

**An example of the outcome of a Family History research request undertaken in early 2009 for Margi Phillips of Adelaide, Australia, involving her relation John King Sanderson.**

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**Introduction**

This request was received by Rev. Paul Peverell and was passed to the Ayton Story Group who were working on 'population studies' under the Project investigating the history of the village. As part of the project we have transcribed all the Census records (every 10 years from 1841 to 1901) and the burial, baptism and marriage records from 1710 to 1901. The transcribed data are as Excel spreadsheets which considerably increases the speed that we can obtain information.

**Margi supplied the following information on her relative John King Sanderson (JKS).**

John King Sanderson, (**JKS**) was born in Great Ayton ca. 1832 and emigrated to Adelaide, South Australia in 1854. Margi stated John King Sanderson was the eldest of 5 children but they were orphaned early in life. **JKS's** occupation in Adelaide was Saddler/Harnessmaker and he was reputed to have an excellent bass voice and was very involved in the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Adelaide. Margi has in her possession a photo of 'one of the first organists' taken outside this church and she wonders whether we have any more information concerning his Methodist Church roots which would fill in some gaps.

**The results of our research on the records of JKS in the Great Ayton Parish Registers.**

Baptismal records were initially very fruitful and combined with marriage and burial records showed that **JKS's** family group was: his parents were William Sanderson and his wife Sarah (maiden name King) both of this parish (OTP) and his father was a shoemaker by occupation. They married on Nov 1<sup>st</sup> 1825. father William was born late 1803 and baptised in Ayton on Dec 19<sup>th</sup> 1803, later he was buried on Jan 29<sup>th</sup> 1845 aged 41. Sarah was born in 1805, but baptism record, she was buried on June 27<sup>th</sup> 1851 aged 46. Sarah's parents were John and Ann King.

William and Sarah had 9 children, as recorded in the baptismal records:

John bapt. Dec 1 1825, died at 14 weeks and buried March 20 1826

John bapt. March 11 1827, died aged 2 burial Oct 28 1829

Jane bapt. Feb 22 1829, died aged 2 yrs 3 months and buried May 28 1831

**JKS** bapt. April 14 1831

James bapt. June 10 1833, died aged 15 and buried April 25 1849

Ann bapt. Dec 11 1835

Francis bapt. Jan 18 1838

Humphrey bapt. May 15 1840

Sarah Jane bapt. Sep 24 1842, died aged 17 and buried Feb 24 1860

In Margi's e-mail she stated **JKS** was the eldest of 5 children, the above shows he was the 4th of 9 children although three died before or around the time of **JKS's** birth. As was quite common at this time the first child was born considerably less than 9 months after the marriage.

**JKS's** paternal grandparents were Francis and Sarah (maiden name Bulmer) born 1773 and 1778 respectively, married at Ayton May 5 1800; Francis died aged 78, buried May 30 1851 and Sarah died aged 69 and was buried Dec 21 1847.

**JKS's** paternal great-grandparents were Humphrey Sanderson and Elizabeth (maiden name Dickson from local village Ingleby Greenhow), married at Ingleby Greenhow church in April/May 1769 (last bann read April 23 1769). Humphrey was a shoemaker/ cordwainer (the latter occupation makes high quality shoes and special purpose boots) and died aged 73 and was buried at Ayton on Jan 4 1815. His wife Elizabeth was buried May 4 1812

The 1841 Census data show that a John Sanderson was living in the village in 1841 with William and Mary King aged 75 and 65. This John is 10 which is correct for **JKS's** age and he was probably acting as a companion for his elderly maternal grand-parents. His parents William and Sarah are also in the village with the younger children of the family: James (aged 8), Ann 5, Francis 3 and Humphrey 1.

In the 1851 census **JKS's** brother Francis is 13 and staying with William King aged 83 and described as his great nephew. Thus it looks as though this William King is the elder brother of Sarah's father John King.

The Sandersons mentioned here are in the shoemaking trades and that would fit with the skills that **JKS** developed when he transferred to saddler/harnessmaker i.e. working with leather. The Sandersons were the principal shoemakers in Ayton around this time.

We have done a limited amount of work around the area of Wesleyan Methodist church membership and although comprehensive it does show Sandersons as members in the early to mid-1880's. In 1830 a Humphrey Sanderson was a member and he could be the Humphrey Sanderson aged 40 and a shoemaker who is recorded in the 1841 census. Unfortunately all the other entries for Sanderson are such that the forename/ initials are illegible. This background seems a likely reason the **JKS** was associated with the Adelaide Wesleyan Methodist Church.

We hope the information we have found helps you in your research. If you have any questions please feel free to send them through - we'll do our best.

A further communication from Margi resulted in us seeking more information on Ancestry.co.uk. Clearly when the events occurred in Great Ayton we were able to research them with our databases. However, it became clear that **JKS** had moved out of Great Ayton. Fortunately the Ancestry enabled us to find him living in Stockton and we were able to add more detail to Margi's report. John in 1851 was living in Stockton with his uncle James who was a Saddle and Harness Maker. The address was 60 High Street, Stockton and the family were:

James Sanderson, widower aged 50, Saddle and Harness Maker, born Gt Ayton, Yorks

Elizabeth aged 27, unmarried born Stockton

Hannah 32 unmarried born Stockton

James 20 unmarried Timber Merchant Clerk born Stockton

Sarah 19 unmarried born Stockton

Catherine 16 unmarried born Stockton

Henry 15 born Stockton Saddler apprentice

Mary Ann 13 born Stockton

JOHN nephew (**JKS**) 20 born Gt Ayton Saddler Apprentice (JK)

Thus it looks as though **JKS** was learning his trade as saddler and harness maker before he left for Australia - when? Not resolved as yet but it must have been later than the middle of 1851.

It seems that James married early as he would have been 18 when Hannah was born; the family do not seem keen to leave the family home!

In the 1851 census in Gt Ayton **JKS's** mother Sarah is described as a Pauper/Dressmaker and has son Humphrey 10 and Sarah Jane 8 both scholars living with her, however, the census was taken only a few months before Sarah died. So it seems following the Sarah's husband's death she was short of income - hence the pauper and side-line dressmaker job. I have not found the whereabouts of Humphrey and Sarah Jane following their mother's death.

Regarding your query as to whether it was usual to have young children living away from the family home remember in this period children left school not much older than 10 and perhaps the young children away from the home were apprenticed to family members to learn a trade or just a companion for an older relative. Not many social services at this period!! Although older **JKS** is apprenticed to his uncle James.

Note that **JKS** was not with his grandparents (your previous e-mail) in the 1841 census who would have been John and Ann King whereas he is with William and Mary King, and I believe William is the elder brother of Sarah's father John King. As noted previously in 1851 **JKS's** brother Francis is living with the same William King who is now a widower, Francis is described as grand-nephew which fits the relationship.

Francis and Sarah's children: **JKS's** grandparents, paternal side

Humphrey bapt Oct 24 1800

James bapt Feb 26 1802

William bapt Dec 19 1803 - **JKS's** father

Jane bapt Aug 10 1806

Esther Elizabeth bapt Jun 7 1812

John bapt May 7 1815

Catherine May 24 1818

Henry Dec 31 1820 died infant

Francis dec 28 1823

Humphrey and Elizabeth's children: **JKS's** great-grandparents, paternal side

Jane bapt May 19 1771

Francis bapt May 30 1773 – **JKS's** grandfather

Humphrey bapt July 9 1775

Elizabeth Mar 24 1777

Hannah bapt Jan 24 1779

Mary bapt Jan 12 1781

Anne bapt Jan 2 1783

John bapt Oct 9 1785

Best wishes Margi and please keep us informed if you discover any information on the JKS family tree.