

One Branch Report for Keith Robert Bell

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Contents

1	Introduction.....	3
2	Family details.....	4
3	Sources	7
4	Research log.....	8
5	Suggestions for future research.....	9
6	Family tree.....	10
7	Appendices.....	11

1 Introduction

This report was produced following research into the ancestors of Keith Robert Bell. The research was carried out in September, October and November 2010 by New Branches Genealogy after Keith commissioned us to provide a One Branch genealogical report on his Bell family line.

The report is based on birth and marriage certificates which are included in the appendices to the report. We have also generated a family tree to show the relationships in the family.

Keith Bell commissioned us to explore his Bell family name back to the early nineteenth century starting with himself. Keith was born on 11 June 1960 in Rochdale, Lancashire and this is where we started the research. Not only was Keith born in Rochdale but a large part of the Bell family has its roots in the Lancashire town.

The Bell line stretches back to the early 18th century in Rochdale with the generations being employed in a wide variety of jobs in the town from agricultural labourers in the early 19th century through railway jobs to various shop-based occupations.

The women that the Bell men have married over this period have not all had their roots in the Lancashire town. Certainly Emily Morgan was from Welshpool in Wales and Charlotte Simpson was from Holmfirth in Yorkshire. There is also family knowledge that Joan Graham's roots lie north of the Scottish border.

The future research opportunities are quite wide and varied for this family and we lay out the next steps it would be good to take in section 5 of the report below.

2 Family details

First Generation

Keith Robert Bell was born on Saturday 11th June 1960 in Rochdale, Lancashire, England to William Matthew Bell and Joan Bell (nee Graham).¹

Second Generation (Parents)

William Matthew Bell was born on Tuesday 21st December 1937 in Rochdale, Lancashire, England to John George Bell and Maude Bell (nee Green).²

William Matthew Bell married Joan Graham on Saturday 14th February 1959 in Rochdale, Lancashire, England. They were married at the United Methodist Church, Bailie Street in Rochdale. When he married, William's occupation was given as a shop porter and his home address was 18 Moss Street, Rochdale. On the marriage certificate Joan Graham's occupation was given as a shop assistant, her home address was 26 Moss Street, Rochdale and her father was given as Robert Graham.³

Third Generation (Grandparents)

John George Bell was born on Friday 17th April 1908 in Rochdale, Lancashire, England to George William Bell, a butcher and Susannah Bell (nee Moore).⁴ In the 1911 census the family are living at 61 Milnrow Road, Rochdale.⁵ William is still a butcher, John was a scholar and there are two other children in the family:

- Maude, born in 1901, a scholar
- James, born 1906, also a scholar

John George Bell married Maude Green on Friday 13th October 1933 in Rochdale, Lancashire, England. John's occupation when he married Maude was butcher's assistant and his home address was still 61 Milnrow Road, Rochdale and Maude's address was 23 King Street, Heywood and her father was given as Matthew Green.⁶

Fourth Generation (Great-Grandparents)

George William Bell was born on Monday 21st November 1864 in Rochdale, Lancashire, England to William Bell, a railway warehouseman and Emily Bell (nee Morgan).⁷ In the 1871 census the family are living at 2 Moss Street, Rochdale.⁸ William Bell is still working for the railways but now as a railway clerk and George William Bell is attending school. There are also three other children in the family:

- Alice, born in 1859
- Robert, born in 1861
- Richard, born in 1866

In the 1881 census the family is still at the same address and William Bell is still a railway clerk.⁹ Neither Alice nor Robert is staying with their parents which could mean they have moved away or died in the intervening ten years. George William Bell is a labourer and Richard Bell is a mill worker.

By the 1891 census the family are still at the same address but Richard Bell is also missing from the household.¹⁰ William Bell is still working as a railway clerk and George William Bell is a bricklayer's labourer.

George William Bell married Susannah Moore on Tuesday 29th June 1897 in Rochdale, Lancashire, England. George's occupation is given on the marriage certificate as a bricklayer's labourer and Susannah's father is given as Peter Moore.¹¹

In the 1901 census William Bell has died as Emily is recorded as a widow but still living at the same address with George William Bell and his new wife, Susannah.¹²

Fifth Generation (Great Great-Grandparents)

William Bell was born on Tuesday 3rd January 1832 in Rochdale, Lancashire, England to George Bell, an agricultural labourer, and Charlotte Bell.¹³ In the 1841 census the family were living in Milnrow, Rochdale and George was still an agricultural labourer.¹⁴ There were seven other children in the family in 1841:

- Robert, born 1831
- Charlotte, born 1834
- Mary, born 1836

- Richard, born 1837
- James, born 1838
- George, born 1838
- Anne, born 1841

All the children were born in Lancashire but Charlotte was not. In the 1851 census we find that Charlotte was actually born in Holmfirth in Yorkshire and by 1851 only William, Richard, James and Anne are still living in their parent's home and they were all born in Rochdale.¹⁵

William Bell married Emily Morgan on Friday 11th October 1857 in Rochdale, Lancashire, England. William's occupation when he married Emily was given as railway porter and Emily's father was given as William Morgan.¹⁶ In the 1861 census Emily's birthplace is given as Welshpool, Montgomeryshire, Wales.¹⁷

In the 1861 census William Bell is living with his wife and young daughter, Alice, at 17 Moss Street, Rochdale.¹⁷ His occupation is given as a railway porter.

Sixth Generation (3rd Great-Grandparents)

George Bell was born in Rochdale, Lancashire, England in 1812 according to the 1851 census.¹² His wife, Charlotte Bell was born in 1807 in Holmfirth in Yorkshire, England according to the 1851 census.

In the 1861 census George and Charlotte Bell are still living in Milnrow, Rochdale now with only one child, their youngest daughter Anne.¹⁸ George is still an agricultural labourer and Anne is working in a cotton mill.

By 1871 Anne has left home and George is still an agricultural labourer¹⁹ but by 1881 neither George nor his wife could be found in the census.

3 Sources

1. Birth certificate of Keith Robert Bell (Appendix 1)
2. Birth certificate of William Matthew Bell (Appendix 2)
3. Marriage certificate of William Matthew Bell and Joan Graham (Appendix 3)
4. Birth certificate of John George Bell (Appendix 4)
5. 1911 census of the George William Bell household (Appendix 5).
6. Marriage certificate of John George Bell and Maude Green (Appendix 6).
7. Birth certificate of George William Bell (Appendix 7).
8. 1871 census of William Bell household (Appendix 8).
9. 1881 census of William Bell household (Appendix 9).
10. 1891 census of William Bell household (Appendix 10).
11. Marriage certificate of George William Bell and Susannah Moore (Appendix 11).
12. 1901 census of Emily Bell household (Appendix 12).
13. Birth certificate of William Bell (Appendix 13).
14. 1841 census of George Bell household (Appendix 14).
15. 1851 census of George Bell household (Appendix 15).
16. Marriage certificate of William Bell and Emily Morgan (Appendix 16).
17. 1861 census of William Bell household (Appendix 17).
18. 1861 census of George Bell household (Appendix 18).
19. 1871 census of George Bell household (Appendix 19).

4 Research log

We initially established that Keith Bell's parents were correct from his birth certificate we looked for their marriage and found it in the January-March quarter of 1959.

Having obtained the marriage certificate for William Matthew Bell and Joan Graham we had William Matthew Bell's father's name, John George Bell. With this we looked for William Matthew Bell's birth certificate which we found in the October-December 1937 quarter.

Having obtained William Matthew Bell's birth certificate we established his mother's name, Maude Green. We then searched for the marriage of Maude Green and John George Bell. This we found in the October-December quarter in 1933. From this we found John George Bell's father's name, George William Bell.

With this information we found the birth of John George Bell in the April-June quarter of 1908. Having obtained this birth certificate we established that John George Bell's mother was Susannah Moore.

We searched for a marriage of Susannah Moore and George William Bell and found it in the April-June quarter in 1897. This provided us with George William Bell's father, William Bell.

With his father's name confirmed we looked for George William Bell's birth and found it in the October-December quarter in 1864. Having obtained this birth certificate we established that George William Bell's mother was Emily Morgan.

We searched for a marriage for a William Bell and Emily Morgan and found it in the October-December quarter in 1857 still in Rochdale. Having obtained this marriage certificate we established that William Bell's father's name was George Bell. We looked through the GRO birth indexes to look for a birth for a William Bell. However, there were none after 1837 when civil registration began.

This moved our searches from the civil records to the census records. Searching the 1841 and 1851 censuses we found the families we were looking for in Rochdale with George Bell as head of household declaring he was born in Rochdale in 1812 and William Bell was born in 1832 in Rochdale as well. With his birth being in 1832, it means that this was before civil registration started and would therefore be recorded in local Parish records.

This takes the family line back to the early nineteenth century and the end of our search.

5 Suggestions for future research

The Bell family are rooted deeply in the Rochdale area of Lancashire. Whilst this is true of the male Bell line it is not true of the women they married. This provides plenty of scope for further research.

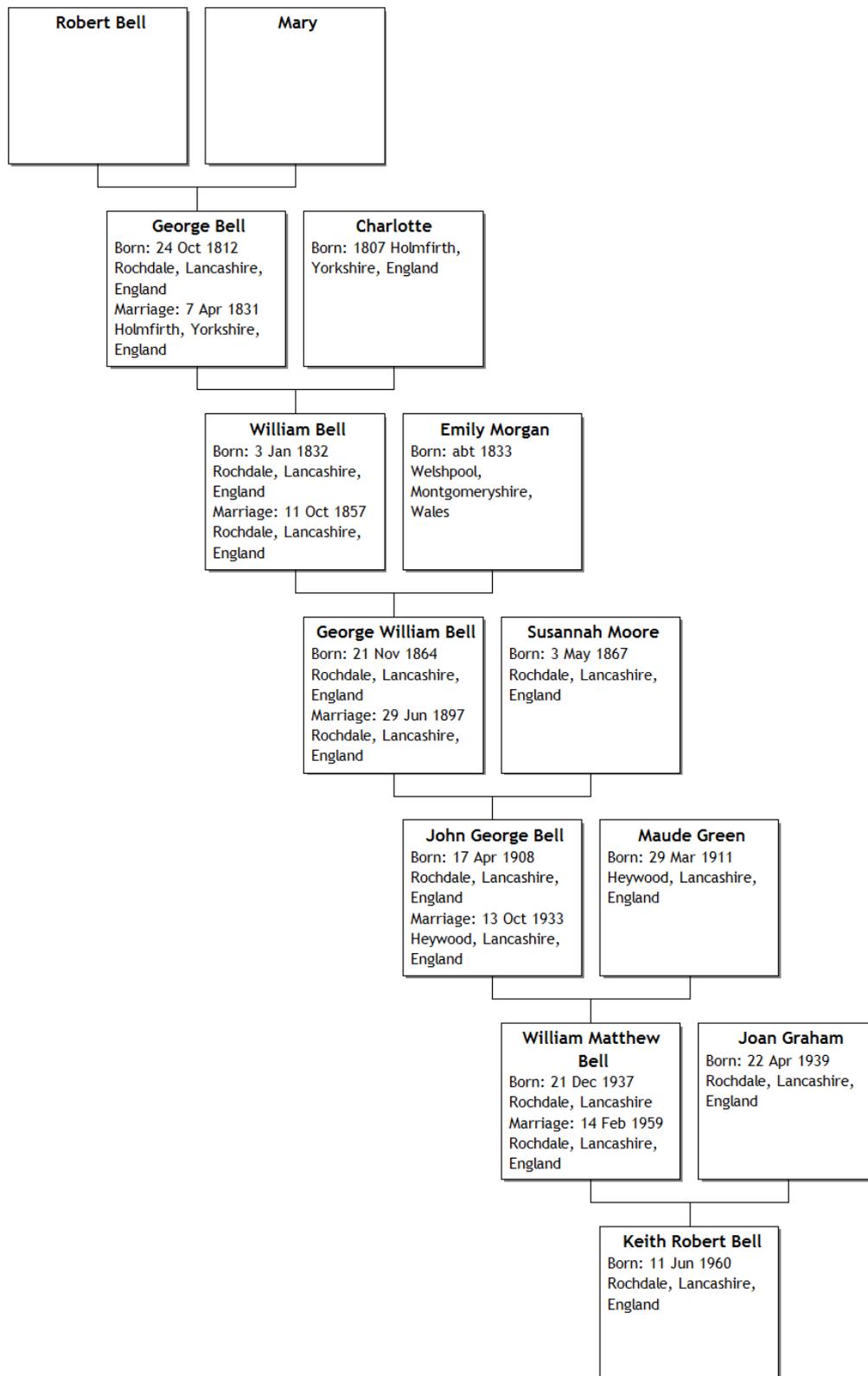
There is scope to research the Emily Morgan, Charlotte Simpson and Joan Graham lines which will lead to various different parts of the country.

We would suggest that the Bell line could probably be researched back further in the Rochdale area. Parish records exist for Rochdale back to 1582 so it may be possible to search much further back in time for the Bell family.

Within the Bell line there are a few questions that are raised by what we have discovered. The fact that George William Bell was 33 before he married Susannah Moore raises the prospect of an earlier marriage and there are some potential marriages in Rochdale that may fit with this.

There are a lot of siblings of the main Bell line that give potential areas for further research.

6 Family tree



7 Appendices

Not included for privacy reasons.