

# *Michael Traynor – Professional Genealogist*

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## RESEARCH REPORT

**DATE:** 25 July 2021

**REPORT FOR:** Rebecca Bennett [Address Private]

**SUBJECT:** Charlie M. Price and Cecelia May Price of Kent County, Maryland

**BACKGROUND:** The client stated that her great-grandparents, Jarrett Tilden Price and Mary Elizabeth Ford, were born in the mid-1870s and resided in Kent County, Maryland. Based on her research, the client reports conflicting information about one of Jarrett and Mary's children. According to the 1910 census in Edesville, Maryland, Jarrett and Mary had a son named Charlie M. Price, born around 1909 in Maryland.<sup>1</sup> However, Charlie could not be located afterward in the 1920 census, in the Price household or any other.<sup>2</sup> Searching through a Maryland State Archives birth index, the client could not find any entry for Charlie.<sup>3</sup>

Instead, the client discovered a previously undocumented daughter of Jarrett and Mary Price: Cecelia May Price, born 7 March 1909 in Kent County. Cecelia did not appear with the Price family in the 1910 census, and the client could not locate her in any other 1910 enumeration.<sup>4</sup> Like Charlie, Cecelia also did not appear in the 1920 census.<sup>5</sup> Given the similarity of the children's ages, the absence of Charlie from the birth index and 1920 census, and the absence of Cecelia from both the 1910 and 1920 censuses, the client wondered whether the children were siblings (possibly twins) or actually one person, with one document reflecting erroneous information about the name, age, and sex.

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<sup>1</sup> 1910 US census, Kent County, Maryland, population schedule, Edesville, enumeration district (ED) 57, sheet 24B, dwelling 392, family 424, Charlie M. Price in Garrette [Jarrett] Price household; National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) microfilm publication T624, roll 566.

<sup>2</sup> Charlie M. Price made no known appearance in the 1920 census. "1920 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/6061> : accessed 2 June 2021), searches for individuals born in Maryland between 1907 and 1910 with first name Charlie, Charles, or Chas and surname Price or Pryce.

<sup>3</sup> Charlie M. Price had no known birth record. See "Birth Indexes 1898-1909, 1910-1950," browsable images, *Maryland State Archives* (<http://guide.msa.maryland.gov/pages/viewer.aspx?page=birth> : accessed 2 June 2021), searches for Price and Pryce from 1898-1909 and 1910-1919.

<sup>4</sup> Cecelia May Price made no known appearance in the 1910 census. See "1910 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7884> : accessed 2 June 2021), searches for individuals born in Maryland between 1907 and 1910 with first name Cecelia, Cecilia, C\*c\*I\*, May, Ma\*y, or Mae and surname Price or Pryce.

<sup>5</sup> Cecelia May Price made no known appearance in the 1920 census. "1920 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/6061> : accessed 2 June 2021), searches for individuals born in Maryland between 1907 and 1910 with first name Cecelia, Cecilia, C\*c\*I\*, May, Ma\*y, or Mae and surname Price or Pryce.

**OBJECTIVE:** Determine whether Charlie M. Price, born around 1909 in Maryland to Jarrett Tilden Price and Mary Elizabeth Ford of Edesville, Kent County, Maryland, is the same person as Cecelia May Price, born to the same parents on 7 March 1909 on Eastern Neck Island, Kent County, Maryland.

**LIMITATIONS:** 15 hours for research and reporting. Some repositories remain closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**REPOSITORIES:** *Ancestry.com*  
Maryland State Archives, physical repository (Annapolis, MD)  
Maryland State Archives, website (<http://msa.maryland.gov>)

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:**

The objective has been met within the allotted hours: Cecelia May Price and Charlie M. Price are the same person, Charlie being merely a misidentification of Cecelia in the 1910 census.

The following evidence supports the existence of Cecelia and the nonexistence of Charlie:

- ❖ Cecelia and Charlie have the same initials (“C.M.”), have the same parents and siblings, lived in the same location at the same time (Eastern Neck Island, Kent County), were born within the same date range (Cecelia on 7 March 1909 and Charlie between 16 April 1908 and 15 April 1909), and exited the records concurrently (Charlie after 2 May 1910 and Cecelia after 22 January 1911).
- ❖ Cecelia May Price was born 7 March 1909 on Eastern Neck Island in Kent County, as correlated by a birth record, death record, and newspaper death notice. The former two records feature unbiased reporters with primary information: her birth was recorded by the attending midwife who delivered her, and her death was reported by her father, Jarrett Price. Her death on 22 January 1911 convincingly explains her absence from the 1920 census.
- ❖ By contrast, Charlie M. Price has no known birth or death record. If he were Cecelia’s twin, Charlie’s birth would have been recorded at the same time. His absence from the 1920 census suggests that, if he had existed, he probably died prior to the 10 January 1920 enumeration. The state of Maryland enacted a law in 1898 requiring the registration of all births and deaths at the county level, although full compliance was delayed until 1914.<sup>6</sup> Charlie M. Price’s birth between 16 April 1908 and 15 April 1909 would have occurred 10-11 years after the law was enacted, and his death between 2 May 1910 and 10 January 1920 would have occurred 12-22 years after the law was enacted, giving Kent County considerable time to acclimate to the regular, accurate recording of these events. As many as two decades after the law’s passing, an absent birth or death record for Charlie M. Price could be blamed less on lack of compliance and more on lack of existence.
- ❖ Charlie’s sole appearance is in the 1910 census, the informant of which is unknown. This is a less reliable record than Cecelia’s birth and death records: if families were absent on census day, enumerators were permitted to retrieve information from acquaintances and neighbors, who may

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<sup>6</sup> For births, see “Maryland Vital Records: Birth,” *FamilySearch* ([https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Maryland\\_Vital\\_Records:\\_Birth](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Maryland_Vital_Records:_Birth) : accessed 23 June 2021). For deaths, see “Maryland Vital Records: Death,” *FamilySearch* ([https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Maryland\\_Vital\\_Records:\\_Death](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Maryland_Vital_Records:_Death) : accessed 23 June 2021).

have given less accurate information than a parent or attending medical professional.<sup>7</sup>

- ❖ The 1910 census lists Charlie as the fourth of four living children born to Jarrett and Mary Price. However, the other consulted records contradict that position. Although omitted from the 1910 census (casting further doubt on the record’s reliability), Dewey Price is the 1<sup>st</sup> of Jarrett and Mary’s children, as supported by the 1920 census and his 1979 death record. According to their years of birth—which are consistent across both censuses—Gladys, Merritt, and Hester Price would then represent the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> children, respectively. Charlie cannot be fourth.
- ❖ The Price children’s vital records—reliably recorded by midwives and physicians in the presence of Jarrett and/or Mary Price—eliminate Charlie from the birth order entirely. The Prices’ birth certificates directly identify the birth order of the following children: Hester (4<sup>th</sup>), Cecelia (5<sup>th</sup>), Lily (7<sup>th</sup>), Sarah Frances (8<sup>th</sup>), and Helen (9<sup>th</sup>), all of which correlate with the 1920 census (except Cecelia, who does not appear in the enumeration). Thomas Ray Price’s death record dated 27 July 1911 lists his birth as 18 July 1911, making him the 6<sup>th</sup> child. There is no room left for Charlie to be counted.
- ❖ The 1910 census claimed that all the Price children were living as of 2 May 1910. Further, Helen Amanda Price’s birth record reports that 7 of the 9 total Price children were living as of 8 January 1914, which means no more than 2 children had died in between. Cecelia and Thomas both have certificates and newspaper notices commemorating their deaths in 1911. Therefore, Charlie cannot represent an unaccounted death.
- ❖ In summation, Cecelia’s birth and death are clearly marked in distinct records. The Price children’s vital records and the family’s 1920 enumeration align with the birth order suggested by Cecelia’s records. As such, Cecelia’s absence from the 1910 census requires only one simple explanation: she was misidentified as Charlie. Charlie’s separate existence from Cecelia, however, would require numerous explanations for his missing documents, for his disappearance from records, and for the other records’ unanimous exclusion of him from the birth and death order.

## DETAILED RESEARCH NOTES:

### Comparison Chart 1: Charlie M. Price and Cecelia May Price

	1910 US Census	1920 US Census	Birth Certificate	Death Certificate	Newspaper Death Notice
<b>Name</b>	Charlie M. Price	—	Cecelia May Price	Mary Cecelia Price	“daughter” (unnamed)
<b>Birth</b>	16 April 1908 – 15 April 1909	—	7 Mar 1909	7 Mar 1909	1908-1909
<b>Birth Place</b>	Maryland	—	East Neck Island, Kent County, Maryland	Kent County, Maryland	—
<b>Residence</b>	East Neck Island, Kent County, Maryland	Baltimore County, Maryland	—	—	East Neck Island

<sup>7</sup> US Bureau of the Census, *Thirteenth Census of the United States, April 15, 1910: Instructions to Enumerators* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1910), p. 17-18, para. 47; digital images, “1910 Instructions,” *United States Census Bureau* ([https://www.census.gov/history/www/through\\_the\\_decades/census\\_instructions](https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/census_instructions) : accessed 22 July 2021).

<b>Death</b>	—	—	—	22 Jan 1911	22 Jan 1911
<b>Death Place</b>	—	—	—	Easter[n] Neck Island, Kent County, Maryland	—
<b>Father</b>	Garrette Price	Jarrett Price	Jarrett Tilden Price	Jarrett Price	Mr. Jarrett T. Price
<b>Mother</b>	Mary E. Price	Mary E. Price	Mary Elizabeth Ford	Mary E. Ford	Mrs. Jarrett T. Price
<b>Gender</b>	male	—	female	female	female

### Comparison Chart 2: Price Family Birth Order

Child of Jarrett & Mary Price	Year of Birth	Birth Order: 1910 Census	Birth Order: 1920 Census	Birth Order: Birth Records	Birth Order: Death Records
Dewey Sterling Price	1899	—	1	—	1
Gladys M. Price	1901-1902	1	2	—	—
Merritt Price	1902-1903	2	3	—	—
Hester Edna Effa Price	1907	3	4	4	—
Charlie M. Price	1908-1909	4	—	—	—
Cecelia May Price	1909	—	—	5	5
Thomas Ray Price	1911	—	—	—	6
Lily Ford Price	1912	—	5 <sub>≤</sub>	7	—
Sarah Frances Price	1912	—	6 <sub>≤</sub>	8	—
Helen Amanda Price	1914	—	7 <sub>≤</sub>	9	—
Cora Price	1918-1919	—	8 <sub>≤</sub>	—	—

To reduce redundancy, citations for the records in the charts above were placed under their respective categories below. The tables that follow consist of abstracts of digital scans of original records. To conserve space and enhance comprehensibility, only key information has been included. Please consult the attachments for images with full details.

### CENSUS RECORDS

#### 1910 US Census, Edesville, Kent County, Maryland — Garrette [Jarrett] Price household

Name	Relation	Sex	Race	Age	Marital Status	Years Married	Children Born	Children Living	Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace
-----, Mary E.	Wife	F	W	30	M	11	4	4	Delaware	Delaware	Delaware
-----, Gladys M.	Daughter	F	W	8	S				Maryland	Maryland	Delaware
-----, Merritt	Daughter	F	W	7	S				Maryland	Maryland	Delaware
-----, Hester E.	Daughter	F	W	3	S				Maryland	Maryland	Delaware
-----, Charlie M.	Son	M	W	1	S				Maryland	Maryland	Delaware

*Citation:* 1910 US census, Kent County, Maryland, population schedule, Edesville, enumeration district (ED) 57, sheet 24B, dwelling 392, family 424, Charlie M. Price in Garrette [Jarrett] Price household; National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) microfilm publication T624, roll 566.

*Analysis:* This portion of the 1910 United States census was recorded by enumerator John H. Mullen on 2 May 1910 in Edesville, Kent County, Maryland, where the Price family lived on East[ern] Neck Island. Charlie M. Price is directly identified as the 1-year-old son of Jarrett Price. As he was born ten years after Jarrett and Mary’s reported marriage, and his parents’ birthplaces correspond with Jarrett (Maryland) and Mary (Delaware), it is reasonable to assume that Mary is his mother. Mary is listed as having four total children—all living—and four children appear in the household, making Charlie M. Price the fourth of four children born to this couple. Charlie’s recorded age of 1 in the census places his date of birth between 16 April 1908 and 15 April 1909.<sup>8</sup>

### 1920 US Census, District 14, Baltimore County, Maryland — Jarrett Price household

Name	Relation	Sex	Race	Age	Marital Status	Attended School	Can Read	Can Write	Birthplace	Father’s Birthplace	Mother’s Birthplace
Price, Jarrett	Head	M	W	45	M	<del>No</del>	Yes	Yes	Maryland	Maryland	Maryland
-----, Mary E.	Wife	F	W	41	M	<del>No</del>	Yes	Yes	Maryland	Ohio	Maryland
-----, Merritt.	Son	M	W	17	S	No	Yes	Yes	Maryland	Maryland	Maryland
-----, Gladys	Daughter	F	W	18	S	No	Yes	Yes	Maryland	Maryland	Maryland
-----, Hester	Daughter	F	W	13	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maryland	Maryland	Maryland
-----, Lilly	Daughter	F	W	8	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maryland	Maryland	Maryland
-----, Frances	Daughter	F	W	8	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maryland	Maryland	Maryland
-----, Helen	Daughter	F	W	6	S	No	<del>Yes</del>	<del>Yes</del>	Maryland	Maryland	Maryland
-----, Cora	Daughter	F	W	1	S	<del>No</del>	<del>Yes</del>	<del>Yes</del>	Maryland	Maryland	Maryland
-----, Dewey	Son	M	W	20	S	No	Yes	Yes	Maryland	Maryland	Maryland

*Citation:* 1920 US census, Baltimore County, Maryland, population schedule, District 14, precinct 3, p. 121 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 48, sheet 11A, dwelling 173, family 183, Jarrett Price household; National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) microfilm publication T625, roll 655.

*Analysis:* This portion of the census was recorded by enumerator J. G. Lindenstruth on 10 January 1920 in Baltimore County, Maryland, where the Price family lived on Philadelphia Road. Charlie M. Price is missing from the Price household. Charlie’s appearance in his parents’ household is reasonably expected, as he would have been only 10 or 11 years old at the time of the enumeration. As such, Charlie M. Price’s absence functions as negative evidence of a few possibilities, chiefly that he died between census enumerations (between 2 May 1910 and 10 January 1920). In addition, the appearance of same-aged Lilly and Frances Price establish that the Prices were capable of having twins, lending possible credence to the theory of Charlie and Cecelia also being twins.

However, the 1920 census includes an older child, Dewey, who did not appear in the 1910 census. His listed age of 20 places his birthdate between 1 January 1899 and 1 January 1900, making him just old enough to be a likely child of Jarrett and Mary Price (who were married around 1898-1899, according to the 1910 census). If Dewey is indeed the firstborn son of Jarrett and Mary, that disrupts the birth order laid out by the 1910

<sup>8</sup> US Bureau of the Census, *Thirteenth Census of the United States*, p. 28-29, para. 110-112.

census: Charlie would be the fifth child, not the fourth. In addition, Mary Price’s birthplace (and that of her parents) conflicts with the 1910 census. While there is enough matching information to indicate the family is the same as in the prior census, there is also enough conflicting information to raise doubts about the completeness and correctness of both census records. Charlie and Cecelia’s absence from the census supports one or both being deceased by the time of the enumeration.

## VITAL RECORDS

### Cecelia May Price’s Maryland Birth Record

<b>Name of Child:</b>	Cecelia May Price	<b>Race:</b>	White
<b>Born at:</b>	East Neck Island	<b>Sex:</b>	Female
<b>Date:</b>	7 March 1909	<b>Number of Child:</b>	5th
<b>Father’s Name:</b>	Jarrett Tilden Price	<b>Mother’s Name:</b>	Mary Elizabeth Ford
<b>Age:</b>	33	<b>Age:</b>	30
<b>Occupation:</b>	Waterman	<b>Occupation:</b>	Spouse/Wife
<b>Birthplace:</b>	Kent County, Maryland	<b>Birthplace:</b>	Delaware
<b>Reported by:</b>	Elizabeth Wicks, midwife — Rock Hall, Kent County, Maryland		

*Citation:* Kent County, Maryland, Board of Health, Certificate of Birth, Cecelia May Price, 1909; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis.

*Analysis:* Born 7 March 1909, Cecelia May Price would have been 1 year old as of the 1910 census enumeration on 15 April 1910. This is the same age listed for Charlie in the census. She also bears the same initials as Charlie M. Price. However, Cecelia does not appear in the 1910 census; only Charlie does. To be listed in the 1910 census as age 1, Charlie would likely have been born between 16 April 1908 and 15 April 1909. Assuming Cecelia was carried to full term, her conception could be approximated as June 1908, leaving a mere two-month period between Charlie’s earliest birthdate and Cecelia’s conception. Another possible explanation is that Charlie and Cecelia are fraternal twins (which could explain the similarity of their names), both born on 7 March 1909. Given that Cecelia was born before 1910 yet did not appear in the 1910 census, it is possible that she died prior to 2 May 1910.

However, the problem of birth order raises significant questions. The certificate, composed closer to Cecelia’s birth than either census, lists Cecelia as the fifth child born to Jarrett Price and Mary Ford. The 1910 census sets the total number of children at 4, all living, with Charlie as the fourth. The unexpected appearance of eldest child Dewey Price in the 1920 census adds still another wrinkle, which would make Charlie either fifth or sixth in line. An examination of Price family vital records could shed some light.

### Dewey Sterling Price’s Maryland Death Record

<b>Name:</b>	Dewey Sterling Price	<b>Date of Death:</b>	22 May 1979
<b>Date of Birth:</b>	23 January 1899	<b>Place of Death:</b>	Chestertown, Kent County
<b>Age:</b>	80 years	<b>Sex:</b>	Male
<b>Birthplace:</b>	Maryland	<b>Marital Status:</b>	Widowed
<b>Race:</b>	White	<b>Cause of Death:</b>	Hepatic encephalopathy
<b>Place of Burial:</b>	Chester Cemetery	<b>Date of Burial:</b>	24 May 1979
<b>Father’s Name:</b>	Jarrett Price	<b>Mother’s Name:</b>	Mary Elizabeth Ford
<b>Informant:</b>	Hospital Records — Chestertown, Maryland		

*Citation:* State of Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Certificate of Death, no. 79-12466, Dewey Sterling Price, 1979; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis.

*Analysis:* Dewey Price's sudden appearance in the 1920 census created some confusion with regard to the birth order. Here, he is directly identified as the child of Jarrett and Mary Price, as correlated by the 1920 census. Affirming his identity as a son of Jarrett and Mary supports Cecelia's birth order as fifth child: excepting Charlie, there are three other known children (Gladys, Merritt, and Hester) born between Dewey and Cecelia, all of whose names and ages remain consistent in census records. Although Dewey's exclusion from the 1910 census is intriguing, his whereabouts in 1910 fall outside the scope of this research report.

### Hester Edna Effa Price's Maryland Birth Record

<b>Name of Child:</b>	Hester Edna Effa Price	<b>Race:</b>	White
<b>Born at:</b>	Kent	<b>Sex:</b>	Female
<b>Date:</b>	29 March 1907	<b>Number of Child:</b>	4th
<b>Father's Name:</b>	Jarrett L. Price	<b>Mother's Name:</b>	Mary E. Ford
<b>Age:</b>	32	<b>Age:</b>	28
<b>Occupation:</b>	Oystering	<b>Occupation:</b>	House Keep
<b>Birthplace:</b>	Maryland	<b>Birthplace:</b>	Delaware
<b>Reported by:</b>	Lizzie Wicks, midwife — Edesville, Kent County, Maryland		

*Citation:* Kent County, Maryland, Board of Health, Certificate of Birth, Hester Edna Effa Price, 1907; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis.

*Analysis:* Hester Price was born on 29 March 1907 to the same parents as Cecelia and Dewey and was delivered by the family midwife. Although she is listed in the 1910 census as the third child born to Jarrett and Mary, her birth record directly identifies her as the fourth child, and Dewey's death record and the 1920 census indirectly support that claim. With Cecelia's birth record (also recorded by Elizabeth Wicks) naming Cecelia the fifth child, any possibility of a child born between 29 March 1907 and 7 March 1909 is eliminated. Charlie was not the fourth child born to these parents. Three possibilities remain: either he and Cecelia were twins (with Cecelia being the firstborn twin), he was born after Cecelia but before the 1910 census (and wrongly listed as age 1), or he and Cecelia are the same person.

### Lily Ford Price and Sarah Frances Price's Maryland Birth Records

<b>Name of Child:</b>	Lillie Lily Ford Price	<b>Race:</b>	White
<b>Born at:</b>	Rock Hall, Kent County	<b>Sex:</b>	Female
<b>Date:</b>	13 October 1912	<b>Number of Child:</b>	7th
<b>Father's Name:</b>	Jarrett T. Price	<b>Mother's Name:</b>	Mary E. Ford
<b>Age:</b>	37	<b>Age:</b>	33
<b>Occupation:</b>	Oysterman	<b>Occupation:</b>	Housewife
<b>Birthplace:</b>	Maryland	<b>Birthplace:</b>	Maryland
<b>Reported by:</b>	W. H. Schwatka, physician — Rock Hall, Kent County, Maryland		

*Citation:* Kent County, Maryland, Board of Health, Certificate of Birth, Lily Ford Price, 1912; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis.

<b>Name of Child:</b>	Sarah Frances Price	<b>Race:</b>	White
<b>Born at:</b>	Rock Hall, Kent County	<b>Sex:</b>	Female
<b>Date:</b>	13 October 1912	<b>Number of Child:</b>	8th
<b>Father's Name:</b>	Jarrett T. Price	<b>Mother's Name:</b>	Mary E. Ford
<b>Age:</b>	37	<b>Age:</b>	33
<b>Occupation:</b>	Oysterman	<b>Occupation:</b>	Housewife
<b>Birthplace:</b>	Maryland	<b>Birthplace:</b>	Maryland
<b>Reported by:</b>	W. H. Schwatka, physician — Rock Hall, Kent County, Maryland		

*Citation:* Kent County, Maryland, Board of Health, Certificate of Birth, Sarah Frances Price, 1912; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis.

*Analysis:* As laid out in the 1920 census, Lily and Sarah Frances (simply called “Frances” in the census) were the next known children born after Hester and Charlie/Cecelia. Because the girls were twins, their birth certificates demonstrate how Charlie and Cecelia’s births would be recorded if they, too, were twins. Lily and Sarah Frances’s birth records name them the seventh and eighth children born to Jarrett and Mary Price, indicating that Lily was the twin born first. The handwriting on both records is uniform in style and pen and matches the doctor’s signature, indicating that the doctor filled out both certificates concurrently. The pre-printed form is also identical to that used in Cecelia’s birth record, which suggests no changes in the practice of recording between 1909 and 1912. If twins’ birth certificates were created simultaneously, the notion of Cecelia and Charlie being twins is a bit dubious, given that Charlie’s birth record is nonexistent.

Nevertheless, if Hester was born fourth, Cecelia was born fifth, and twins Lily and Sarah Frances were born seventh and eighth, that leaves room for a sixth child born between 7 March 1909 and 13 October 1912. If any Price child other than Charlie was born between Cecelia and Lily, however, no room would remain in the present birth order for Charlie to exist separately from Cecelia. (See Comparison Chart 2 on page 4.)

### Thomas Ray Price’s Maryland Death Record

<b>Name:</b>	Thomas Ray Price	<b>Date of Death:</b>	27 July 1911
<b>Date of Birth:</b>	18 July 1911	<b>Place of Death:</b>	Near Rock Hall, Kent County
<b>Age:</b>	9 days	<b>Sex:</b>	Male
<b>Birthplace:</b>	Kent County, Maryland	<b>Marital Status:</b>	Single
<b>Race:</b>	White	<b>Cause of Death:</b>	Summer catarrh
<b>Place of Burial:</b>	Kent County	<b>Date of Burial:</b>	28 July 1911
<b>Father’s Name:</b>	Jarrett T. Price	<b>Mother’s Name:</b>	Mary E. Ford
<b>Father’s Birth:</b>	Kent County, Maryland	<b>Mother’s Birth:</b>	Kent County, Delaware
<b>Informant:</b>	Jarrett T. Price — Rock Hall, Maryland		

*Citation:* Maryland Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics, Certificate of Death, no. 104, Thomas Ray Price, 1911; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis.

*Analysis:* This death record for Thomas Ray Price lists his date of birth as 18 July 1911, positioning him in between Cecelia (born 7 March 1909, the fifth child) and Lily (born 13 October 1912, the seventh child). This places Thomas at sixth in the birth order, not a child named Charlie. Because Thomas was born more than a year after the 1910 census enumeration, he would not have mistakenly appeared as “Charlie M.” in the census. Thomas’s age at death (9 days) is nowhere close to that of Charlie in the 1910 census (age 1); Charlie would have been 2 or 3 years old by 27 July 1911. This appears to eliminate Charlie from any sensible position within the Price family birth order that would still include him in the 1910 census. Thomas’s death 9 days after his birth also explains his absence from both census records.

### Cecelia May Price’s Maryland Death Record

<b>Name:</b>	Mary Cecelia Price	<b>Date of Death:</b>	22 January 1911
<b>Date of Birth:</b>	7 March 1909	<b>Place of Death:</b>	Easter Neck Island, Kent Co.
<b>Age:</b>	1 year, 10 months, 15 days	<b>Sex:</b>	Female
<b>Birthplace:</b>	Kent County, Maryland	<b>Marital Status:</b>	Single
<b>Race:</b>	White	<b>Cause of Death:</b>	Lobar pneumonia
<b>Place of Burial:</b>	Wesley Chapel Cemetery	<b>Date of Burial:</b>	24 January 1911
<b>Father’s Name:</b>	Jarrett Price	<b>Mother’s Name:</b>	Mary E. Ford
<b>Father’s Birth:</b>	Kent County, Maryland	<b>Mother’s Birth:</b>	Delaware
<b>Informant:</b>	Jarrett Price — Rock Hall, Maryland		

*Citation:* Maryland Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics, Certificate of Death, no. 92, Mary Cecelia Price, 1911; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis.

*Analysis:* “Mary Cecelia Price” is a simple reversal of Cecelia May Price, the name that appears on Cecelia’s birth record. The recorded date and place of birth, residence, and parent information match those listed on Cecelia’s birth certificate. It can be reasonably surmised that they are the same person. This record disposes of any theory that Cecelia died prior to the 2 May 1910 census enumeration. Since she was alive, she should have appeared in the census beside her family, casting further doubt on Charlie M. Price being a separate child. Although the 1910 census only names 4 total children instead of 5, it does note that none of Jarrett and Mary Price’s children had died prior to the enumeration, and Cecelia’s death in 1911 supports that claim.

### **Helen Amanda Price’s Maryland Birth Record**

<b>Name of Child:</b>	Mary H. Price, Helen Amanda	<b>Race:</b>	White
<b>Born at:</b>	Rock Hall, Kent County	<b>Sex:</b>	Female
<b>Date:</b>	8 January 1914	<b>Number of Child:</b>	9th
<b>Residence:</b>	Rock Hall R.F.D.	<b>Living Children:</b>	7
<b>Father’s Name:</b>	Jarrett T. Price	<b>Mother’s Name:</b>	Mary E. Ford
<b>Age:</b>	38	<b>Age:</b>	34
<b>Occupation:</b>	Waterman or Oysterman	<b>Occupation:</b>	Housewife
<b>Birthplace:</b>	Maryland	<b>Birthplace:</b>	Delaware
<b>Reported by:</b>	W. H. Schwatka, physician — Rock Hall, Kent County, Maryland		

*Citation:* State of Maryland, Certificate of Birth, no. 1099, Helen Amanda Price, 1914; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis.

*Analysis:* Helen Amanda Price’s birth on 8 January 1914 places her ninth in the birth order. The 1920 census indirectly supports this order, placing her immediately after Lily and Sarah Frances. Crucially, this is the first Price family vital record that names the total number of living children. Helen was the ninth child born to Jarrett and Mary Price but only the seventh child alive as of 8 January 1914. This indicates that two of the Price children had died before the date of Helen’s birth. With Cecelia and Thomas Price’s deaths occurring within months of one another in 1911, this leaves little room for a child named Charlie to have died between the 1910 and 1920 censuses. Given this fact, and the absence of a death record for Charlie M. Price in the Maryland State Archives index, he very likely did not exist.

## **NEWSPAPER DEATH NOTICES**

### ***The Chestertown Transcript* — Cecelia May Price’s Death Notice**

*Transcript:* “The little two-year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jarrett T. Price, of East Neck Island, died last Sunday afternoon of double pneumonia. Fumeral [*sic*] services were held Tuesday, interment in Wesley Chapel cemetery.”

*Citation:* “The Grim Reaper,” entry for daughter of Jarrett T. Price, *The Chestertown (Maryland) Transcript*, 28 January 1911, p. 5, col. 4; digital images, Maryland State Archives, *Guide to Special Collections* (<http://speccol.msa.maryland.gov/pages/newspaper/digitized.aspx> : accessed 6 June 2021).

*Analysis:* This newspaper death notice for an unnamed Price child was published in *The Chestertown Transcript* on Saturday, 28 January 1911. “Last Sunday” would have been 22 January 1911, which correlates with the death date in Cecelia May Price’s death record. “Held Tuesday” would have described 24 January

1911, which correlates with the burial date on the death record as well. The place of burial (Wesley Chapel) is also the same. Given that Cecelia was age 1 year, 10 months, 15 days at her time of death, the death notice's description of a "two-year old" likely constitutes a simple "rounding up." Furthermore, the child is identified as a "daughter," not as a "son" (as Charlie is named in the 1910 census).

### ***The Chestertown Transcript* — Thomas Ray Price's Death Notice**

*Transcript:* "The infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Garrett [*sic*] T. Price, of East Neck Island, died on Thursday afternoon of last week."

*Citation:* "The Grim Reaper," entry for infant of Garrett T. Price, *The Chestertown (Maryland) Transcript*, 5 August 1911, p. 1, col. 7; digital images, Maryland State Archives, *Guide to Special Collections* (<http://speccol.msa.maryland.gov/pages/newspaper/digitized.aspx> : accessed 15 July 2021).

*Analysis:* This newspaper death notice for another unnamed Price child was published in *The Chestertown Transcript* on Saturday, 5 August 1911. "Thursday ... of last week" would have been 27 July 1911, the date of death listed on Thomas Ray Price's death record. The location of East Neck Island appears in many of the Price children's vital records, as well as the 1910 census. The name "Jarrett" was also misspelled as "Garrett[e]" in the 1910 census. Although the newspaper death notice does not include an age, the descriptor "infant" indicates a child under the age of 1.<sup>9</sup> This correlates with Thomas's date of birth (18 July 1911) in his death record, not Charlie's date of birth according to the 1910 census (16 April 1908–15 April 1909).

## **CONCLUSION**

Resolving evidence inconsistencies requires a "defensible rationale," which demonstrates that "(a) only one uncorroborated evidence item ... supports one side, (b) significantly more error-prone sources and information items support one side, [and/or] (c) evidence for one side is substantially less credible."<sup>10</sup> Of the 12 different records examined for this report, only one alleges the existence of Charlie M. Price: the 1910 census, which appears to contain incomplete or erroneous information about the Price family and whose reporter cannot be determined. Comparatively, Cecelia May Price has three records supporting her existence, all reported by unbiased informants with primary knowledge of her existence. The Price family's vital records are consistent with one another, with the newspaper records, and with the 1920 census, and they support Cecelia's position within the birth order. Her death in 1911 explains her absence from the 1920 census. Meanwhile, the Price family's records collectively exclude Charlie from being born within the range suggested by the 1910 census. Cecelia's absence in 1910 requires only one explanation: she was misidentified as a son named Charlie. For Charlie—missing from all other records in which he would be reasonably expected—to be a separate child from Cecelia, numerous explanations for these omissions would need to be provided. However, no evidence in support of any alternative explanations could be found.

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH**

Although the above records convincingly support Cecelia's existence and Charlie's nonexistence, burial records and/or tombstone information could provide further evidence. Several members of the Price family were buried at Wesley Chapel Cemetery in Rock Hall, Kent County, Maryland. A request for burial records was filed with the Historical Society of Kent County in Chestertown in early June; however, the information was not received in time to publish in this report.

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<sup>9</sup> "Infants (0-1 year of age)," *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* (<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/childdevelopment/positiveparenting/infants.html> : accessed 22 July 2021).

<sup>10</sup> Board for Certification of Genealogists, *Genealogy Standards* (Nashville: Ancestry, 2019), 28. See Standard 48.