/2004, 4/20/2006, 12/31/2011

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

The Stewards of Poplar

By Diane Cusiel

Introduction

I have been in contact with Dave Jordan since March 2006 regarding the Steward family, and although our families do not link up at all in the 1800s, we believe that we may share a common ancestor pre-1800. This has to be researched in the future, but in the meantime Dave has invited me to write about what I know of my Steward ancestors. So I will be as brief and accurate as possible.

Richard Bray Steward and Ann Taylor

Richard and Ann were my ggg-grandparents. Richard was born 1800-1802 at Northfleet, Kent and was a shipwright. Ann was born about 1800 in Poplar, Middlesex. They had three children:

1. Richard Bray Steward, born about 1823 in Gravesend, Kent. He did not marry, and died in the Sept. qtr, 1876 at Poplar, Middlesex, age 53.
2. John Joseph Steward, born about 1824 in Gravesend, Kent. John married twice, to Ann Elizabeth Rainer in 1846, and then to Maria in 1852 – see below.
3. Ann Elizabeth Steward, born about 1836 in Gravesend, Kent. She was still unmarried in the 1891 census – death date unknown.

The family were in Gravesend up to the time of the 1851 census, but by 1861 they were all living at Poplar, Middlesex. Richard died on 20 February 1874 at 31 William Street, Poplar and Ann died in the Mar.qtr, 1878 at Poplar.

Joseph and Elizabeth Steward

Joseph was born in 1790 in Rotherhithe, Surrey and was a shipwright. Elizabeth was born in Shadwell, Middlesex also in 1790. These two birth-places are not that far apart, with just the River Thames separating them. Joseph was the elder brother of Richard Bray Steward. See also the 1851/61 Census Records for Joseph and Elizabeth Steward Family of 31 Williams Street, Poplar.

Thanks to information on Joseph's will, which Dave sent to me recently, I was then able to make the connection. Dave had obtained a transcription of the will in 1990 from both Marjorie P. Hooper and Harry Steward.

Joseph wrote his will on 11 October 1862, the two beneficiaries being his wife Elizabeth, and his brother Richard Bray Steward. Joseph and Elizabeth had no children. Joseph died in the Sept. qtr 1864 in Poplar, and there is a death of an Elizabeth Steward in the Dec. qtr 1864, also in Poplar. There is a good possibility that these are the correct death registrations, as both would have been 74. Joseph and Elizabeth lived at 31 William Street, Poplar for a long time – they were there in the 1851

census, and they probably died there. In the 1871 census, his brother Richard Bray Steward and family were at that address.

John Joseph Steward and Ann Elizabeth Rainer

John Joseph was the second son of Richard Bray and Ann Steward, and was born about 1824 at Gravesend, Kent, and was also a shipwright. He married Ann Elizabeth Rainer (the daughter of John Rainer, fisherman of Milton, Kent) on 18 October 1846 in the Parish Church Holy Trinity, Milton, Kent. They had one daughter Ann Elizabeth Steward, born 24 July 1847 at 10 Woolmore Street, Poplar, Middlesex. Sadly the young mother died in the Mar. qtr, 1848 at Poplar, and by the 1851 census the widowed John Joseph and his 3 year old daughter Ann Elizabeth were living back in Gravesend with his parents. But he must have returned to Poplar shortly after that census, because he married Maria (who was born about 1827 in Poplar) in the Dec qtr 1852 at Poplar. They had six children, all born in Poplar:

1. Maria Steward, born Sept. qtr, 1853 – she married Thomas James Collins.
2. John Joseph Steward, born Dec. qtr, 1855 – he married Hannah Elizabeth Dockerill.
3. Sarah Steward, born Mar. qtr, 1858.
4. Elizabeth Steward, born Jun. qtr, 1860.
5. Joseph Steward, born Jun qtr 1860 – died Dec. qtr, 1860.
6. Richard Steward, born Sep qtr 1863 – he married Susannah Fletcher.

John Joseph Steward's first daughter Ann Elizabeth married William James Hooper on 11 Dec 1870 at St. Leonard's Church, Bromley, Middlesex.

John Joseph died in the Dec. qtr, 1892 at Poplar, at age 68, and Maria died in the Dec. qtr, 1896 at Poplar, at age of 69.

Joseph John Steward and Elizabeth Holloway

Joseph John was born between 1824-1826 in Poplar, the son of John Isaac Steward born about 1800. Joseph John married Elizabeth Holloway on 11 June 1848 at St. Mary's, Stratford, Bow. Dave has already written in great detail about his Steward ancestors.

See the Jordan Steward line:

1. Origins of our Steward Family
2. The Joseph and Elizabeth Steward Family
3. John Steward Family

Conclusion

We like to believe that our two Steward families are linked pre-1800, because the names John and Joseph seem to be passed down both families, and in my family until the late 19th century. We know for a fact

that John Isaac was not a brother of Joseph and Richard Bray, because of the information in Joseph's will, but the three of them could have been cousins. My Stewards could very well have lived in Poplar prior to Joseph's birth in 1790 in Rotherhithe. Only the Thames and a short ferry-ride separate the two places. Why the family went to Northfleet in Kent we will never know, but there was a large ship-building yard there, and assuming the father of Joseph and Richard was also a shipwright, perhaps they advertised for workers. It looks a long way, but surely they would have sailed down the river, rather than go across country by horse. However the whole family returned to Poplar by the 1861 census, as perhaps there might have been more shipbuilding at the Poplar and Stepney Docks. In fact, when I learned about that great engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel building his huge ship Great Eastern and others at the Isle of Dogs in the 1850s, I often wonder if any of our Steward ancestors were part of that work-force.

Acknowledgement

In the course of searching for Stewards in Poplar a number of Steward families have been identified by myself and others over the years. The close proximity in location of these Steward families and the relative uncommonness of the Steward name (as opposed to Stewart) suggests that many of the families might be connected at some point one or two more generations back. In my interactions with Diane Cusiel, I found that she had done extensive research on the Stewards, especially in the Poplar area. And while we don't quite have a match yet between our Stewards it appears very close. I felt her effort would fit nicely with my Steward web pages and I asked Diane to write about her research. Her thoughtful, well written and organized *The Stewards of Poplar* is the result. It is hoped that her story provides a basis for sorting out the Stewards in 18th Century Poplar and eventually how our various strands might connect somewhere in the not too distant past.

If you would like to add to our knowledge of *The Stewards of Poplar* please contact Dave.

Dave Jordan

May 2006

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Diane Cusiel

Initial Web Publication Date: 5/11/2006

Modified:

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Connecting to John Isaac Steward

As one researches further back, it become increasingly difficult to know you have the right family. No one is alive who can guide you, records become sparse and with less data, and with the similarity of given names it is sometimes easy to connect with the wrong family.

With luck, you have an ancestor with a unique given name, or who regularly used a middle name. Another way is to have multiple sources pointing the same way.

For many years, going back beyond Joseph Steward progressed very slowly. His name had been known from his wife's obituary (Elizabeth Holloway Steward) when the early Jordan family was in Wisconsin. Their daughter, my gg-grandmother Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway Steward became Elizabeth Priscilla Jordan when she married James Jordan. In due course the Joseph and Elizabeth Steward Family Census listings were found in the Poplar censuses for 1851, 1871, 1881 and 1891, which provided names and dates for Joseph and Elizabeth, but nothing about his parentage.

A key record for finding his father was Joseph Steward's 11 June 1848 marriage record to Elizabeth Holloway. English marriage records record the name of the father and occupation, but not the mother. Joseph's father's name was John Isaac Steward and his occupation was shipwright. This was very helpful as not only was there a name, but there was a middle name and one which was pretty uncommon, at least compared to Joseph, or John, or William. In addition, shipwright was a pretty uncommon profession, at least compared to entries such as laborer, or stevedore.

In May 2006 through Diane Cusiell, I gained access to the John and Sarah Steward Family Census listings for the Poplar census of 1841 and 1851. Diane was also searching for Stewards in Poplar, and though we eventually determined that although the names we both wanted were uncannily similar, we were looking at different Steward families. An important result was both a good exchange of data and a sorting out whose Stewards belonged to who. The results are summarized in The Stewards of Poplar, a chapter Diane wrote as part of the accumulated stories on the Stewards.

It was through the John and Sarah Steward Family Census listing for 1841 that the first linkage came for establishing Joseph's mother's name, parent's origins and two siblings. The record showed Joseph Steward as a boy of 15 (1825-26) with a father named John who was a shipwright. These were very good matches to establish that this was probably the correct family. The 1841 also showed that Joseph had a younger brother John and a much younger sister Elizabeth. The John and Jane Steward Family Census listing for 1861 shows a John Isaac Steward married to Jane A. The middle name of Isaac, and the same age being the key items that tie the pieces together. A check of the Marriage Index showed that John Isaac Steward married Jane Ann Hooper in 2Q1854 in Poplar. Here

was another circumstance of the Hoopers and the Stewards being interconnected. See also A Steward/Hooper Connection.

Thus with a little sleuthing, the basic structure of the John Isaac Steward family was established. The next step was to see if it held up as further data was found. The next set of added data were indexed baptismal records obtained from Docklands Ancestors Ltd Volumes 10,15 for All Saints Poplar 1815-1857. These data showed entries for little John Isaac and Elizabeth Steward with parents John and Sarah and a father who was a shipwright. It also showed another child Mary Ann Steward.

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 1/13/2008

Modified:

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

The Scholdberg Branch

Our Scholdberg Family Origins

Origins Established By Working Backwards

By working backwards from data on the records of my gg-grandparents Knut Oscar Schöldberg and Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway Steward Schöldberg, a small window was gained into our Schöldberg ancestry.

The first insight came from Knut's 1867 marriage to Elizabeth Priscilla in Poplar. From the marriage registration, it was found that his father was Carl Johan Schöldberg, a tanner by occupation. And from Knut Oscar Schöldberg's seaman's records while sailing from greater London, it was found that his country of origin was Sweden and that his year of birth was about 1837 give or take a year.

Thus what I can conclude from records is that Carl Johan Schöldberg was born between about 1790 and 1820 and probably in Sweden. His son Knut Oscar, who preferred Oscar, was born in Sweden about 1837 and eventually became a merchant seaman. He sailed all over the Mediterranean, North Sea and across the Atlantic many times to New York. In 1867 Knut Oscar Schöldberg married and settled in Poplar, England, a port town on the Thames just east of London where he continued in the merchant service.

Continuing the Origin Search

Although I knew that the country of origin for the Schöldbergs was Sweden, there were very few ways to learn who the other family members were or the name of their town. One reason was that most records in England did not require the town to be stated for foreign born. Another was that even with the availability of nationwide indexes in England, I could find no other Scholdbergs other than ours. It thus appears that Knut Oscar was the only one of his family to settle in England. And having already obtained his marriage, death and 1871 census records, there was only one other set of records that might take me back to a place in Sweden. And these were his seaman records.

Thus in the 1990s, my plan for learning more about the Schöldbergs was to continue to work backwards in Knut Oscar's seaman records, one ship at a time. I had begun with his records in the 1870s, including his ill-fated voyage on the West in late 1875. And by 1999 I had purchased a microfilm of the 1869 records for the Cella of Waterford. Each ship he sailed on recorded his name and other particulars including age, country of origin and previous ship. It was a slow but fascinating process as I learned that he sailed to many places and the ship's logs recorded extraordinary events such as collisions, deaths, sickness, and groundings. Each ship record though showed only that he was born in Sweden with no town name. My hope was for one little slip-up or that at some point, his previous ship was a Swedish ship.

Another Approach

I took a long break from searching the seaman records in 1999 and went onto to other things. Then one day in about 2005, I was using Family Search, an on-line facility of the LDS when I typed in Scholdberg and discovered a small family chart whose father was Carl Johan Scholdberg along with a son born in 1837 in Sweden named Knut Oscar Schöldbergs. I was astounded; the match with data I knew was exact. The family had the same father's name, the same son's name and the son's expected year of birth as the one I was looking for. Where had the data come from? Did someone else have an interest. It appears not, as the data appears to be generated from a methodical extraction of Jämshög, Blekinge County, Sweden.

Origins via Jump to Logical Family

While I can't prove this is our Schöldberg family, the case is fairly strong and I decided that it was worth doing more investigation into this family. To do this, while in Salt Lake in 2006, I obtained copies of the marriage record of Carl John Schöldbergs and Charlotte Söderberg and also the christening records of their children. Then in 2007, I contacted Maj-Britt Sundin who maintains a database of records for former Jämshög, Sweden residents. What I have learned only strengthens the possible match. I now plan to continue with the seaman search, hoping to verify the connection with Jämshög

The Unfolding Scholdberg and Soderberg Story

Carl Johan Schöldberg's wife was Charlotte Söderberg. She was born on the July 11, 1799 at Kristianopel, in Blekinge, Sweden, a sea town on Sweden's east coast but near the southern end. She was one of 6 siblings. In January 2008, Maj-Britt Sundin wrote that "her parents were a tanner called Bengt Söderberg born around 1760 and his wife Helena Maria Tilosius born Nov 23, 1765 in the city of Karlskrona in Blekinge (Karlkrona Amiralitetsförsamling is the name of the parish). They both died September 9, 1808 when they drowned when the ship they were on sank in hard weather outside of Kristianopel when they were on their way to Öland". Oland is a long narrow island just off the coast from Kristianopel but slightly to the north. Bengt was 48 and Helena just 42. The town of Karlskrona, the birthplace of Bengt and Helena and possibly their marriage is a port at the southern end of Sweden but towards the eastern end.

Charlotte was just nine at the time of her parents drowning. And she and some or all of her 6 siblings might have been with her parents the day they drowned, but that is not known just yet. In either case, it had to be a heart wrenching experience to be orphaned so unexpectedly and in such grueling circumstances.

Charlotte was probably raised by relatives and appears to have remained in Kristianopel as she married Carl Johan Schöldberg there on May 9th, 1826. She was 26.

Carl Johan Schöldberg's place of birth is unknown, but it is estimated he was born between 1790 and 1800 given Charlotte's 1799 year of birth.

Carl and Charlotte Schöldberg settled in Jämshög Parish in a village called Holje at number 27 and their first baby arrived 9 months after the wedding on February 12th, 1827. They named him Carl Eduard, probably after his father, and possibly Eduard after a paternal grandfather, though that remains to be determined.

The first daughter Marie Charlotte arrived January 12th, 1830 and by then the family had moved to number 20 in Holje, Jämshög. The name Marie matches her deceased grandmother's middle name and Charlotte matches her mother's name.

Then little Johanna arrived April 23, 1833.

Knut Oscar was born on 13 January 13, 1837 and is presumably our Knut Oscar Schöldberg. He, like all the children, was christened shortly after his birth and in his case just four days later on January 17th. His mother, Charlotte was 37 at the time.

The last little Schöldberg, Amalia Antoinette arrived on 18 March 18th, 1839. Charlotte was now 39.

Little is known about childhood in Jämshög, a town about ten miles inland from the southern end of Sweden. But Carl Johan was a tanner and it appears to have been a rural area.

Then in 1852, major changes took place in the Schöldberg household. Carl Johan died on September 17th, 1852. He was probably about 50-60 years old. Then later in the year, Knut Oscar at age 15 left for sea and was never heard from again, or at least in the records of Jämshög. These 1852 events I learned from Maj-Britt Sundin in October 2007. And it appears I am the first to bring back the news, 155 years later that Knut Oscar Schöldberg went on to an eventful life as a seaman, married a young English girl in Poplar in 1867 and that there are a great number of offspring all of which are in the United States and none with the surname Schöldberg.

Maj-Britt further explained that by 1852 all the other Schöldberg siblings had died, except Johanna, Knut's older sister by 3 years. And in January 2008, Maj-Britt wrote that Knut's mother died in Jämshög on the March 16th, 1866. She was then 64 years old, living another 14 years beyond her husband Carl Johan.

All this meant that by 1852, siblings Carl Eduard, Marie Charlotte, and Amalia Antoinette had all died, probably in their young childhood. This left a family of four Scholdbergs in Jämshög, parents Carl Johan and Charlotte and two children Johanna and Knut Oscar. Then in September of 1852, after the father Carl Johan died, one might imagine, Knut Oscar going to sea at 15 to help support his recently widowed mother and sister. Charlotte was then 53 and Johanna 18. It is not known whether Johanna married, but it is presumed she did and she probably stayed in Jämshög to care for her as she aged. Knut Oscar did not marry until May 1867, a few years after his mother died. By then, he had no parents and had been away for almost 15 years. His only family back home in Jämshög was a sister and so when he found love while in Poplar, he chose to stay and start a new life.

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 2/6/2003

Modified: 2/1/2008 (major update)

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Investigation of the Name Scholdberg

Introduction

To try to gain insight into our Scholdberg ancestors and their location some research was done on the origins and meaning of their names. These included not only Scholdberg, but also the given names for the two native individuals that have been identified, Knut Oscar Scholdberg and his father Carl Johan Scholdberg.

Scholdberg

Two different spellings of Scholdberg have appeared in my research Scholdberg, Scholdburg, with the most frequent being Scholdberg. In actuality the name is probably written as Schöldberg, but all the names so far came from English records so the "ö" was written as "o".

The ending "berg" means "mountain" in both German and Swedish. No city or town called Scholdberg or Scholdburg could be found in a Geographic Names Dictionary. No entry could be found in a German or Danish dictionary for either "schold" or "scheld."

When I first found the name in 1987 I wasn't sure about the country of origin for our Knut Oscar Schöldberg. With time it was found from his seaman records that he was from Sweden, although at this time the exact town in Sweden is not known.

The name Scholdberg is not very common in the United States and no current London Telephone Directory contains it. In a search of old London Directories, only a variant, Scheldberg, appeared. It was shown as Sheldberg & Company and appeared in the 1871 Court Directory. I don't believe there is any connection except a similarity of spelling. The "Sch" spelling of Schöldberg is also not common in Sweden with only about Sweden 20 families spelling it that way in the directory.

Thus it appears that our Knut Oscar Schöldberg met our Elizabeth Priscilla Steward while on shore leave in Poplar, married and settled there. There is no evidence any of his family came to London and the only offspring of that marriage are the descendants of Knut's son Joseph Canute Oscar Schöldberg, alias James Oscar Jordan. Thus our offspring did not bring the name Scholdberg to the United States.

Given Names

An investigation was done for the given names for Knut Oscar Schöldberg, his son Joseph Canute Oscar Schöldberg and his father Carl Johan Schöldberg. Here is what was found.

Knut Oscar

1. Knut or Knute is from the Swedish "knut," meaning "a knot."
2. King Canute (Knut) was a Danish king who won a battle at Knutsford. Note the dual use of the name Canute/ Knut.
3. Oscar II (1829-1907) was king of Norway and Sweden.

4. The given names Knut and Oscar are not common in the south of Sweden. Since his father was a tanner, he might have living somewhere around Dalarna, where the centre of Swedish fur and leather industry is located.

Carl Johan

1. Carl is a form or Karl and Charles. Both Carl and Karl are in use in Sweden today, in fact their current king uses Carl.
2. Johan is the Swedish form of John.
3. Karl Johan is the name of the main street in Oslo, the capital of Norway.

In conclusion, our Schöldbergs were from Sweden, and to our favor is that it is a very uncommon name even in Sweden. Most likely our family was from the middle to northern parts and probably near a port given Knut Oscar's life as a sailor.

Knut Oscar, Carl Johan and Canute Oscar are very proper Swedish names. While we don't know for sure, our Knut Oscar may have been named after their King Oscar at that time. And Carl Johan may well be named after the main street in Oslo.

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 2/5/2003

Modified:

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

How to Say Scholdberg

Bo Johansson provided an English phonetic spelling of Schöldberg in response to my request on the Ancestry Message Boards for Sweden, County of Blekinge.

Schöldberg Pronunciation

Details of how to pronounce Schöldberg - Sh-e(r)-ld-berr-(y) are as follows:

1. “Sh” = a thick sh-sound;
2. “e(r)” = like er, but without any r-sound, like the vowel sound in girl;
3. “ld”; “berr” with trilled r;
4. “(y)” = consonant y-sound, like ya without the a.

It certainly takes some practice for an English speaker. Most readers will probably just revert to the way English speakers pronounce Schöldberg with the hard “g” at the end, which is the way I have been saying it for years. But I am trying to get used to Sh-e(r)-ld-berr-(y).

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 2/5/2003

Modified: 11/25/2009, 12/28/2011

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Our Ancient Haplogroup

There has recently been much interest in the National Geographic's Genographic Project which explores early human migration routes by analyzing DNA samples for various genetic markers. The *Journey of Man* a book and also a documentary by Spencer Wells, periodically shown on *Public Television* is a very good introduction to the project.

As part of the Genographic Project, one can have their DNA analyzed and receive information about a series of markers which when mapped to the National Geographic web site provide information about our deep ancestry. There is a limitation and that is that for males, it can only analyze markers on the Y chromosome which is passed only from father to son. While for females only the Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) which is passed from mother to daughter can be analyzed. The results provide information about how our ancestors migrated from general area to general area tens of thousands of years ago.

To learn about our Scholdberg line's deep genetic history Dave Jordan has identified and contributed his Y chromosome Haplogroup result for inclusion in *The Jordan Story*.

Dave Jordan Male Tree - Haplogroup I-M253

The result for Dave Jordan's Y chromosome indicated Haplogroup I1-M253 (Haplogroup I1 (Y-DNA)). If you are male and can trace your biological origins back to James Oscar Jordan or Knut Oscar Scholdberg then you should also be Haplogroup I1-M253. This haplogroup is very common in Sweden as a whole and also places where Vikings went such as Northern England. In that sense it is a match with our Swedish line.a

1. Dave Jordan
2. Father: Edward C. Jordan
3. Grandfather: Herbert Arthur Jordan
4. Great-Grandfather: James Oscar Jordan (born as Joseph Canute Oscar Scholdberg) 18 Feb 1868 in Poplar, England
5. Great-Great-Grandfather: Knut Oscar Scholdberg, possibly born 13 Jan 1837 in Jämshög, Blekinge, Sweden
6. Great-Great-Great-Grandfather: Carl Johan Scholdberg born 1802 in Sweden.

Interpretations

1. [Haplogroup I1 \(Y-DNA\)](#) interpretation via Wikipedia

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 12/12012

Modified:

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

The Jordan Branch

Origins of Our Jordan Family

Our earliest known Jordan is John Jordan born about 1825, probably in England. He was a farmer. John's son, born about 1845 married my Great-Great-Grandmother Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway Scholdberg, formerly Steward in November 1876 in Poplar. Elizabeth's husband, Oscar Scholdberg had died the previous year and she had three young children, Oscar, Charles and Elizabeth. James and Elizabeth had one son James Henry born in 1879. At a later time, the Scholdberg children took on the Jordan name when they left England for America. Thus there is one branch of Jordans, called the Madison Jordans, through James Henry Jordan that links back to the Jordan name via blood. And another branch through James Oscar Jordan (alias Oscar Scholdberg), called the Chicago Jordans that adopted the Jordan name in the 1880s.

Unfortunately, there is almost nothing known about the original John Jordan and James Jordan that gave the Chicago Jordans their name. James and Elizabeth Jordan could not be found in the 1881 or 1891 UK Census index and James didn't come to America with Elizabeth and the rest of the family in 1893. Perhaps someday more will be known.

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 2/6/2003

Modified:

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Passing on a Name

In the Jordan/Scholdberg/Steward line, two names, Charles and Edward have repeated through a number of generations and in fact my father's name was Edward Charles Jordan. How did this happen and how far back can we see the recurrence.

Way back in 1851, my father's gg-grandparent's Joseph and Elizabeth Steward named their second son, Charles Hooper Steward. This is the earliest known use of Charles on that side of the family but it would not be surprising if it goes back much further as it was the English tradition to name a child after a grandparent, uncle or aunt. This was certainly the case in 1871 when Charles Hooper Steward's sister Elizabeth Priscilla Scholdberg and her husband Oscar named their 2nd son Charles Edward Scholdberg. Elizabeth Priscilla Scholdberg was my father's g-grandmother. Within 7 month Charles Edward Scholdberg died so in 1873 Elizabeth and Oscar named a 3rd son Charles.

However, the linkage to Elizabeth's brother was not the only Charles linkage for the Oscar and Elizabeth Scholdberg. Oscar's father's name was Carl Johan Scholdberg, Carl being a shortened form of Charles. Thus there was a dual connection with having a child named Charles. Carl Johan Scholdberg was born about 1815 so the connection to Carl/Charles goes way back. I am still investigating why they might have chosen the middle name Edward in 1871, but some evidence suggests Oscar's brother was named Carl Eduard Scholdberg back in 1827. If so there is a direct link to the name Charles Edward.

After he came to America our James Oscar Jordan, formerly Joseph Canute Oscar Scholdberg and my father's grandfather had five children. In 1902, he named one son Edward Jordan possibly after his little brother's middle name, Charles Edward Scholdberg (1871) or his Uncle Carl Eduard Scholdberg (1827). In 1903, he named, another son Charles Jordan possibly not only after the same two individuals but also after his brother Charles Scholdberg Jordan and his Uncle Charles Hooper Steward who lived nearby in Chicago.

In 1922, my father was named Edward Charles Jordan. He was named not only after his Uncle Edward Jordan and after his Uncle Charles Jordan, but also Edward Page on his mother's side, again a dual connection to both sides of the family. And thus his name connects to his Uncles: Charles Jordan (1902) and Edward Jordan (1903), his Great Uncles: Charles H. Jordan (1873) and Charles Edward Jordan (1871), his GG-Uncles: Charles Hooper Steward (1851) and Carl Eduard Scholdberg (1827) and his GG-Grandfather: Carl Johan Scholdberg (1802).

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 2/6/2003

Modified: 1/31/2005

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Our Families in England

Joseph and Elizabeth Steward Chapters

The Joseph and Elizabeth Steward Family

Elizabeth Holloway

Elizabeth Holloway was born in about 1825 or 1826, probably in Poplar, England a town in the borough of Tower Hamlets just to the west of central London. I say probably in Poplar, because that is what all her census records indicate; however, her obituary says she was born in St. Albans, England. St. Albans is a town about 30 miles northwest of London. Perhaps she was born there and came to Poplar as a very young child or St. Albans was a parish in Poplar.

Her father's name was William Holloway and he was probably born about the year 1800. At the time of Elizabeth's marriage in 1848, William was employed as a "trenail mooter." A trenail is a wooden pin for fastening together timbers for the old wooden sailing ships, and is sometimes spelled "tree nails". When below the waterline and wet the wooden pegs would swell thus assuring a tight fit of the timbers. The trenails needed to be brought to a standardized size so as to fit properly into pre-drilled holes. To do this "a ring gauge called a "moot" was used for checking the diameters of treenails. Hence the "trenail mooter" was the one who brought the trenail to the proper diameter with a moot, probably with a chisel, or mechanical grinder. I can visualize old William in a partially open-air company carpentry shop, with a carpenter's apron, a chisel in hand, pairing down a trenail. Surrounding him are hundreds of trenails in boxes waiting for him to take each one, size it with the metal moot and make modifications. Can't you hear the sounds of the shop and see the piles of wood chips on the workbench and floor from his careful work?

At this time, Elizabeth's mother's name is unknown as are any brothers and sisters. In the spring of 1846, Elizabeth Holloway at the age of about 20 became pregnant. She was unmarried and the society of the times provided a place for unmarried mothers to go. In Poplar, it was called the Poplar Union Workhouse. In prior decades each parish would take care of its old, infirm, and unwed mother's. But for some poor parishes the burden was too great so the concept of the "union" was born. Thus each town would have a common house, supported by a number of parishes and the government to provide lodging and support for the sick, the infirm, the poor, unwed mothers, and for those looking for work. These were commonly called Union Workhouses, probably because the focus was on finding work for the poor who would collect there.

On 27 February 1847, Elizabeth gave birth to a young girl who she named Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway. No father was listed on the registration. It appears that it was common at the time not to name the father on the birth registration when the child was illegitimate and there were no plans to marry. For the registration, the child was given her

mother's surname and carried it throughout life, which is what Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway did, using the name Holloway as part of her name even when she was a Steward, Scholdberg and Jordan. It is not known how long mother Elizabeth was at the workhouse, but it was likely for some time before and afterward.

Joseph John Steward

Sixteen months after young Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway was born at the Poplar Union Workhouse, Elizabeth Holloway married Joseph Steward at St. Mary's Stratford Bow. This was on 11 June 1848.

Joseph John Steward was born about 1825 in Poplar, England. His father was John Isaac Steward who was born about 1793-96 in the County of Norfolk. At the time of his marriage, Joseph was a rigger and his father John Steward was a shipwright. Rigging can be a variety of tasks such as fitting the rigging to the old wooden sailing ships or working with hoisting, tackle, cranes, pulleys, and scaffolds. A shipwright is a ship's carpenter and in John's case and Poplar's proximity to the dry docks he was probably involved in wooden shipbuilding or ship repair.

Joseph and Elizabeth Steward

One of our key issues is whether Joseph Steward was young Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway's father. Joseph and Elizabeth had a stable family after their marriage and from the data available it appears that Elizabeth Priscilla is treated as his own. On the key 1851 census, the one closest to their marriage in 1848, Elizabeth, age four, is clearly shown as daughter to the "Head" and not "adopted daughter" or "mother's daughter" or the like. And her surname is clearly Steward. Both these entries thus strongly suggest our Elizabeth was the daughter of Joseph Steward, the man Elizabeth Holloway married 11 June 1848, some 16 months after Elizabeth's birth. Later, Joseph and Elizabeth took her children in during the 1881 and 1891 census long after she had married. In fact, for the 1881 census, Elizabeth's children were referred to as grandsons in relation to Joseph Steward. Thus the data seems to strongly suggest that Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway Steward was Joseph's daughter.

A year after their marriage, young Joseph John Steward was born on 18 June 1849 at 13 Williams Street in Poplar. Joseph John would be a Jr. since he had the same name as his father. Then on 27 February 1851, another son Charles Hooper Steward was born. This birth was at 12 Chrisp Street in Poplar. Although a random event, the 27th of February was the same date as Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway was born four years earlier. Young Elizabeth and Charles may have bonded by their shared birth date, as they remained close throughout their lives.

On the 19th March 1851, the family arranged for a triple baptism. On this day at All Saints, Poplar, Elizabeth Priscilla Steward, age 4, Joseph John Steward, almost 2, and Charles Hooper Steward, age 3 weeks were all baptized. The event seems to show a stable marriage and one in which Elizabeth Priscilla is again officially named a Steward and Joseph as her father.

Two years later on 23 August 1853, the third Steward son was born. He was named William Robert Steward. William was also born at 12 Chrisp Street in Poplar. William was probably named after his maternal grandfather William Holloway. The middle name Robert, though, is unusual for the family and may help link our Steward family to other Steward families. The Steward's last child and fourth son was Henry Steward, born 22 March 1858 at 3 Jeremiah Street in Poplar.

On 24 May 24 1867, Joseph and Elizabeth Steward's only daughter, Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway Steward, married Knut Oscar Scholdberg at St. Mary's Stratford Bow in Poplar. Elizabeth was 20 years old. They established their own household and had their first child, Joseph Canute Oscar Scholdberg a year later.

By the 1871 Census, Joseph (age 45) and Elizabeth (age 45) had moved to 20 Wade Street, which was to be their home until 1893. Elizabeth had moved out with her marriage but the four boys Joseph (age 21), Charles (19), William (17), and Harry (14) still lived at home. Joseph and all the boys except William were stevedore laborers, probably at the nearby docks. Williams was a paperhanger. A stevedore is a person employed in the loading and unloading of ships.

By the 1881 Census, Joseph (age 55) and now employed as a dock laborer and Elizabeth (age 56) were still living at 20 Wade Street, but all their boys were out on their own. However, there were three grandchildren with them the night of April 3, 1881. The grandsons were Oscar Scholdberg (age 13), Charles Scholdberg (age 7), and James Jordan (age 1). These were their daughter Elizabeth's children from her marriage to Oscar Scholdberg and James Jordan. Neither Elizabeth nor her husband, James Jordan were in the household on census night. In England, people are delineated where they are on census night and not where they usually resided. Thus it is unclear if the grandchildren were just visiting or if their parents lived there also and went somewhere else that night.

"Dock labourers were employed casually by means of a "call-on" at the dock gates twice daily. There was a trade depression during the 1890s and men were called on or paid off at any time of the day. They were employed literally by the hour at a rate of 5d. per hour (4d. at Tilbury). In 1889 the dockers struck to get the "dockers tanner", i.e. 6d. per hour. The great dock strike began at the East and West India Docks on 14th August 1889 and ended on 15th September. The dockers got their 6d. an hour and 8d. an hour overtime. However, industrial unrest continued with blacklegs being brought in during strikes". [East of London Family History Society, Cockney Ancestor Publication No. 100, August 2003, extracted from Article by Jan Penney Page 13.] 5d. represents 5 shillings; a shilling being a twentieth of a British pound.

By the 1891 Census, Joseph (age 66) and Elizabeth (age 66) were still living at 20 Wade Street. On census night April 3, 1891, their son Harry Steward a stevedore laborer was there, and so was young James Henry Jordan, their grandson who was now age 11 and attending school. Again it is unknown where James and Elizabeth Jordan were. By 1891,

grandson Oscar Scholdberg (alias James Oscar Jordan) had left for Chicago, but Charles Scholdberg Jordan was still in Poplar, just not at 20 Wade Street that night.

On 23 October 1892, at the age of 67, Joseph had a sudden syncope from heart disease and passed away. He had been married to Elizabeth for 44 years. He was working as a rigger. Throughout his life he his occupations, included rigger (1848, 1867, 1876, and 1892), laborer (1851, 1891), stevedore laborer (1871) and dock laborer (1881). But rigging appears to have been his favorite.

Their Steward Children

As for the four Steward boys, it is believed that the oldest boy, Joseph immigrated to America. It was said that he lived in San Francisco, but never kept in touch with the family and was not heard from after the San Francisco earthquake in 1906.

The second boy, Charles Steward arrived in America about 1880, but may have immigrated to Montreal first. A Montreal Daily Star marriage notice announces a marriage on September 28, 1876 for Charles Hooper Steward, formerly of London and Miss Eveline Annie Mathers. Given the uniqueness of the name, it is likely this is our Charles Hooper Steward, though it would be useful to obtain the full certificate. Charles had at least one daughter, Alice who later lived in Chicago. Based on his arrival in both Montreal and the USA, Charles Hooper Steward appears to be the first Steward or Jordan family to immigrate to North America. Address data indicates, James Oscar Jordan was staying with him in 1890 in Chicago and possibly for years earlier.

No information is available on what happened to the third boy, William Steward but he is thought to have stayed in England. The fourth boy, Harry stayed in England and is thought to have been a Member of Parliament and to have had a son named Bill.

Off to America

Within a year after Joseph Steward's death, his wife Elizabeth, their daughter Elizabeth Priscilla Jordan, and two grandsons (Charles Jordan and James Jordan) chose to leave their ancestral home in Poplar to immigrate to Chicago. Husband James Jordan did not accompany Elizabeth and it is believed that she had again become widowed.

Elizabeth Jordan probably chose to immigrate to be with her son and brother Charles in Chicago. Both were working and sharing an apartment and Elizabeth probably had little money and had two teenage sons to care for. Elizabeth Steward probably chose to be with her daughter, although she had at least two sons in Poplar and two sons in America. Most likely it came down to being with a daughter all day long in her elder years rather than with a daughter-in-law.

Elizabeth Steward (age 67), Elizabeth Priscilla Jordan (46), Charles Jordan (19) and James Jordan (13) arrived in America on 18 August 1893 on the S.S. Britannic and then joined Charles Steward and James Oscar Jordan in Chicago. These two had been in Chicago for around a decade.

Upon their arrival, they all took in the 1893 World's Fair. They then all lived together and both Charles and James Henry got jobs.

At the time of their voyage, Elizabeth Steward was 67 years old; Elizabeth Priscilla Jordan was 46; and the two grandchildren, Charles Jordan and James Henry Jordan were ages 19 and 13.

For the 1900 Chicago census, Elizabeth Steward, now about 75, was living with her daughter Elizabeth Priscilla Jordan, age 53, her son Charles Steward, and her two grandsons Charles Jordan and James Henry Jordan at 1153 W. 13th Street in Chicago. They had pretty much stayed in the same neighborhood for years, occasionally moving up or down the block or crosswise to a side street. The only real change in the household was that James Oscar Jordan moved out with his marriage in December 1896, but he did live nearby in the same neighborhood, often on the same street.

Around 1904, James Henry Jordan moved to Madison and he was married in 1907. In 1907, the whole Jordan clan James O., Charles, and Elizabeth Jordan and Elizabeth Steward moved in with young James Henry in Madison and all the boys worked at the Northern Electric Company. Possibly jobs were tough that year in Chicago.

Elizabeth Steward who was in her young 80s was beginning to falter and about June 1907 she was put in the Dane County Poor House in Verona, a nursing home for the poor. She was senile and ill and 10 months later she died at age 83 on 12 April 1908 at the Dane County Poor House. She died of senility and pneumonia.

My grandfather remembered that he once visited his great-grandmother Steward in an old people's home. He remembered it being a long trip and by a big river. My grandfather, Herbert also remembered a long trip from Chicago as a young boy in and they had 7 flat tires. It is possible these remembrances are the same trip. Herbert would have been 10 years old in 1908.

Elizabeth lived a long life. Twice she was in the poor house. The first time was when she was young and an unwed mother and the second time was just before her death. In between, though, she had a long and successful marriage and raised five children. She is buried in an unmarked grave in Forest Hill Cemetery in Madison, Wisconsin. But through this genealogy project her memory has been restored and while she is far away from most of her children and grandchildren we do know a little about her life and its ups and downs that helped us become who we are.

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 2/6/2003

Modified: 7/11/2004, 1/27/2005, 12/6/2007, 1/14/2008

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Oscar and Elizabeth Scholdberg Chapters

Oscar's Early Years

Knut Oscar Scholdberg was born about 1837 in Sweden. Where in Sweden is unknown at this time but it was probably a port city. His father was Carl Johan Scholdberg was a tanner and it is presumed that Carl was a Swedish native.

Nothing is known of Knut's youth, except that he must have taken up sailing at a young age. He could have been in the Swedish Navy or merchant service beginning about 1855 during the glorious days of sail.

As the research continues on which ships, Knut sailed in the 1860s more will be added to this section.

He married Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway Steward in Poplar England in 1867.

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 2/6/2003

Modified: 12/20/2011

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway Steward's Early Years

Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway was born at the Poplar Union Workhouse on 27 February 1847. The workhouse was a place within communities for the old, the infirm, those looking for work, and unwed mothers. Unwed mothers would stay there before the birth. Later the mother might remain until she had a place to stay. The workhouses were sponsored by a group of churches in the area and by the government. Part of why it was a union of churches was to spread the costs around between the richer and poorer parishes.

In 1846, our unmarried Elizabeth Holloway at about age 20 became pregnant. She entered the Poplar Union Workhouse and had her baby there. Her daughter was named Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway and no father was listed on the birth registration, the surname being that of the mother. According to the custom of the times, Elizabeth Priscilla would keep the name Holloway as part of her name throughout life, and she was shortly renamed Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway Steward after her mother married in 1848.

Fortunately, our Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway was given a very unique middle name, which has been helpful in tracing her through the years. Possibly Priscilla is the name of one of her grandmothers. In fact sometimes the mother named an illegitimate child after the father's grandmother to help send a message toward marriage.

Sixteen months after young Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway was born at the Poplar Union Workhouse, Elizabeth Holloway married Joseph Steward at St. Mary's Stratford Bow. This was on 11 June 1848. A discussion of whether Joseph Steward was her father is contained in the Joseph and Elizabeth Steward chapter. He appears to have accepted her and it is probable that he is her father. In fact no data support otherwise.

A year after her mother married, little Elizabeth started having little brothers. There were four in all. First Joseph John Steward was born on 18 June 1849 at 13 Williams Street in Poplar. Then on 27 February 1851, another brother Charles Hooper Steward was born. This birth was at 12 Chrisp Street in Poplar. The 27th of February was the same date as Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway birth four years before. Elizabeth and her brother Charles may have bonded by their shared birthday, as they appear to have remained close throughout their lives.

On 23 August 1853, her brother William Robert Steward was born and on 22 March 1858 her brother Henry Steward was born. Little else is known about this period of Elizabeth's growing up. She did attend school, as she knew how to write, which is something her mother didn't know how to do. Her father continued to work at the docks and sometime before 1871 the family moved to 20 Wade Street where the Stewards would remain until Joseph's death in 1892.

Sometime in the mid-1860s, teenage Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway Steward met the man of her dreams, Knut Oscar Scholdberg. He was a sailor from Sweden but frequently sailed English ships and had frequent shore leave among the many East of London ports along the Thames.

Poplar was one of these ports and somewhere somehow he and Elizabeth met. The rest is history as they say, but you'll learn more in the next chapter.

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 2/6/2003

Modified:

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

The Oscar and Elizabeth Scholdberg Family

In 1867, Knut Oscar Scholdberg married my gg-grandmother, Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway Steward. She was 20 years old and he was about 30. It is not known how they met, but it is likely that they met around her hometown of Poplar. There were huge docks in Poplar built and run by the East India and West India companies. There were many ship arrivals and departures daily for destinations all over the world. The docks brought jobs to the locals such as loading and unloading the ships, and shipbuilding and repair. Elizabeth's father was a rigger, and one grandfather was a shipwright and the other a "trenail mooter", which is a maker of the wooden pegs. Poplar was considered very cosmopolitan as sailors and people from all over the world mingled and settled there. Thus the fact that she met a "foreigner" and married him would not be all that unusual given the makeup of the town. Oscar as he preferred to be known, was likely in and out of Poplar and nearby docks several times a year and when there, he would have time on his hands while his ship unloaded and reloaded. Hopefully when the ship records are found for the period before their marriage, there will be additional insights into where he was and when.

The marriage took place on 24 May 1867 at St. Mary's Stratford Bow. St. Mary's is just a few miles north of Poplar, the ancestral home of the Stewards during the mid-1800s.

Nine months after the marriage, the Scholdbergs had a little boy, my g-grandfather. He was born on 18 February 1868 and was named Joseph Canute Oscar Scholdberg. Presumably they named him Joseph after his grandfather Joseph Steward and Canute Oscar after his father Knut Oscar. Canute and Knut are considered the same name with variant spellings and the variation may be nothing more than how one record keeper spelled it versus another. Joseph would later prefer to be called Oscar as he was growing up, but more dramatically he changed his name to James Oscar Jordan when he came to America, but that is another story. At the time of young Oscar's birth, the family lived at 15 Oriental Street in Poplar, a short distance from 20 Wade Street where Elizabeth's parents lived. Four months after young Oscar's birth, he was baptized at All Saints, Poplar and the family had moved to 44 Suffolk Street which was about 1/2 mile to the north of Oriental Street.

At the time of their marriage, Oscar was a merchant mariner, generally on English ships embarking from various London ports such as London Docks or Victoria Docks near his home in Poplar. Sometimes during the winter months, he would find other work. When his son was born in February 1868 he was worked as a sail maker. The sea provided a good wage and that was the preferred work, but it wasn't always possible to get the work depending on the weather or the availability of ships. At times, Oscar would travel north to Shields, over a hundred miles to sign on for voyages.

A detailed list and associated extracts of The Voyages of Oscar Scholdberg are located elsewhere. However, a few of his voyages and highlights are mentioned below. And though his first known voyage was

in 1867, the evidence suggests he may have been at sea since 1852 and it is hoped that with time, more voyages will be discovered.

Beginning in late June 1867, Oscar began the first of at least a dozen voyages on the *Cella of Waterford*, a combined steam and sail passenger ship. The *Cella of Waterford* was almost 300 feet long and about 34 feet wide and had one funnel and three masts and had a speed of about 10 knots. There was room for over 500 passengers in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd classes. During the period Oscar was part of her crew, the *Cella of Waterford* sailed from London to Harve, France to New York and back to London before the cycle started again. The round trip varied in time but was generally about 2 months given time in New York and London to off load, collect passengers and refresh for the approximately 3 week journey across the Atlantic. Oscar regularly sailed on the *Cella of Waterford* until at least March 17, 1870 though it could have been even longer, or even earlier than June 1868 as complete records have not yet been obtained.

The June 27, 1868 voyage was just six days after his son, Joseph Canute Oscar Scholdberg, who we know as James Oscar Jordan was baptized at All Saints in Poplar. For this voyage, Oscar signed as an Able Bodied Seaman and his wages were 4 pounds a month. Duties were not specified but there were sails to be raised, turned, repaired, and the ship needed to be steered, docked and undocked, and watches along the way for other ships.

Oscar must have done well as by his third voyage, beginning October 15, 1868 he signed as one of three 2nd Master. A 2nd Master appears to be a supervisory position whereby the 2nd Master interfaces between the men (Able Bodied Seamen) and the Master and the Mate who were the ships highest rated personnel. It is said that it wasn't the easiest of jobs as it was hard to manage men you were just part of and had to now work directly with the Mate and Master.

With the October to December 1868 voyage completed, Oscar signed on again as the 2nd Master on the December 12, 1868 *Cella of Waterford* voyage to New York. However, on this voyage, there were a number of incidents one of which affected Oscar. First, before the *Cella of Waterford* even left Victoria Docks in London, the Storekeeper drowned when he fell into the dock. Then 12 days before reaching London, one of the other 2nd Masters died of inflammation and hemorrhage of the lungs and was committed to the deep. They finally reach New York on January 16, 1869. But on January 26 with the *Cella of Waterford* ready to sail back, Oscar Scholdberg along with two others were left behind as being too ill to proceed. They all had small pox! Whether he caught it on the way, or in New York port or from the deceased 2nd Master is unknown.

It is possible that he was then sent to the "Smallpox Hospital" on Blackwell's Island, now called Roosevelt Island located in the East River between Manhattan and Queens. This is where New York City sent and quarantined their smallpox patients between 1856 and 1875, and the ruins of the hospital are still visible.

While it is unknown how he and the others got back to London, he obviously did as he signed on as an Able Bodied Seaman on the April 7th 1869 for an April 10th voyage on the *Cella of Waterford* out of London. Most likely, he returned when the *Cella of Waterford* returned to New York in mid-March arriving back in London on April 7th.

What a difficult period it must have been for his young wife of two years, Elizabeth Priscilla at home with their one year old son. The *Cella* arriving on February 10th without Oscar and tales from the crew of his life threatening illness and being left behind thousands of miles away. Then the long two month wait while the *Cella* sailed to New York again and waiting to find out what happened. But ultimately he did make it back. However, because of lost wages, he signed on immediately and probably only saw his wife and son briefly before going off again for New York.

Oscar was again 2nd Master for the June, August, and October 1869 voyages of the *Cella of Waterford* to New York, having recovered from small pox. However, something must have happened on the October voyage, as his position was now Steerage Steward with significantly reduced pay for the December 4th 1869 and the follow-on January 1870 voyages to New York.

In total, Oscar was 2nd master for five voyages on the *Cella of Waterford* and on the December 4th voyage he took a pay reduction from 4 pounds 10 shillings to 3 pounds per month. It is not clear why this occurred or why such a major change in position as he was well qualified to be an Able Bodied Seaman. On the October voyage there was a new Mate, Jonathan J. Scott and perhaps there was a falling out between them or perhaps Oscar thought he could make it up on tips, though steerage passengers probably did not tip well, or perhaps he was injured and couldn't perform seaman duties. But the fact was, he took this reduced position for at least these two voyages and perhaps more.

On 27 March 1870, Oscar and Elizabeth's 1st daughter was born. They named her Mary Elizabeth Scholdberg, partially after her Grandmother Elizabeth Steward, but also after little Mary's mother. By April 1871, Oscar had moved the family to 23 Follett Street, East Bromley, about a half mile to the east of their Suffolk address. It was here the family was recorded in the 1871 census on 2 April as Oscar completed the winter working as a stevedore laborer loading the ships.

With the weather warming and the higher pay at sea, Oscar joined the crew of the *Fenella of London* on 12 April 1871 for a voyage to the Black Sea. There were stops in Malta, Tanganrog, Ukraine, and Antwerp; arriving back in England at Shields, way north of London on the 10th of July.

While he was away, there appears to have been a family emergency. On 7 May 1871, while Oscar was away, Elizabeth Priscilla had little Mary Elizabeth, now one year old, baptized at All Saints, Poplar. And shortly thereafter, the new baby passed away. Unfortunately, Oscar missed both the baptism and the passing of his baby daughter.

Elizabeth was pregnant though and on 12 August 1871, Oscar and Elizabeth's 2nd son was born at their home at 23 Follette Street. They named him Charles Edward Scholdberg, likely after Elizabeth's brother Charles Steward and possibly after Oscar's oldest brother Carl Eduard. Little Charles Scholdberg had a short life though and died at 7 months of pneumonia on 19 March 1872.

With the coming of warm weather, Oscar was off to sea again, and on the 5th of March 1872, he signed on with the *S.S. West of Liverpool* at Shields for a voyage to Spain. Unknown to him was the death of his son Charles on the 19th of March as they were on their way, arriving in Bilboa on the 24th of March. There was a return to Shields on the 6th of April and then off again. Then on the night of the 13th May 1872 near the Ile de Batz off the coast of Brittany, the 380-ton, 80-horsepower *West of Liverpool* struck the French schooner, the *Isabella*. The sea was rough and most certainly Oscar was among the men sent out in small boats to rescue the French crew and captain. They then attempted to rescue the numerous wine barrels on her, but the sea was too rough and they gave up. The *Isabella* then sunk and the French crew was dropped off at Dover on the 15th of May 1872. It appears that Oscar discharged also at Dover. Perhaps Oscar caught a chill or became ill with the rescue attempt and needed to recuperate or perhaps by then he was aware of the death of his son.

On 30 September 1873, Oscar and Elizabeth had a 3rd son who they also named Charles, but this time Charles Albert Scholdberg. No ancestors named Albert have been discovered and later in life Charles seemed to prefer the initial "H". The Charles Steward he was named after used the middle name Hooper, so perhaps he wanted to use the same middle name as his namesake uncle. At the time of young Charles' birth, the family lived at 3 Wade Street in Poplar, just down the street from 20 Wade Street where Elizabeth's parents lived, perhaps a convenience given Oscar's long time away from home while he was at sea.

Then on 23 July 1875, Oscar and Elizabeth had another daughter. They called her Elizabeth Ada Scholdberg most likely after her Grandmother Elizabeth Steward, but also after her mother Elizabeth Priscilla. Her little sister Elizabeth had already died and perhaps the family wanted a daughter named Elizabeth. No ancestors named Ada have yet been discovered though it is possible one of the grandmother's names. The family now lived at 4 Wade Street in Poplar, again down the street from Elizabeth's parents at 20 Wade Street. Unfortunately, little Elizabeth only lived a little over 4 years and died 11 December 1879 of phohisis, a lung disease, possibly a form of tuberculosis.

Although they had lost two young children, Charles Edward and Elizabeth, progress in life was going pretty well for the family in these early years. Oscar was finding work and was making a good wage. He, of course, was away for many months at a time, but his meals came free and he was a step up the wage from the "able body seamen" class. They had two boys and a new daughter and the Steward grandparents were nearby.

Then in 1875, disaster struck. On 29 September 1875, Oscar joined the *S.S. West of Liverpool*, a ship he had sailed on many times. The *S.S. West* was an iron steamship. Oscar contracted as a donkey engine driver for wages of 5 pounds a month, one pound higher than he had received as an "able bodied seaman" in earlier years. The donkey engine was a device used to hoist the cargo in and out via a steam engine and a system of pulleys. On 19th October, the ship arrived in Mogador, Morocco. Mogador is the former name for Essaouira, a city on the Atlantic coast west of Marrakesh. At Mogador, Oscar was busy unloading and loading cargo, but probably he and crew mates had some time on their hands, as they were their 12 days getting the cargo together. Finally on 1 November the *West of Liverpool* left Mogador for the next port. They arrived in Alexandria on 14 November 1875 ready to unload trade goods and pick up new ones.

It was at Alexandria that Oscar had a heart attack. He was taken to the hospital and died on 15 November 1875. His possessions, probably a seaman bag of clothing and personal effects traveled with the *West of Liverpool* as it continued its voyage. The ship returned to Shields on 15 December and then onto one of the London Docks. His final wages were paid to the Superintendent in Alexandria with arrangements to be collected in London. In January 1876 his father-in-law Joseph Steward collected his possessions and wages from the Superintendent in London.

The ships records indicate the Oscar was 39, though he was probably a year younger. He was still a young man with a young family. He and Elizabeth were only married 8 years and the boys were still very young and there was a daughter only a few months old. Young Oscar was seven, Charles was only two, and baby Elizabeth was 4 months. Life would now change for Elizabeth, a woman of 28 with 3 young children and no support for housing or food. Elizabeth must have loved him dearly though, and years later in the Chicago Directories, she often chose the entry "widow Oscar" for her husband of long ago.

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 2/6/2003

Modified: 7/12/2004, 1/31/2005, 12/6/2007, 2/8/2008, 12/20/2011

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

James and Elizabeth Jordan Chapters

The James and Elizabeth Jordan Family

On 16 November 1876, Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway Scholdberg married James Jordan at St. Mary Stratford Bow. It was exactly one year and a day after Oscar had died and the year and a day was a custom on the time one should wait to be remarried after being widowed. She brought two young sons and a baby girl into the marriage. The marriage certificate provides few details about James except that his father was John Jordan, a farmer, and that James was a donkey engine driver. This occupation was the same as Oscar on his last voyage and suggests that perhaps Oscar and James worked together or learned the trade together. There were two male witnesses on the marriage record, possibly suggesting that these were friends of Oscar.

On 27 December 1879, James and Elizabeth had their only child, which they named James Henry Jordan. It appears they name him after his father and after Elizabeth's brother Harry. At the time of young James' birth, the family lived at 4 Wade Street in Poplar, a short distance from 20 Wade Street where Elizabeth's parents lived and nearby to where Elizabeth had lived with Oscar. Thus the children Oscar and Charles continued to live in the same neighborhood after their father's death.

Sadly just 16 days before James Henry Jordan was born, 4 year old Elizabeth Ada Scholdberg died of phohisis, some sort of lung disease, possibly a form of tuberculosis. It happened on 11 December 1879. She was only 4 years old and never knew her father Oscar Scholdberg.

In 1881, a census year, James and Elizabeth were not to be found. However, the three children Oscar Scholdberg, Charles Scholdberg, and James Henry Jordan were at their grandparent's home at 20 Wade Street. In England, on census night, people are enumerated where they are at the moment and not necessarily where they live. Thus the kids could have been visiting for a day or a month while James and Elizabeth were elsewhere. The 1881 Census is indexed, but James and Elizabeth have yet to be found.

In 1891, a census year, James and Elizabeth were not found again. Their son James Henry was at their grandparent's home at 20 Wade Street, but Charles was missing. It is unfortunate that James and Elizabeth Jordan could not be found in 1881 and 1891. As a result, there is no information about the age or origins of James Jordan.

In October 1892, Joseph Steward died at about age 68. He was still working to support the family. It is suspected that about this time, James Jordan also died, although it is possible that there was a divorce. Unfortunately, James Jordan is a pretty common name, so it has been hard to verify if any of the many James Jordans that died around then was our James Jordan.

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 2/6/2003

Modified: 1/31/2005

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Our Families in America

Elizabeth Priscilla Jordan Chapters

Coming to America

With the death of Joseph Steward in October 1892 and the death or divorce of James Jordan, Elizabeth P. Jordan and her mother were on their own. In addition, there was still young James Henry, age 13 and Charles age 19. There was rent to pay and groceries to be purchased. In addition, Poplar by the 1890s had become severely overcrowded, less healthy and a hotbed of activists marching and demonstrating about the various social ills. In the late 1880s, there had been riots as part of one of the demonstrations. It was not the rapidly expanding, growing community it was in the 1850s to 70s that Elizabeth grew up in.

Meanwhile, Elizabeth's brother Charles was in Chicago as was her oldest son Oscar. Chicago was experiencing rapid growth in the 1890s and was a beckoning point for people all over the world. There were jobs in many industries and the 1893 World Columbian Exposition was about to take place. Huge areas of the city were being transformed for the event, along with the building of new subway lines and buildings. Most likely Elizabeth had been in touch by mail with her son and brother and a decision was made to pull up stakes and move to Chicago to consolidate their remaining family.

In the summer of 1893, Elizabeth Jordan age 46, sons Charles age 19 and James Henry age 13, and Elizabeth Holloway in her sixties, packed and left Poplar by rail for Liverpool. Here they boarded the *S. S. Britannic* for its regular run to New York. The *Britannic* held over 400 passengers and had four huge smokestacks with auxiliary sails. There were different classes of travel but the Jordans were didn't have much money and traveled in steerage. The voyage took about a week and on or about August 18, 1893 the Statue of Liberty appeared on the horizon. They slowly approached, then went passed and turned left to dock at the newly opened Ellis Island. They were processed, had their money exchanged, took a short ferryboat and boarded trains for the journey by rail to Chicago.

In Chicago Elizabeth Jordan and family likely took a horse drawn streetcar a few miles west down 12th Street to 1469 Fillmore where her brother Charles and son, Oscar Jordan lived. Oscar had purchased a bicycle for young James Henry, which he used to drive to a new job in the Chicago Loop. In the later days of summer they took in the Columbian Exposition, the huge Ferris Wheel and settled in to their new life.

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 2/5/2003

Modified:

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Settling in Chicago

After Elizabeth Jordan, her mother Elizabeth Steward and her two boys Charles and James Jordan arrived in Chicago from Poplar they settled in with her son James Oscar Jordan and her brother Charles Steward. Although the data is a sketchy, it appears the family stuck together in the years to come. They moved up and down Fillmore and sometimes to a perpendicular street in the area. James Oscar moved away briefly after his marriage in December 1896, but then moved back to the same neighborhood. By the 1900 Census, the family was at 1153 W. 13th. Elizabeth was the head of household, son Charles and James lived with her as well as her brother Charles Steward. Elizabeth began entering herself in the Chicago Directory as "widow Oscar", perhaps a nostalgia for her first husband from a quarter a century before.

Around 1904, son James Henry Jordan, then 25 with mechanical and electrical abilities took an opportunity in Madison Wisconsin with the Northern Electric (N. E.) Company. He went back and forth for a while but finally settled in Madison and married there in 1907. He would spend the rest of his life in Madison. Around 1907, the whole family temporarily moved to Madison and got jobs at the N.E. Company. James H. Jordan as a patternmaker, Charles Jordan as a fireman, and a John O. Jordan, an alias we believe for James Oscar Jordan. Meanwhile Elizabeth Steward took ill while they were there and was put in the Dane County Poor House. She died on April 12, 1908.

My grandfather remembered that he once visited his great-grandmother Steward in an old people's home. He remembered it being a long trip and by a big river. My grandfather, Herbert also remembered a long trip from Chicago as a young boy in and they had 7 flat tires. It is possible these remembrances are the same trip. Herbert would have been 10 years old in 1908.

By late 1907, James O. Jordan had returned to Chicago. Elizabeth Steward's obituary also suggests that the others had returned to Chicago also. However, neither Elizabeth Steward nor Charles Jordan can be found there until about 1911. By 1911, Elizabeth Jordan and settled in the old neighborhood at 2049 W. 12th Street. And after his separation from Margaret in 1911, James Oscar Jordan moved in with his mother. It is thought that Charles lived there also.

Elizabeth was still at 2049 W. 12th for the 1920 Census and so was her son Charles. James O. Jordan was there in 1928 so it is likely that Elizabeth, James O. and Charles Jordan lived there from about 1912 to about 1930. In 1928, at age 75 she was working as a laundress with her son Charles at 62nd and Wentworth, quite a ways away. Just before her death in 1931, the family moved around the corner to 1107 S. Robey.

To get orientated, Twelfth Street is the same as Roosevelt Road. On a map of Chicago, some of the old street names such as Grenshaw and Fillmore, and Damen (Robey) are still there. The area where they originally lived is generally around 12th Street (Roosevelt Road) and between the present day University of Illinois Chicago on the East and

University of Illinois Hospital on the west. The 2049 W. 12th is to the west of the University of Illinois Hospital and some of the old addresses may still exist.

On April 22, 1931, Elizabeth died at age 84 of cancer of the right breast. Her three sons and some of the grandchildren attended the funeral. My dad Edward and my Uncle Harold recall attending. She was later cremated at the Waldheim Cemetery in Forest Park, Illinois. It was the end of an era. She was the link with the Holloways, the Stewards, Knut Scholdberg, James Jordan, and the town of Poplar.

In 1992 I had the opportunity to submit names for the Centennial Edition of the American Immigrant Wall of Honor at Ellis Island. At the time, Ellis Island was being refurbished and turned into a National Park for its 100th anniversary in 1993. I recalled that Elizabeth Jordan was among the first arrivals there when it opened 1893. As a way of honoring her for her role in keeping the family together and getting all her family to America, I arranged for the *Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway Jordan* name to be inscribed on the *American Immigrant Wall of Honor* at Ellis Island. If you see it when you visit Ellis Island, say a little prayer for her. She had a difficult life. But she got us here and through her we became Jordans.

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 2/5/2003

Modified:

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

James and Margaret Jordan Chapters

James' Early Years

Our James Oscar Jordan was born as Joseph Canute Oscar Scholdberg at 15 Oriental Street in Poplar, England on the 18th February 1868. He was the first child of Oscar Scholdberg and Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway Steward and was likely named after his grandfather Joseph Steward and his father Knut Oscar Scholdberg. As a boy we think he was called Oscar, a name he used throughout his life.

His father, Oscar was born in Sweden but found work in England as a merchant seaman. He traveled extensively as a seaman and most likely met Elizabeth on shore leave while at the Poplar Docks, a major docking area for the East and West India Trading companies. In the early 1800s, Poplar was a newly settled area in the East End of London and had experienced rapid growth for many years due to the huge East and West India Company docks which provided employment for loading, unloading, repair and as crew for the many ships coming there. While the area was relatively poor, it was much better off than nearby Bethnal Green, a location Dickens used to obtain his material for his books.

In the 1870s, Poplar must have been a great place for a young boy to wander around to see the ships, the docks, the locks, the ship repairs at dry dock, the local characters and the taverns. Poplar was a cosmopolitan area and people, primarily sailors from all over the world settled and called it home. There was even a Chinese area and in fact young Oscar was born on Oriental Street.

His younger brother Charles was born in 1873 when Oscar was 5 and his father continued to work in the seaman's trade, taking long voyages on the new iron ships of the time and generally relaxing or picking up odd jobs over the cold winters. Young Oscar's grandparents Joseph and Elizabeth lived nearby and all went well until 1875. In the fall of that year on a voyage on the West to ports in the Mediterranean, Oscar Scholdberg at about age 38 died of a heart attack while in Alexandria. The date was 15 November 1875. Little Oscar was seven and Charles was two.

Life would now change for the young Scholdberg boys. What had been a small happy family with a dad regularly employed turned into a need for mom to remarry and find someone to take care of her and the boys. Within a year she married James Jordan, a donkey engine driver who worked on the docks. Three years later a third brother. James Henry Jordan was born to the new family on December 27, 1879.

During the spring 1881 Poplar Census, the three boys were living with their maternal grandparents, Joseph and Elizabeth Steward at 20 Wade Street in Poplar. James and Elizabeth Jordan though were not there that night and have yet to be found. In England, the register enumerates individuals where they actually were on census night and not at their normal place of abode. On that night, young Oscar, age 13 and his brother, Charles, age 7 were still using the name Scholdberg. This was

not unusual given that they were stepsons, but what was unusual was that they both later started using the Jordan surname.

There must have been tensions in the household between young Oscar and his step-dad or he got into some kind of trouble. Because between 1882 and 1886 (age 18), young Oscar immigrated by himself to Chicago where he likely stayed with his Uncle Charles Steward who had immigrated to Chicago a few years before.

Oscar prospered and by 1890 at age 22, he was an electrician in this newly thriving industry and had been raised to the status of Master Mason with the Masonic Lodge in Chicago. He had also changed his name to James Oscar Jordan. When the change was made is not clear and may have taken place when he immigrated. Why he changed is not known and why he chose James, his brothers and stepfather's name is even more unclear.

Our young James must have liked Chicago and he must have suggested that his mother come also. In August 1893, his mother, grandmother and two brothers left Poplar and immigrate to Chicago. His Grandfather Joseph Steward had died the previous fall and James Jordan was not with them so either Elizabeth had divorced him or he had died also. The new family settled in the Douglas Park area with James Oscar and probably Charles Steward. James Oscar bought his young brother a bicycle, which he rode to work in the Chicago loop. There are pictures of the family from this era and it appears that for the first time in years all was going well for them.

In this time period James Oscar met Margaret Jane Knowles and they were married in 1896. How they met is unclear as they both lived in different Chicago neighborhoods. One possibility was they met in the Chicago loop, a focal point for jobs in the area. Young Margaret was ten years younger than our James.

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 9/16/2002

Modified:

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

James and Margaret Jordan's Family

James Oscar Jordan and Margaret Jane Knowles married December 30, 1896 in Chicago. James was 28 and Margaret was 18. Rev. H. Frances Perry, a Baptist minister living at 513 62nd Street, perhaps from the Englewood Baptist Church performed the marriage. It appears that James moved from his family's West Side neighborhood in the Douglas Park area to 837 W. Garfield shortly after the marriage. This new locale is about a mile west of 5734. Wabash where Margaret's father William Knowles, stepmother, Sarah and siblings Muriel and Wilfred lived. A few months later on March 24, 1897, William Knowles, Margaret's father died of tuberculoses. He had been ill for some time. Later in 1897 James and Margaret moved back to the Douglas Park area to 1453 Fillmore to stay with James' brother and mother.

On July 24, 1898, their first child, Herbert Arthur Jordan was born and shortly afterward James, Margaret and young Herbert moved a couple of doors down the street to 1467 Fillmore where they had their own apartment. Meanwhile his mother, brothers and uncle moved to nearby 1153 W. 13th Street.

James and Margaret had five children, four boys and a girl. They were:

1. Herbert Arthur Jordan, my grandfather, born July 24, 1898 at 1453 Fillmore Street in Chicago.
2. Francis Florence Jordan born about 1900 at 1467 Fillmore Street in Chicago.
3. Edward A. Jordan born about 1902 probably at 2100 Grenshaw Street in Chicago. It is thought that the middle name is Arthur.
4. Charles J. Jordan born October 16, 1903 probably at 2100 Grenshaw Street in Chicago. It is thought that the middle name is Joseph, possibly after his g-grandfather Joseph Steward.
5. Arthur S. Jordan born about 1904, possibly at 7412 Wentworth Street, Chicago

An attempt was made to find the birth registration for my grandfather, Herbert Jordan. Birth registrations were not required before 1916 in Illinois but sometimes a delayed registration is filed. Herbert filed a delayed registration in 1942 and that record was found. An attempt was also made to find Arthur S. Jordan's birth registration but no registration was found at all. Because there records were not usually filed in Illinois for these early years, it was decided not to pursue the birth registrations of the other Jordan children; however, they might be there.

One of the reasons the Arthur S. Jordan birth registration was of interest was the middle initial "S". It was hoped that it might be Scholdberg or Steward. It is not known why the family used the names Herbert, Arthur, Francis, Florence and Edward as none of these names are in the previous

family history. Most likely the parents just liked the names or they were popular at the time.

Around 1904, the Jordans moved from the old neighborhood in the Douglas Park area to south of the stockyards closer to where Margaret's parents lived in the late 1890s. For a number of years beginning in 1907 they lived at 5746 S. State. However, also in 1907, James' mother and brother Charles left Chicago to live in Madison and it appears James joined them under the alias John. This may have been one of the rumored periods when James left his family for a while.

In 1910, James and his family moved to 7237 Vincennes. They lived there for two years and this was their home during the 1910 Census and the last home they lived as a family before the separation. The Jordans had two boarders when the census was taken. These were Muriel Woodbury and Robert Graham. Muriel was Margaret's sister who was then separating from her husband of five years Robert Woodbury. She would later marry William Leonhardt. The other boarder, Robert Graham, remained a friend to Margaret throughout the decade and they were eventually married in 1920 after a decade of hardship after her 1911 separation from James.

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 9/16/2002

Modified:

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Separation and Divorce

When I began my genealogy research in the mid-1970s, my father thought that either his grandparents James and Margaret Jordan and/or his g-grandparents James and Elizabeth Jordan were divorced. As a result a request for information on a possible divorce of James and Margaret Jordan was sent to the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery and Divorce Division on September 3, 1976. The Circuit Court responded on December 15, 1976, that they had on record a case being filed for James and Margaret Jordan, but that it was dismissed on February 3, 1915. The reason for the dismissal was that time has passed and nothing was done about formalizing the divorce so the Judge dismissed the case. The case file number was 309740.

Subsequently, copies of the following documents were obtained from their file and later transcribed to provide convenient reading for interested parties.

1. [Bill of Complaint](#), November 8, 1911
2. [Sworn State for Bill of Complaint](#)
3. [Authorization for Injunction](#)
4. [Writ of Injunction](#), November 9, 1911
5. [Chancery Summons](#), November 9, 1911

In November 1911, Margaret left the Jordan home at 7237 South Vincennes with her five children. In her complaint, she was seeking to keep her husband James from taking away her children and her furniture. It is unknown where she went but in 1914 she lived at 6633 Wentworth in Chicago. The address listings provide other listings for this time period, and they were generally in the same area of Chicago.

The complaint is rather lengthy but provides interesting insights into life in the Jordan household in the early 1900s.

Bill of Complaint

Perley H. Bishop

100 Washington St. Chicago

TO THE HONORABLE THE JUDGES

OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF

COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,

IN CHANCERY SITTING:

The complainant, Margaret J. Jordan, exhibits this her Bill of Complaint against James O. Jordan, whom she hereby makes party defendant to this Bill of Complaint and complaining states:

That she now is, and for more than one year next proceeding the filing of this Bill of Complaint has been an actual bona fide resident of the State of Illinois.

That on the 30th day of December, 1896, she was married to said defendant at Chicago, Illinois, and thereafter, except as hereinafter stated, lived with him as his wife, and during all of said period said Complainant conducted herself toward her said husband as a true and faithful wife.

That five children were born of said marriage; that their names and ages are as follows: Herbert, aged thirteen years, Frances F., aged eleven years, Edward A., aged nine years, Charles J., aged eight years, and Arthur S., aged seven years.

That since said marriage between said Complainant and said defendant said defendant has been guilty of extreme and repeated cruelty toward said Complainant; that in August, 1911, the said defendant, without any cause, became angry at this Complainant, and struck her violently with his fist; that again, on or about September 25, 1911, the said defendant, without any just cause, became angry at said Complainant and struck her violently with his fist; that on the 25th day of October, 1911, the said defendant became angry at complainant without any just cause and struck her upon the head with a chair; that as a result of said last mentioned assault the said Complainant was severely injured upon and about her head and body and her eye was blackened and remained so for some time thereafter; that at [divers] other times since their said marriage the said defendant, without any just cause, has beaten, struck, kicked and otherwise treated Complainant with cruelty and violence; that at all times when said defendant struck Complainant as aforesaid, and at other times, he used toward her profane, insulting and abusive language.

That for several months last past the said defendant has neglected and refused to furnish Complainant and her children with sufficient food for their nourishment and sustenance; that he is capable of earning, and has earned and received, during the greater part of their married life, wages amounting to about Eighty Dollars per month, and has been, and is now, well able to properly care for and support his family.

That all of said children have been attending the public schools in Chicago; that during the last term of school the said defendant neglected

and refused to buy books for some of said children and as a result thereof they were not permitted to attend school and were sent home by their teachers several times; that by reason of said defendant's failure to properly support and maintain Complainant and her said children Complainant has been compelled to seek employment and for several months last past she has been engaged in playing a piano at nickel theaters; that her employment take her away from home during the evening and at such times she has left said children at home with said defendant; that on several occasions during the months of August, September and October, 1911, while Complainant was away from home and at work, the said defendant has gone to bed early in the evening and left said children alone and permitted them to run at large and play upon the public streets until late at night without any care or protection whatever, until the neighbors took charge of them.

That said defendant has also refused and neglected to pay the rent for the premises where the family has been residing, and as a result thereof the landlord has caused a five days notice to be served upon him to the effect that if said rent was not paid within five days their tenancy would terminate and they would be compelled to move elsewhere.

That a part of the furniture in their home was purchased upon the installment plan and the deferred payments were secured by chattel mortgage thereon and the defendant has neglected and refused to pay such installments and several of them are now due and unpaid, and the mortgagee threatens to foreclose said mortgage if such payments are not made.

That for several months last past the said defendant has been greatly interested in Spiritualism; that he frequently mutters and talks to himself and pretends to be in constant communication with the shade of a departed Indian through the medium of which he communicates with the spirits of departed friends; that he has endeavored to teach his children the mysteries of Spiritualism and to make them so called mediums and has told them that each one of them was being followed, controlled and guided by the shade of a departed Indian, and as a result thereof said children have become frightened, nervous and excitable.

That several times during the past few months said Complainant has remonstrated with defendant for his failure to provide for his family and has protested against the spiritualistic doctrine which said defendant has endeavored to teach the children as aforesaid, and has told him that if he did not act differently she would be compelled to leave him and take the children with her; that said defendant has several times informed Complainant that if she attempted to do anything of that kind he would take the children away from her and place them where she would never see them again.

That after defendant assaulted Complainant on the 25th day of October, 1911, as aforesaid, and by reason of the conduct of said defendant as hereinbefore alleged, Complainant endeavored to find a place where she could go with her children so that she and the children would be removed from the improper influences and conduct of said defendant, and on the

7th day of November, 1911, Complainant took her furniture from the premises where she had been living with defendant as aforesaid, and she and the said children are now living in another part of the city in a house rented by Complainant where she can properly care for, nourish and educate said children.

That Complainant has no money or property, except the household furniture as hereinbefore alleged, and the her only income is derived from her employment as a piano player as aforesaid, and that her income therefrom does not exceed Ten Dollars per week; that said amount is insufficient to properly care for, maintain and support herself and her children.

That said defendant is a strong, healthy man, and earns about Eighty Dollars per month as aforesaid, and is well able to care for and support his said family.

That Complainant fears that as soon as said defendant learns her whereabouts he will take said children away from Complainant as he has many times threatened he would do, as hereinbefore alleged, and she also fears that he will assault and beat Complainant and take said household furniture away from her unless he is restrained from so doing by the order and injunction of this Honorable Court.

WHEREFORE Complainant prays that the said defendant may be required to make full, true and direct answer to this Bill of Complaint, but not under oath, his oath to such answer being hereby waived.

That pending the hearing of this cause the said defendant may be restrained by the order and injunction of this Honorable Court from taking, or attempting to take, any of said children from the custody of said Complainant and from in any manner interfering with the said children or with Complainant, and from interfering with, or attempting to interfere, with Complainant's, possession of the household furniture hereinbefore mentioned.

That during the pendency of this suit said defendant may be ordered and directed to pay said Complainant a reasonable sum as alimony for the support and maintenance of herself and her said children, and also a reasonable sum for Complainant's solicitors fees in and about said cause.

That upon the final hearing hereof said Complainant may be divorced and forever freed from the bonds of matrimony now existing between herself and said defendant, and that said defendant may be required to pay to Complainant, as permanent alimony, a reasonable sum for the support and maintenance of herself and said children, and also a reasonable sum for her solicitors fees in and about the prosecution of this cause.

Complainant further prays that a writ of summons may be issued directed to the Sheriff of said County of Cook commanding him that he summon said defendant, James O. Jordan, to appear before the said court upon the first day of the November, 1911, term thereof to be held at the courthouse in Chicago, in said County of Cook, then and there to answer this Bill, etc., and that a writ of injunction may be issued without bond, directed to

said defendant, restraining him from taking, or attempting to take, any of said children from the custody of said Complainant and from in any manner interfering with the said children or with Complainant, and from interfering with, or attempting to interfere, with Complainant's possession of the household furniture hereinbefore mentioned, until the further order of the court herein; and for such other, further, or different relief in the premises as equity may require and to your Honors may seem meet and proper.

Margaret J. Jordan

Complainant

P.H. Bishop

Solicitor for Complainant

Sworn Statement for Bill of Complaint

STATE OF ILLINOIS

COUNTY OF COOK

Margaret J. Jordan being first duly sworn, upon her oath deposes and says that she is the Complainant in the above entitled cause; that she has read the foregoing Bill of Complaint by her subscribed and knows the contents thereof; that the statements therein made are true of her own knowledge.

Affiant further says that by reason of the violent temper and threats of said defendant, as alleged in said Bill of Complaint, said Complainant fears that if said defendant is notified of the application of Complainant for a divorce and for an injunction before the same is issued, he will attempt to take her children from her possession and will endeavor to take said furniture from her and will assault and abuse her.

WHEREFORE affiant says that the rights of affiant as Complainant in said Bill will be unduly prejudiced if said injunction is not issued immediately and without notice to said defendant.

Affiant further says that she has no money or income, other than as alleged in said Bill of Complaint, and has no friends or acquaintances who are the owners of property whom she can ask to sign her bond herein as surety, and for those reasons affiant is unable to furnish an injunction bond.

Margaret J. Jordan

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8th day of November, 1911.

E. C. Keopf

Notary Public

Authorization for Injunction

MARGARET J. JORDAN

vs

JAMES O. JORDAN

309740

Upon reading the Bill of Complaint and accompanying affidavit, heretofore filed herein, it is ordered that a writ of injunction issue in the above entitled cause as prayed in said Bill of Complaint, without notice to said defendant and without bond.

Charles M. Walker

Judge

Writ of Injunction

INJUNCTION WRIT-Circuit Court

STATE OF ILLINOIS

COOK COUNTY

The People of the State of Illinois:

To: JAMES O. JORDAN

and your Attorneys, Solicitors, Agents and Servants, and to each and every of them, GREETING:

WHEREAS, IT hath been represented to the Honorable the Judges of the Circuit Court of Cook County, in the State aforesaid, on the part of

MARGARET J. JORDAN

Complainant in HER certain bill of Complaint, exhibited before said Judges, and filed in said Court against you, the said

JAMES O. JORDAN

among other things, that you are combining and confederating with others to injure the complainant, touching the matter set forth in said bill, and that your actings and doings in the premises are contrary to equity and good conscience. And Honorable CHARLES M. WALKER one of said Judges, having entered an order that a Writ of Injunction issue out of said Court, according to the prayer of said Bill: We, therefore, in consideration thereof, and of the particular matters in said bill set forth, DO STRICTLY COMMAND YOU, the said

JAMES O. JORDAN

and the persons before mentioned, and each and every of you do absolutely DESIST AND REFRAIN FROM *taking, or attempting to take, any of said children from the custody of said Complainant and from in any manner interfering with the said children or with Complainant, and from interfering with, or attempting to interfere with Complainant's possession of the household furniture now in her possession, until the further order of the court herein* until this Honorable Court, in Chancery sitting, shall make order to the contrary. Hereof fail not, under penalty of what the law directs.

To the Sheriff of said County, to execute and return in due form of law.

Witness, JOSEPH E. BIDWILL, JR., Clerk of said Court, and the Seal thereof, at Chicago, aforesaid, this 9th day of NOVEMBER A.D. 1911

Joseph E. Bidwill Jr. Clerk

Chancery Summons

CHANCERY SUMMONS-Circuit Court

STATE OF ILLINOIS

COOK COUNTY

The People of the State of Illinois,

To the Sheriff of said County, GREETING:

WE COMMAND YOU THAT YOU SUMMON

James O. Jordan

if he be found in your County, personally to be and appear before the Circuit Court of Cook County, on the first day of the term thereof, to be holden at the Court House in the City of Chicago in said Cook County, on the third Monday of November A. D. 1911 to answer unto

Margaret J. Jordan in her certain Bill of Complaint filed in said Court, on the Chancery side thereof.

And have you then and there this writ with and endorsement thereon, in what manner you shall have executed the same.

WITNESS: JOSEPH E. BIDWILL, Jr., Clerk of our said Court, and the seal thereof, at Chicago, in said County, this 9th day of November A. D. 1911

Joseph E. Bidwill, Jr. Clerk

Summons for James Oscar Jordan

As a result of the complaint and summons, James Oscar Jordan was to appear in court on the third Monday of November to respond to the complaint and to begin divorce proceedings. However, James apparently decided to avoid the summons and the complaint.

On November 20, 1911, Sheriff Zimmer reported that James could not be found within the County. From a note on the file, it appears that around December 8, 1911, the sheriff had evidence that James was living with his mother at 2049 W. 12 St.

A second summons went out for James Oscar Jordan on January 26 to appear in court the third Monday of February 1912. Notes on the file indicate: that James could be found in the evenings at the rear of 2049 W. 12th Street, that he was possibly using an alias, and that he was living with his father. It is now known that his father had died when he was about 7 years old. A copy of the summons was delivered to James' mother, Elizabeth Jordan on February 2, 1912, as follows:

"Served this writ on the within named defendant James O. Jordan by leaving a copy for him at his usual place of abode with Elizabeth Jordan a member of his family, a person of the age of 10 years and upwards at the same time informing her of contents thereof, this 2nd day of February 1912, MICHAEL ZIMMER, Sheriff, By James Sedlak, Deputy."

No other records of an appearance or summons were found and it appears that James just ignored the summonses. The case, 309740, was eventually dismissed on February 3, 1915 by the Judge because there was no additional activity.

Margaret after 1911

After the November 1911 Complaint, Margaret and the five kids began to live on their own. According to Harold Jordan, my Grandfather Herbert was the oldest at age 13 and had to get a job and drop out of school to help support his mom and the other four kids. Grandfather Herbert Jordan taught himself to play the drums and accompanied his mom, Margaret on the piano at the silent movie theaters. According to family tradition, Margaret became the first licensed organist in the city of Chicago.

The Divorce

In his November 1977 letter, Chuck Jordan, son of James and Margaret Jordan wrote that his parents, James and Margaret were divorced in 1919. A request was then made in January 1978 for another search by the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County to find the divorce record for James and Margaret Jordan. With this new information the Circuit Court sent copies of the Divorce File 309740.

The documents obtained are as follows:

1. [Placita](#), June 19, 1919
2. [Divorce Decree](#), June 19, 1919
3. [Statute on Remarriage](#)

Placita

PLACITA-CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

STATE OF ILLINOIS

COOK COUNTY

PLEAS, before the Honorable *Anton T. Zeman* one of the Judges of the Circuit Court of Cook County, in the State of Illinois, holding a branch Court of said Court, at the Court House, in the City of Chicago, in said County, and State, on June 19, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and 19 and of the Independence of the United States of America, the one hundred and 43.

PRESENT:

The Honorable *Anton T. Zeman*

Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County

Maclay Hoyne State's Attorney

Charles W. Peters Sheriff

Attest: *A. W. Miller* Clerk

BE IT REMEMBERED, that heretofore, to-wit: On the 19th day of June A. D. 1919, the following among other proceedings were had and entered of record in said Court to-wit:

Divorce Decree

DECREE FOR DIVORCE
STATE OF ILLINOIS

COOK COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

May Term, A. D. 1919

MARGARET J. JORDAN

vs.

JAMES O. JORDAN)

NO. B-50449

This day came again the said Complaint by BUELL, BISHOP & OGDEN her Solicitors and it appearing to the Court that said Defendant has had due notice of the pendency of this suit by *publication of notice once each week for four successive weeks, and that thirty days intervened between the first publication and the first day of the term at which the defendant's default was taken* according to the Statute in such case made and provided, that the default of said Defendant was taken and the Complainant's Bill of Complaint herein taken as confessed by said Defendant.

And the Court having heard testimony taken in open Court, in support of said Bill of Complaint (a certificate of which evidence is filed here in), and now being fully advised in the premises, doth find that it has jurisdiction of the parties hereto and the subject matter hereof; that the Complainant is and since prior to the filing of said Bill of Complaint has been an actual resident of Cook County, and has been a resident of the State of Illinois for over one whole year next before the filing of the Bill of Complaint herein; that the parties hereto were lawfully joined in marriage at Chicago, Illinois, on December 30, 1896;

that subsequent to their intermarriage the Defendant *James O. Jordan, in August 1911, pushed the complainant from the porch into the kitchen thereby bruising the complainant; and in September or October, 1911, he again twisted the complainant's wrists and pushed her up against the wall and thereby her wrist were made lame and sore; and in the latter part of October, 1911, he again struck complainant in the face with a chair thereby causing black and blue marks upon her face; and has been guilty of extreme and repeated cruelty* as charged in the Complainant's Bill of Complaint.

On motion of said Solicitor of the Complainant, it is therefore Ordered, Adjudged and Decreed, and this Court by virtue of the power and authority therein vested, and the Statute in such case made and provided, doth order, Adjudge and Decree, the bonds of matrimony heretofore existing between the Complainant MARGARET J. JORDAN and the Defendant JAMES O. JORDAN be and the same are hereby dissolved, and the same are dissolved accordingly.

The Court further finds that five children were born of said marriage; that three of said children named respectively Edward A. Jordan, Charles J. Jordan and Arthur S. Jordan are minors and that they are all living with complainant; that complainant is a suitable and proper person to have the custody of said children.

IT IS THEREFORE FURTHER ORDERED by the Court that said complainant do have the exclusive care, custody, control and education of said minor children.

Anton T. Zeman

Judge

June 19, 1919

Attached to the Decree was the following:

Statute on Remarriage

Section 1a--Chapter 40--Revised Statutes of Illinois

Remarriage within one year forbidden.

1a. That in every case in which a divorce has been granted for any of the several causes contained in section 1 of said act, neither party shall marry again within one year from the time the decree was granted; provided, when the cause for such divorce is adultery, the person decreed guilty of adultery shall not marry for a term of two years from the time the decree was granted; Provided, however, that nothing in this section shall prevent the persons divorced from remarrying each other; and every person marrying contrary to the provision of this section shall be punished by IMPRISONMENT IN THE PENITENTIARY FOR NOT LESS THAN ONE YEAR, NOR MORE THAN THREE YEARS, and said marriage shall be held ABSOLUTELY VOID.

Margaret's Divorce

With this decree, Margaret became officially divorced on June 19, 1919. As part of the divorce, Margaret was given custody of her younger children Edward about age 17, Charles about age 15, and Arthur S. about age 14. Her oldest child, Herbert was almost 21 and had married my Grandmother in 1918. Margaret's oldest daughter, Frances was about 20 years old and continued to live in Margaret's household.

One year after the divorce, on June 24, 1920, at age 42, Margaret married Robert Aaron Graham, age 45. R. Keene Ryan, a Presbyterian Clergyman was the minister. It is interesting to note that the marriage was just a few days more than the one year decreed by the divorce statute of the times, suggesting that the dormant divorce paperwork was prompted by a desire by Margaret to marry Robert Graham.

Robert was no stranger to Margaret as he was living in the Jordan household at 7237 Vincennes in the 1910 census as a boarder. This is the same location where the troubles with James Oscar took place as testified in her November 1911 Bill of Complaint. Robert was born between 1874 and 1880 and was thus about the same age as Margaret who was born in 1878. Whether Robert was a provocateur is not known but it is guessed as unlikely given the long time between 1911 and their marriage in June 1920 and the dormancy of the complaint for years. More likely Robert was a friend that knew her troubles and they kept in touch or lived nearby for years as she raised her children and supported herself. In the January 1920 census, shortly before their marriage, Robert is again shown as a roomer in Margaret's household now at 7007 Normal. Throughout this period Robert worked as a motorman for a streetcar company. Robert and Margaret went on to a long marriage and moved to California in the 1930s.

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 8/24/2002

Modified:

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

James Oscar Jordan in Chicago

After divorce proceedings began in November 1911, James also left the Jordan home at 7237 Vincennes and moved in with mother, Elizabeth Priscilla Jordan. Elizabeth had previously lived in Madison with her son James Henry and Charles and her mother, but it appears that sometime after her mother died in 1908 she returned to Chicago to live in their turn-of-the-century neighborhood near Douglas Park.

In November 1911, the Cook County sheriff was instructed to find James for his court appearance. There were several attempts and finally the sheriff left a summons at 2049 W. 12th with James' mother in December 1911. There were subsequent summons' to appear before the court but James ignored them all and nothing ever happened. In 1915, the Margaret's court complaint against James was dropped due to lack of activity. Nothing else might have happened but Robert and Margaret had become more than friends and decided they wanted to marry. In 1919, Margaret initiated divorce proceedings. As part of the proceedings, several notices were put in the Chicago newspapers requesting James' presence but either James ignored them or never saw them. After a lack of response, the divorce was granted on June 19, 1919.

The address record for James, his brother Charles, and his mother is sketchy but it appears that Elizabeth P. Jordan resided at 2049 W. 12th from about 1911 through at least 1928. Periodically sons Charles and James are shown to be living at the address with her and it is likely that they all lived together throughout this period. James continued to work as an electrician at the Conway Building in Chicago through this period while Charles had various jobs from fireman, laundry worker to electrician. Their 75-year old mother Elizabeth was a laundress in 1923. James O. Jordan was not found with his mother and brother in the 1920 census and was found only once in the Chicago Directories from 1912 to 1928. Thus he continued his pattern of trying not to be found by using name changes, not responding, or not providing misinformation.

By 1931, this small Jordan family had moved a few blocks to 1107 S. Robey, a location near today's University of Illinois, Chicago Campus. On April 1931, Elizabeth P. Jordan died at age 84. There must have been some contact with these original Jordans in the 1920s as my Uncle Harold Jordan recalled that his grandmother made a great fruit cake and my father and Harold recall going to her funeral. In fact my father remembered walking down a dark narrow corridor in her home on her funeral day.

Upon his retirement from the Conway Building, James moved in with his son Herbert at 6934 S. Throop Street in Chicago. This was in the mid-1930s when James was about 67 years old. Here he had his son build an upstairs addition. However, the arrangement was short lived and about 1936 Herbert asked him to leave. My dad recalled the place was always a mess with newspapers all over and his mother complained that she had to cleanup and take care of a father-in-law who was demanding, messy and not very nice to her. It is unclear whether James ever paid all the money he promised to have the addition built, but Herbert

rationalized it as compensation for ignoring his children financially after 1911.

After he left in 1936, there was little contact with James. My uncle Herb saw him on a street corner about 1940. His death certificate in 1947 indicates he was living at 6532 Maryland in Chicago. In 1947 at age 79 he was working as a stationary engineer at Marshall Fields and Co. in Chicago. It is thought that the Fields Co. owned the Conway Building, thus it appears James returned to his old company in his later years. Most likely the retirement money ran out, there was no family to support him and he needed to work.

At the end he depended on his membership in the Masonic organization and was admitted to the Illinois Masonic Hospital at 836 Wellington Avenue in Chicago on March 21, 1947 for his heart condition. He died a few days later on March 23, 1947 of myocarditis. He was 79 years old. Brother Charles took care of the funeral arrangements at Acacia Park Cemetery and Mausoleum. Brother James came down from Madison. However, it does not appear that any of James Oscar's children were aware of or came to his funeral and all were in California at the time anyway as none were mentioned in his obituary. James was cremated on March 26 and the ashes were sent to Mrs. Mildred Esterline at 6522 Maryland who lived a few houses down the street from James. During the 1940 Census, James Oscar Jordan boarded at Mrs. Esterline's apartment at 6522 Maryland. In fact, his 6532 address on the death record may well be a typo. What Mrs Esterline did with the remains is unknown, but one would suppose James wanted them sprinkled in a special spot.

So passed the man who gave us our Jordan name and who got us to America, Chicago and beyond. Without him, we would not be Jordans and might yet be living in England. Our James was born as Joseph Canute Oscar Scholdberg in 1868 in the dock area of Poplar England to a Swedish merchant sailor and his English wife. He was named after his grandfather Joseph Steward and his father Knut Oscar Scholdberg. All seemed to get off to a good start but his father died unexpectedly at a young age of a heart attack in Alexandria in 1875 when young Oscar was just 7 years old. Within a year his mother had remarried and he was a stepson to her new husband James Jordan. Young Oscar retained his Scholdberg name though in this new Jordan family. By the mid-1880s though, there must have been some household tensions with the new father-in-law and/or the increasingly rougher and poorer Poplar neighborhood and teenage Oscar Scholdberg left for Chicago, where he probably stayed with his Uncle Charles Steward. Here he started a new life, changed his name to James Jordan, learned the electrician's trade and was a Master Mason by 1890. In 1893 he brought over his mother, grandmother and younger brothers, opening up a new life for them. In 1896 he married young Margaret Knowles and they had 5 children. Unfortunately, James and family life did not agree. He left home and family a number of times, became involved in spiritualism, and fought with his wife and ignored his children. By 1911, his wife and children left him and he moved back in with his mother and brother. Throughout

this period though he maintained a good and steady job as electrician at the Conway Building (the Chicago Title and Trust Building at 111 W. Washington in the 1970s) and retired in the mid-1930s. Later he needed to return work to pay the bills. His life of not wanting to be found, creating aliases, providing misinformation makes all of us wonder about this man who got us to America and gave us our name.

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 9/16/2002

Modified: 11/23/2012

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Margaret Graham

Margaret raised her five kids after their separation in 1911. She was worked as a piano player and organist in the silent movie theaters of the time to support her family as James disappeared and provided no support. My grandfather Herbert had to quit high school to get a job to help her and he learned to play the drums to accompany her at the theaters. On June 19, 1919, Margaret finally divorced James after almost eight years of separation, and a year later on June 28, 1920 she married Robert Graham a friend over the decade whom had originally been a boarder in the Jordan household back in 1911.

After her marriage to Robert (Bob) Graham in 1920, Margaret and Bob continued to live in Chicago. Her son Herbert had married in 1918, but her other children Frances, Edward, Charles, and Art continued to live with her until their marriages. Frances married Ernest Hollingshead about 1922, Edward married Emelie, Charles married Josephine Michalene 13 Feb 1924, and Art married Myra. With the children on their own, she and Bob did some traveling. And sometime around 1933-34 she moved to California. There is an entry on her 1959 death certificate stating she lived in California for 37 years which suggests she moved there in late 1932 or early 1933. There is also a handwritten date of February 6, 1934. It is known that in 1933 she came back to Chicago on the train to attend the Chicago World's Fair. It's very possible that she and Bob visited California to try it out and came back to get their things before permanently moving in 1934.

She was the first of the Jordan clan to move to California and her move influenced many other Jordans to settle there. I believe her son Art moved with her or shortly thereafter. In the 1930s, son Edward and his children moved to California, and then in the early 1940s her son Herbert and Charles and their spouses also moved to California. Later some of the grandchildren including my uncles Harold and Herb also moved to California. Thus Margaret was the family leader in what later became a national trend to move to the Golden State. It is not known what prompted her to make the move but she was in her mid-50s, her family was grown and perhaps she and Bob while traveling had discovered the sunny and warm delights of an easier climate than Chicago for their golden years.

While in California, Margaret joined the Christian Scientists. She was fond of her sister Muriel who stayed in Chicago and she corresponded and sent her pictures. Margaret died at the Pine Tree Lodge Nursing Home in Glendale, California on April 20, 1959. At the time of her death she was 81. Near the end she spent some time being cared for in the homes of her sons Art and Herbert. She died of inflammation of the heart muscle, contributed to by arteriosclerosis. Her funeral service was held at the Wee Kirk o' the Heather (a replica of a Scottish Chapel) on Monday, August 24, at 11:30 am at the Forest Lawn Park in Glendale, California. Her cremated remains are inurned in Niche 19049 in the Columbarium of Consecration.

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 9/16/2002

Modified:

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Herbert and Elizabeth Jordan Chapters

The Herbert and Elizabeth Jordan Family

Herbert Jordan

Herbert Arthur Jordan was born at 1453 Fillmore Street, Chicago, Illinois on July 24, 1898. His father was James Oscar Jordan and his mother was Margaret Jane Knowles. James and Margaret were married December 30, 1896 in Chicago. Herbert's father was raised in Poplar England and came to Chicago in the mid-1880s. His mother was born in Montreal and immigrated with her family in the late 1880s. Herbert had three brothers and one sister. They were Florence (circa 1900), Edward (circa 1902), Charles (1903) and Arthur (circa 1904). When Herbert was young, the family lived in the same neighborhood he was born, which is now near the Chicago Circle Campus. Herbert's Grandma Jordan and Great-Grandma Steward and Uncle James Jordan lived nearby.

As the years went by, the marriage became strained and James Oscar was said to have left the family a couple of times. One his father went to stay with his half-brother James in Madison, Wisconsin. Things became worse and in November 1911, Herbert's mother took the children and left to be on her own. Herbert was 13 at the time and his youngest brother was 7.

This change of events had a significant affect on Herbert's life. He was unable to attend high school, as he had to go to work to bring in money for his mom and the younger children. He learned to play the drums and accompanied his mother who played the piano at the Nickelodeons and Silent Movies of the times. Herbert had an interest in formal boxing as a youth and of note is that in 1915 he boxed with Terrible Terry McGovern, the Lightweight Champ.

In 1916 Herbert became a clerk at Morris and Company. The company was later called Armour Co. and was a huge meat company in the Chicago Stockyards. Many of our Jordan, Page, Ulrich, and Gainowski relatives worked there. In 1917, Herbert was a cashier there. It was while he was at Morris and Company that he met his future wife, Elizabeth also a cashier.

Elizabeth Pajewski

Elizabeth Marie Pajewski was born 8 December 1895 in Chicago Illinois and she was baptized at St. Augustine on December 15th. Her parents John Pajewski and Anna Gainowski were married just a few years before in April 1893 and Elizabeth was their second child. Her older brother George was born in July 1894. Both her parents were German immigrants with Polish sounding names but in fact they were of German origin. They spoke German and had German culture and ways. Her father arrived in this country about 1885 and her mother had arrived the following year with her family. Her father was about 20 when he arrived and her mother was 15 when she arrived.

Elizabeth's brothers and sisters were George (1894), Wilhelm (1897), Anna Rosalia (1900), Edward (1902), Frederick (1904), Anna (1905), and John (1907). Unfortunately in 1908, baby John Jr. died at 8 months.

Initially Elizabeth lived with her parents in the same building with her Gainowski grandparents at 1540 W. 49th Place. Her family lived here quite a while but with the growing family it was time to move and in 1906 they moved to larger quarters at 6037 S. Hermitage. The family moved again in 1913 to 5950 Laflin, probably for more space.

It is thought that Elizabeth only finished grade school, which was typical for girls of the times. Assuming she was 13 when she graduated, the year would have been 1909. After that she went to work. From conversations with her, we learned that she worked in a sweater factory in downtown Chicago at age 14. This may have been her first job. She then worked in an ice cream factory in Chicago and then as a cashier in department store, possibly Carson's in the Chicago Loop where she sat in a big cage to collect the money. Later she was a cashier at Morris and Company (later called Armour Meat Company) and in 1917 a waitress. It was at Morris that she met her future husband Herbert who also worked there. The estimated year is about 1916. Perhaps he saw her each day while going for lunch and struck up a conversation and one thing led to another.

Herbert and Elizabeth Jordan

Herbert and Elizabeth were married on 21 Aug 1918 at St. Raphael in Chicago. Elizabeth's witness was her sister Rose and Herbert's witness was Charles Pettele, probably a friend. On their marriage application, Herbert made himself 21 instead of 20 and Elizabeth made herself 20 instead of 22. They continued this ruse of him being older throughout their lives as he would regularly say he was born in 1897 instead of 1898 and she would say she was born in 1898 instead of 1895.

Herbert was a WW I private from November 7, 1918 (the day of the false Armistice) to January 1919, possibly before. He was sent to Lookout Mountain near Georgia and trained as a cook. In the fall of 1918, he became sick with influenza (my grandmother called it "Swine Flu") just before he was to go overseas to be part of the Army of Occupation. This particular influenza was major and worldwide in scope and killed millions of people. Ed Jordan said that his father was flat on his back for six weeks and nearly died. Herbert, of course, survived and as a result never went overseas and he returned home to Chicago in January 1919. The heirs of Harold Jordan have the discharge papers with all the dates and locations.

During their courtship, Elizabeth insisted that Herbert become Catholic or she would not marry him. Herbert agreed and completed his Catholic religious instruction in Westover, Pennsylvania about 1917. It is not clear why this was in Westover or if he was baptized there. I thought he might have received his catholic instruction while posted with the army in Westover but other information indicates that he went into the army after his marriage. Possibly he did some early training there before went to

Lookout Mountain near Georgia. It is hoped that the discharge papers might clear some of this up.

Herbert and Elizabeth had three children, all boys. Harold was born in May 1919, Herbert in June 1920, and Edward in Sep 1922. The family moved many times throughout their lives and the boys once said that they moved 17 times. A listing of all known addresses can be found on the *Herbert and Elizabeth Jordan Address Page*.

Herbert had a variety of jobs throughout his life. Although they were relatively on the poor side and always moving one step ahead of the bill collector, my dad always said that Herbert always had a job. Unfortunately he would spend his money buying drinks for everyone at the bar or starting businesses that went bankrupt.

As follows is a partial list of Herbert's jobs. He was a bookkeeper at Morris and Company and also the Rock Island Railroad. This appears to be just after the war. In 1923 he was a machinist. And in 1923 he started a long run as a streetcar motorman from 1923-1935. Herbert also put basements under houses with John Page his father-in-law and Eddie Page, his wife's brother in the 1920s. Later Herbert started a couple of hamburger restaurants/stands in either the late 1920s or early 1930s. About 1935 he became a mailman until about 1942. In 1942 he temporarily moved to California and worked for a short time in a defense plant. He liked it there and came back to Chicago to get Elizabeth and they permanently moved there from Chicago. Shortly thereafter he became a self-employed home construction contractor in California. He continued in home construction for the rest of his life. As part of the contracting he would manage the job, hire subcontractors and do much of the carpentry himself. In the mid-1950s, he again got in trouble financially as many builders do and he went bankrupt again.

Restaurants

The hamburger restaurant businesses were at 69th Halsted and 63rd and Ashland. Herbert had his wife, Elizabeth cook the hamburgers. The business at 63rd and Ashland was a partnership with his brother Eddie. Herbert had trouble running his own businesses and he declared bankruptcy on one of these restaurant businesses in 1931. The other may have gone bankrupt also, although no record has been found. There was also a falling out with his brother Eddie over the business and Herbert felt that Eddie wasn't being careful with his share of the business.

The records for the 1931 bankruptcy have been obtained. They do not state the business but there are sheets of paper listing creditors and do imply that a business was involved. The bankruptcy was filed on February 24, 1931 and Herbert stated that he was a motorman in Chicago and that he lived at 7218 S. Hoyne. After that there were a long series of meetings with the bankruptcy referee and the creditors. There was money due for store fixtures, soda fountain fixtures and service, chinaware, a cash register, linen supply, ice cream equipment, gas, painting signs in the windows, dairy products, the building lease, and workers. These claims totaled \$8839.51. Some of these assets almost imply that it was an ice cream store or a soda fountain. Herbert listed his assets as two pieces

of front room set, upright piano, two beds, dining room and six chairs, overcoat and two suits of clothes all of which is subject to a Chattel Mortgage of an unpaid balance of \$260. He shows a net of \$100 in assets. On the 15th day of March 1932, the bankruptcy referee signed the final papers on the history of this case and it appears that Herbert was declared bankrupt. It is unknown if he had to sell his possessions.

The Move to California

Through conversations and old records a little more is known about the move to California. Sometime around 1942 Herbert appears to have quit his job as a mailman. It is not known why. Shortly thereafter he applied for his social security number and in October 1942 he stated that he was unemployed. Shortly thereafter he traveled to California and worked in a Defense plant, leaving Elizabeth in Chicago with the three boys who were mostly on their own by now. Over the winter of 1942-1943, Elizabeth slipped and fell on the Chicago ice near her home and broke her leg. With the boys working or off to war, Herbert needed to return to help care for her. Herbert must have liked California as they then both moved there in the summer or late fall of 1943. Sons Herbert and Edward were in the Army Air Force and Harold remained in Chicago to be with his fiancée. Within a few years Harold also moved to California.

Herbert lived in California for almost 25 years until his death on 26 Apr 1967 at age 69. Herbert Jordan died of a myocardial infarction (heart attack). He had generalized arteriosclerosis for 20 years and diabetes mellitus for about 40 years. He is buried at the San Fernando Mission Cemetery in Section C, Block 261 and Grave 9. Elizabeth lived another 20 years mostly on her own in California. However, two of her sons and many of her grandchildren lived nearby. She died on 9 July 1987 at age 91. She was the sweetest old lady.

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 7/6/2002

Modified: 8/24/2002

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

James and Emma Jordan Chapters

The James and Emma Jordan Family

James Henry Jordan

James Henry Jordan was born 27 December 1879 at 4 Wade Street in Poplar, England. Poplar is a town in the borough of Tower Hamlets and is just east of central London. His father James Jordan married Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway Scholdberg in November 1876. This was Elizabeth's second marriage as she had been widowed in 1875. Little James had two half-brothers from her first marriage, big brother Oscar who was 11 years older and little brother Charles who was 6 years older. His maternal grandparents, Joseph and Elizabeth Steward lived down the street at 20 Wade and they visited often. In fact on census night in 1881, he and his half brothers were staying with them.

Little James Henry was still pretty young when his big brother Oscar decided to leave for America sometime between 1882 and 1886. His brother's decision to leave would have a major effect on little James' life and destiny. After Oscar arrived in Chicago in the 1880s, he changed his name from Scholdberg to Jordan, decided he liked James as a first name, in fact the same name as his youngest brother, learned to be an electrician, and joined the Masons. By the early 1890s Oscar, now James Oscar Jordan was well established in Chicago along with their Uncle Charles Steward who was an engineer and machinist.

Little James Henry Jordan and his family stayed on in Poplar and he finished his grade school education. However, in the early 1890s it appears that his father died and his mother was again widowed. Then in October 1892 when little James Henry was twelve his Grandfather Joseph Steward died suddenly. Without male support both his mother and grandmother decided that their futures were in Chicago with little James' Uncle James Oscar Jordan and Great Uncle Charles Hooper Steward. In the summer of 1893 they packed their things, left their 20 Wade Street home and traveled to Liverpool. Here they took the S. S. Britannic on one of its regular trips across the Atlantic and arrived at Ellis Island on 18 August 1893. They then traveled by train to Chicago where they met Uncle James Oscar Jordan and Great Uncle Charles Hooper Steward and they all moved in together. The family then took in the 1893 Columbian Exposition before young Charles Jordan and young James settled down to new jobs.

James Henry obtained employment at the Turner Brothers Brass Works in the Chicago loop. Since it was some distance from home to the new job, he road a bicycle, a gift from his older brother, James Oscar Jordan. Little James continued his schooling and eventually became an expert in small electric motors an important new field. Then around 1904, James Henry, now 25 with mechanical and electrical abilities took an opportunity in Madison Wisconsin with the Northern Electric Company.

James and Emma Jordan

James Henry Jordan married Emma Selena Christopher on 9 February 1907. Emma was born 13 March 1881 in Blue Mounds, Iowa. He was 27 and she was 25. She generally used the name Selena instead of Emma.

Around 1907, the whole Jordan family temporarily moved to Madison and got jobs at the Northern Electric Company. That year James H. Jordan worked as a patternmaker, Charles Jordan as a fireman, and a John O. Jordan, an alias for James Oscar Jordan at an unknown job but probably as an electrician. This must have been difficult given that James and Emma were newlyweds. The reasons for going to Madison are unknown, but either times were tough in Chicago or James was able to get them very good jobs at the Northern Electric Company. In fact, James Oscar came up without his family.

While there, James Henry's Grandmother Elizabeth Steward, who was in her 80s and getting on in years took ill and was put in the Dane County Poor House in Verona about June 1907. After a ten-month stay she died of pneumonia on 12 April 1908 and was buried at the nearby Forest Hill Cemetery in Madison.

The stay of the Chicago Jordans in Madison was temporary though and it appears that James Oscar and Charles had returned to Chicago by later in 1907 or 1908. Perhaps they all realized it was too much to descend on young James and his wife Emma.

James Henry Jordan was a member of the Masons in Madison and through the years he was raised to the 32nd level. Included in The Jordan Story is a his biography written for 1964 the Scottish Rite News.

James Henry and Emma Jordan had two children, James Christopher Jordan born 7 June 1915 and Janet Elizabeth Jordan born in the 1920s. James Christopher worked in Detroit and died in Detroit at the age of 47 on 4 Jan 1963. He had one child. Janet Jordan Kommers had two children.

James Henry Jordan lived a long life but was unfortunately killed in an automobile accident as he walked across a street in Madison Wisconsin. He died 20 Sep 1967 at age 87. His wife lived until she was 94 and died in Annapolis on 23 Dec 1975. They are both buried at Roselawn Cemetery in Monona, Wisconsin.

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 2/4/2003

Modified:

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

James H. Jordan's Biography

Following is a biography of James H. Jordan, half brother of James Oscar and Charles Jordan and son of James Jordan and Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway Steward Scholdberg of Poplar, England.

Our Brother Jimmy Jordan Came From England in 1893 October 1964

Away back in August 1893, a family of four persons named Jordan - Joseph O. and Jimmy and a "sister" with their widowed mother left their familiar London abode to settle in the strange Chicago "jungle." At the tender age of 13, Jimmy found labor with the Turner Brothers Brass Works in the loop. The family rented a place in Douglas Park, and took time to take in the World's Columbian Exposition meantime.

Since it was some distance from home to the new job, Jimmy road a bicycle, a gift from his brother, who had rapidly become familiar with the duties and problems of living in a new country. Jimmy took night school classes and put in 10 hours a day at the Turner Brass Works--quite a task for a teenager besides his long bicycle rides out home and back.

Jimmy took hold fast, and did some studying at the Lewis Institute in the loop. He wound coils for the old style arc lamps, as high as 200 coils wound daily. He also wound induction coils and tested generators. Soon he was asked to do motor experimental work for Tracy B. Hatch of the Lewis Institute. Before long Hatch brought Senator Stout of Dunn County, Wisconsin, up to discuss studies to be made on submerged electric motors. This led to Jimmy's employment up at Menomonie, Wisconsin at the great school of manual and mechanized subjects founded by Senator Stout.

Jimmy's first Madison job was machinist for the Northern Electric Company, A. O. Fox president. It is now the Gisholt Manufacturing Company. He also worked for the Burgess Battery Company awhile to set up testing facilities in New York for designing technical tools and apparatus. A job wedged in on the side was helping Louis Schoelkopf develop his remote electric control door opening and closing devices. He joined the Gisholt staff for keeps and spent the rest of his time with them until retirement.

Jimmy Jordan was raised in Madison Lodge No. 5, F. & A.M. on October 6, 1906. Worshipful Master was Frank Currie, who encouraged the young Britisher and helped him secure his citizenship papers. Jimmy was steward of No. 5. David Wright Junior did the official posting. In the fall of 1945, Jimmy became a Sublime Prince of the Scottish Rite. His was the Golden Jubilee Class which had 277 members.

Short and stocky and with a friendly demeanor and hardly a trace of the English accent left, Brother Jordan comes to the Temple often as a game watcher and observer. His home is at 454 N. Few Street.

Notes

1. Janet Kommers included a copy of this October 1964 Scottish Rite News article biography as part of her May 21, 1978 letter.
2. In the biography the phrase "and a sister" is crossed out. He probably meant "grandmother" as there was no sister. In actuality, the four that came were James Henry Jordan, his mother Elizabeth P. Jordan, his grandmother Elizabeth Holloway, and his half brother Charles Jordan.
3. The reference to Joseph O. Jordan is intriguing. Our James Oscar Jordan was born as Joseph Oscar, although not with the surname Jordan. What is confusing is that James Oscar came over in the 1880s and was in Chicago when his mother arrived. While he might have gone back to get them, he is not listed on the ship arrival record with the others.
4. The reference to "widowed mother" is also intriguing. To date, it is not known what happened to her second husband. This phrase implies that he died. In fact her mother became widowed shortly before the trip. Thus one might conclude that two recent widows decided to leave England to join Elizabeth Priscilla Jordan's son James Oscar Jordan and Elizabeth Steward's son Charles Hooper Steward in Chicago in order to bring the family together again.
5. The date "August 1893" was instrumental in finding the ship that brought this Jordan family to America. The actual arrival date was found to be August 18, 1893.
6. Turn of the 19th century addresses for James Oscar Jordan and Elizabeth Priscilla Jordan confirm they lived in the Douglas Park area of Chicago. It is thought that James Henry Jordan moved to Madison about 1904.

Closing

Why They Came

Americans are a nation of immigrants and occasionally we wonder who were my immigrant ancestors, where did they come from and why did they come. If you are in our Jordan or Steward lines, a review of *Our Jordan Family Web Pages* can narrow down who your immigrant ancestors were and where they were from. The question *Why Did They Come?* is a little harder since generally the answers aren't written down. Helping our plight, though, is that people generally don't move from place to place without a lot of thought and the reasons they move tend to be just a few. Below is the information that has been collected for our Jordan and Steward families.

1. **Charles Steward:** Charles Steward was the brother of Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway Scholdberg Jordan. He was born to Joseph and Elizabeth Steward in 1851. Base on his 1900 Census record, he immigrated in 1880, probably to Chicago. He was then about 29 years old, he may have brought a wife and a young daughter Alice. A number of promising addresses have been identified for him as early as 1882 and throughout the 1880s. In 1891, it can be confirmed that he and James Oscar Jordan lived at the same address and in 1900 he and his sister Elizabeth P. Jordan both lived at 1153 W. 13th. Thus, it is likely that Charles and James Oscar lived together after James' arrival and that Elizabeth and his mother lived with Charles after they came over in 1893. It appears that Charles Steward was the first of our group to immigrate and the rest followed. Unfortunately it is not known why he came except possibly to find better employment.
2. **James Oscar Jordan:** Our James Oscar Jordan was born 18 Feb 1868 to Knut Oscar and Elizabeth P. Scholdberg as Joseph Canute Oscar Scholdberg. He changed his name to James Oscar Jordan after 1881. According to the 1900 Census, James Oscar Jordan immigrated in 1886 and according to the 1910 Census he immigrated in 1882. In 1882 he would have been 14 and in 1886 he would have been 18. In either case, it is likely that he stayed with his Uncle Charles Steward. It is also possible that the dates are incorrect and that they came together. It is unknown why James Oscar immigrated but it is speculated that either there were tensions with the new step-father as James became a young teenager or that he got into some kind of trouble in Poplar, perhaps something that he left the country and changed his name.
3. **Elizabeth P. Jordan:** Elizabeth P. Jordan arrived at Ellis Island on August 18, 1893 on the S. S. Britannic with her mother Elizabeth Steward and sons Charles and James Henry. She was 46 years old. It is noteworthy that she did not arrive with her second husband James Jordan. Joseph Steward had died the previous October and it is speculated that her 2nd husband had either died or they were divorced. With both hers and her mother's husbands gone, it is likely that her son James Oscar and her brother Charles Steward invited

them to thriving and bustling turn of the century Chicago. There Charles almost 20 and young James Henry age 13 would find new opportunities and jobs in a city on the move.

4. **Elizabeth Steward:** Joseph Steward died on 23 October 1892 leaving 60 plus year old Elizabeth without a husband to provide support. While she had three other sons in the Poplar area she chose to leave with her daughter and join her other son Charles Steward in Chicago. Most likely she felt more comfortable being cared for in her remaining years by her daughter. She moved briefly to Madison Wisconsin with the family and died in Verona Wisconsin in 1908 at about age 80.
5. **Charles Jordan:** Our Charles Jordan was born 30 September 1873 to Knut Oscar and Elizabeth P. Scholdberg as Charles Albert Jordan. He changed his name to Charles Jordan after 1881. Charles immigrated to Chicago in August 1893 at age 19 with his mother, Elizabeth P. Jordan.
6. **James Henry Jordan:** Our James Henry Jordan was born 27 December 1879 to James and Elizabeth P. Jordan. He immigrated to Chicago in August 1893 at age 13 with his mother, Elizabeth P. Jordan.
7. **Joseph John Steward:** Joseph Steward was the brother of Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway Scholdberg Jordan. He was born to Joseph and Elizabeth Steward in 1849. There are family recollections but no data that he came to the United States. One family story indicates that he went to San Francisco and was not heard from after the famous earthquake there in 1906.

In summary, it appears that Charles Steward was the first of the Steward/Scholdberg/ Jordan group to leave Poplar, England and immigrate to Chicago. Young Oscar Scholdberg was next to come and in fact he and his Uncle Charles may actually have come together. The reasons Charles came are not known but usually it had to do with the need for a better life or that there was work available. Usually an immigrant had friends or relatives here already as usually one doesn't pull up stakes without knowing someone on the other end. In his case there are no known relatives that were in Chicago earlier.

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 9/16/2002

Modified:

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Changing the Course of History

Perhaps the title is a little melodramatic, but there are a few events in our family history that if the event hadn't happened, many of us wouldn't be here. Sometimes it was an unexpected death, sometimes an unexpected child, and sometimes the decision to move to a new location.

Here are a few to ponder.

1. In 1846, Elizabeth Holloway unexpectedly became pregnant. She was unmarried and about 20 years old. According to the custom of the time, she went to the Union Workhouse in her town of Poplar where she stayed with other unwed mothers preparing for delivery. On 27 Feb 1847 she delivered her daughter, Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway. As with local custom of the times, she did not name the father on the birth registrar. Sixteen months later she married Joseph Steward on 11 June 1848 at St. Mary Stratford Bow in Poplar. There is a very good chance he is the father but further investigation is needed. Elizabeth Holloway's unwed pregnancy in 1846 affected our whole Jordan family, as all our Scholdberg or Jordan descendants came from her daughter Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway Steward.
2. In 1867, Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway Steward married Knut Oscar Scholdberg. Oscar as he preferred to be called was born in Sweden and was a merchant seaman. Oscar had many voyages and it is presumed that he met Elizabeth when one of his ships unloaded in Poplar. Perhaps they met on the sidewalk or in a local tavern over English beer, how we do not really know. But this somewhat random meeting between two people of two different countries that would normally never meet led to a relationship and a successful marriage. Through their first son Joseph Canute Oscar Scholdberg, alias James Oscar Jordan, there are many offspring.
3. In November 1875, while on a voyage to the Mediterranean on the West, Oscar Scholdberg had a heart attack in Alexandria. He was taken from the West to a hospital and died. He was only 38 years old. This unfortunate death led to a whole chain of events. Elizabeth at the time was only 28 and she had three young children, one only a few months old. Elizabeth needed a husband and thus a year later, after the required one year and one day interval she married James Jordan. In 1879, a son James Henry Jordan was born and this birth led to the Madison, Wisconsin Jordan line. Sometime in the 1880s, her two Scholdberg boys took on the name Jordan and thus Joseph Canute Oscar Scholdberg became James Oscar Jordan and Charles Scholdberg became Charles Jordan. Thus Oscar's unfortunate death and Elizabeth's second marriage led to the Jordan name for not only the Madison branch but also the Chicago branch.
4. In the mid-1880s, young Oscar Scholdberg/Jordan left Poplar to join his Uncle Charles Steward in Chicago. Why he left is unknown and might have been that as a teenage he was uncomfortable with his stepfather and the family felt that life would be better with a male blood relative in Chicago, his Uncle Charles Steward. On the other

hand, it is possible that he got into a bit of trouble and had to leave and changed his name in the process. He chose James Oscar Jordan. Oscar was a link to his father and James Jordan a link to his stepfather and to his stepbrother. While we don't know exactly why he left, his leaving had a huge effect on our Jordan history. It changed our name and our city and country of origin as it was through him that our Chicago Jordans were born.

5. In October 1892, Joseph Steward died of a heart condition. He was 68. Normally this wouldn't lead to a major life change but it appears that about the same time James Jordan must have died. Thus in 1893, the two widows with young Charles and James Henry decided to join James Oscar Jordan and Elizabeth's brother Charles Steward in Chicago. This is how the rest of the Jordan clan got to America and it eventually led to our Madison Jordans.
6. In November 1911, Margaret Jordan made a decision that it was time to take the kids and her things and leave James Oscar Jordan. She got her own place, got a job playing the piano and organ at silent film theaters and raised her children on her own. In 1919, she formally divorced James and a year later married Robert Graham. With the children gone in the 1920s, they traveled a bit. And about 1933, she and Bob moved to the Los Angeles area in California. Eventually all her children and a number of grandchildren would move there from Chicago. It was through her struggle, remarriage and travel bug that led to the establishment of our California Jordans.

Thus young love, unexpected births, and unexpected deaths, a difficult marriage and major move relocation decisions are part of what have led to us. We are not only the result of day-to-day family love and caring by each generation but also the results of a number of events that took place long ago, any one of which would have led to a very different family history.

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 2/5/2003

Modified:

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Connecting the Jordans and the Scholdbergs

How did I come to the conclusion that our James Oscar Jordan of Chicago was the same person as Joseph Canute Oscar Scholdberg of Poplar, England? In other words, what's the evidence?

From the beginning of my genealogy search back in the mid-1970s, James Oscar Jordan has always been elusive. Usually one begins a search by obtaining the death record and then works backward in time. I tried several times to find his, but I couldn't locate it. In fact it took until 2002, around 25 years after I started to find his death record. I tried to find his birth record based on a birth month of February, a birthplace of London and a five-year record search interval with no success, only to realize later that his name wasn't Jordan because he was the son of his mom's first marriage.

Finally in March 1987, I got lucky as he showed up with his brother Charles and his half brother James Jordan in the 1881 Poplar Census at the home of his Grandpa Joseph and Grandma Elizabeth Steward in Poplar. In addition, he was using the surname Scholdberg, my first knowledge of the long missing name. See the Steward 1881 Census for the details of the entries. Missing that census night were his mom, the then Elizabeth Priscilla Jordan and his step-dad James Jordan. It is not known why they were not there that census night, especially since she was the mother not only of all three, but a young one-year old baby. Why do I know though, that this was the right family?

Well these same Stewards lived at this same address, 20 Wade Street for over 20 years. They are listed there for census nights during 1871, 1881 and 1891 and again in 1892 when Joseph Steward died. In April 1881 in the Steward household are three grandsons. One named Oscar Scholdberg, age 13 one named Charles Scholdberg, age 7 and the third named James Jordan, age 1. Previously I had found that our James Henry Jordan was born in Poplar in December 1879 and his mother was Elizabeth Priscilla Steward. All the boys were about the right ages based on what I knew from the Chicago records and the name Charles matched Charles Jordan and the name Oscar matched the middle name in James Oscar Jordan. What a break, but after a decade of searching I deserved one and to top it off, the missing surname had a Scandinavian sound to it, just like my Grandmother Jordan thought.

In April 1987, armed with the missing surname and an exact date of birth of February 18, 1868 in London from the March 6, 1979 letter from the Grand Lodge I requested his birth registration. It finally came and with trepidation I read the name as Joseph Canute Oscar Scholdburg, born February 18, 1868 at 15 Oriental Street. His father was Oscar Scholdburg, a sail maker. His mother was Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway Scholdburg, and her maiden name was Steward. There was an exact birth date match of February 18, 1868. The address at 15 Oriental Street was just a few blocks from 20 Wade Street where the grandparents lived. The unique middle name Priscilla and spelling which Elizabeth Priscilla Jordan used in America was there as was her maiden name as Steward. And the occupation of sail maker gave some credence to the story of his

father's presumed death on a ship at Alexandria. A copy of the birth registration can be found in our Genealogy Source Records Section. I now have several Scholdberg records, but this is the only one with the name spelled as Scholdburg.

Why was he called Joseph? Probably after his grandfather Joseph Steward, and he was the first grandchild. Why Canute Oscar? Probably after his father who was later found to be named Knut Oscar Scholdberg. It was later found that Knut and Canute are alternate forms of spelling of the same name and the historic origins of each are both English and Scandinavian.

Later I obtained the 1874 birth record for Charles Scholdberg. It showed that Elizabeth was his mother, although she didn't use Priscilla and Charles was the right age to match the age we knew from the 1900 Census when he was known as Charles Jordan. Furthermore, it was found that his father Oscar Scholdberg was a seaman in the Merchant Service another match with our expectations of a person associated with the sea, given the story about Alexandria.

Thus ended a long and at times frustrating search. But ended it did with very good data and as close to certain conclusion that you can get that our James Oscar Jordan is the same person as Joseph Canute Oscar Scholdberg. The remaining mystery is when did he change his name and why. We know he was called Oscar Scholdberg in Poplar in 1881 and as James Jordan in Chicago before 1890. So why did he and his brother, Charles change to Jordan and why did Oscar change his first name to James. Could it have been easier in Poplar to have the same surname as his stepfather, especially one that didn't sound foreign in the local Cockney community? But why did he choose his half-brother's first name? Was he trying to run away from something when he came to the USA? I doubt that we will ever know. But there is one other piece of data that might help and that is what name did he use on the ship when he came to the USA in the 1880s.

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 2/5/2003

Modified:

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Bibliography

As follows is a bibliography identifying a few books that provide background about the life and times of our Jordan ancestors.

1. *Hand over Hand* by De Banke, Cecile, Hutchinson of London, 1957. This story is about the grandparents of Cecile and takes place primarily in Bethnal Green but also in Poplar in the late 1800s. Bethnal Green and Poplar are near each other and are considered part of East London. The book is descriptive of the everyday events in the lives of the people of East London and includes a description of a walk through some of the streets of Poplar. This is by far the most interesting and informative book I have read relating to the lives of people living in the environs of our ancestors in England.
2. *London Dictionary*, edited by Ben Weinreb and Christopher Hibbert. This is a very good reference. It provides very interesting and descriptive text about London and East London streets, churches, cemeteries, and business. It includes many engravings. This book is worth tracking down to learn more about Poplar and the area around it.
3. *National Geographic*, July 1991. In this issue is an article that covers the historic location of the Jordans, which is around the area of Poplar, Isle of Dogs, and present day Docklands.
4. *Two Years Before the Mast* by Richard Henry Dana, Jr., An excellent and in-depth book about life as an Able Bodied Seaman (ABS) on a wooden sailing ship between Boston and California embarking 1834 and returning in 1836. The book also provides interesting descriptions by Dana of the early history of now well known cities on the California coast (San Diego, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Monterey, San Francisco) just a decade before the Gold Rush.

The connection to The Jordan Story though is that our Jordan ancestor Knut Oscar Scholdberg was also an Able Bodied Seaman and at times a sailmaker. Scholdberg sailed from London about 20 years after Dana (1854 to 1875), but most of Scholdberg's voyages prior to 1870 were on wooden sailing ships including voyages to China and India. While there were differences in time and locations between Scholdberg's and Dana's voyages, I suspect that life on the ship such as what they ate, what they did, and how they were treated was not very different.

5. *Dickens' Books*: The Dickens' books were written from 1836 to 1870 and provide very good descriptions of what it was like for the people of the times.

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 2/4/2003

Modified: 7/25/201, 12/31/2011
Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Acknowledgements

Many people were instrumental in providing research, stories, recollections, letters, memorabilia, and enthusiasm for *The Jordan Story*. Without their efforts, we would not have such a comprehensive story. In particular, I would like to acknowledge and thank the following for their contributions.

1. I wish to thank my dad, Edward C. Jordan for helping me get started on the Jordan and Knowles genealogy. He carefully provided initial information. Later he patiently chatted with his mother to try to help her recollect things from the past. When I was stuck he suggested that I write his Uncle Charles Jordan, and that was the hint that really got me going.
2. I wish to thank Charles Jordan, son of James Oscar Jordan for the lengthy letter he wrote me about the Jordan and Knowles history. It clarified so much, provided interesting tidbits about family lore, and gave me the hints that were helpful ten years later in tracking down who was who and where we were from. The letter provided very useful information about his grandmother's marriages and the indication of his grandfather's death in Alexandria.
3. I wish to thank Elizabeth M. Jordan for sending me letters and chatting on the phone about remembrances of her husband's family. She was the only one that had even a recollection that the name had changed and she had an idea about its sound.
4. I wish to thank Herbert F. Jordan for his help in figuring out where the Jordans lived during the 1920s and 1930s and for his recollections of the Jordans.
5. I wish to thank Harold Jordan for his special recollections of his g-grandmother and his father.
6. I wish to thank Frances Hollingshead, daughter of James Oscar Jordan. She provided some needed information about her father's masonic membership that helped me finally figure out what became of him.
7. I wish to thank Janet Kommers for her lengthy letter about her father James Henry Jordan and his family history. It was through her father's information that helped me figure out what town they were from and when four of them came to Chicago.
8. I wish to thank Beverly Lynch, daughter of Charles Jordan for sending me copies of the turn-of-the-century pictures of the early Jordans. What fantastic pictures they are.
9. I wish to thank my sister Marianne for the research she did on the Scholdberg name, the International Genealogy Index (IGI) searches, and the Poplar 1891 Census.
10. I wish to thank Diane Cusiel for her extensive research and the chapter she contributed on the *Stewards of Poplar*.

File Information

Master File Name: Stories_Jordan

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 2/4/2003

Modified: 4/1/2003, 10/10/2007

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

Appendices

Letters

Chuck Jordan's Letter to Dave Jordan - November 1977

In August 1977 at my dad's suggestion, I wrote a letter to his Uncle Chuck Jordan. Chuck was one of the four sons of James Oscar and Margaret Jane Jordan. My dad thought that his Uncle Chuck had tried to compile a family history in the 1930s and by then Chuck and his sister Florence were the only children of that marriage still alive as Art, Ed, and Herb had already died. Below is a transcription of Chuck's letter to me in response to a request for information about the Jordan and Knowles families.

November 1977

Chas Jordan
1060 Chinguapin
Apt. #8
Carlsbad,
California 92008

Dear David,

Hope you have some success with your family tree. I will shake the cobwebs a bit and see if I can remember some things that may help you. I'll start with your family history.

My father James Oscar Jordan [was] born [in] London, England. My birth certificate [is for] Chicago, Illinois, October, 16, 1903 and it gives my father's age as 30 and my mother's as 25, and her birth date was March 19th, 1878 [in] Montreal Canada. I have no knowledge of [my] father's birth date. He had a brother James in Madison, Wisconsin, younger than he; also a brother (Charles or Charley) in between. We have a picture of the three brothers with their bicycles transferred onto a pillow cover (circa about 1895 or 1893).

Now the similarity of names can really open a can of worms. I was a very small boy, when first I heard some talk about my father being the son of his mother's first husband. This was not a topic of conversation to be bandied about, as I soon learned. However, from other branches of the family, there leaked out, their version of my grandmother's secret.

To wit, her first husband had his own boat, sail and auxiliary steam, a small cargo ship as I remember the story. Now the plot thickens. He was in the Mediterranean when he was set upon by pirates, who tried to steal his cargo. Of course, they wouldn't give up without a fight, and a few heads got busted. An Egyptian warship captured them and took them into the port of Alexandria claimed they were smugglers and pirates.

Those were pretty rough days and they were never seen again. The story got back to London that they were all hanged as pirates. The ship and cargo was confiscated as contraband. As soon as grandmother was convinced that she was indeed a widow with two boys to support, she married and had another boy James Jordan (Madison, Wisconsin). He was born in London, England. We always refer to Madison because that's where he spent most of his life in [the] U.S.A.

On November 11, 1911, my mother gathered her five kids (Herbert, Frances, Edward, Charles and Arthur) and separated from my father. She got her divorce in 1919 and married Robert Aaron Graham shortly thereafter.

My mother's maiden name was Knowles. She had one sister, Muriel Knowles [and] one brother, Wilfred Knowles. My mother was born in Montreal, Canada. Muriel and Wilfred were born in Chicago, Illinois. My Grandfather Knowles died in Chicago and I believe he is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, 67th and Cottage Grove Avenue. There should be one grave left vacant, as you had to have the name Knowles, to be buried there. Who else is buried there is not clear to me.

My Grandfather Knowles was married in Canada to Isabell Black, who died in Chicago about 2 years before grandfather did. She may be buried in Woodlawn Cemetery also. Isabell Black had a sister Elizabeth Black, who married Richard Shannon in Chicago. I believe there were several Blacks scattered over the country, all of them born in Canada and the U.S.A. They originated in Ireland, County Armagh. The Knowles family came from the same part of Ireland, although I had been told that when my Grandfather Knowles died that the death notice in the paper gave his birthplace as Edinburgh, Scotland. I do not know how to confirm this, although I was given to understand that he was a joiner, i.e., being a businessman he belonged to all the organizations that helped his business grow, such as: The Masons, The Orangemen, etc.

He had a tailor shop and haberdashery somewhere around 39th and State Street and made all the uniforms and kilts that the Irish and Scotch wore in the parades and shows during the World's Fair and Columbian Exposition in 1892. My Grandmother Knowles died shortly after the World's Fair and about 2 years later he married a woman by the name of White. My Grandfather Knowles' brother Bob was killed by a train at Grand Crossing. I believe it was 79th and Stony Island Avenue. I believe my Grandfather Knowles died shortly before or after my Mother and Father got married in 1896. Now the records may show a lot more people in Woodlawn Cemetery than I have knowledge of [and] you would do well to investigate that end.

Now the Joseph Steward that you mention. I always thought he was my [Great]-Grandmother Steward's son, who was my

Grandmother Jordan's brother. He went to San Francisco and made little effort to stay in touch with family; after the quake of 1906, he was never heard from again.

We are about to move again soon [and] will keep you posted of our new address through some part of [the] family. Would like to hear how you make out on this.

Uncle Chuck

Notes

1. The year of birth for Chuck's father, James Oscar Jordan was found to be 1868.
2. Later research indicated that Muriel was born in Montreal.
3. It is believed that Grandmother Steward should be Great-Grandmother Steward.
4. Woodlawn Cemetery was later called Oak Woods Cemetery; the address is correct.
5. Minor spelling and punctuations changes were made in the transcription to improve readability. Brackets [] were used to add words where it was thought that readability would be improved.
6. An important new view emerged from studying about this letter. That view was that if James Oscar Jordan and James Jordan of Madison had the same mother but different fathers, then at birth they should not have had the same surname. Previously, my father had told me that he had thought that James Oscar Jordan and James Jordan of Madison were half-brothers. Half-brothers implied the same mother or the same father. If it were the same father, then the surnames at birth would be identical. Uncle Chuck's letter indicated that the half-brothers had different fathers. What was confusing was they had the same last name.
7. It was later found that Elizabeth's second husband was name James Jordan and her first husband Knut Oscar Scholdberg, the man I called Mr. X for so many years. So somewhere along the line our Oscar changed his name from Scholdberg to Jordan. I later found he changed much more than that.
8. Before I knew who Mr. X was I asked several relatives what they thought or could remember about the then unknown name and only one could remember any discussion of there being a different name for the Jordans and that was my Grandmother Jordan, the wife of Herbert Arthur Jordan. Grandma Jordan said that she only heard it once. Margaret Graham, the former wife of James Oscar Jordan told it to her one day. All Grandma Jordan could remember was that it sounded like a Swedish name. Years later when I found the name it did turn out to be Swedish.
9. Chuck wrote Alexande instead of Alexandria. This and the sea story turned out to be a great lead, although the pirate story looks like it

was made up. Without the hint of Alexandria I never would have found where the first husband, Knut Oscar Scholdberg died.

10. Muriel and brother William Knowles were born in Montreal.

Elizabeth M. Jordan's Letter to Dave Jordan - Dec. 29, 1977

Elizabeth Jordan sent this letter to Dave Jordan. Elizabeth's parents were John and Anna Page. Dave is her grandson.

December 29, 1977

Dear Dave and Beez,

Received your xmas card and letter and money. Thanks so much, meant to write sooner but the holidays were to much. I am fighting a cold right now.

Went to Pat's house last night. They have a beautiful new home, mountains all over, we had a turkey dinner.

You are asking for information about my parents. They spoke good english, my mother's was a little broken, good Americans, my father always voted. They were not very tall, both had dark brown hair, and both were slim. Mom died of an outward goiter, and my father died of old age, he had a bad heart I guess.

He didn't know his birthday. He celebrated it on Jan 1st we always had a party, friends and relatives came over, and lot had instruments. My father played the violin, he tried to show me how to dance the two step when I was about 10 or 11 years old.

I saw at my cousin's house, pictures of my Dad's two brothers in Germany uniforms. My dad left Germany when he was 19 years old, as he did not want to be in the army. He had two sisters here one in Michigan where he worked in the woods I guess cutting down trees.

As for food I do not know the kinds of food they liked or disliked, I never payed attention.

Oh yes on my Dad's birthday they always had a 1/4 barrel of beer.

I'm seeing double will quit now.

Love Grandma

Notes

1. Grandma Elizabeth Jordan sent this letter in response to a request for information about her family for my genealogy project. Elizabeth M. Jordan is David's grandmother.
2. The cousins she refers to would be the family of Michael and Frank Page Pajewski, brothers of her father. Of her father's two sisters, Veronica Nicoletti was one. Nicoletti was her married name. Later Grandma told me she was a half sister. No other information has been obtained about the sister that lived in Michigan, although it suggests that when John came over, he stayed with her in Michigan when he worked as a lumberjack before moving to Chicago.

3. Spelling is as in the original letter. There are minor punctuation improvements.

Frances Hollingshead's Letter to Betty Jordan - March 19, 1978

As follow is a transcription of a letter from Frances F. Hollingshead to Elizabeth (Betty) Jordan. Frances was the daughter of James and Margaret Jordan. Elizabeth (Betty) Jordan is the wife of Herbert A. Jordan. Herbert and Frances are siblings. Dave Jordan is Betty's grandson.

March 19, 1978

Dear Betty,

..... The question about papa's name is beyond me. Aunt Muriel answered a lot of questions for me but she didn't know that one either. You knew my grandmother's name (maiden) was Elizabeth Steward. I have several birthday cards from her when I [was] two and one from Great-Grandmother Steward. If Dave comes up with any info give him my name. Give our best to all and keep in touch.

Much love,

Notes

1. The introduction to this note contains information about Holly's recent operation and a visit to Chuck Jordan in San Diego.
2. By 1978, Betty Jordan knew I was trying to research the Jordan family history. She would bring up some of my questions with the relatives. The big question at that time was who was Mr. X (see Chuck Jordan's November 1977 Letter which brought up the issue of the first husband).
3. The grandmother she refers to was Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway Steward, born 1847.
4. The Great-Grandmother Steward she refers to was Elizabeth Holloway born about 1825. She married Joseph Steward in 1848.
5. Spelling is as in the original letter. There are minor punctuation improvements.

Frances Hollingshead's Letter to Dave Jordan - May 1978

Frances F. Hollingshead sent this letter to Dave Jordan. Frances was the daughter of James and Margaret Jordan. Dave is the grandson of Herbert Jordan, the brother of Frances.

At Home, Hemet

May, 1978

Dear Dave,

I was so glad to get your letter and chart. I do have some information that differs from your chart, but will dig it all up and send it to you. It just happens that Holly's cousin from England is visiting us for this week and said to write to Somerset House, London, England Registrar Department and they would be helpful at giving the birth records and such. Holly is also going to check with the *Grand Lodge of Illinois* as my father was a member of Covenant Lodge of Masons. Will forward any info I get. Am sorry we are so far apart. Would like to meet you and your family. Keep in touch.

Our Best to all,

Frances F. Hollingshead

Notes

1. In the above letter, Francis mentioned that her father, James Oscar Jordan, was a member of the Covenant Lodge of Masons and that the Grand Lodge of Illinois was the organization to check with. This was a very important lead. See letter from the Grand Lodge dated March 6, 1979.
2. Spelling is as in the original letter. There are minor punctuation improvements.

Janet Kommers' Letter to Dave Jordan - May 21, 1978

The search for information about James Henry Jordan in Madison, Wisconsin provided information about his death and next of kin. In February 27, 1978, I wrote a letter to his daughter Mrs. Kommers then of Severna Park, Maryland to introduce myself and to ask some questions about the old Jordans. Below is a transcription of her letter. In addition, Janet also provided a biographical sketch of her father from the October 1964 Scottish Rite News. This article can be found using The Jordan Story Index.

Janet's father was James Henry Jordan and her grandmother was Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway Jordan. In the letter, Uncle Oscar is James Oscar Jordan, a half-brother of her father. Uncle Herbert is James Oscar Jordan's son, a half cousin to Janet.

May 21, 1978

Sunday

Dear David,

I'm just so glad to have a relative on my father's side. I've always wondered where my aunts and uncles were but it was such a hopeless situation to find them that I really just forgot about it. When Bill finds a "Kommers" in the telephone book chances are they're related, but the Jordans are hopeless.

My last contact was with Uncle Oscar. We all went to the World's Fair in 1933, I believe, and I think we stayed with Uncle Herbert (I guess he would really be a cousin of mine) and his family in Chicago. Uncle Oscar chose to visit us in Madison but he and my mother didn't get along so the visits stopped. My father sent Uncle Oscar ten dollars a month until his death. In fact, it was Dad that got the call about Uncle Oscar's death sometime in the 50s and Dad went to Chicago to bury him. I believe Uncle Oscar was a Mason and would be buried in a Masonic Cemetery.

My father was a kind and gentle man. He has quite a history. Everyone knew him and loved him. He excelled in his work and when anyone wanted a new tool made, they came to Dad. I watched him work in his workshop many a time. My brother was my mother's boy and I was my father's girl.

Now for your questions. I don't know anything about Mr. X. I know nothing about Charles. Uncle Oscar brought the family from London and they all settled in Chicago. For some time my grandmother [Elizabeth Priscilla Jordan] lived with my mother and dad in Madison but she returned to Chicago. To answer your question about whether my father's mother came over in 1901, I had understood that they all came over together but I don't really know. I don't know where James Jordan died other than what Bill has written.

The only Oscar that I know is the one I knew as a little girl and always thought to be my Dad's brother. Yes, my Dad's birth is right.

I really don't know where the boys were born but it seems to me that it was in London, itself. Sorry I can't be of more help. My father was confirmed in the Episcopal Church. I have his Communion book. It seems only reasonable that he was probably baptized in the church too.

All we know about Joseph and Elizabeth Stewart[d] is that she lived for a while on Jenifer Street in Madison and died there. Where she was buried we don't know.

I remember Uncle Oscar as a little girl. He was a very dapper gentleman and carried a cane. He also had a mustache. The Jordans had such class! I have never seen a picture of him but if I should find one among mother's things I'll send it to you. I doubt if I'll find one because she hated him so much.

Janet

Notes

1. The Uncle Herbert mentioned would be Herbert Arthur Jordan, son of James Oscar and Janet's cousin.
2. Mr. X was the name I temporarily assigned to Elizabeth Priscilla Steward's first husband. After much research, his surname was subsequently found to be Scholdberg.
3. The Charles mentioned was the brother of James Henry and James Oscar.
4. During a visit with Janet, she provided additional anecdotes about James Oscar. She said that Uncle Oscar was interested in astrology and the stock market. Unfortunately, he got her Dad to invest just before the big crash in 1929. She also thought that Uncle Oscar died in the late 1940s.
5. Minor spelling and punctuation changes were made in the transcription to improve readability. Brackets [] were used to add words where it was thought that readability would be improved.

Elizabeth M. Jordan's Letter to Dave Jordan - Feb 12, 1979

This a letter from Elizabeth Jordan to Dave Jordan. Elizabeth's parents were John and Anna Page. Dave is her grandson.

Feb 12, 1979

Dear Dave and Beez!

Just a few lines to thank you for the roots, I got in the mail the other day, it sure was exciting, uncle Chuck called me Saturday, I sure was surprised to hear his voice, I am glad he is feeling better. He told me he and aunt Francis had pictures of them, grandma Steward holding each one on her lap, but I forgot to ask, where the location of that place was. I hope they write you and thank you for all that trouble. I bet it cost a lot of money so let me know if I could help a little.

Went out to see Pat yesterday, there all fine, and Tim will be back here in June, he will be working. I guess he is happy about that, I don't think he cares much for that cold weather.

About my roots with all the ski names, I don't know them. I think one of them is my grandmother.

All for now

God Bless you

Love from

Grandma

PS. Hope you both feeling well.

Notes

1. Grandma Elizabeth Jordan sent this letter in response to one of the early stories I put together about the Jordans. Elizabeth M. Jordan is David's grandmother.
2. Uncle Chuck is Chuck Jordan (see his letter to me about the Jordans and Knowles). Francis is Francis Hollingshead, formerly Francis Jordan. Grandma Steward is the grandmother of Herbert Arthur, Charles, Francis, Art and Edward Jordan. Her name was Elizabeth Priscilla Jordan.
3. It is unknown who has the pictures taken with Grandma Steward.
4. Elizabeth's grandmother's name on her mother's side was Gainowski.
5. Spelling is as in the original letter. There are minor punctuation improvements.

The Grand Lodge's Letter to Dave Jordan - March 6, 1979

The Grand Lodge sent this letter to Dave Jordan concerning information about James Oscar Jordan. Dave Jordan is James Oscar Jordan's grandson.

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
of the State of Illinois

March 6, 1979

Dear Sir:

Some time has elapsed since you wrote to this office regarding the Masonic membership of your Great-Grandfather James O. Jordan.

According to the records of this office, he was a member in good standing of Covenant Lodge No. 526, Chicago, Illinois, at the time of death on March 23, 1947. His date of birth is recorded as February 18, 1868, at London, England.

We do not have available a short story or biographical sheet of your great-grandfather. Only the Masonic membership is recorded in our files, and it is listed that he was raised to the degree of Master Mason on April 11, 1890.

In answer to one of your questions, there are a number of Masonic cemeteries in Chicago, Illinois.

The check you sent to cover costs for doing our research is being returned herewith.

Yours truly,

Roy L. Wyckoff

Grand Secretary

Notes

1. The letter from the Grand Secretary was a major breakthrough in my search for James Oscar Jordan. There was an exact date of birth, death, and Masonic membership.
2. This exact date of birth proved useful in obtaining and verifying James Oscar Jordan's birth registration.
3. The date of death was very important but it still took until the year 2002 to find his death record as it was misfiled under Jordon.
4. The date of Masonic membership verifies that James was in the USA prior to 1890, and certainly for a few years before that.
5. Spelling is as in the original letter. There are minor punctuation improvements.

Associated Documents

There are a number of additional documents on [Jordan PDF Downloads](#) that are available or will be shortly as pdf documents. These are listed as follows to provide an inventory.

Additional Stories

To date there are five companion stories to *The Jordan Story* that are published separately in various sections of [Our Jordan Family Web Pages](#), but collected together at [Jordan PDF Downloads](#).

Three of the stories are short articles submitted to the *East of London Family History Society* for publication in their quarterly, the *Cockney Ancestor*. These three articles relate not only our Jordan/Steward/Scholdberg family history but how it was rediscovered. *Recollection of the Jordans* provides a collection of short anecdotes and memories of various members of our Jordan family. And *Lt. Edward C. Jordan - The War Years, Pilot, 603rd Squadron* provides a history of Edward C. Jordan, son of Herbert A. Jordan during WWII.

The following stories and articles are available at [Jordan PDF Downloads](#) as individual pdf documents with titles and file names as listed below.

1. *The Jordan Story*
File: Stories_Jordan.pdf
Summary: *The Jordan Story* provides a written history of the origins of our Jordan family. As part of this story there are many appendices and sections.
2. *The Road to Poplar - Jordans*
File: Stories_The_Road_To_Poplar_Jordan.pdf
Author: Dave Jordan
Published: *East of London Family History Society/Cockney Ancestor*
3. *The Road to Poplar - Jordans*
File: Stories_The_Road_To_Poplar_Steward.pdf
Author: Dave Jordan
Published: *East of London Family History Society/Cockney Ancestor*
4. *The Road to Poplar - My Surname is What?*
File: Stories_The_Road_To_Poplar_Name.pdf
Author: Dave Jordan
Published: *East of London Family History Society/Cockney Ancestor*
5. *Recollections of the Jordans*
File: Recollections_Jordan.pdf
Summary: *Recollections of the Jordans* provides a collection of short anecdotes and memories of our Jordan family.

6. *Lt. Edward C. Jordan - The War Years, Pilot, 603rd Squadron*
File: Stories_Jordan_Lt_Ed_Jordan_WWII.pdf
Summary: *Lt. Edward C. Jordan - The War Years, Pilot, 603rd Squadron* provides a history of Edward C. Jordan, son of Herbert A. Jordan during WWII.

Jordan Records Collections

To discover our Jordan/Steward/Scholdberg family history, much research took place and many documents were obtained. The following documents include transcriptions, organized listings, and occasionally scans of original documents that helped to define our history and develop the various stories.

Each document in its own way provides a next level of detail about what they were doing and when and where. As an example, the *Historical Jordan Family Addresses* might at first glance appear to be an uninteresting document, but perusal of the chronological addresses for each individual provides a fascinating look at where they were, what jobs they held, and how their lives changed and improved as time went along.

These documents are available at [Jordan PDF Downloads](#) as individual pdf documents with titles and file names as listed below.

1. *Historical Jordan Family Addresses*
File: Addresses_Jordan_Historical.pdf
Summary: Contains chronological address listings for various families in the Jordan/Steward/Scholdberg line.
Linkage: Elizabeth Priscilla Steward 1st married Knut Oscar Scholdberg and after his death she married James Jordan.
2. *Jordan Family Census Records*
File: Census_Jordan_Historical.pdf
Summary: Contains census transcriptions for various families in the Jordan/Steward/Scholdberg line.
Linkage: Elizabeth Priscilla Steward 1st married Knut Oscar Scholdberg and after his death she married James Jordan.
3. *Genealogy Records - Steward Line*
File: Records_Steward_Line.pdf
Summary: Contains transcriptions and some scanned records for various families in the Steward part of the Jordan/Steward/Scholdberg line.
Linkage: Elizabeth Priscilla Steward 1st married Knut Oscar Scholdberg and after his death she married James Jordan.
4. *Oscar Scholdberg's Voyage Records*
File: Voyages_Records_Scholdberg.pdf
Summary: The *Oscar Scholdberg's Voyage Records* file contains transcriptions of the ship records for many of Oscar Scholdberg's voyages. Such records include Ship Logs, Crew Lists, Crew Agreements, Consulate Certificates, and Release Agreements.
5. *Oscar Scholdberg's Voyages Chronology*
File: Voyages_Chronology_Scholdberg.pdf
Summary: The *Oscar Scholdberg's Voyage Chronology* file extracts information from *Oscar Scholdberg's Voyage Records* to construct a time-line of where Oscar Scholdberg was and what he was doing at various points in time.

Additional Letters

Within the Appendix section of *The Jordan Story* there are a number of transcribed letters. This section contains a listing of additional letters which are separate pdf documents because of their file size.

These letters are available at [Jordan PDF Downloads](#) as individual pdf documents with titles and file names as listed below.

1. *James Oscar Jordan's Letter to Chuck Jordan -c1931*
File: Letter_Jordan_James_Oscar_1930s.pdf
2. *Chuck Jordan's Letter to London*
File: Letter_Jordan_Chuck_1930s_Genealogy.pdf
3. *Herbert A. Jordan's Letter to Movers - January 13, 1944*
File: Letter_Jordan_Herbert_Arthur_19440113_Movers.pdf
4. *Herbert A. Jordan's Civil Service Letters - 1921 and 1943*
File: Letter_Jordan_Herbert_Arthur_1921_1943_CivilService.pdf
- 5.

Memorabilia

This section contains a listing of various memorabilia which are separate pdf documents because of their file size.

The following memorabilia items are available at [Jordan PDF Downloads](#) as individual pdf documents with titles and file names as listed below.

1. *Herbert A. Jordan's 1918 WWI Records*
File: Records_Jordan_Herbert_Arthur_1918_WWI.pdf
2. *Herbert A. Jordan's 1929 Chauffeur License.*
File: License_Jordan_Herbert_Arthur_Jordan1_929_Chauffeur.pdf
3. *Herbert A. Jordan's 1940 Tickets to Democratic Convention* is a separate pdf document.
File: Tickets_Jordan_Herbert_Arthur_1940_Convention.pdf