

RESEARCH REPORT – THOMAS STANLEY GORDON

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DATE: September 2025

CLIENT: (redacted)

CLIENT BRIEF: Genealogical research for Thomas Stanley Gordon. The client has requested a copy of Thomas Stanley Gordon's birth certificate. The client has also requested confirmation of Thomas Stanley Gordon's father's name and his mother's name. If time permits, additional information about Thomas Stanley Gordon's life would be appreciated.

OBJECTIVE:

- 1) To locate the birth record of Thomas Stanley Gordon (who married Vera Howell at South Australia on 27 October 1920).
- 2) To confirm Thomas Stanley Gordon's father's name
- 3) To find Thomas Stanley Gordon's mother's name
- 4) To find further details about Thomas Stanley Gordon's life if possible

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM CLIENT

- 1) South Australian Birth Registration of Betty Nelly Gordon born 1923, states her father was Thomas Stanley Gordon and her mother was Vera Howell.
- 2) South Australian Marriage Registration of Thomas Stanley Gordon and Vera Howell states they were married on 27 October 1920, St Cuthberts Church Prospect.
- 3) South Australian Death Certificate of Thomas Stanley Gordon died 20 March 1958.

RESEARCH ANALYSIS:

Thomas was recorded as 32 on his marriage certificate in 1920, so he was born about 1888. He was living in South Australia at time of his marriage and possibly at the time of the birth of his child in 1923. When he married, Thomas stated his father was Edwin Gordon. No mother's name was listed. Thomas was recorded as 69 years on his death certificate, so he was born about 1889, consistent with the marriage information. No parents or spouse names were listed. His place of death was Colonel Lights Gardens, South Australia.

Thomas Stanley Gordon

All searches were undertaken using full name (with middle name), and with given name and surname. Common nicknames and abbreviations of names were also searched.

Genealogy SA was searched for a transcription of the birth registration and for a newspaper birth index record of Thomas Stanley Gordon – Result: no records located.¹

Trove, National Library of Australia (NLA) digitised newspapers, was searched to check for a birth notice for Thomas – Result: no record found.²

Trove was searched to see if a marriage notice was published for Thomas Stanley Gordon and Vera Howlett – Result: no record located.

Trove was searched for other articles. An article was located in the *News* (Adelaide), 11 December 1929.³ This was an article regarding a divorce for Thomas and Vera. In this era, someone had to be found at fault for a divorce to be granted: it wasn't possible to cite 'no fault' in divorce proceedings until the *Family Law Act* of 1975.

Decrees nisi were also granted in the following petitions:—
Thomas Stanley Gordon, of Buxton street, North Adelaide, against Vera Gordon and Norman Graham (co-respondent) on the ground of misconduct. Mr. J. F. McCarthy appeared for petitioner, and Mr. J. W. Nelligan for respondent.

Figure 1: Article reporting on the divorce of Thomas Stanley Gordon and Vera Gordon. (Source: Trove - News (Adelaide), 11 December 1929, p.10)

Genealogy SA was searched to see if Thomas Stanley Gordon married again. A transcribed marriage record was located for Thomas Stanley Gordon and Kathleen Florence Murphy dated 6 July 1932 at Scots Church, North Terrace, Adelaide.⁴ Thomas was recorded as divorced and Kathleen as single. Thomas listed his father as Edwin Victor Gordon. The middle name, Victor, was new information. Thomas was recorded as 43-years-old, so he was born about 1889 (consistent with other documents). His mother's name was not recorded.

Genealogy SA cannot be searched for children of Thomas and Kathleen as their birth years are within the restricted 100-year period privacy laws.

Groom Surname:	GORDON
Groom Given Names:	Thomas Stanley
Bride Surname:	MURPHY
Bride Given Names:	Kathleen Florence
Marriage Date:	06-Jul-1932
Marriage Place:	Scots Church North Tc Adelaide
Groom Age:	43
Groom Marital Status:	D
Groom Father:	Edwin Victor GORDON
Bride Age:	33
Bride Marital Status:	S
Bride Father:	Wilfred George Martin MURPHY
District:	Adelaide
Book/Page:	333/6

Figure 2: Transcribed marriage record for Thomas Stanley Gordon and Kathleen Florence Murphy, 6 July 1932. (Source: Genealogy SA.)

¹ Genealogy SA, online-database-search - <https://www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-database-search>

² National Library of Australia, TROVE, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>

³ National Library of Australia, TROVE, Thomas Stanley Gordon, *News* (Adelaide), 11 December 1929, p.10. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article130260479>

⁴ Genealogy SA, Marriage Registrations Database, Thomas Stanley Gordon and Kathleen Murphy, 6 July 1932, Book/Page 333/6.

'Find A Grave', a collection of gravesite records, was searched to see if there was a record for Thomas Stanley Gordon. A photo of the headstone of T.S. Gordon was located at Centennial Park Cemetery. The memorial plaque states he was the father of two children, Betty and Geoffrey.⁵ It is known that Betty was the daughter of Thomas and Vera (client supplied birth certificate). It appears that Geoffrey was born after September 1925 as a registration was not located during the search for children above. Based on the laws mentioned previously searches for births in the birth, death and marriages registries are restricted for 100 years to protect privacy. Geoffrey may be a child of either Vera or Kathleen. The plaque for Thomas Stanley Gordon indicates military service as it has the Rising Sun and it was recorded that he was a Staff Sergeant with service number 968.

(Note: all parties on the headstone are now deceased).



Figure 3: Memorial Plaque at Centennial Park Cemetery for Staff Sergeant T.S. Gordon. (Source: 'Find A Grave' website, photo taken by Faithe Jones)

National Archives of Australia (NAA) was searched for the military record for Thomas Stanley Gordon. A WWI military record for Thomas Stanley Gordon, service number 968, was located.⁶ He served during WWI and was wounded at Gallipoli. Upon recovery, he served for the remainder of the war. His total service was 4 years and 197 days; he was abroad 4 years and 74 days. He was awarded the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. A copy of the service file can be viewed or downloaded at:

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/DetailsReports/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=4787550&isAv=N> .

The service record lists his wife as E.M. Gordon. In the file he states, 'I stopped my allotment to E.M.Gordon, who was then my wife'. An allotment was a deduction from a soldier's wages, going

I wrote to the Legal Section of the A.I.F. in connection with certain domestic matters, and incidentally stopped my allotment of 7/6d per diem to E.M.Gordon, who was then my wife. I forwarded copies of letters I had received from her, and also asked advise regarding obtaining a divorce in England without returning to Australia.

Figure 4: Excerpt of letter written by Thomas Stanley Gordon located on his WWI military file. (Source: National Archives of Australia).

⁵ 'Find A Grave', photo contributed by Faithe Jones, Memorial plaque of Thomas Stanley Gordon at Centennial Park Cemetery - <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/151190628/thomas-stanley-gordon>

⁶ National Archives of Australia, Thomas Stanley Gordon, 1914-1920, Series B2455 - <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/DetailsReports/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=4787550&isAv=N>

to their dependants. He states that she had sent him letters that had resulted in him making enquiries about whether he could obtain a divorce in Australia, while still in England, or whether he needed to return. E.M. Gordon was not one of the marriages located to date. Thomas stated he was single on his marriage record to Vera Howell.

Also in the military file, there is an 'Allotment of Pay' form stating that Thomas Stanley Gordon changed his allotment to his mother who is listed as 'Jennie Gandy'. This is new information; we now have a mother's name to follow up. Her address was listed as 41 Lucan Road, Aigburth, Liverpool, England.

Genealogy SA was searched for an earlier marriage for Thomas Stanley Gordon. One was located to Ella Mary Smith on 10 September 1914 in Unley, South Australia.⁷ (His military records stated E.M. Gordon, so this matches known information). On this marriage record, Thomas stated his father's name was Thomas Stanley Gordon, though he recorded Edwin Gordon and Edwin Victor Gordon on his other two marriage records. His age was recorded as 25 years, so he was born about 1889, which also matches the other marriage records. The service number on the headstone matches the service number on the military report that recording his wife as E.M. Gordon.

Figure 5: Allotment of Pay form from Stanley Thoams Gordon's WWI military file, where the allotment lists Stanley's mothers name as Jennie Gandy. (Source: National Archives of Australia).

Groom Surname:	GORDON
Groom Given Names:	Thomas Stanley
Bride Surname:	SMITH
Bride Given Names:	Ella Mary
Marriage Date:	10-Sep-1914
Marriage Place:	Methodist Church Unley
Groom Age:	25
Groom Marital Status:	S
Groom Father:	Thomas Stanley GORDON
Bride Age:	22
Bride Marital Status:	S
Bride Father:	Arthur John SMITH
District:	Adelaide
Book/Page:	260/737

Figure 6: Transcribed marriage record for Thomas Stanley Gordon and Ella Mary Smith, 10 September 1914 (Source: Genealogy SA)

⁷ Genealogy SA, Marriage Registrations Database, Thomas Stanley Gordon and Ella Mary Smith, 10 September 1914, Book/Page 260/737.

Trove was searched for a marriage notice and/or divorce article. The following articles were located leading up to the divorce between Thomas Stanley Gordon and Ella Mary Gordon (nee Smith). Further articles were located about the divorce:

Daily Herald, 27 May 1914⁸ (left) & *The Register* (Adelaide), 14 September 1914⁹ (left). The first article is a few months before the marriage: Thomas had been accepted into the clerical branch of the railways. This is the earliest known record of Thomas in Australia. The second article is his farewell, when leaving for WWI service.

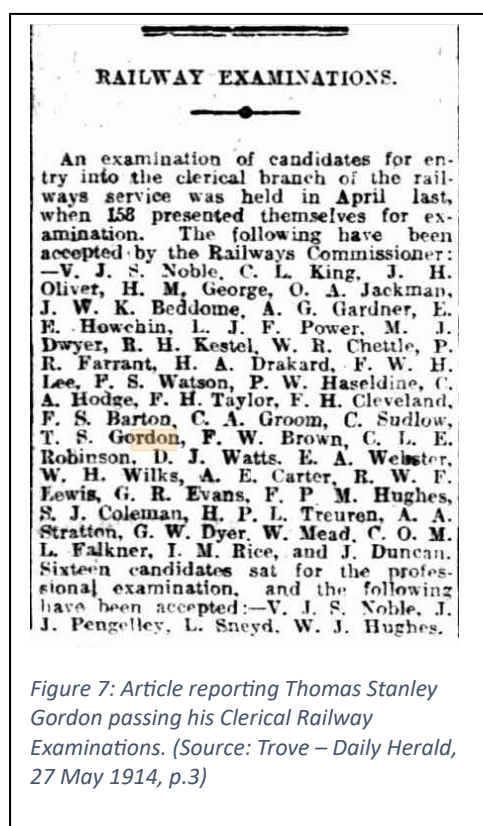


Figure 7: Article reporting Thomas Stanley Gordon passing his Clerical Railway Examinations. (Source: Trove – *Daily Herald*, 27 May 1914, p.3)

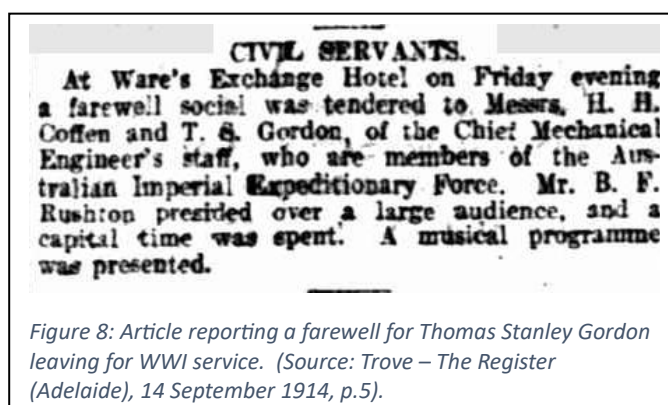


Figure 8: Article reporting a farewell for Thomas Stanley Gordon leaving for WWI service. (Source: Trove – *The Register* (Adelaide), 14 September 1914, p.5).

⁸ National Library of Australia, TROVE, Railway Examinations, *Daily Herald* (Adelaide), 27 May 1914, p.3.

⁹ National Library of Australia, TROVE, Civil Servants, *The Register* (Adelaide), 14 September 1914, p.5.

The Express and Telegraph, 25 March 1915¹⁰ (on the right), *Chronicle* (Adelaide) 15 May 1915 (below) & *Chronicle* (Adelaide)¹¹, 22 May 1915¹² (bottom). The article was sent for publication in the paper by Thomas's wife, Ella Gordon (nee Smith), sharing a verse that he had sent to her while overseas during WWI. The article and photo below were published in the *Chronicle* a couple of months later (possibly following the news that he had been wounded at Gallipoli).

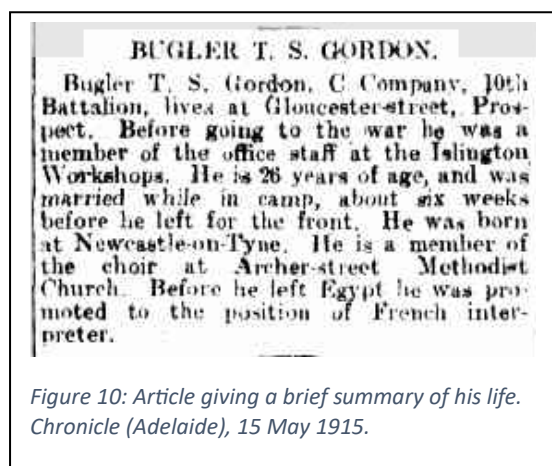
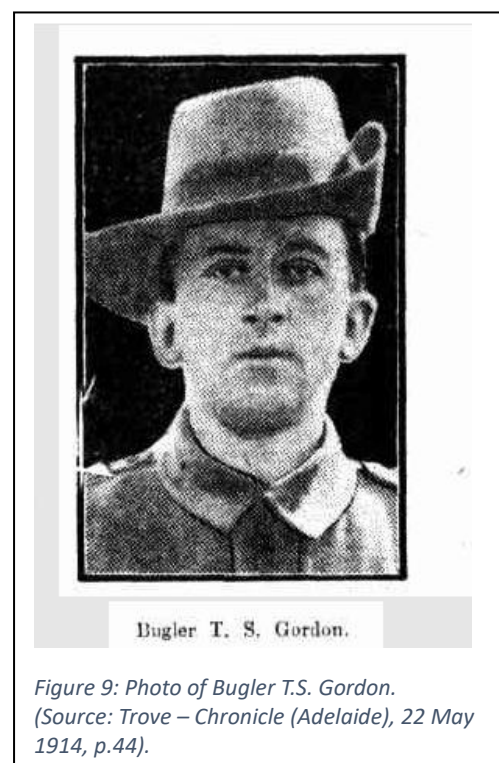


Figure 10: Article giving a brief summary of his life. *Chronicle* (Adelaide), 15 May 1915.



Bugler T. S. Gordon.

Figure 9: Photo of Bugler T.S. Gordon. (Source: Trove – *Chronicle* (Adelaide), 22 May 1914, p.44).

THE WOMEN'S MESSAGE.

Mrs. T. S. Gordon, Prospect, whose husband, Bugler T. S. Gordon, C Company, is with the First Expeditionary Force, asks us to publish the following verses by Margaret Peterson, extracted from an Egyptian paper by her husband:—

This is the women's message, they that have given their all;
Husbands and sons to the battle, lest the faith of an Empire fall;
Well have they borne their burden and paid the bitter cost,
This is the women's message in the name of all they have lost.

"O ye who might have been soldiers' and yet have stood aside,
What is your place in this kingdom for which our men have died?
Shall ye share in the day of triumph the peace that dawns afar,
Ye who have hidden your manhood under a coward's star?

We have given our men for England,
Love that was dearer than breath!
Our hearts have bowed to the anguish,
Our eyes have looked upon Death!
Yet were our dead beside us—God help us hush our pain!
And honor called to the battle we would bid them go again.

Now, by the joy of women, when love walks light upon earth,
And by the mother courage that fought to give you birth;
Throw back these doubts that hold you, stand forth and play your parts,
Lest shame for having loved you wake in the women's hearts.

So in the years that follow your children's sons shall stand,
In might and peaceful honor because you loved the land.
Has death so grim a portal? God holds the souls who stake
The lives He gave them nobly when men die for honor's sake!

Figure 11: Poem sent by Thomas Stanley Gordon while away during WWI service to wife Ella Gordon (nee Smith), who then sent it to the newspaper for publication. (Source: Trove – *The Express & Telegraph*, 25 March 1915,

(Virtual War Memorial Australia was searched and located some other photos that can be viewed online - <https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/121392>)

¹⁰ National Library of Australia, TROVE, The Women's Message, *The Express & Telegraph*, 25 March 1915, p.4.

¹¹ National Library of Australia, TROVE, Bugler T. S. Gordon, *Chronicle* (Adelaide), 15 May 1915, p44.

¹² National Library of Australia, TROVE, Bugler T.S. Gordon, *Chronicle* (Adelaide), 22 May 1915, p.44.

The Express and Telegraph, 30 June 1915.¹³ This letter was from Thomas Stanley Gordon to a friend in Adelaide. It describes his experience in Turkey.

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT.

THE CHARGE OF THE TENTH.

Bugler T. S. Gordon, of the 10th Battalion, writing from the Luna Park Hospital, Heliopolis, to a friend in Adelaide, states:—"We landed on the peninsula on April 25, and I had the bad luck to get wounded on the same day—shot through my foot. I really thought I had lost my foot. It felt as though the whole thing was smashed to pulp. When the bullet enters it feels as if somebody had given you a heavy blow with a big hammer, and after that all is numb for about an hour; then the pain commences, and one realises what has happened. They had to give me morphia to deaden the pain, but now I am quite O.K. The doctor says it will be another month before I can walk, so I don't know when I am going to get back again. I want to be with the boys when they enter Constantinople, but I am afraid it will be all over within a month. When we were about 40 yards from the shore the Turks opened fire on us from a hill. As soon as the boat touched, over the side we went, nearly up to the chest in water, and rushed for cover, but there was none. The hill where the Turks were looked impregnable. The old 10th fixed bayonets and charged. It looked certain death, but on we went, and, my word, South Australia has something to be proud of. I got hit about half-way up the hill, but watched the boys plod on, and when they neared the top the Turks turned tail and off, and you can take it from me there wasn't one of them running stiff. In the meantime their forts were pouring shrapnel and lyddite shells into us like hail-

stones, and this did the damage. I saw whole boatloads (34 men in a boat) wiped out with a single shell. Then the navy got busy, and there was something doing. The first 15-in. shell from the Queen Elizabeth blew one of their batteries kite-high, and then they all started bombarding. You talk about hell let loose; it wasn't in it. Shells screaming overhead, the deafening roar of the guns, then the long-drawn-out boom, and another explosion; the bursting of shrapnel, followed by the regular hail of bullets—good Lord, what a nightmare it seems! It will be a long time before the sight is effaced from my memory. The most pitiable sights were the fellows who got shot in the stomach. Good Lord, it must be a terrible thing. I saw one of our sergeants begging and praying for someone to shoot him or hand him his rifle and let him do it himself. Out of my battalion we lost over 500 killed and wounded out of 1,000, so we suffered pretty severely. In fact, all the force suffered heavily—I believe the casualties numbered nearly 5,000 killed and wounded. One of the ministers here is speaking about some of the fellows singing 'Lead, kindly light' when they were landing. If he had been near me and heard the language from different ones he might have changed his mind. I never heard such profanity in my life. One chap got shot in the leg, and I think he swore for fully 10 minutes without repeating himself. We had the Sultan of Egypt in to see us the other day, and he is sending us 100,000 cigarettes and £100 for chocolate."

Figure 12: A letter from Thomas Stanley Gordon to a friend in Adelaide that was published in the newspapers describing his experience. (Source: Trove – *The Express and Telegraph*, 30 June 1915, p.4).

¹³ National Library of Australia, TROVE, Letters from the front, *The Express and Telegraph*, 30 June 1915, p4.

The Advertiser, 3 July 1919.¹⁴ This article reports the divorce of Thomas Stanley Gordon and Ella Mary Gordon (nee Smith). We will never know what was in the letters that Thomas received from Ella that Thomas writes about in the military file when he was making enquiries about divorce. However, it wasn't until 1919 that Ella filed for divorce and, as is usual for the era, someone must be found at fault.

Trove was searched for articles during the timeframe of Thomas' second marriage to Vera. The following articles were located:

The Register, 29 May 1923.¹⁵ From the article below and the one over the page, we can ascertain that when Thomas returned from WWI, he went back to a position at the Railways.

RAILWAY OFFICERS' CONFERENCE.

The annual conference of the South Australian Railway Officers' Association, marking the 15th year of the association, will be held to-day and on Wednesday. Many important matters affecting the salaried staff of the railways will receive the attention of the delegates—Messrs. A. T. West, President; T. H. T. Nave, Vice-President; O. G. Moore, ex-General Secretary; T. S. Gordon, Minute Secretary; J. Will Sharley, General Secretary; J. J. Woods and T. C. Borrow, representing the Council; H. Day and A. Rosevear, Adelaide Branch; C. Sellick and W. E. Vawser, Mile End Branch; J. C. Maddern and A. E. Hannan, Port Adelaide Branch; H. C. B. Hewett, Wallaroo Branch; F. Fleming, Port Pirie; E. J. Nankevell and L. G. Ball, Peterborough; A. E. Naughton, Quorn; M. H. Dillon and C. G. Powning, Murray Bridge. The conference will terminate with the annual smoke social, to be held on Wednesday evening.

Figure 14: Article reporting that T.S. Gordon was Minute Secretary at the Railway Officers' Conference. (Source: Trove – *The Register*, 29 May 1923, p.8).

A Husband's Misconduct

Ella Mary Gordon, who was represented by Mr. T. S. Bright, petitioned for a divorce from Thomas Stanley Gordon on the ground of his misconduct with a woman whose name was unknown to the petitioner.

The petitioner said her maiden name was Smith. She was residing with her sister at Hyde Park. She was married at Hyde Park on September 10, 1914. Her husband was then in camp, and he used to visit her until he left for the front early in October, 1914. He returned on January 2 last. She received a telephone message from him, asking her to meet him two days after his return. She went to the appointed place, but he did not put in an appearance. Later she saw him, and in reply to a question, she said she did not think he could reasonably expect her to meet him on his return when he had not written to her for such a long time. She told him that she had heard certain things about him, and he asked her to overlook them. She replied that it was absolutely impossible. She saw him again about a month afterwards, and

he asked if she had changed her mind. She said "No."

H. L. Gray, private detective, stated that he saw the respondent on June 19 go into a house in Carrington-street. He remained there from 8.30 p.m. till 8.55 p.m. When he left the witness told him that he had been watching him for five weeks, and added that the house he had just left was a place of assignation. The respondent asked if his wife could obtain a divorce for misconduct alone. The witness said he thought she could. The respondent said he knew the character of the house, and added that he had been going there regularly since he returned from the front. The witness had previously seen the respondent go to the same house.

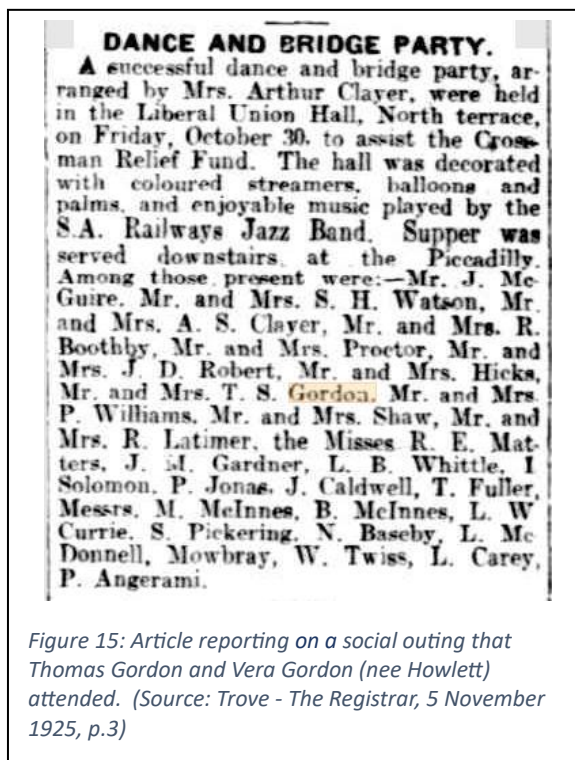
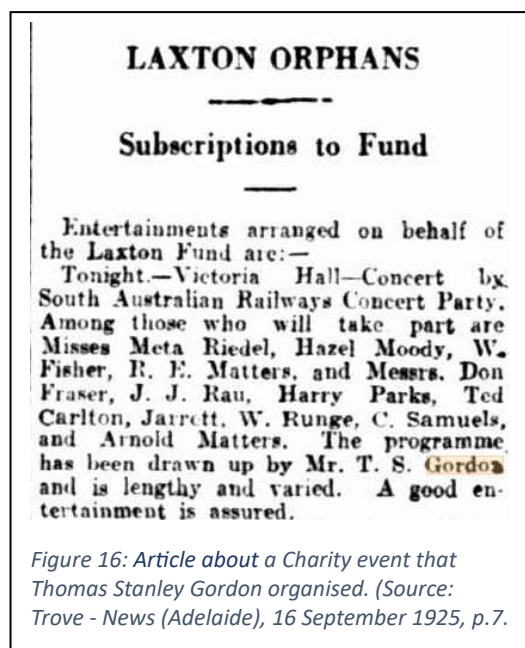
His Honor found the allegation of misconduct proved, and recorded a decree nisi for the dissolution of the marriage with costs against the respondent.

Figure 13: Article reporting the divorce of Thomas Stanley Gordon and Ella Mary Gordon (nee Smith). (Source: Trove – *The Advertiser*, 3 July 1919, p.5).

¹⁴ National Library of Australia, TROVE, A Husband's Misconduct, *The Advertiser*, 3 July 1919, p.5.

¹⁵ National Library of Australia, TROVE, Railways Officers Conference, *The Register*, 29 May 1923, p.8.

News (Adelaide), 16 September 1925.¹⁶ *The Registrar*, 5 November 1925.¹⁷ This is the last article located before the divorce in 1929.



Following his divorce, Thomas married Kathleen Murphy.

Trove was searched for articles during the timeframe of their marriage. Result: no articles located.

Genealogy SA was searched for a transcribed death registration for Kathleen Gordon (nee Murphy) – a record shows she died just 3 years after her marriage to Thomas Stanley Gordon, on 28 October 1935.¹⁸

Trove was searched for articles about Thomas following Kathleen's death. One article was located in the *News (Adelaide)*, 6 November 1952.¹⁹ (Article on right). The article reported that Thomas retired from the SA Railways following 38 years of service.



¹⁶ National Library of Australia, TROVE, Laxton Orphans, *News (Adelaide)*, 16 September 1925, p.7.

¹⁷ National Library of Australia, TROVE, Dance & Bridge Party, *The Registrar*, 5 November 1925, p.3.

¹⁸ Genealogy WA, Death Registrations Database, Kathleen Florence Murphy, date of death, 28 October 1935, Book/Page 574/4321.

¹⁹ National Library of Australia, TROVE, Railway Man Leaves Service, *News (Adelaide)*, 6 November 1952, p.13.

The General Registers Office UK (GRO UK) was searched for a birth record of Thomas Stanley Gordon about 1888/89 in Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland, England as this was the information given by Thomas on his WWI enlistment form. A record was located for Thomas Gordon (no middle name listed) born on 26 October 1887.²⁰ His parents were recorded as John Gordon and Helen Chalmes /Chalmers. This was the only record for a 'Thomas Gordon' in the Newcastle Upon Tyne registration district between 1886 and 1890.

Column: 1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	
No.	When and Where Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name, if added after Registration of Birth.
114	26 Oct 1887 Cuthbert 113 Bell Terrace Newcastle & LR	Thomas	Boy	John Gordon	Helen Gordon formerly Chalmers	Butcher Edwards works	J. Gordon Father 113 Bell Terrace Newcastle	26 Oct 1887	W. J. Findlay Registrar	

Figure 18: Birth Registration record of Thomas Gordon at Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland, England, born 26 October 1887. (Source: © Crown copyright, GRO UK).

This is not likely to be the 'Thomas Gordon' who is the object of our search, for the following reasons:

- The father's name, 'John Gordon', recorded on this registration does not match other records. Thomas listed his father as 'Thomas Stanley Gordon', 'Edwin Gordon' and 'Edwin Victor Gordon' on his respective marriages.
- The mother's name of 'Helen Chalmes /Chalmers' recorded on this registration does not match the mother's name, 'Jennie Gandy' given by Thomas Stanley Gordon on his pay allotment form in the military file.
- This birth was in October 1887, whereas all other records have indicated 1888/89. Ages can vary; however, he was literate (he passed the SA Railways Clerical Examination) so he would know his age. It is consistent in other records.
- There is no middle name listed on this record.

Each of these differences can occur individually, errors in records do happen. However, when viewed together, there are enough inconsistencies to cause concern that this birth registration record may not be for the Thomas Stanley Gordon that is being researched even though it is the only registration record on the GRO UK for a "Thomas Gordon" at Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland, England.

²⁰ GRO UK, Birth Index record of Thomas Gordon, 26 October 1887, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Vol 10B, p.57.

ANALYSIS TO WORK OUT THE CORRECT PARENTS FOR THOMAS STANLEY GORDON

Thomas Stanley Gordon was in Australia by 1914 when he passed his railway exams. Was the Thomas Gordon on the UK birth registration in 1887 still in England after 1914?

The England and Wales census documents were searched; the following records were located:

The 1911 England and Wales census in Elswick, Northumberland, records Thomas Gordon from the 1887 birth registration with parents John and Ellen (the names listed on the birth registration located earlier) and he is listed as a plumber.²¹

	NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family.	AGE (last birthday) and SEX.	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE.						PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards.				BIRTHPLACE of every person.			
				State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of — Write “Single,” “Married,” “Widow- er,” “Divorced,” or other status, opposite the names of all persons aged 3 years and upwards. Ages Males. Females.		Completed years of the present marriage. Do not state how long since dissolved. Total Children Born. Children still Living. Children who have Died.		Children born alive write “None” in Column 7.		The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c. If engaged in any Trade or Manufacture, the particular kind of work done, and the Article made or Material worked or dealt in should be clearly indicated. (See Instructions 1 to 8 and Examples on back of Subdivis.)		Industry or Service with which worker is connected. Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account. Write opposite the name of each person engaged in any Trade or Industry, (1) “Employer,” (2) “Employee,” (3) a supporting person or laborer, &c., as the case may be. “Self” if working on own account. (4) “Own Account.” (5) “Own Business.” (6) “Other” if employed others on working for a trade employer. (See Instruction 9 and Examples on back of Subdivis.)		Whether Working at Home. Write the words “At Home” if the name of each person is given. “Not at Home” if working for a trade employer. (See Instruction 9 and Examples on back of Subdivis.)		(1) If born in the United King- dom, write the name of the County, Town or Parish. (2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc., and of the Province. (3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country. (4) If born at sea, write “At Sea.” (5) In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether “Resident” or “Visitor” in the Country.	
of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Boarding, (who		State whether “Head” or “Wife,” “Son,” “Daughter,” or other status, “Visitor,” “Boarder,” or “Boarding.”															
1	John Gordon	Head	50	Married					Engineer	Sister	Locomotive Shop	Worked	at Home	Hawick Northburgh			
2	Eleanor Gordon	Wife	48	Married	24	8	6	2						Bushmill Northburgh			
3	Thomas Gordon	Son	23	Single					Plumber	44	House	Worked	at Home	Newcastle-on-Tyne			
4	John Gordon Jun	Son	20	Single					Engineer	124	Locomotive Shop	Worked	at Home	Newcastle-on-Tyne			
5	William Gordon	Daughter	18	Single					Census Inspector at Home					Newcastle-on-Tyne			
6	Isabella Gordon	Daughter	15	Single					Saleswoman in Ladies dress	844		Worked	at Home	Newcastle-on-Tyne			
7	David Gordon	Son	13						School	390				Newcastle-on-Tyne			
8	William Gordon	Son	7						School					Newcastle-on-Tyne			

Figure 19: Thomas Gordon, born about 1887 with parents John and Ellen on the 1911 England and Wales census. (Source: Ancestry.com, 1911 England Census, see footnotes).

The 1921 England and Wales census recorded Thomas Gordon with his wife and children and he was again listed as a plumber.²² The Thomas Stanley Gordon being researched was in Western Australia by 1914.

[illegible]

Figure 20: Thomas Gordon, born about 1887, still listed as a plumber on the 1921 England and Wales census. (Source: Ancestry.com. 1921 England Census. see footnotes)

²¹ Ancestry.com, 1911 England Census. Original data from The National Archives of the UK, Kew, Surrey, England, *Census Returns of England and Wales, 1911*, Thomas Gordon, residence Elswick, Northumberland, England.

²² Ancestry.com, 1921 England Census. Original data from The National Archives of the UK, Kew, Surrey, England, *Census Returns of England and Wales, 1921*, Thomas Gordon, residence Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland. England.

The 1939 England & Wales Register located Thomas Gordon still in England in 1939, listed as a plumber with a date of birth of 26 October 1887.²³ This matches the birth record with parents John and Ellen.

ADDRESS.	SCHEDULE.		SURNAMES AND OTHER NAMES.	O, V, S, P, or L.	M or F.	Birth- Day.	Year.	S, M, W, or D.	PERSONAL OCCUPATION
1	No.	Sub. No.	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	2	3							
			Gordon, Thomas	M		26	1887	M	Plumber

Figure 21: Thomas Gordon, recorded with the birthdate of 26 October 1887 on the 1939 England and Wales Register. (Source: Ancestry.com, 1939 England and Wales Register, see footnotes).

The census documents above provide evidence that the 'Thomas Gordon' born in 1887 at Newcastle Upon Tyne to parents John and Ellen, was still in England at least until 1939 and therefore cannot be the Thomas Stanley Gordon who was in Australia by 1914.

The Thomas Stanley Gordon who was in Australia by 1914 listed his father as Thomas Stanley Gordon, Edwin Gordon and Edwin Victor Gordon on his marriage records. On his military record, he lists his mother as Jeannie Gandy with an address is Liverpool.

Ancestry.com was searched for census documents and voting registration documents for Jeannie Gandy, thinking that she may have remarried, hence the surname Gandy. The following records were located:

The 1921 Liverpool Register of Voters records Jeannie Gandy and Edwin Victor Gandy.²⁴ They were living at 1 Norwich Road, Wavertree, Liverpool, England. Edwin and Edwin Victor were the names Thomas Stanley Gordon used on his 2nd and 3rd marriage records. This does not explain the surname Gandy: perhaps Edwin was his stepfather?

No. 141. Polling District MG.				WAVERTREE WARD	
(1)	(2)	(3)		(4)	
No. (a) Partis-	Franchise	Names in full.		Residence or Property occupied and	
mentary.	(b) Local	Surname first.		abode of non-resident occupier.	
	Govt.				
2339	R	O	Cowle, Thomas Stanley	38	NEWCASTLE ROAD
2340	H O	H O	Cowle, Alice Maud	38	
2341	R	O	Roberts, Richard Arthur	40	—cont.
2342	H O	H O	Roberts, Rose	40	
2343	R	O	Johnson, George	42	
2344	H O	H O	Johnson, Adeline Walmsley	42	
2345	R	—	Johnson, George Edward	42	
2346	O	O	Tryhorn, Emma Elizabeth	44	
2347	R	O	§Lowell, Julian	1	NORWICH ROAD
2348	H O	H O	Lowell, Helen	1	
2349	R	—	Lowell, Leslie	1	
2350	R	O	Wilson, Samuel Worthington	3	
2351	H O	H O	Wilson, Hannah Turner	3	
2352	R	O	Thornton, John George	5	
2353	H O	H O	Thornton, Edith May	5	
2354	R	—	Heap, Samuel Robert	7	
			Berrington		
2355	H O	—	Heap, Irene	7	
2356	O	O	Tully, Elizabeth	9	
2357	R	—	Peers, William	9	
2358	R	O	§Hughes, Herbert	11	
2359	H O	H O	Hughes, Marion	11	
2360	R	—	Hughes, Sidney Lionel	11	
2361	R	O	Jones, James Hampson	13	
2362	H O	H O	Jones, Celia	13	
2363	R	O	§Lancefield, William	15	
2364	H O	H O	Lancefield, Vida Margaret	15	
2365	R	O	Gandy, Edwin Victor	15	
2366	O	O	Gandy, Jennie	15	
2367	R	O	Webb, Alfred	19	
2368	H O	H O	Webb, Constance Martha	19	

Figure 22: Liverpool Electoral Registers 1921 (Source: Liverpool Record Office)

²³ Ancestry.com, 1939, England and Wales Register. Original data from The National Archives of the UK, Kew, Surrey, England, 1939 England and Wales Register, 1939, Thomas Gordon, residence Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland, England.

²⁴ Ancestry.com, Liverpool Record Office; Liverpool, England; Liverpool Electoral registers, Burgess rolls and Voters Lists; Reference: Hq324.241LIV

The 1891 England Census records Jeannie Gandy with husband Edwin and children, Ana, Edwin Victor and Thomas Sherwood.²⁵ Their residence was recorded as Coxlodge, Northumberland. Thomas Sherwood Gandy was listed as 2-years-old and born in Gosforth, Northumberland; his birth year would be about 1889 (same year as Thomas Stanley Gordon. Gosforth is a suburb of Newcastle Upon Tyne. Could this be the same person?) Thomas Stanley Gordon's military records stated that he was born in Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland. Section of census below:

Edwin Gandy	Head	Male	37	1	Fraper	X	Northumberland
Jennie - do -	Wife	Female	35	1			Northumberland
Ada - do -	Daughter	Female	5	1			Northumberland
Edwin Victor - do -	Son	Male	2	1			Northumberland
Thomas Sherwood - do -	Son	Male	2	1			Northumberland
John Sheld	Domestic	Male	17	1	General Servant		Northumberland

Figure 23: Edwin and Jennie Gandy, with their children, one being "Thomas Sherwood Gandy". (Source: Ancestry.com, 1891 England Census, see footnotes)

The 1901 England Census also records Edwin and Jennie Gandy.²⁶ This time the residence was St Helen, Lancashire. This document stated the birthplace of Thomas S. Gandy was Scotland. It may be an error as it been copied (ditto) from Jennie's birthplace above.

Edwin Gandy	Head	Male	48	1	Fraper	Own Account	North Lancashire
Jennie do	Wife	Female	40	1			Scotland
Ada do	Daughter	Female	17	1			do
Edwin V. do	Son	Male	14	1			do
Thomas S. do	Son	Male	12	1			do
Jennie do	Daughter	Female	9	1			do
Mabel S. do	Daughter	Female	7	1			do
Wend. V. do	Daughter	Female	3	1			do
Albert S. do	Son	Male	2	1			do
Thomas S. do	Son	Male	17	1	General Servant		do

Figure 24: Edwin and Jennie Gandy, with children, one being 'Thomas S Gandy'. (Source: Ancestry.com, 1901 England Census, see footnotes)

The 1911 England Census was searched. Result: no records found. This does not mean they weren't in England, simply that the record could not be located.

²⁵ Ancestry.com, 1891 England Census. Original data from The National Archives of the UK, Kew, Surrey, England, *Census Returns of England and Wales, 1891*, Jennie Gandy, residence Coxlodge, Northumberland, England

²⁶ Ancestry.com, 1901 England Census. The National Archives of the UK, Kew, Surrey, England, *Census Returns of England and Wales, 1901*, Jennie Gandy, residence St Helen, Lancashire, England

The 1921 England Census has Jennie and four of her adult children living at Wavertree, Lancashire, England.²⁷ Her husband, Edwin, and the rest of her children, including Thomas, were not recorded as living at the same address. Excerpt below. IF Thomas Gandy is Thomas Gordon, then he was in Australia by 1914 as he had married and then enlisted.

Figure 25: Jennie Gandy and some of her adult children on the 1921 England Census. (Source: Ancestry.com, 1921 England Census, see footnotes)

The GRO UK was searched for deaths of Edwin Gandy as he was not on the 1921 England census – a index record was located which records his date of death as March Quarter 1917 in Liverpool.²⁸ This could account for Thomas Stanley Gordon listing his mother, Jeannie Gandy, as a dependant on his military record: his father had died and his mother therefore could be considered a dependant and therefore receive an allotment. It also means the Edwin Victor Gandy on the 1921 electoral roll is Jennie's son, rather than her husband.

²⁷ Ancestry.com, 1921 England Census. Original data from The National Archives of the UK (TNA), Kew, Surrey, England, *Census Returns of England and Wales, 1921*, Jennie Gandy, residence Wavertree, Lancashire, England.

²⁹ GRO UK. Birth Registration of Thomas Sherwood Gandy, 29 October 1888, Castle Ward, Vol 10B, p.280.

The State Records Office of South Australia was searched for Passenger Lists for Thomas Gandy and Thomas Gordon.³⁰ Result: There were no records for Thomas Gandy, there were two for Thomas Gordon, however both stated they were travelling through to Sydney.

- A death record of Thomas Stanley Gordon's son, Geoffrey Gordon, was searched for in South Australia (the only reference we had of him to date was on his father's plaque). An index record was located on 'Find a Grave' for a Geoffrey Sherwood Gordon on 9 September 2023 at Centennial Park Cemetery.³¹ The middle name of Sherwood was of particular interest given that was Thomas Sherwood Gandy's middle name. As well, Geoffrey was recorded at the same cemetery as Thomas Stanley Gordon. Given the vital records from birth, death and marriages are within the restricted period for privacy, I was unable to check parents' names this way. With permission from client [name redacted] contacted the [name redacted – the owner of a private family tree on Ancestry.com] who had a Geoffrey Sherwood Gordon in her tree. The owner of the tree advised that Geoffrey Sherwood Gordon's parents were Thomas Stanley Gordon and Kathleen Murphy!

The GRO UK was searched for Edwin Gandy's birth registration. Surnames are sometimes used as middle names, particularly a mother's surname or grandmother's surname. We already know that Thomas Sherwood Gordon's mother's name was Jennie Hay, as that was on the birth registration document. In order to check the grandmother's maiden name, a search was made for a birth index record for Edwin Gandy on 15 July 1852, at Knottingley, Yorkshire (the birthplace listed on the census document). His mother's surname was listed as Harriet Sherwood.

No.	When Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name, if added after Registration of Birth.
252	15th July 1852	Edwin	Boy	William Gandy	Harriet Gandy late Bennett formerly Sherwood	Vessel Owner	Harriet Gandy Mother Knottingley	Thirtieth July 1852	James Crabtree Registrar	

Figure 26: Birth Registration of Edwin Gandy, born 15 July 1852, at Knottingley, Yorkshire. (Source: © Crown Copyright, GRO UK).

Based on the information located, I think it is highly probable that Thomas Stanley Gordon and Thomas Sherwood Gandy are the same person for the following reasons:

- 1) The Thomas Stanley Gordon born to parents John and Helen/Ellen in Newcastle Upon Tyne in December Quarter 1887 was listed as a plumber on the 1911 England Census when still living with his parents. He then appears to have married and was on the 1921 England Census as a plumber still living in England. He was recorded on the 1939 England Register with a birth date, 26 October 1887. This matches the birth registration of the Thomas

³⁰ State Records Office of South Australia, Indexes to Passenger Lists 1845-1940 - <https://www.archives.sa.gov.au/finding-information/discover-our-collection/migration-and-crew/immigration-passenger-lists>

³¹ Find A Grave, Geoffrey Sherwood Gordon, Centennial Park Cemetery, date of death 9 September 2023 - https://www.ancestry.com.au/search/collections/60528/records/243413419?tid=&pid=&queryId=c646451e-4027-4c60-adbb-9e0c58a1aad6&_phsrc=lp119&_phstart=successSource

Gordon born at Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland. This proves that this Thomas was still living his life in England and could not be the one in Australia.

- 2) In the WWI Australian military record of Thomas Stanley Gordon of South Australia, Thomas recorded his mother as Jeannie Gandy, living in Liverpool, England.
- 3) The marriages of Thomas Stanley Gordon in South Australia, list his father as follows:
 - a. Marriage to Ella May Smith – Thomas' father is listed as Thomas Stanley Gordon
 - b. Marriage to Vera Howlett – Thomas' father listed as Edwin Gordon
 - c. Marriage to Kathleen Murphy – Thomas' father is listed as Edwin Victor Gordon.
- 4) Jeannie Gandy, who was listed as mother on Thomas' military record, was located on an electoral roll with an Edwin Victor Gandy in Liverpool, England in 1921. The names 'Edwin' and 'Edwin Victor' had been listed on Thomas' marriage record, however, with 'Gordon' as the surname rather than 'Gandy'. (Edwin Victor turned out to be Jennie's son rather than husband).
- 5) The 1891 and 1901 census show Edwin Gandy and Jeannie Gandy with their children; one of the children was listed as 'Thomas S' on one census and 'Thomas Sherwood' on another. The age of Thomas on both census documents means he was born about 1888/9, which is consistent with Australian records for Thomas Stanley Gordon.
- 6) One of the census documents shows Thomas S. Gandy being born in Gosforth, Northumberland. Gosforth is a suburb of Newcastle Upon Tyne. Thomas Stanley Gordon recorded Newcastle Upon Tyne as his place of birth on his military record.
- 7) The birth record of Thomas Sherwood Gandy has his date of birth as 29 October 1888. Thomas Stanley Gordon's age given on his marriage records and Australian military file all give an approximate birth year of 1888/9.
- 8) No records for Thomas Sherwood Gandy have been located in England after the 1901 England Census. These include primary records such as births, deaths and marriages, secondary records such as census documents where another party has given his details. Further, third party records such as other people's family trees, also do not have any other records listed i.e.: they do not show what happened to him after 1901, death dates are always blank.
- 9) The initials of both names are TSG i.e.: Thomas Sherwood Gandy and Thomas Stanley Gordon. Psychologist Jozef Nuttin, discovered the name letter effect in 1985, in summary, he states that there is a 'tendency of people to prefer the letters in their name over other letters in the alphabet.'³²
- 10) Thomas Stanley Gordon named his son Geoffrey Sherwood Gordon. Sherwood is an unusual name, unless it meant something to family. Sherwood was originally the middle name of Thomas Sherwood Gandy, and later Thomas Stanley Gordon gave his son Geoffrey the middle name 'Sherwood'. Further, it was discovered Edwin Gandy's mother's maiden name was Sherwood; she was Thomas Sherwood Gandy's grandmother.

Therefore, I conclude that I have proved that the Thomas Gordon born to John and Ellen Gordon in 1887 at Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland is NOT the Thomas Stanley Gordon in South Australia as he is still in England well after Thomas Stanley Gordon was in Australia. I also conclude that there appears highly probable that Thomas Stanley Gordon is Thomas Sherwood

³² Wikipedia.org, Name-letter effect - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Name-letter_effect

Gandy, especially, given that he listed his mother as Jeannie Gandy on his military record, and the Sherwood name has been passed down. Other records listed above also support this theory. Thomas Sherwood Gandy appears to have changed his name to Thomas Stanley Gordon by the time he came to Australia. I have found no reasons why he changed his name.

If you require further proof, it would be necessary to take an Ancestry DNA test, though it would still depend on who else has tested. However, based on the paper documents this would appear to provide the evidence required to continue.

SUMMARY

The birth record of Thomas Stanley Gordon was located as requested but under the name of Thomas Sherwood Gandy. It appears he had changed his name by the time he arrived in Australia. His parents were Edwin Gandy and Jane/Jennie Hay. Further information about his life was obtained as requested, this shows he worked long term for SA Railways, was married three times, to Ella Mary Smith, Vera Howell and Kathleen Murphy. He had two children, Betty and Geoffrey. Thomas' grandparents were William Gandy and Harriet Sherwood. Harriet's maiden name, Sherwood, was given to Thomas when he was born, and Thomas also passed this name down as a middle name to his son.

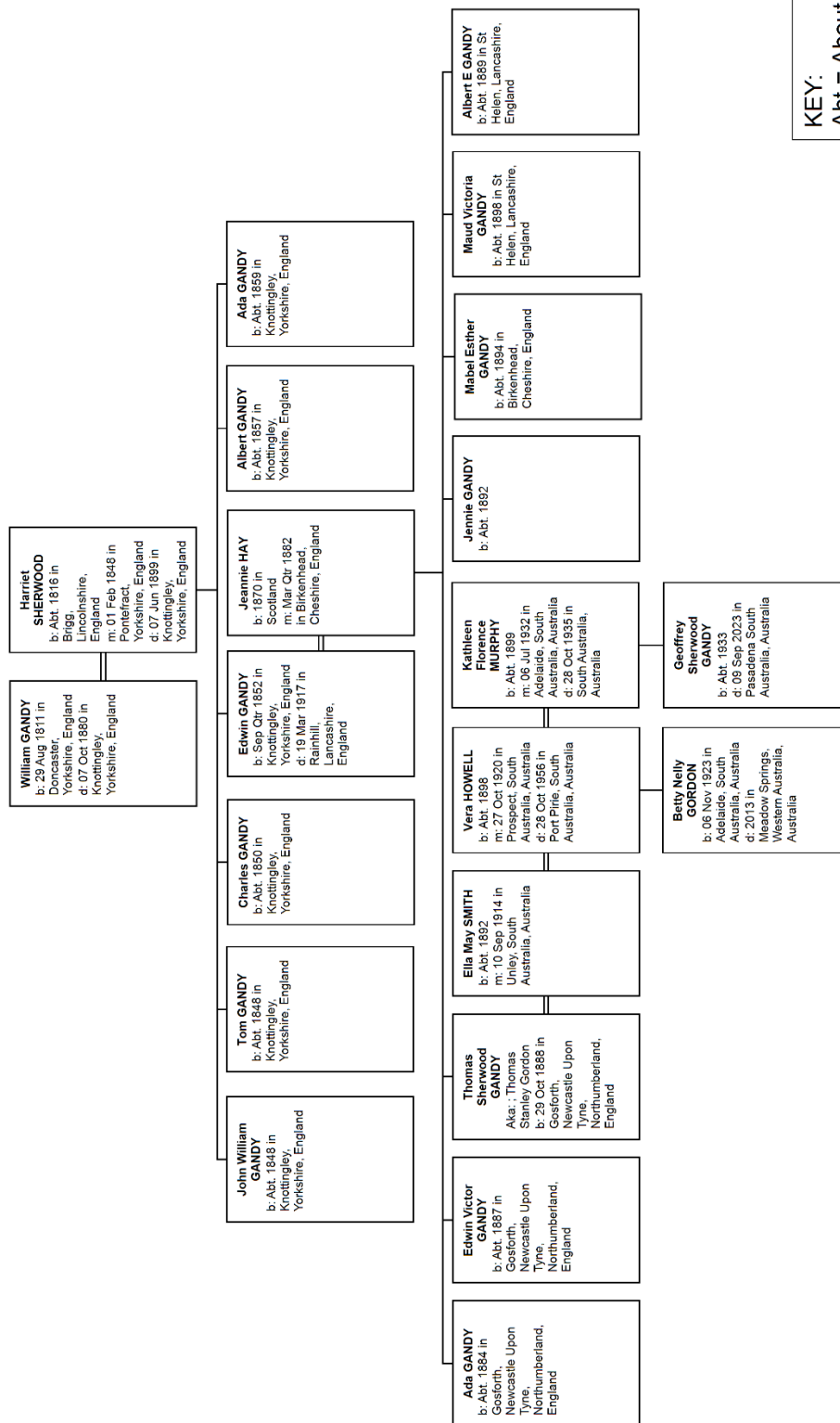
Attached is a family history chart for the Gordon/Gandy family (produced using Family Tree Maker software).

RECOMMENDATIONS

If you have any doubts about Thomas Sherwood Gandy being Thomas Stanley Gordon, then I would suggest completing an Ancestry.com DNA test. The matches should ascertain if there are links to others related to the Gandy family, though I do need to point out, that results will depend upon who else has tested.

The Gandy line has not come to an end from a research perspective. If you do not have any doubts about the Gandy line and wish to research the Gandy family further, then I would suggest the birth and marriage records of Edwin Gandy be purchased to obtain additional information. Further checks could also be completed to see if there were any other children of Edwin Gandy and Jennie Hay, and William Gandy and Harriet Sherwood, other than those listed on the census documents.

Descendant Chart for William Gandy



KEY:
Abt = About
Aka = Also known as
b = born
d = died
m = married

Prepared by: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Sunday, 19 October 2025