

Research question:

Who were the parents of Frederick Hardy who died 5 June 1920 at Premier Mine Dist, Pretoria, Transvaal, South Africa, at age 70?

Background information:

Family lore from my grandmother, Ivy Freda Dorrett (nee Hardy) was that Frederick Hardy, a brother of her grandfather, Charles Hardy, went to South Africa and worked in a diamond mine. Charles Hardy/Harding/Harden was born in 1844 in Taunton, Somerset, England. His parents were Charles Hardy and Jane Moss.

The **Harden** family was in Taunton, Somerset, England in the 1851 census:

Charles, age 39, head, born Hants., Overton
Jane, age 39, wife, born Hants., Overton
Jane, age 10, daughter, born Hants., Overton
Charles, age 6, son, born Somerset, Taunton
Frederick, age 1, son, born Somerset, Taunton

The **Hardy** family was in Bridgwater, Somerset, England in the 1861 census:

Charles, age 50, head, born Hampshire, Dournhurstbourn
Jane, age 47, wife, born Hampshire, Overton
Leonard, age 22, son, born Hampshire, Overton
Charles, age 16, son, born Somerset, Taunton
Frederick, age 11, son, born Somerset, Taunton
Sophia, age 2, daughter, born Somerset, Taunton
Ellen, age 2, daughter, born Somerset, Taunton

I have not located Frederick in any subsequent census records in England. Given the variation in spelling of the name (Hardy, Harding, Harden) and how common both the forename and surname are, there are many possibilities in the various census years. There are also many possibilities of marriages and deaths in the indexes as well.

My research question resulted from when I found a death record in South Africa for a Frederick Hardy, age 70, born around 1850 in what was transcribed as Tamiston, England.

1. Ivy Freda Dorrett (nee Hardy) narrative and family lore

Citation
Dorrett, Ivy Freda (Hardy). "Family of Julia (Vale) Hardy." 5 loose pages of handwritten notes by Ivy Freda Dorrett, ca. 1980. Privately held by Lynn Reesor, 3506-42 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, 2023.

Ivy Freda Dorrett wrote brief family histories on 3 of her grandparent lines, including that of her grandfather Charles Hardy, who was born in 1844 in Taunton, Somerset, England. Charles Hardy is the father of Julia (Vale) Hardy. In this narrative, she wrote, "Charles Hardy had a brother, whose name may

have been Frederick, who moved to South Africa and worked in a diamond mine. Or the man who went to South Africa may have been a brother of my father's." No sources were cited or alluded to in any of the brief family histories.

She also mentioned this story of someone going to South Africa when I interviewed her in 1982. When I asked more questions about the siblings of her father, she was more certain that the man who went to South Africa would not have been an uncle, but rather the brother of her grandfather.

Parent Information	Source	Information	Evidence
same parents as Charles HARDY, although they are not named	Authored	Secondary	Indirect

- **Source:** Ivy's narrative is an authored source. It combines information from undocumented sources (perhaps letters from relatives in England or more likely oral stories from her father). Ivy and her family moved to Canada in 1908. The document is undated, but was probably written c. 1980, prior to my interview with her in 1982. She referred to the document and gave me the document at the time of the interview.
- **Informant:** The informant is Ivy, as both of her parents and all of her grandparents were deceased at the time of the writing of the narrative. Her father died in 1964 and her mother died in 1970.
- **Information:** Ivy gave secondary information. At the time of the writing of the narrative and the interview, neither of her parents were alive. She also uses the words "may have been" to indicate she is also not positive as to the name of Charles' brother who was purported to have gone to South Africa to work in a diamond mine (or if it was actually a brother of her father's).
- **Evidence:** This narrative provides indirect evidence as to the parents of Frederick HARDY, as Ivy indicates Charles and Frederick were potentially brothers. This information would need to be correlated with the names of Charles' parents, as Ivy does not indicate the names of his parents in this narrative.
- **Analysis**
 - This narrative was written in the late 1970s or early 1980s. I visited my grandmother in 1982 (the year I graduated from high school) to talk about family history and she noted she had begun putting something together for the family a few years prior.
 - This narrative was handwritten on 5 loose pieces of paper. There do not seem to be any pages missing as the narrative flows from one page to the next. I recognize my grandmother's handwriting.
 - The first page is mostly a rudimentary family tree with names and dates, the latter of which she had few specifics beyond the dates of birth, death and marriage of her parents.
 - It is written mostly in pen, although there are a few additions in pencil, which may indicate information she was not certain about.
 - It appears there are 2 different kinds of ink, as there are a few paragraphs in a darker ink.
 - There was no obvious sign of any damage (age-related or otherwise, such as rips, tears or smudges) to the paper itself.
 - There are many words crossed out, corrections to dates and grammar made, asterisks (but no explanation as to the asterisks), arrows to move content around, and some erasures. Despite this, the narrative is completely legible.

- I made some notations of my own when I interviewed her in 1982, for clarification on dates, names and if certain couples had children. I recognize my handwriting in this narrative.
 - When I asked questions regarding the man who went to South Africa, she contradicted part of what was in the narrative, saying she was pretty sure it was a brother of her grandfather, not a brother of her father.
- Ivy was born in 1906 so would have been in her mid-70s at the time of the writing of the narrative, so her memory may not have been too sharp at the time. Her father died in 1964 in Canada, and her grandfather died in 1909 in England, so she would not have been getting information directly from either of these men. She was also an only child, so did not have siblings to get information from either.
- I do recall she did go back to England at some point, but I don't know when or whom she may have visited other than 2 aunts she talked about (both sisters of her father).
- Ivy did not talk a lot about her family in England and when I interviewed her, I realized it was because she did not know a lot about the family.
- This narrative was written upwards of 100 years after Frederick Hardy may have gone to South Africa (if he was the brother of Charles Hardy who was born in 1844 and died in 1909) – a huge time lapse.
- I don't think there would have been any intentional errors in this narrative, as Ivy was just writing stories about her family.

- **Clues to other records:** Are there passenger lists for this time period?

2. Death notice of Frederick Hardy, who died 5 June 1920

Citation
"South Africa, Transvaal, Probate Records from the Master of the Supreme Court, 1869-1958," database with images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (www.familysearch.org/ : accessed 8 January 2023), Frederick Hardy, 1920; citing Probate, Transvaal, South Africa, Pietermaritzburg Archives (formerly Natal State Archives), South Africa.

In this source, both parents are listed as deceased. Frederick Hardy's birth place is transcribed as Tamiston, England and his nationality is British.

Parent Information	Source	Information	Evidence
Parents listed as deceased, but no names provided	Image of the original	Primary and Secondary	Indirect

- **Source:** According to FamilySearch, this is a microfilm of the originals at the Transvaal Archives Depot, Weaving Park, South Africa. The text before 1900 is in Afrikaans, and after 1900 partly in Afrikaans and English.
 - **Of note:** Notices are kept by date of filing rather than date of death. There is an old series of estates for those registered before June 1902 when the British administration began, and a new series for those registered thereafter. Some of the new series notices are mixed into the old series. For probate records, see Transvaal (South Africa). Supreme Court / Probate records, 1869-1950.
 - This is a microfilm facsimile of the original (although the attached will is a derivative of the original will).

- **Informant:** P. Mitchell is the informant, probably the son-in-law of Frederick Hardy. There is a Mrs. P. Mitchell listed as one of the children of Frederick Hardy, and in the accompanying document (a transcript of the will of Frederick Hardy), Peter Mitchell is listed as the sole executor. His address is the same as that of Frederick Hardy, which is the same address listed on the death notice.
 - P. Mitchell is named as “occupier and present in house at time of Death.”

- **Information:** Some of the information is primary and some is secondary.
 - Primary information
 - Name: Frederick Hardy
 - Occupation: Storeman
 - Ordinary Residence: Kimberley and Premier Mine (Premier Mine, since 1910)
 - Widower (spouse deceased)
 - Date of death: 5 June 1920
 - Place of death: 10/12 Ross Road, Premier Mine, Pretoria
 - Frederick Hardy left only personal effects (no movable or immovable property).
 - The estimated value of the estate is less than £300 (about £21).
 - Secondary information
 - Spouse died November 1908 (**this could be primary information if P. Mitchell was there when she died**)
 - Place of marriage: London, England
 - Birthplace: Tamiston, England
 - Nationality: British
 - Parents: deceased
 - Age: 70 years, 5 months, 7 days
 - Names of the 7 children, including married names of the 5 daughters

- **Evidence:** This is indirect evidence, as the names of his parents are not listed (they are both deceased). While there are no names, Frederick’s birthplace and nationality are listed, and this information may be correlated to help answer the research question.

- **Analysis:**
 - This document is in English (FamilySearch notes some of the text after 1900 could be in Afrikaans and English). Some of the death notices before and after this one are in Afrikaans.
 - This is not only a death notice, but when it is indicated the person made a will, a transcript of the will is also attached.
 - The death notices in this collection are not written by the same person, and some are typewritten. However, all the wills are typewritten transcripts.
 - The amount of information varies, depending on the informant and the recorder of the document.
 - Some of the death notices are in English and some are in Afrikaans.
 - As noted by FamilySearch, these notices are kept by date of filing, not date of death.
 - The death notice is completely legible. The handwriting is legible, except for the birthplace of Frederick Hardy. It was transcribed as “Tamiston,” but could be “Taunton,” which is the same birthplace as Charles Hardy (born c. 1844).
 - There are no erasures, smudges, crossed out words, or any signs of damage (no rips, tears, etc.) on this page. And there are no alterations in this document.
 - On other pages there is a note: “Please note. Some pages have the following problems: tight binding, smeared ink, coloured ink, bleed through, glued pages, soiled paper, faded ink, pencil writings, coloured paper.”

- The date of death is 5 June 1920 and the date of the document is 28 June 1920 (just over 3 weeks after the event).
 - Given the informant is probably Frederick Hardy's son-in-law and the fact this document was created 3 weeks after his death, it is likely this document is accurate and reliable.
 - And also given the information matches much of the information of the will (that was registered 15 June 1920), that adds to the accuracy of the information in the death notice.
 - Given this is a legal document, that adds to its reliability and accuracy.
 - Frederick Hardy left only personal effects (no movable or immovable property). The estimated value of the estate is less than £300 (about £21). This may suggest there were no financial implications for the informant (he had nothing to gain, so was accurate in estimating the value of the estate).
 - **NOTE:** Attached to the death notice is a transcript of the will of Frederick Hardy.
 - This is a derivative source, as it is a typewritten transcript of the will.
 - The informant was Frederick Hardy and the information primary. He named Peter Mitchell as the sole executor. The address of both Frederick Hardy and Peter Mitchell is the same, and it matches the address given on the death notice.
 - There is no information on his family other than a mention of "my children surviving me."
 - There are 4 sets of initials around the words "checked" and "received original will," which may add to the transcript's accuracy and reliability.
 - The will was dated 19 October 1917 and Frederick signed the will.
 - It was witnessed by Emma Bell and Thomas Bell.
 - The will was signed and witnessed at 21 End Street, Premier Mine, Transvaal, South Africa.
 - There is a stamp showing the will was registered and accepted 15 June 1920.
 - The will was filed 15 June 1920.
 - There are no issues with legibility of this transcript: it is typewritten, there are no erasures or errors, there is no indication of carelessness, there are no indications of damage to the paper (no rips, tears, smudges, bleed throughs, etc.), there are no alterations
 - Information in the attached transcript of the will supports the information found in the death notice, adding to its reliability and accuracy.
- **Clues to other records:**
 - Death record for his spouse, who died November 1908 (could hopefully lead to the marriage record in London, England)
 - Marriage records for the children listed in this record (we know at least the 5 daughters married as they are listed by their married names)
 - Original will

3. GRO Index

Citation
"Search the Online GRO Index," database, <i>HM Passport Office</i> (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp : accessed [6 January 2023]), Frederick Harding, birth, Mar qtr, 1850, Taunton, vol. 10/48; citing General Register Office, Southport.

In this index, there is a birth for a Frederick HARDING in the March quarter of 1850 in Taunton (Somerset), volume 10, page 48. The mother's maiden name is MOSS.

Parent Information	Source	Information	Evidence
Father's surname is HARDING and mother's surname is MOSS	Derivative	Secondary	Indirect

- **Source:** This is a derivative source, as it is an index of the national schedule of births, marriages, and deaths that began 1 July 1837 when Civil Registration came into force.
- **Informant:** Unknown. If the clerk was copying from the actual record, we don't know who the informant was for that record. For a birth it could have been the mother or the father, or someone else present at the birth.
- **Information:** Because the informant is unknown, the information is undetermined.
- **Evidence:** This is indirect evidence as it does not answer the research question directly. While surnames of both parents are listed, no forenames are included in the index. More information is required to answer the research question.
- **Analysis:**
 - The GRO Index contains a summary of the registration information held by the government organization called the General Register Office (GRO).
 - It is prepared quarterly within the year and listed alphabetically for births, marriages or deaths.
 - Entries are grouped by quarter but this is not the same as when the event took place - registration may be delayed and may be in a later quarter especially if the event took place at the end of a quarter. Births can also be registered some considerable time after the birth took place.
 - Because this is an index, the birth may not be found where expected because the birth was incorrectly indexed as the clerk may have misheard the name, or wrote down the date of birth inaccurately.
 - Some years are available as handwritten pages, some as transcriptions by the GRO of the handwritten pages and some as typeset pages.
 - The index from 1850 was handwritten.
 - Until 1875, when the law was changed, parents were not required to register their children's births unless they were instructed to do so by a registrar, which resulted in up to 15% of births not being recorded.
 - From 1875, parents had 6 weeks to register a birth, and if they had not done so by this time, a fine was imposed if they were caught.
 - A birth may be indexed under the mother's maiden name if the child was born before the parents' marriage.
 - Some earlier births may not be found for a number of reasons.
 - A woman may not have registered the birth of an illegitimate child because of the shame connected with the event at the time.
 - Some parents did not register a birth because they believed that if a child was baptized, their birth did not need to be registered.
 - What has been recorded by the GRO may not be what we expect.
 - People may be known by a given name that is not their first given name, or may not even be any of their registered given names.

- One must be very careful with searching on more than the first given name because in some quarters only initials were entered in the index for second and subsequent given names.
 - Spelling may vary, which may or may not be the official spelling of a person's name.
 - I do not know how or when this particular online index was created. I did consult the actual index (which is in book form), which for 1850 was handwritten. It is legible, consistent from page to page, there are no words crossed out or changed, there are no erasures, and there are no tears or rips.
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- **Clues to other records:**
 - Original birth certificate/parish record (forename of both father and mother, father's occupation, date of birth, informant, mother's maiden name)