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Constance Henley Knox
Professional Genealogist
Wilmington, North Carolina

Subject:

An apparent original marriage certificate of William DeWorth and Katey Havey dated in 1872 was found in thrift shop in Bolivia, North Carolina.¹

Background Information

A television news story in August 2021 highlighted a thrift store that found a (reported) 1875 marriage certificate in the back of a painting that had been donated to the store.² I contacted the thrift store and spoke with the person in charge. She forward images of the document.

- Images revealed the groom and bride to be William DeWorth and Katey Havey.
- The marriage date appeared to be 11 April 1875.
- The location was Bordentown, New Jersey.
- Witnesses were Fannie H. Robinson and Marie L. Ferguson
- Minister, William H. or C. Peaine or Rawe [hard to read last name].

The document was in fragile condition with edges rough and torn. It was thick paper. There was a small piece of the upper left corner lost as well as a thumb sized piece disconnected from the right side but was with the document. There was a beautiful depiction of a couple getting married. It was a standard fill-in-the-blanks form with handwritten information and typically was given to the couple as a decorative copy of their marriage certificate.

Research Goal

The marriage certificate had enough information providing good clues as to where to search for this couple. The research goal was to locate the ancestral couple, assisting the thrift shop, as it was their desire to return the document to a direct descendant.

Limitations

None. This was a pro bono project, purely for the love and fun of it.

¹ Hope Chest Thrift Shop, Brunswick County, North Carolina.

² WWAY (Wilmington, North Carolina) television news story on 4 August 2021.

<https://www.wwaytv3.com/2021/08/04/thrift-store-finds-150-year-old-marriage-certificate>.

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Brief Summary of Findings

William Tindall DeWorth (1849-1928) and Katharine Havey (1849-1929) were found in Bordentown, Burlington County, New Jersey. They appear separately and together in several census records, city directories, and more. Ultimately a marriage return index was located that matches the marriage certificate.

Detailed Findings

1850 U.S. Census, William is listed in the Joseph DeWorth (36) household with Mary DeWorth (33 hard to read), others are Joseph (4), Lawrence (?), and William (1).³

1860 U.S. Census, William (age 11) is living with Mary DeWorth (65). Lawrence (20) is the oldest male in the house and is a Machinist. Mary (9) and Enoch F. (6).⁴

³ 1850 U.S. census, Burlington County, New Jersey, population schedule, Borough of Bordentown, p. 143 A (stamped), dwelling 226, family 244, Joseph DeWorth and family; image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 August 2021); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 443.

⁴ 1860 U.S. census, Burlington County, New Jersey, population schedule, Borough of Bordentown, p. 186 (penned), dwelling 1277, family 1330, Mary DeWorth and family; image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 August 2021); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll not given.

Three Documents Provide Evidence of Immigration

1863 Katey Havey Immigrates to the U.S. per the 1910 U.S. Census.⁵

1864 Katey Havey Immigrates to the U.S. per the 1920 U.S. Census.⁶

1865 Katey Havey Immigrated to the U.S. per the 1900 New Jersey State Census.⁷

1867 Possible Arriving passenger, but not enough evidence to say for sure. She had no other relatives listed with her to confirm it was her.⁸

1870 U.S. Census, Katharine is listed twice in the 1870 U.S. census. One as “Kate Harvey” a domestic servant at a school and also as “Catherine Havey” as a domestic servant in the household of Moses Wills. She is the same person in both records by evidence of her age of 22, white, female, the occupation of Domestic Servant, born in Ireland, both parents are foreign born, located in Mansfield, Burlington, New Jersey, all match in both records. The only difference is Havey vs. Harvey. See both 1870 notes below.

1870 U.S. Census, Found Catherine Havey in 1870 Census. Born in Ireland, was a domestic servant, age 22, female, white, both parents foreign born.⁹

1870 U.S. Census Pupils in College. Kate Harvey is 22 years old, on line 35, she is a domestic servant. Note Fannie Robinson (the witness in the marriage certificate) is on this same page, line 3, on the 1870 census at age 18.¹⁰

1870 U.S. Census, Found Katharine’s sister Annie as a domestic servant living in the household of Edward Wills (son to Moses Wills, age 77, where “Catherine” was a domestic servant). I was able to confirm that Edward Wills (42 in 1870, FamilySearch ID LHWD-T4L) and Moses Wills (FamilySearch ID KHW6-1LF) were family on FamilySearch.org. A couple of sources note their relationship.¹¹

⁵ 1910 U.S. census, Burlington County, New Jersey, population schedule, Bordentown, enumeration district (ED) 45, p. 3B (penned), dwelling 70, family 70, William F. DeWorth, database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 August 2021); citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 871.

⁶ 1920 U.S. census, Boardentown, Burlington County, New Jersey, population schedule, enumeration district (ED) 64, sheet 4B (penned), house 122, dwelling 83, family 84, entry for Katey Havey: image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 August 2021); citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 1020, entry for William DeWorth and family. Note the address was 122 Second Street.

⁷ 1900 U.S. census, Bordentown Township, Burlington County, New Jersey, population schedule, township/city, enumeration district (ED) 6, p. 2B – 3A (penned), dwelling 45, family 47 [or 48 corrected by supervisor], William T. DeWorth and family: image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 August 2021); citing FHL microfilm publication 1240956.

⁸ *Ancestry.com New York, U.S. Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957*, database with images (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 August 2021), Ship “Chicago,” entry for Cath Heavy, image 5; citing Microfilm publication M237, list number 230, line 8.

⁹ 1870 U.S. census, Burlington County, New Jersey, population schedule, Mansfield Township, p. 423 (stamped), dwelling 6, family 6, Catherine Havey living in household of Wills Moses; image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 August 2021); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 854.

¹⁰ 1870 U.S. census, Burlington County, New Jersey, population schedule, Mansfield Township, p. 120 (stamped), Kate Harvey listed with “Pupils in College”; image 149, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 August 2021); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 853.

¹¹ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. “User Submitted Genealogies,” database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LHWD-T4L> : 30 August 2021), Edward Wills (Ancestral File Number LHWD-T4L). Note: He was the son of Moses Wills (ancestral file KHW6-1LF). Submitter was “vcrking” last changed in 5 May 2019.

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LHWD-T4L>

11 April 1872 Marriage Certificate - between William T. DeWorth and Katey Havey (document found in the back of a picture frame that was donated to the Hope Chest Thrift Shop in Brunswick County, North Carolina). See Appendix, image 1.

11 April 1872 Marriage Return Index – William Deworth married to Katie Harvey in Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey.¹²

1881 City Directory William DeWorth, machinist, living in a home at “28 Miles al” [sic]. I interpret this to mean 28 Miles Alley. There are other DeWorth’s living nearby. Enoch F., Lawrence H., and Mary (widow of Joseph).¹³

1895 New Jersey State Census William DeWorth (between the age of 30-60) white, native born, Minnie [hard to read], (30-60) male, white native born, Kate (30-60 female) Irish born, Joseph (30-60), William F. (5-30), and Kate (5-30).

1899 City Directory William T. DeWorth, machinist, living in a home at “Miles al nr [sic] Second,” in Bordentown, NJ. I interpret the “Miles al nr Second” to mean Miles Alley near Second Street.¹⁴

1900 U.S. Census William T. DeWorth and wife Katherine, son William J., daughter Katherine, son Enoch, daughter Irene. See document for birth dates.¹⁵ She had 9 children, 5 living.

1903 City Directory William T. DeWorth, machinist, living in a home at “28 Miles al.” At the same address is Enoch (apprentice), Enoch (stonemason), Irene, and Kate (his wife).¹⁶

1905 New Jersey State Census - Family was living on Second Street.

- William F. DeWorth (53), born in June 1851, father from Germany. He is a machinist.
- Katherine DeWorth (52), born in Mar 1853 in Ireland along with her parents.
- Enoch "" (24) born Feb 1881 in NJ
- Kate "" (22) born Feb 1883 in NJ
- Irene "" (18) born Dec 1886 in NJ¹⁷

¹² "New Jersey, U.S., Marriage Records, 1670-1965," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 August 2021), William DeWorth to Katie Harvey, 11 April 1872, film no. 000494150; citing New Jersey State Archives, Trenton.

¹³ C.E. Howe Company, compiler & publisher, *Boyd's Directory of Burlington County, Burlington, Mount Holly and Bordentown, New Jersey, 1881-1882*; "U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com> : accessed 7 August 2021), image 489, p. 201, entry for William DeWorth.

¹⁴ C.E. Howe Company, compiler & publisher, *Boyd's Directory of Burlington County, New Jersey, 1899-1900*; "U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com> : accessed 7 August 2021), image 120, p. 251, entry for William T. DeWorth.

¹⁵ 1900 U.S. census, Bordentown Township, Burlington County, New Jersey, population schedule, township/city, enumeration district (ED) 6, p. 2B – 3A (penned), dwelling 45, family 47 [or 48 corrected by supervisor], William T. DeWorth and family: image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 August 2021); citing FHL microfilm publication 1240956.

¹⁶ C.E. Howe Company, compiler & publisher, *Boyd's Directory of Burlington County, New Jersey, 1903-1904*; "U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com> : accessed 7 August 2021), image 136, p. 252, entry for William T. DeWorth.

¹⁷ 1905 New Jersey State census, Burlington County, New Jersey, population schedule, Bordentown, enumeration district (ED) 3rd Ward, sheet 6A (penned), dwelling 128, family 128, William F. DeWorth, image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 August 2021); citing New Jersey State Archives, Trenton, reference no. L-14, film no. 4.

1905 City Directory William T. DeWorth, machinist, living at 82 Second, Bordentown, Burlington, NJ. Note there is also a William H. DeWorth, who is also a machinist, is William T. DeWorth's son, living at 45 Mary. Other DeWorths on the same page, Emma, Enoch (machinist), Enoch (coroner), Irene at same address, Kate at same address (likely his wife).¹⁸

1910 City Directory William DeWorth, machinist, home 122 second, Bordentown, NJ. Note that Enoch DeWorth is at the same address.¹⁹

1910 U.S. Census in Bordentown, NJ. William F. DeWorth (62) and Katherine (61) were married 38 years. She and her parents were born in Ireland. William's father was born in Germany. All others were born in New Jersey.

- William, Head of Household
- Katherine, wife
- Enoch (27), son
- Katie (30) daughter
- Irene (22) daughter
- Florence C. (wife, 23) Note that she should have been listed as a daughter-in-law, as she was Enoch's wife. The couple was living with William and Katharine at the time.

Living next door is Enoch DeWorth (47) and wife Minnie (38), no children.²⁰

1915 New Jersey State Census on Second Ave.

- William F. DeWorth born June 1849, (65) Father from Germany, mother born in NJ.
- Catherine H. (66) born May 1849 in Ireland as well as her parents.
- Joseph (42) born Jan 1873
- Enoch (32) born Mar 1883
- Catherine (31) born Feb 1881
- Florence (30) born Mar 1885
- Irene (28) born 1886
- Enoch (2) born Sept 1912
 - Another Enoch DeWorth, living two doors up, turns out to be William T. DeWorth's brother, with no birth info. Listed as a PRR Mason.²¹

¹⁸ C.E. Howe Company, compiler & publisher, *Boyd's Directory of Burlington County, New Jersey, 1905-1906*; "U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com> : accessed 7 August 2021), image 138, p. 278, entry for William T. DeWorth.

¹⁹ C.E. Howe Company, compiler & publisher, *Boyd's Directory of Burlington County, New Jersey, 1910-1911*; "U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com> : accessed 7 August 2021), image 112, p. 252, entry for William DeWorth.

²⁰ 1910 U.S. census, Burlington County, New Jersey, population schedule, Bordentown, enumeration district (ED) 45, p. 3B (penned), dwelling 70, family 70, William F. DeWorth, database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 August 2021); citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 871.

²¹ 1915 New Jersey State census, database with images, *Ancestry.com* (<https://ancestry.com> : 7 August 2021), entry for William F. DeWorth and family, p. 29A, dwelling 696, family 696, Burlington County, New Jersey; citing New Jersey State Archives, Trenton.

1919 U.S. Army Transport Service Arriving and Departing Passenger Lists Katherine L. DeWorth is noted as the mother of Joseph L. DeWorth, he departed on 8 May 1919 from St Nazaire, France, arrived 20 May 1919 in Hoboken, New Jersey. He was in Company B, 104 Field Signal Battalion. Ship was lowan in the US WWI Troop Transport.

1920 U.S. Census (Bordentown, NJ) William was the head of household at 70 years old born in New Jersey. He was listed as a Machinist for a Steel Mill.

- Also listed was his wife Catherine (69 years old) who was born in Ireland, she cannot read or write. It is noted that she is naturalized. She would have gained citizenship when she married in 1872.
 - All children born in New Jersey.
- Son, Joseph (47) who is widowed, born in New Jersey, and was an operator for Western Union.
- Son, Enoch (37) married, he was a machinist at a wire mill.
- Daughter, Catherine (39), single.
- Grandson, Enoch (7)
- Grandson, Clinton (6)
- Grandson, Joseph (2 5/12, meaning two years and five months.)
- Living a few doors away is Enoch DeWorth (65) as a boarder, he was a brother to William T. DeWorth. He was widowed and a Mason for the Railroad.²²

January 1929 U.S. Death Index Katherine DeWorth, Burlington County, New Jersey.²³

1929 Find A Grave William T. DeWorth (b. June 1845 in NJ) married 1872 to Catherine Harvey (1848-1929)²⁴

Social Security Death Index for Irene DeWorth Detterer. Names parents as William T. DeWorth and Catherine Harvey.²⁵

²² 1920 U.S. census, Bordentown, Burlington County, New Jersey, population schedule, enumeration district (ED) 64, sheet 4B (penned), house 122, dwelling 83, family 84, Ancestor Name: image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 August 2021); citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 1020, entry for William DeWorth and family. Note the address was 122 Second Street.

²³ U.S. Death Index, New Jersey, database with images, *Ancestry.com* (<https://ancestry.com> : 7 August 2021), entry for Katherine DeWorth, January 1929; citing New Jersey State Archives, Trenton.

²⁴ Find A Grave, *Find A Grave*, database with images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 30 August 2021), memorial 42267090, William Tindall DeWorth (1845-1928), Bordentown Cemetery, Burlington County, New Jersey; gravestone photographed not noted.

²⁵ Social Security Administration. "United States Social Security Death Index," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 3 September 2021), entry for Irene Deworth Detterer, b. 1886, SS no. 156166924. Names parents as William T. DeWorth and Catherine Harvey.

Analysis of Evidence

Multiple documents show that Katharine Havey immigrated from Ireland between 1863-1865. Additionally, William Tindall DeWorth was born in the U.S., but his father was from Germany.

Some records show William F. DeWorth and others show William T. DeWorth. These are the same person by evidence of the same wife and children.

During this research, I discovered the great granddaughter of this couple. Her name is Irene Cornish. She explained that her great grandmother had handed down many documents and images to her mother, Irene K. Detterer Brogan (1918-2010), who was an avid genealogist before the computerization of family history.

During our correspondence via email, Irene Cornish mentioned that Williams middle name was Tindall. She had no documentation proving it, but she said that this information was handed down by her mother's personal knowledge. She said her mother was quite accurate and a detailed genealogist. This is consistent with many documents showing William's middle initial of T.

Irene also noted that her mother's research revealed that Katharine Havey came from County Clare, Ireland and that she had a sister named Annie Havey. To date there has been no online evidence found confirming the County Clare, but there is evidence of her birth in Ireland other than family lore.

Irene Cornish wrote of Katharine and Annie Havey, [their] "Parents died toward the end of the potato famine and they were sent to live with two aunts in Ireland. They were then sponsored to come over from Ireland to work at what was called the Hilltop Hotel and they lived with two different branches of the same family and served as chamber maids in those households. My great grandmother died of pneumonia after falling on the ice and breaking some ribs. They bound her ribs at that time which resulted in her developing pneumonia."

This statement about the sisters working for two branches of the same family is consistent with the 1870 census, where Annie was working as a domestic servant in the household of Edward Wills. Also, in that same year, Katharine was working in the household of Moses Wills. Further research revealed that Moses Wills was the father of Edward Wills. This confirms the family lore that the sisters worked for two branches of the same family.

The 1920 census showed that Katharine Havey could not read or write. This might help explain why there were so many variations in the spelling of her name on various documents. Her great granddaughter Irene Cornish reported that only her obituary had the correct spelling of her first name as "Katharine."

It should also be noted that Fannie Robinson was a witness on the marriage certificate and appears in the 1870 census for "Pupils in College," which "Kate Harvey" was also listed.

While the marriage certificate between William DeWorth and Katey Havey was originally reported as taking place in 1875, on closer examination, it is dated 11 April 1872.

Conclusion

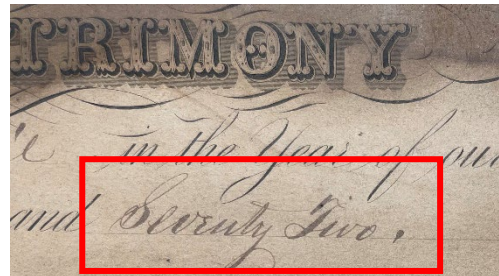
In the end, the mystery was solved. William Tindall DeWorth and Katharine Havey, were found in Bordentown, Burlington, NJ in numerous documents. How the marriage certificate ended up in North Carolina remains a mystery. Irene Cornish (the great granddaughter of the couple) responded to my message on Ancestry. She reported that much of William T. DeWorth belongings were sold after her great grandfathers' death which likely contributed to its loss until now.

William Tindall DeWorth died 4 June 1928 in Bordentown, New Jersey.

Katharine L. Havey died nearly seven months later in Bordentown, New Jersey on 31 January 1929 from pneumonia.

[A video of this story can be found here](#) at the [GenealogyTV channel on YouTube](#).

Note: An easy mistake was made by many in the media in reading the marriage certificate year as 1875 instead of the actual date 1872. The date of 1872 was confirmed by a Marriage Return index on Ancestry, found by the great granddaughter Irene Cornish.²⁶



Next Steps

The next steps should be to research in detail the family and associates that surround both William T. DeWorth and Katharine L. Havey to see if any other information might help to find their parents in Germany and Ireland respectively.

Clues from family lore suggest that Katharine and her sister Annie Havey came from County Clare, Ireland. Parish and civil records should be searched at Ancestry, FamilySearch and other specific Irish genealogy sites such as:

- Find My Past - <https://www.findmypast.com/>
- Roots Ireland - <https://www.rootsireland.ie/>
- National Archives of Ireland - <https://www.nationalarchives.ie/>
- Irish Genealogy - <https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/>
- Griffith's Valuation - <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/>
- Ask About Ireland - <http://www.askaboutireland.ie>

The Marriage Return may also be searched in person at the New Jersey State Archives, control # CMECL002, for "Mercer County Clerk's Office Marriage Returns, 1815, 1832, & 1841-1887". Film number noted at Ancestry was 000494150, but there was no other source given.²⁷ This may provide additional information.

A Marriage Return was when the minister or official who performed the wedding, "returned" with his statement that he performed the ceremony to the county. His notes may provide additional clues. If he was a traveling minister, he may have returned to the courthouse with many Marriage Returns in a single trip. Remember, he was

²⁶ "New Jersey, U.S., Marriage Records, 1670-1965," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 August 2021), William Deworth to Katie Harvey, 11 April 1872, Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey, film no. 000494150; citing New Jersey Marriages, New Jersey State Archives, Trenton.

²⁷ New Jersey State Archives, repository, Mercer County, Clerk's Office Marriage Returns, 1815, 1832, & 1841-1887, reference information, control # CMECL002, *New Jersey State Archives Catalog online* (<https://www.nj.gov/state/archives/catcxmarr.html> : accessed 30 August 2021), Trenton. Note: For post-1848 records, see Dept. of Health vital statistics (available in the search room) which are more complete.

likely riding on horseback or by carriage. Depending on travel conditions, distance, and weather, it may have been months before it was able to “return” the marriages to the county. Marriage Returns are often found at the bottom of a Marriage License. Ministers often kept a registry of marriages too and may be found in the state archives or other regional repositories.

William T. DeWorth’s father was Joseph DeWorth. He was born in Germany. More research needs to be conducted in the U.S. to find a more specific location in Germany before research in German records can produce confident results. Irene Cornish reported that family lore said that Joseph DeWorth was from Hamburg, Germany.

Researching the entire family around William T. DeWorth, his parents and any siblings should be conducted to find any record that suggests a location in Germany.

Special Thanks

Special thanks to Irene Cornish for her grace, knowledge, openness, willingness to share her story and contributions to this report. I have a new friend in Irene.

Thanks to the Hope Chest Thrift Shop, Pam Phelps, all the volunteers and Karmen Smith the executive director of the Hope Harbor Home Domestic Violence program and shelter... for all you do.

Transcription of 1875 Marriage Certificate for William DeWorth and Katey Havey found in thrift shop in Bolivia, NC in 2021.

“This is to Certify

That William DeWorth of Bordentown in the State of

New Jersey and Katey Havey of Bordentown

in the State of New Jersey were By me Joined together in

Holy Matrimony

on the eleventh day of April in the Year of our Lord

One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy Two.

In the Presence of

Marie L. Ferguson

William H. Rauce [hard to read, may be Rawe or Paine]

Fannie H. Robinson

Minister of Gospel”²⁸

²⁸ William H. Rauce [hard to read], minister, Marriage Certificate of William DeWorth to Katey Havey, Bordentown, New Jersey, 11 April 1872, original, privately held by Irene Cornish, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE], New York Mills, NY, 2021; Document was found in the Hope Chest thrift shop in Brunswick County, North Carolina.

Image of 1872 Marriage Certificate between William DeWorth and Katey



Havey

An image of the marriage certificate between William DeWorth and Katey Havey, married 11 April 1872 in Bordentown, New Jersey, USA.²⁹

²⁹ William H. Rauce [hard to read], minister, Marriage Certificate of William DeWorth to Katey Havey, Bordentown, New Jersey, 11 April 1872, original, privately held by Irene Cornish, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE], New York Mills, NY, 2021; Document was found in the Hope Chest thrift shop in Brunswick County, North Carolina.