

MAKERS OF THE FUTURE

Our ancestral families that helped shape our present days

ROBERT COWAN AND ANNE RAINGER

*Yesterday is history,
Tomorrow is a mystery,
Today is a gift of God,
Which is why we call it the present.*

Anon.

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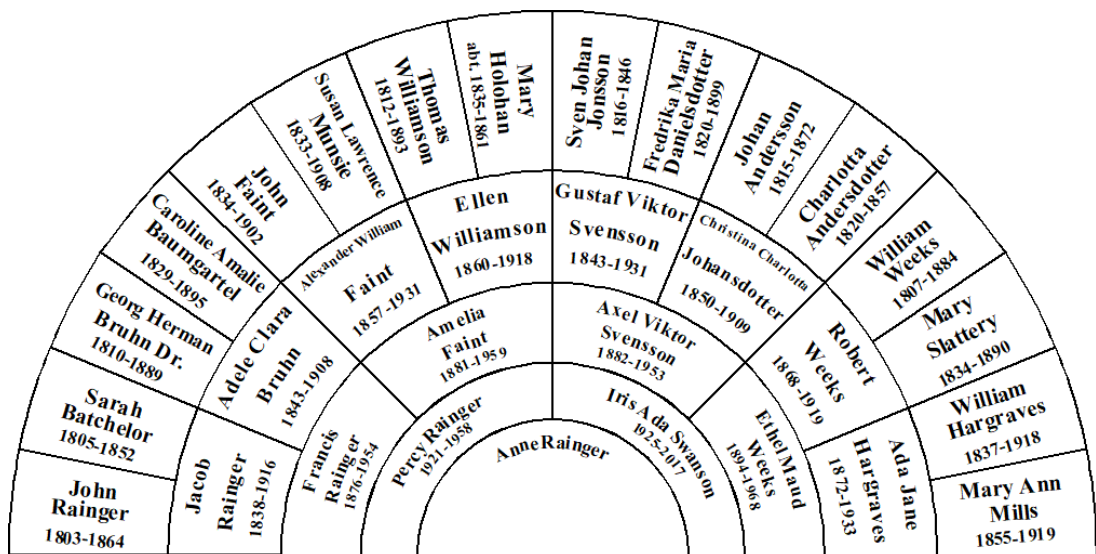


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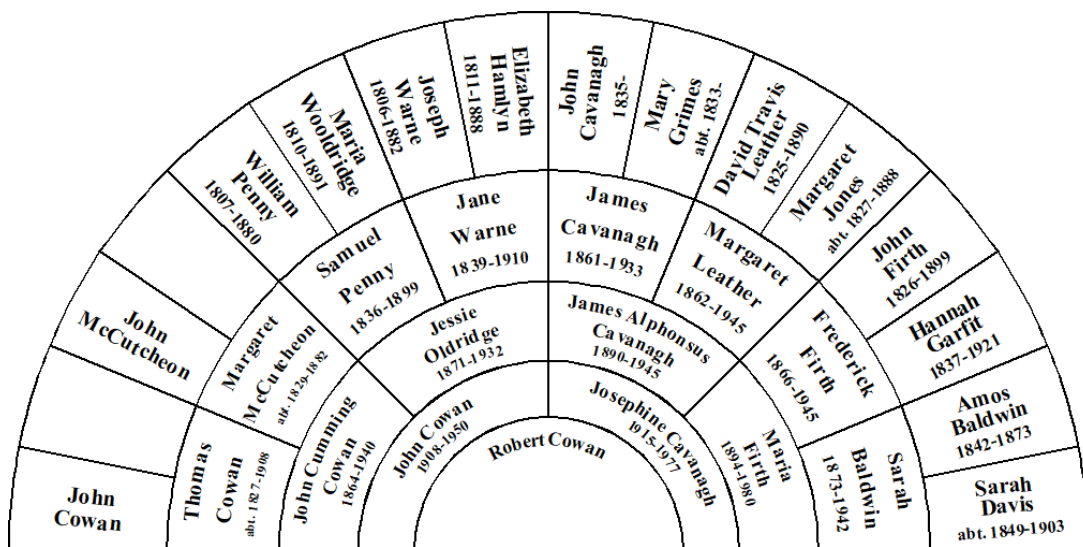


FIVE GENERATION CHART FOR ANNE RAINGER

Anne Rainger—my origins*	
British Isles	11%
West and Central Europe	67%
Scandinavia	22%

*Autosomal DNA test, Family Tree DNA 2018

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| British Isles Cluster | England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales |
| West and Central Europe Cluster | Present day countries of France, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Austria, Czech Republic, and Germany |
| Scandinavia | Present day Norway, Sweden and Denmark |



FIVE GENERATION CHART FOR ROBERT COWAN

Robert Cowan—my origins*	
British Isles	85%
South East Europe	5%
Scandinavia	5%
East Europe	5%

*Autosomal DNA test, Family Tree DNA 2018

British Isles Cluster
 Southeast Europe Cluster
 Scandinavia Cluster
 East Europe Cluster

England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales
 Present day populations from the areas of Italy, Greece, and the western Balkan states from Bulgaria to Croatia
 Present day Norway, Sweden and Denmark
 Present day Latvia, south to Ukraine, Romania, and the northern part of Bulgaria, west along the eastern edge of the Balkan states to Poland and the eastern half of Germany

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INTRODUCTION

In this book the ‘future’ began when the name of one of our ancestors was recorded in some form of church or civil document. However before this happened we had many generations of ancestors for whom no written records exist. Our only way of gaining any knowledge of these ancestors is by the use of genetics.

Genetic research showed Bob’s origins as almost entirely from the British Isles apart from some South East European, East European and Scandinavian ancient ancestry. These origins are not apparent in any written records but are most likely due to occupation by Roman Legions from 43 AD and later invasions by the Vikings who settled for a long period in York. Much of Bob’s maternal family is from Yorkshire.

Because one of her grandfathers came from Sweden and her great-grandparents from Germany Anne expected to find some Scandinavian and German ancestry. However genetic origins for Anne show a dominance of ancestry from West and Central Europe. This includes the countries of France, Belgium and Germany. There are some hints as to her genetics in her family tree—her Scandinavian family includes some ancestry from Belgium with the emergence of the Walloons in the seventeenth century. Her 27^x great-grandfather Wyomarus (Greenwood) may have come from France. Beyond these guesses there are just not enough written records on which to make any firm conclusions.

This book seeks to share the stories we found while building our family tree using church and civil records. At the start, readers might not always recognise the names of everyone but they are all in some way either Anne or Bob’s family. It does not include every ancestral branch as we felt to do so would make the book difficult to follow. We commenced the story this way so readers see the many different places where our ancestors lived; their journey to the colonies (or the new nation of Australia); as well as how the many simple decisions these people made have

impacted on our lives today. As we see it, our ancestors made the future, a future we now inhabit.

As stated above the stories begin with our earliest families or individuals in the places where we found them in written records. For the most part, these records are church registers, wills, land records or the occasional book. Most registers started in the time of Thomas Cromwell during the reign of Henry VIII (1491–1547), but not many of our families can be traced back this far. Some wills exist that are much older, but not everybody left wills. Many of the records of the events involving our ancestors did not survive. For some families, there is no history earlier than the nineteenth century. Paper records often fell to the ravages of mould, flood, fire, war, or just neglect. An errant parish clerk may not have recorded an event. Regardless, the lack of ancestral antiquity is not the fault of our ancestors, but there often remains some clues as to where they originated.

Some readers might wonder why in some early records we refer to a person's christening rather than their birth or why in some instances we only know the mother's first name in a child's christening record.

Church or civil records that detail dates needed to research a family history were never intended for that purpose. Because of this, they do not provide all the information sought. As an example, most early church registers only record the christening date for a child, not the birth date. In very early church records only the father's name was noted with the child, and in most cases, when the register included the mother's name, her maiden name was not included. Children were usually christened not very long after their birth date, but this was not always the case. Bob's 2× great-grandmother Hannah Garfit was christened on 20 July 1841 with her younger sibling Edwin Francis Garfit. While Edwin may have been just a babe in arms, Hannah was at that time about four.

Marriage records did not always state whether either of the parties was a widow or widower. Most women used their married name and not their maiden name if they remarried and this often makes the chance of tracing any record of her birth impossible. As an example, the parish church at Newent in Gloucestershire included a record for a marriage of John Baldwyn and Hannah Knight on 3 August 1809. The register did not note that Hannah was a widow. Her late husband was Edward Knight, and her maiden name was, in fact, Plaister. Similarly, most early church registers note the burial date for a person, not when they died.

Civil records vary widely in their content. As an example, an English birth certificate does not contain as much information as a New South Wales certificate.

England, Wales and Scotland retained census records from 1841, providing a wealth of information about family for most of the Victorian period, but in Australia between 1901 and 1996 all individual census records were destroyed after statistical analysis.

WHERE THE FUTURE BEGAN

Except for Anne's Swedish and German ancestry, all written records for our families are from the British Isles and most of these were from England.

After the Norman Conquest of England in the eleventh century, people were bound to live in the village where they were born, and this continued for about 300 years. At this time most of our ancestors would have had only one name to identify them, a Christian name like William or John or as in one of Anne's ancestors, Wyomarus. However over time with more and more people living together, it became necessary to add more definition to the name, so a second descriptor eventuated often linking the name to a physical attribute, the place where the person lived, or their work, for example William the Miller.

During the reign of Edward I (1272–1307), a tax was raised to support the wars in Wales and Scotland. Part of the exercise involved making rolls of people's names who paid the tax. These rolls, called subsidy rolls, were organised by county and village. A vocation, physical attribute or place could be linked to a Christian name and recorded such as 'Allan by the brook' or 'Adam Wooder'. When a person moved from a village, they often took the second name with them. For example, though Allan might no longer live by a brook, he still used this name.

A century later during the reign of Richard II (1367–1400) a poll tax was raised and similar subsidy rolls to those above were assembled. In the second lists, names such as 'Thomas Baker–ploughman' or 'Robert Blacksmith–farmer' were recorded.¹ So surnames began to be used.

An example of a surname based on a vocation in Bob's family was the surname of Mary Blacksmith who married Henry Firth in 1683. At some time, one of Mary's

¹ Constance Mary Matthews, *How surnames began* (London: Lutterworth Press, 1967), pages 10-12.

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ancestors was probably a blacksmith. The Wyomarus mentioned above was granted a wooded forest and became Wyomarus Greenwood.

At first, the spelling of the names varied as people were often illiterate and the name was recorded by a person as they heard it said. Ranger could become 'Rainger' or Faint could be 'Fent' or 'Feinte'. Hargraves was often recorded as Hargreaves.

Our earliest family records start in the sixteenth century and while this is a considerable time after the two to three hundred years recorded in the first subsidy rolls above, many of the family names still occurred in groups. Bob's Firth family came from West Yorkshire and into Lancashire. There is the Hamlyn family in Devon, and of course, the Cowan name in Ayrshire, Scotland.

In this chapter, we have tried to present our ancestors where they first appear in records and set them out geographically by country, county, and town or village. Obviously, some groups had already moved from villages to the city, but overall they remained in the same area for many years.

THE BRITISH ISLES 1154–1797

ENGLAND

WESTMORLAND AND CUMBERLAND

THE FAINTS AND WESTMORLAND AND CUMBERLAND FAMILIES

Anne's paternal family line (Charts: 20, 21, 21A, 22 and 23)

Westmorland and Cumberland are today part of the modern day County of Cumbria. The link with this region is via Anne's paternal grandmother Amelia Faint, not that Amelia ever visited Westmorland or Cumberland. The last direct ancestor to leave the area was Amelia's grandfather John Faint who sailed for New South Wales in 1854. The Faint family had been in the Cumberland and Westmorland counties for centuries and records exist to trace the family back a further eight generations from John to the sixteenth century.

The story of Anne's Westmorland and Cumberland families is a story of generations of hardworking and respected yeomen farmers gradually building wealth by hard work, opportune marriages, and ensuring the wealth remained intact by generally concentrating it in the hands of the eldest son. There is no complete documentation

WHERE THE FUTURE BEGAN

of their material landholdings, but the family was at times centred at Waterhouses near Asby and Ormside for many generations and may have acquired freehold land.

While this depiction of Anne's Westmorland ancestors primarily has focused on the Faint family, every Faint husband had a wife. Each wife had a mother, father and family no less interesting than the Faints, many mirroring their yeoman life and often intermarrying with Faint families over successive generations. The Faints and related families were consistent in leaving wills and witnessing statements for property and similar documents. Because of these we have a good representation of the families over time. Well-written wills ensured that the gains made by their hard work were not dissipated. One of the wills found was for Leonard Ffaintt who wrote his will on 23 September 1631.² The earliest related will was for Leonard's maternal great-grandfather Thomas Blencarne who wrote his will on 22 April 1566 at Ormesheyd, Westmorland.³ These and other wills show the Faints were mostly yeoman farmers as were the families with whom they intermarried, including Blencarne, Wilkinson, Bousfell, Cleasby, Park, Gregson, and Todd. Their lifestyle was little different from the Faints, and so the portrayal below would apply to all of Anne's Westmorland ancestors.

Frank W Garnett, an early writer, visited Westmorland in the late nineteenth century and described the numerous grey farmhouses that Anne's Westmorland families lived in as dotted here and there throughout the dales in sheltered situations. Some were clustered together to form small villages or hamlets. Larger ones often were surrounded by yards which were protected by high stone walls. These could be used to shut in cattle and sheep from possible raids by the Scots.

The kitchen was the main room in the farmhouse. This large room often had a low ceiling, barely high enough for a man to stand upright. Large square slate flags covered the floor. A large oak chest carved with the family's initials and the date it was made stood in the driest part of the room opposite the fire to store bread. Food consisted primarily of the crops grown on the farm—corn, oats, barley and potatoes.

Clothing also came from homegrown materials. The nearest village weaver would use the carded wool from the family's native sheep to make material for clothes. The resulting material was called self grey or duffel and was sometimes dyed blue, as this was a favoured colour for stockings. The men wore knee britches well into the

² Carlisle, Westmorland, Original wills 1630-1632 1633 A-P, Leonard Ffaintt 1631; FHL microfilm 90390.

³ Carlisle, Westmorland, Original wills 1566, Thomas Blencarne; FHL microfilm 90291.

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nineteenth century. Farmers wore clogs on the farm but would wear leather shoes to church and on special occasions. Because of the colour of their clothing, farmers from this region were often referred to as 'grey coats'. Itinerant tailors travelled from farm to farm once or twice a year to make the self grey or duffel into clothes for the men, and a finer material called russet was used to make dresses for the women. The wages for the tailor were 10d to 1s per day, and he would stay with the family for about one week. These tailors, and any peddler that called, were always welcome as they carried news in a time when the cost of a newspaper made it unobtainable. The other way to obtain news was by attendance at church, and it was often the practice for one farmer to attend and bring the week's news back to his neighbours.⁴

Yeomen, together with tenant farmers, were the two main groups of the rural middle class. Yeomen were a respectable, honourable class, ranked above the husbandmen and agricultural labourers. A yeoman was a farmer who owned land in some way either by leasehold or even freehold and worked the land himself, although there were exceptions. The wealth of the yeoman varied as did the size of their landholding. Some yeomen were wealthy enough to employ servants and farm labourers. Yeomen were sometimes called upon to serve their sovereign and country, and this rule existed for a long time, for example in the Yeomanry Cavalry of the late eighteenth century.

Some younger children obviously did not inherit property and must have found it harder to make a living. Many undertook agricultural labour, but some sons left their homeland for the new lands of Canada and the American colonies.

Different branches of the family moved and settled in different areas but the Faint family we are interested in continued to farm in the Westmorland area. We know from the birthplaces of their children that Anne's ancestral family farmed in the Ormside area until about 1650; then moved to Asby where they stayed until the late 1780s; to Great Musgrave until 1823 and finally Kirkland in Cumberland where John Faint, who would eventually migrate to New South Wales, was born.

The christening of Anne's 4^x great-grandfather, George was on 30 August 1752, at the parish church at Asby.⁵ This signified a change in fortunes for Anne's direct Faint ancestors. George was the third child born to the family and the second son, the eldest being John Faint. John was four years older than George. While no will has

⁴ Frank W Garnet, *Westmorland Agriculture 1800-1900* (Kendal, Westmorland: Titus Wilson, 1912), pages 1-27.

⁵ Church of England (Asby, Westmorland, England), "Births, 1661-1874," christening George Fent; FHL microfilm 97346.

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been found for George and John's parents, most of the property went to John, the eldest son. John Faint married Isabella Richardson in 1788 and together they had two daughters but no sons. John died in 1809 at Waterhouses.

Isabella died in 1836, and left a considerable amount of money. Part of the will follows: 'William Alderson, the son of Roger Alderson of Great Musgrave the sum of five pounds and I give to the children of my brother in law George Faint who shall be living at the time of my decease the sum of five pounds apiece'.⁶ William Alderson was the child of Mary Faint, the eldest daughter of George Faint and Mary Gregson. Mary had died in 1828.

Anne's 4^x great-grandfather George had married Mary Gregson at Warcop 18 November 1777.⁷ A marriage in December 1597 at the Warcop Church is the earliest record of Mary's family. George farmed at Eden Flat near Great Musgrave in Westmorland. The couple had ten children, but it was the eighth child, Robert, who would be Anne's direct ancestor. Robert was christened 6 June 1791 at Great Musgrave.⁸

While George and Mary's life may have been content, their children faced a less bright future. Many would be agricultural labourers or look to emigrate.

George was buried 28 October 1835 at Great Musgrave, five years after his wife Mary.⁹ Five years later the first of his grandsons, George, immigrated to the new Colony of New South Wales.

LANCASHIRE

THE ANCIENT HALLIWELL FAMILY

Anne's maternal family line (Charts: 28 and 29)

Anne's branch of the Halliwell family originated from Rochdale, Lancashire. There were Hewalls, Hellewells, Halliwalls and Helywells living in this part of England in the fourteenth century so this family was probably related more widely and further

⁶ Carlisle, Westmorland, Original wills 1836-1837, Isabella Faint nee Richardson; FHL microfilm 90537.

⁷ Church of England (Warcop, Westmorland, England), "Marriages, 1745-1785, 1754-1812," marriage Faint-Gregson; FHL microfilm 1471640.

⁸ Church of England (Great Musgrave, Westmorland, England), "Christenings, 1665-1866," christening Robert Faint; FHL microfilm 97404.

⁹ Church of England (Great Musgrave, Westmorland, England), "Burials, 1665-1867," burial George Fent; FHL microfilm 97404.