

A Short Description of Research on the Jones, Darling, and Withrow Families, Ancestors of Ralph Edward Griswold

Dorothy Evelyn Jones was Ralph Edward Griswold's birth mother. From Blanche's death certificate I learned that Dorothy Jones' parents were Edward R. Jones and Blanche Darling, that Blanche's mother's name was Mary Withrow, and that Blanche's father's surname was Darling, first name unknown. According to her death certificate, Blanche was born in Leadville, Colorado on the Fourth of July in 1875. Other than that, these families were a mystery until 2001 when census images came on-line at Ancestry.com. Information from Web message boards gave us a few more clues, and I was able to piece together the remaining fragments of the general history of these families. I have been able to take them back to the 16th century, but we may never know more about them, because that was at the time parish records in England were first kept on a regular basis.

Dorothy Jones was born the daughter of Edward Robert Jones, an attorney in general practice in Modesto California. Edward R. Jones was born in England. When and where he died is a more complicated question. Family tradition said that he simply "left". Web message boards indicated that he had died at the age of 51. Yet in going through the California Death Records, I found Edward R. Jones with the correct birth date, dying in San Luis Obispo in 1952. (That his birthplace is listed as Washington, D. C. in this document means little. Information on death certificates is often incorrect, since it may be given by a friend or distant relative who has to come up with the information under some stress.) Edward and Blanche also had a son, Charles, older than Dorothy, who disappeared at about the same time Edward did, before the 1920 census. We may be able to learn more when the 1930 Federal census is released in April of 2002.

The fact that Blanche Darling was born in Leadville, Colorado indicated to me that her father probably had something to do with the large mining operations there at the time. When Ancestry.com published the city directories for Leadville during the 1880s, I found several Darlings, the most promising being David Darling, an engineer. Another David Darling at the same address, was listed as a miner and was probably a son.

Through a Web message board I learned that the Withrows had come from Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois. With that, I was able to locate the only Mary Withrow (there were *a lot* of them in the family) of the right age, in Springfield, and learned the name of her father, which was Joel. From there it was clear sailing in finding the remainder of the Withrow family, whose first mention is in Ulster, Ireland. It is possible that the family was originally Scottish or English, but I have not been able to verify that.

I have long believed that when you are looking for sources for families you look for proximity. The 19th century was hardly a time when large numbers of women moved about the country by themselves. Yes, there were the "schoolmarms" who came west, but the best chance for finding Mary Withrow's husband probably lay in Illinois. It would have been most likely that she had met and married someone there and then moved to Colorado. I started looking for Darlings in Illinois near where I had found Withrows. Once I had narrowed the field, there was only one person who fit the bill and that was a David Darling, the same name I found in the city directories for Leadville. From there the documentation was in place on the Web to trace the Darlings back to New York (probably the Adirondack mountains, Washington and Essex Counties), Vermont, Massachusetts, and then to England.

Along the way I was occasionally thrown a curve. In one census report Mary Withrow was reported to have been born in Kentucky. In another she was born in Virginia. In one report, Blanche Darling was said to have been born in Arkansas. I have no idea how people came up with this, except that one person was probably interviewed by the census taker, and that person may have done some guessing.

What follows are the direct lines for Ralph Edward Griswold through the agnatic lines of Edward Robert Jones, Blanche Darling, and Mary Withrow. My database contains much more information about the family for those who are interested.

Madge Griswold

Jones Line

Thomas Morris b. abt 1705 = Margaret Hopkis (sic)
 John Morris = Jane Buffton
 George Morris = Sarah Jones
 George Morris = Catherine Jones (not married)
 George Jones = Mary Davies
 Edward Robert Jones, b. 1866, More, Shropshire, England = Blanche Darling
 Dorothy Evelyn Jones = Charles Gale (Gale Charles) Griswold
 Ralph Edward Griswold

Darling Line

George Darling b. 1606 in England = N. N.
 Dennis Darling = Hannah Francis
 Benjamin Darling = Mehitable White
 Joseph Darling = Mary Fish
 Jacob Darling = Sarah Cutler
 Thomas Jefferson Darling = Ruth Ann Beach
 David D. Darling = Ermina Folensbee
 David Benjamin Darling = Mary Withrow
 Blanche Darling = Edward Robert Jones
 Dorothy Evelyn Jones = Charles Gale (Gale Charles) Griswold
 Ralph Edward Griswold

Withrow Line

Robert Withrow, b. 1692, Ulster, Ireland = Janet/Jennet
 William Withrow = Martha
 John Withrow = Sarah
 Stephen Withrow = Sarah Hughes
 Joel M. Withrow = Martha Ann Threllkild
 Mary Withrow = David Benjamin Darling
 Blanche Darling = Edward Robert Jones
 Dorothy Evelyn Jones = Charles Gale (Gale Charles) Griswold
 Ralph Edward Griswold