

# Who Were the Parents of Douglas Greig?

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## Introduction

Who were the parents of Douglas Greig, who died on 23 January 1979 in Sun City Center, Florida?<sup>1</sup> According to the information on his death certificate informed by his widow Helen, Douglas Greig was born 28 March 1889 in Scotland, and was the son of William Greig and Ann Lute.<sup>2</sup> His obituary, published in the Tampa Tribune, goes further to identify his birth location as Aberdeen, Scotland.<sup>3</sup> The dates of birth and death listed in the Social Security Death Index for Douglas agree with the information provided on his death certificate as does his social security number which was issued in Michigan.<sup>4</sup> However, an examination of Douglas's corresponding Social Security Application presents conflicting evidence, including a different year of birth and parents' names. His Social Security number, which was issued in November of 1936, identifies Douglas's parents as John Greig and Jeanette Frazer.<sup>5</sup> Also adding to the conflicting evidence, his date of birth was recorded as 28 March 1891, two years later than that shown on his death certificate.<sup>6</sup>

Because the information on the Social Security application was provided directly by Douglas, it is logical to believe it is more accurate than information provided by an informant, even if the informant is a spouse. However, good genealogical research cannot be based on just one record, but a review of all available records, especially when presented with such conflicting evidence. To identify the parents of Douglas Greig, a complete review and analysis of all available records follows.

## Evidence and Analysis

Marriage records indicate Douglas Greig, age 43, born in Scotland, a draftsman, resident of Highland Park, Michigan, the son of John Greig and Jeannette Frazer, married Helen Irene Corkins age

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<sup>1</sup> Florida, Department of Health, death certificate, #79-084541, (1979), Douglas Greig; Office of Vital Statistics, Jacksonville. [Privately held by Vicky Greig Stol, Berkley, Michigan]

<sup>2</sup> #79-084541, (1979), Douglas Greig.

<sup>3</sup> Obituaries, *The Tampa Tribune* (Tampa, Florida) 25 Jan 1979, page 47, col 1, entry for Douglas Greig, digital image, Newspapers (www.newspapers.com: accessed 18 October 2021).

<sup>4</sup> Social Security Administration, "U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/3693/>: accessed 17 October 2021) entry for Douglas Greig, 1979, SS no. 376-05-2956.

<sup>5</sup> Douglas Greig, SS# 376-05-2956, 27 November 1936, Application for Account Number (Form SS-5), Social Security Administration, Baltimore, Maryland.

<sup>6</sup> Douglas Greig, SS# 376-05-2956, SS-5.

33, in Detroit, Michigan on 29 June 1938.<sup>7</sup> According to their marriage announcement published in the Detroit Free Press, the wedding reception was held at the home of Mrs. Robert McFarlane, Douglas's sister.<sup>8</sup> Douglas was residing on Puritan Street in Highland Park.<sup>9</sup> This address agrees with Douglas's residence on his Social Security application filed in 1936, which was shown as 246 Puritan, Highland Park, Michigan.<sup>10</sup> Although Douglas's birth year on his marriage license (1895) varies significantly from the birth year on both his death record and social security application (1889), his parents' names agree with those shown on his social security application. In addition, Douglas's residence is consistent between the two documents.

The year prior to his marriage, Douglas petitioned for naturalization, at which time he was also residing at 246 Puritan in Highland Park, Michigan, working as a draftsman and unmarried. In this record, Douglas indicates he immigrated to the U.S. on 18 August 1923 from Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, and was born in Aberdeen, Scotland on 28 March 1890.<sup>11</sup> Although his date of birth on the petition matches other records, the year does not. Douglas's occupation as well as his signature on this document match his Social Security application, supporting the belief that the petitioner was the same Douglas Greig, who became the husband of Helen Corkins.

Since Douglas arrived in the U.S. in 1923, he should be included in the 1930 U.S. Census enumeration. As it happens, only one Douglas Greig born between 1885-1895 in Scotland, residing in Michigan was enumerated in the 1930 census. Douglas, along with brother-in-law Robert McFarlane, sister Jeannette McFarlane and cousin Daisy Reid were enumerated together in Highland Park. All household members as well as their parents were born in Scotland. Douglas, age 40, was unmarried and employed as a tool designer (the same occupation shown on his death certificate).<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Wayne County, Michigan, marriage license no. 5516940, (1938) Douglas Greig and Helen Corkins; Wayne County Clerk, Detroit. [Privately held by Vicky Stol, Berkley, Michigan]

<sup>8</sup> "Chapel Nuptials Unite Couple," *Detroit Free Press* (Detroit, Michigan) 17 July 1938, page 24, col. 4, digital image, *Newspapers* (www.newspapers.com: accessed 18 October 2021).

<sup>9</sup> "Chapel Nuptials Unite Couple," *Detroit Free Press*, page 24.

<sup>10</sup> Douglas Greig, SS# 376-05-2956, 1936, Application for Account Number (Form SS-5), Social Security Administration.

<sup>11</sup> "Michigan, Eastern and Western Districts, Naturalization Records, 1837-1993", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:ZC7D-ZXMM>: accessed 18 October 2021), Douglas Greig, filed 7 Jan 1937; citing Naturalization Petition and Record, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division, Detroit, Folder Number 102301089.

<sup>12</sup> "1930 United States Census, Wayne County, Michigan, population schedule, Highland Park, enumeration district (ED) 984, page 11 B (penned), dwelling 109, family 308, household of Robert McFarland; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=6224>: accessed 18 October 2021); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm publication T626, roll 1074.

Utilizing his entry date into the U.S. from the petition for naturalization, a matching immigration entry card was identified. The card dated, 18 August 1923, asserted Douglas Greig, age 33, a draftsman born in Scotland, immigrated from Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Douglas's closest relative remaining in Hamilton was his sister, Mrs. R. McFarlane (the same sister shown in his marriage announcement). According to his entry card, Douglas arrived in Canada by sea in Montreal in June 1906, aboard the *S.S. Sardinia*.<sup>13</sup>

Just as his immigration card reflects, Douglas, as well as his sister Jeanette, were residing in Canada at the time of the 1921 and 1911 Canadian censuses (see Table A). The information contained in

**Table A- Canadian census records for Douglas Greig.**

**1921 Canadian Census <sup>a</sup>**

Head - Robert McFarlane	29 born in Scotland, immigrated 1906
Wife - Jeanett McFarlane	31 born in Scotland, immigrated 1904
Cousin- Kathleen Reid	15 born in Canada
Cousin - Daisy Reid	11 born in Canada
Brother-in-law -Douglas Greig	30 born in Scotland immigrated 1904

**1911 Canadian Census <sup>b</sup>**

Head Charles McCurrach	53, born March 1858, Scotland, immigrated 1904
Wife Agnes McCurrach	49, born October 1861, Scotland, immigrated 1904
Daughter Nettie Gregg	23, born October 1888 Scotland, immigrated 1904
Son Douglas Gregg	21, born March 1890 Scotland, immigrated 1904

<sup>a</sup>1921 Census of Canada, Wentworth, Ontario, enumeration district (ED)141, sub-district 35, Saltfleet Township, page 26 (penned) dwelling 269, fam. 269, household of Robert McFarland.

<sup>b</sup>1911 Census of Canada, Hamilton, Ontario, enumeration district (ED)76, sub-district 21, page 2 (penned), dwelling 16, fam, 16, Charles McCurrach household.

the 1921 census closely matches that shown in the 1930 census for Douglas, who is living with his sister Jeanette, brother-in-law Robert McFarlane, and cousin Daisy Reid. However, the 1921 census indicates

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<sup>13</sup> "Detroit, Michigan, U.S., Border Crossings and Passenger and Crew Lists, 1905-1963," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1070/>: accessed 21 October 2021 image 3169, entry for Douglas Greig, arrived 18 Aug 1923 Detroit, Michigan; citing Card Manifests (Alphabetical) of Individuals Entering through the Port of Detroit, Michigan. Series M1478, The National Archives at Washington, D.C.

Douglas's year of arrival to Canada was 1904.<sup>14</sup> This differs from his immigration entry card into the U.S., which shows he arrived in Canada in 1906.<sup>15</sup>

Although Douglas's last name does not match exactly (Gregg instead of Greig) in the 1911 census enumeration, other items in the record, such as place of birth, year of immigration (1904, matching the 1921 census) and date of birth (March 1890) correspond with earlier records for Douglas. Just as in 1921, Douglas is residing with his sister Jeannette, shown as "Nettie" (Nettie is a common nickname for Jeannette<sup>16</sup>). Surprisingly, the census identifies Douglas and Nettie as children of Charles and Agnes McCurrach, which conflicts with Douglas's previously specified parents' names.<sup>17</sup>

Given their differing surnames, could Charles McCurrach be Douglas and Jeannette's stepfather? Additional records help to clarify the relationship. According to the marriage affidavit for Robert McFarlane and Jeanette Fraser Greig, dated 13 February 1915, Jeanette Fraser Greig was the "foster child" of Charles and Agnes McCurrach.<sup>18</sup>

Canadian passenger arrival lists for Douglas Greig confirm he arrived aboard the *S.S. Sardinia*, but in June 1904 (which agrees with the date shown in the 1911 and 1921 census enumerations) and not 1906 as suggested on Douglas's immigration entry card. Douglas arrived with his sister Nettie Greig. However, they did not arrive with their parents, but with Charles and Mrs. McCurrah [*sic*]. Details of the group's arrival are transcribed below. The group was traveling to Camlachie, Ontario. Douglas and Nettie were recorded as servants, and not children of the McCurrahs [*sic*] which reconfirms the McCurrachs were not Douglas's parents.<sup>19</sup>

<i>McCurrah [sic], Chas,</i>	<i>farmer,</i>	<i>age 46, born in Banff</i>
<i>McCurrah [sic]., Chas, Mrs.,</i>	<i>wife,</i>	<i>age 42, b in Aberdeen</i>

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<sup>14</sup> "1921 Census of Canada," Wentworth, Ontario, population schedule, enumeration district (ED)141, sub-district 35, Saltfleet Township, page 26 (penned) dwelling 269, family 269, household of Robert McFarland; image, *Ancestry* (<http://search.ancestry.com>: accessed 18 October 2021); citing library and Archives of Canada, series RG31, folder 98.

<sup>15</sup> "Detroit, Michigan, U.S., Border Crossings and Passenger and Crew Lists, 1905-1963," entry for Douglas Greig, arrived 18 Aug 1923.

<sup>16</sup> Ray Hennessy, "What's in a Name?" (<https://www.whatsinaname.net/female-names/Jeanette.html>: 18 October 2021), Jeannette.

<sup>17</sup> 1911 Census of Canada, Hamilton, Ontario, population schedule, enumeration district (ED)76, sub-district 21, page 2 (penned), dwelling 16, family 16, Charles McCurrach household; image, *Ancestry* (<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=8947>: accessed 18 October 2021): citing library and Archives of Canada microfilm reels T-20326 to T-20460.

<sup>18</sup> "Ontario, Canada Marriages 1869-1928" database with images, *Ancestry* (<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=7921>: accessed 18 October 2021), affidavit of marriage, Jeanette Fraser Greig, 13 February 1915; citing Archives of Ontario, Toronto, series MS932, roll 342.

<sup>19</sup> "Canada Passenger Lists, 1865-1935," database with images, *Ancestry*, (<https://ancestry.com>: accessed 18 October 2021), manifest SS Sardinia, Glasgow, Scotland to Quebec and Montreal, Canada, arriving 16 June 1904, page 4, line 1490, Chas Mccurrach; citing *Passenger Lists, 1865-1935*, Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.

*Greig, Nettie Miss,                      d servant,                      age 16 b in Aberdeen*  
*Greig, Douglas Mr.,                      Farm Svt,                      age 15 b in Aberdeen*

### Searching for Douglas's parents in Scotland

The 1901 Scottish census found Douglas, age 12, residing in Peterculter, (just outside of Aberdeen), as a boarder in the household of Charles and Agnes McCurrach, along with his sister Janet F. Greig, (aka Jeanette, Nettie) age 13, also a border.<sup>20</sup> A search of the 1891 Scottish census produced only one result for a Douglas Greig living in Scotland under the age of 4; Douglas Greig, age 2 was living in the St. Nicholas Parish poor house in Aberdeen, as was his sister, shown as Jessie Greig, age 4.<sup>21</sup> (Jessie is a pet name popular in Scotland for Janet/Jeanette.<sup>22</sup>) A search for others with the surname Greig living in the St. Nicholas poorhouse in 1891 revealed one entry for a Charles Greig, born 1827, there was no mention of William, Ann, John, or Janet Greig.<sup>23</sup>

Inquiries into poor relief records for orphaned and deserted children in Aberdeen revealed Douglas and Janet Greig had lived in the poor house from 14 May 1890 until 1893, after which time they were shown living in the household of the McCurrachs; none of the relief records indicated their parent's names.<sup>24</sup> Sadly, a search of articles in area newspapers for 1890 provide additional details on how Douglas and Janet came to reside in the poor house. An article, dated 18 December 1890, describes how widow, "Ann Lute or Greig" severely neglected her children Jessie, "age three years and nine months" and Douglas, "age one year and six months" by leaving them in squalid conditions; she was sentenced to

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<sup>20</sup> 1901 Census of Scotland, Aberdeenshire, Peterculter, page 20, (stamped), household of Charles McCurrach, digital image, "1901 Census", *Scotland's People*, (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/welcome.aspx>: accessed 17 October 2021); citing the New Register House, Edinburgh, GRO 231/02 001/00/020.

<sup>21</sup> 1891 Census of Scotland, Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen, enumeration district, St. Nicholas Poorhouse, page 8, line 22, Douglas Greig; digital image, "1891 Census", *Scotland's People*, (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/welcome.aspx>: accessed 17 October 2021); citing the New Register House, Edinburgh, GRO 168/01 061/00 008; 1891 Census of Scotland, Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen, enumeration district, St. Nicholas Poorhouse, page 16, line 22, Jessie Greig; digital image, "1891 Census", *Scotland's People*, (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/welcome.aspx>: accessed 17 October 2021); citing the New Register House, Edinburgh, GRO 168/01 061/00 016.

<sup>22</sup> Ray Hennessy, "What's in a Name?" (<https://www.whatsinaname.net/female-names/Jessie.html>: 18 October 2021), Jessie.

<sup>23</sup> 1891 census of Scotland, Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen, enumeration district, St. Nicholas Poorhouse, page 5, line 5, Charles Greig; digital image, "1891 Census", *Scotland's People*, (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/welcome.aspx>: accessed 17 October 2021); citing the New Register House, Edinburgh, GRO 168/01 061/00 005.

<sup>24</sup> Siobhan Covery, Archivist, Archives, Aberdeen Scotland, to Vicky Greig, letter, 20 July 2000, search of City Parish relief records for Douglas and Janet [Jessie] Greig, 2000; privately held by Vicky Greig Stol, Berkley, Michigan. 2021.

prison for neglect.<sup>25</sup> The ages of the children described in the article, (Douglas born around 1890 and Jessie born around 1888) line up with those shown in the records detailed within this report, for siblings Douglas and Jeannette. Considering this, it strongly appears that Douglas and Jessie maybe the children of widow Ann Lute Greig.

In Scotland, statutory recordings of births, deaths and marriages began in 1855 and were well established by the late 1880s.<sup>26</sup> Searching the statutory birth records for a Douglas Greig born around 1889, produced only one result; Douglas Greig, born on 28 March 1889, at 4 North Constitution Street, Aberdeen, to parents shown as William Greig, a comb maker, and Ann Lute. The record was signed by the father, William Greig.<sup>27</sup>

Similarly, a record was found for the birth of Janet Fraser Greig, who was born on 18 October 1887, at 4 North Constitution Street, Aberdeen, to William Greig, comb maker, and Ann Luke [*sic*]<sup>28</sup>. Janet's date of birth agrees with the date of birth she provided on her Declaration of Intention, filed 12 October 1940 in Detroit, Michigan.<sup>29</sup> She identifies herself as Janet Fraser Greig McFarlane, wife of Robert, born 18 October 1887 in Aberdeen, Scotland, previously residing in Hamilton, Ontario.<sup>30</sup> (Janet McFarlane passed away in 1967 and is buried next to her husband Robert in Ontario, Canada.<sup>31</sup> Janet's death certificate likely includes her parent's names. However, due to Canadian privacy restrictions on whom may apply for a copy of a death certificate, Janet's death certificate could not be obtained for this report.<sup>32</sup>)

Although the birth dates for Douglas and Janet (aka Jessie) identified in the Scottish statutory birth records vary slightly from the birth dates referenced in the news article, their mother's name

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<sup>25</sup> "Alleged Cruelty to Children" *Aberdeen Journal and Press*, 18 December 1890, page 5 col 3, *The BNA* (<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000575/18901218/070/0005>; accessed 18 October 2021).

<sup>26</sup> "Statutory Register of Births," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/record-guides/statutory-register-births>; accessed 24 November 2021).

<sup>27</sup> "Statutory Births 1855-2014", database and images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>; accessed 18 October 2021), image, birth registration, no. 475, Douglas Greig, born 28 March 1889, registered 6 April 1889, St. Nicholas Parish, Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/01 0475.

<sup>28</sup> "Statutory Births 1855-2014", database and images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search/birth/index.aspx>; accessed 18 October 2021), image, birth registration, no. 1530, Janet Fraser Greig, born 18 October 1887, registered 20 October 1887, St. Nicholas Parish, Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/01 1539.

<sup>29</sup> "Michigan, Eastern and Western Districts, Naturalization Records, 1837-1993", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org>; 25 November 2021), Janet Fraser Greig McFarlane, 1940.

<sup>30</sup> "Michigan, Eastern and Western Districts, Naturalization Records, 1837-1993" Janet Fraser Greig McFarlane, 1940.

<sup>31</sup> McDonald, Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/195275252/janet-mcfarlane>; accessed 24 November 2021), memorial page for Janet McFarlane (1887–1967), Find a Grave Memorial ID 195275252, citing Caledonia Cemetery, Caledonia, Haldimand County, Ontario.

<sup>32</sup> Government of Ontario. (2012, September 4). *Who can apply for a death certificate?* Service Ontario. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/how-get-copy-ontario-death-certificate-online#section-4>

matches as does the timeline for placement into the poor house. Additionally, Janet’s date of birth shown on the statutory record exactly matches her date of birth provided on her Declaration of Intention. Finally, a death record for Ann Lute Greig, who died on 6 January 1892, while living in a city poor house confirms she was the widow of William Greig, matching the birth records for Douglas and Janet.<sup>33</sup>

Based on this, Douglas’s statutory birth record confirms his widow Helen’s assertion that Douglas was the son of William Greig and Ann Lute. (Even though no records in which Douglas himself provided the names of his parents supports Helen’s claim.) This conclusion is further supported by corroborating information on the birth registration of Jeannette Fraser Greig McFarlane, who was shown to be Douglas’s sister consistently in numerous records throughout his life (see Table B).

**Table B- Records referencing sister Jeannette and brother-in-law Robert McFarlane**

<b>Record</b>	<b>Reference to brother-in-law or sister Jeannette in record</b>
1942 WWII draft Application <sup>34</sup>	Robert McFarlane
1937 Marriage Announcement <sup>35</sup>	Mrs. Robert McFarlane
1930 US Census <sup>36</sup>	Brother-in-law Robert McFarlane Sister Jeanette McFarlane
1923 Border Crossing <sup>37</sup>	Sister Mrs. Robert McFarlane
1921 Canadian Census <sup>38</sup>	Brother-in-law Robert McFarlane Sister Jeanett McFarland
1911 Canadian Census <sup>39</sup>	Sister Nettie Gregg
1904 Passenger List <sup>40</sup>	Miss Nettie Greig
1901 Scottish Census <sup>41</sup>	Janet F Greig
1893 Aberdeen relief records	Sister Jessie Greig age 4

<sup>33</sup>“Statutory Deaths 1855-2014“, database and images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>: accessed 5 July 2016), image, death registration, no. 026, Ann Greig, nee Lute, died 6 January 1892, registered 7 January 1892, St. Nicholas Parish, Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/01 0026.

<sup>34</sup> “U.S., World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942,” database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1002/>: accessed 17 October 2021) card for Douglas Greig, serial number 00302, local draft board # 42, Wayne County, Detroit, Michigan; citing United States, Selective Service System. Selective Service Registration Cards, World War II: Fourth Registration. Records of the Selective Service System, Record Group Number 147, National Archives and Records Administration.

<sup>35</sup> Chapel Nuptials Unite Couple,” *Detroit Free Press*, page 24.

<sup>36</sup> 1930 US Census, Wayne County, Mi., pop. sch. (ED) 984, page 11 B (penned), dwelling 109, fam. 308, Douglas Greig.

<sup>37</sup> " Detroit, Michigan, U.S., Border Crossings and Passenger and Crew Lists,” Douglas Greig, 1923.

<sup>38</sup> 1921 Census of Canada, Wentworth, Ontario, (ED)141, sub-district 35, Saltfleet Township, page 26 (penned) dwelling 269, fam. 269, household of Robert McFarland.

<sup>39</sup> 1911 Census of Canada, Hamilton, Ontario, (ED)76, sub-district 21, page 2 (penned), dwelling 16, fam, 16, Charles McCurrach household.

<sup>40</sup> Manifest, *S.S. Sardinian*, Glasgow, Scotland to Quebec and Montreal, Canada, arriving 16 June 1904, line 1490, Douglas Greig.

<sup>41</sup> 1901 Census of Scotland, Aberdeenshire, Peterculter, page 20, (stamped), Douglas Greig.

Orphan & deserted children <sup>42</sup>	
1890-1892 Aberdeen relief records Orphan & deserted children <sup>43</sup>	Sister Jessie Greig
1890 News Article <sup>44</sup>	Sister Jessie Greig

## Questions remain

***Who Were John Greig and Jeanette Frazer?*** The question remains, why would Douglas state that his parents were John Greig and Jeanette Frazer? The answer as to who John and Jeannette are may be partially found in the death record of Douglas's his father, William. He is summarized as: William Greig, comb maker, married to Ann Lute, passed away on 26 October 1889 at 4 North Constitution Street, Aberdeen, son of John Greig (deceased) and Jessie Greig, (living) maiden surname Fraser. <sup>45</sup>Additional research reveals paternal grandmother, Janet Greig (aka Jessie), widow of John Greig, daughter of Simon Fraser, passed away 1 August 1892 in Aberdeen, Scotland, seven months after Douglas's mother Ann Lute Greig died.<sup>46</sup>

Given the fact Douglas was only 5 months old when his father passed away and just over a year old when he and his sister were taken away from his mother and placed in the poor house, Douglas would never have had a chance to know his parents or have heard their names spoken directly to them. Any information Douglas learned about his parents would have been received second hand. Perhaps Douglas's foster parents Charles and Agnes McCurrach had received some broken information on Douglas's family and confused the names of his parents with the names of his paternal grandparents especially, since his paternal grandmother post deceased both of his parents. Since Douglas's childhood years were spent in Peterculter, outside of Aberdeen, he likely did not have a chance to meet any additional family members who may have helped to provide the names of his parents, this separation from potential family was amplified when he moved to Canada. An additional explanation may be Douglas believed his sister Janet, was named after their mother, believing she was Janet Fraser Greig, and identified her as such. There is no way to be certain.

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<sup>42</sup> Siobhan Covery, Archivist, Archives, Aberdeen Scotland, to Vicky Greig, letter, 20 July 2000, search of City Parish relief records for Douglas and Janet [Jessie] Greig, 2000; privately held by Vicky Greig Stol, Berkley, Michigan. 2016.

<sup>43</sup> Covery to Greig, 20 July 2000.

<sup>44</sup> "Alleged Cruelty to Children" *Aberdeen Journal and Press*, 18 December 1890, p5.

<sup>45</sup> "Statutory Deaths 1855-2014", database and images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>: accessed 5 July 2016), image, death registration, no. 047, William Greig, died 26 October 1889, registered 28 October 1889, St. Nicholas Parish, Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/01 0947.

<sup>46</sup> "Statutory Deaths 1855-2014", database and images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk> : accessed 23 November 2021) image, death registration, no. 715, Janet Greig, died 1 August 1892, registered 2 August 1892, District of Nicholas Parish, Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/01 715.



***Why did Douglas report various dates of birth?*** A visual representation of the various dates of birth for Douglas may help to offer some reasons for the variations. Although it is impossible to know why Douglas provided varying years of birth, records are very consistent as to his date of birth as 28<sup>th</sup> of March.

As shown below, Douglas’s ages recorded in the 1891 and 1901 census as well as the 1904 passenger list seem to agree with his year of birth as shown in the statutory birth registration. Following his arrival in Canada until his marriage in 1936, Douglas’s date of birth was consistently recorded (or inferred) as 28 March 1890 (apart from his Social Security application in which he lists his birth as 28 of March 1891) one year off from his recorded birth year. Did his foster parent have his birth year incorrect, or misrepresent it intentionally, it is hard to know? Certainly, Douglas would not have known his own date of birth and likely learned his date of birth from his foster parents, who would have been in a position to supply it in the 1901 census and 1904 passenger list.

**Table B- Birth Dates Recorded for Douglas Greig**

<b>Year of Record</b>	<b>Record</b>	<b>Date of Birth/ Implied date of Birth</b>
1942	WWII draft Application <sup>47</sup>	28 March 1893
1940	1940 US Census <sup>48</sup>	Inferred 31 March 1892- 1 April 1893
1938	Marriage Record <sup>49</sup>	Inferred 28 June 1894- 29 June 1895
1937	Petition for Naturalization <sup>50</sup>	28 March 1890
1936	Social Security Application <sup>51</sup>	28 March 1891
1930	1930 US Census <sup>52</sup>	Inferred 2 April 1889- 1 April 1890
1923	Border Crossing <sup>53</sup>	17 August 1889- 18 August 1890
1921	1921 Canadian Census <sup>54</sup>	Inferred 31 March 1889- 1 June 1990
1911	1911 Canadian Census <sup>55</sup>	Recorded as March 1890

Douglas’s marriage, age in the 1940 census and WWII draft application indicate he was significantly younger than his birth record indicates. It is possible given his wife was born in 1905

<sup>47</sup> “U.S., World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942,” card for Douglas Greig, serial number 00302,

<sup>48</sup> "1940 US Census," Wayne County, Mi., pop. sch., Detroit Ward 16, (ED) 84-1052, sheet 5A, line 9, family 85, Douglas Greig.

<sup>49</sup> Wayne County, marriage license no. 5516940, (1938) Greig – Corkins.

<sup>50</sup> “Michigan, Eastern and Western Districts, Naturalization Records, 1837-1993”, Douglas Greig, filed 7 Jan 1937.

<sup>51</sup> Douglas Greig, SS# 376-05-2956, 1936, (Form SS-5).

<sup>52</sup> 1930 US Census, Wayne Co., Mi, Highland Park, enumeration district (ED) 984, page 11 B (penned), dwelling 109, fam. 308, Douglas Greig.

<sup>53</sup> " Detroit, Michigan, U.S., Border Crossings and Passenger and Crew Lists, 1905-1963,” Douglas Greig, 1923.

<sup>54</sup> 1921 Census of Canada, Wentworth, Ontario, (ED)141, sub-district 35, Saltfleet Township, page 26 (penned) dwelling 269, fam. 269, household of Robert McFarland.

<sup>55</sup> 1911 Census of Canada, Hamilton, Ontario, (ED)76, sub-district 21, page 2 (penned), dwelling 16, fam, 16, Charles McCurrach household.

(according to their marriage record), that Douglas wanted to appear closer in age to her and misrepresented his age. It would seem at some point later in life Douglas learned the identity of his parents as well as his actual birth date, as widow Helen stated his parents name correctly on his death certificate. Regardless, of these varying dates, there is sufficient corresponding information to confirm Douglas's identity as the husband of Helen and son of William Greig and Ann Lute.

## **Conclusion**

This analysis demonstrates the importance of an exhaustive research of records when answering a genealogical research question. Even an original record, containing direct evidence, can be incorrect, as reflected in Douglas's marriage and social security applications that identified his parents as John Greig and Jeanette Frazer. For many various reasons, information provided on records can be incorrect and it is up to the researcher to thoroughly investigate all records before drawing a conclusion. Only by reviewing all available records can one conclude that Douglas Greig, who died on 23 January 1979 in Sun City, Florida, was the child of William Greig, and Ann Lute.