

Joseph Waterworth Cafferata

It is of interest that of William Cafferata's eight sons only one, Redmond Parker Cafferata, followed him into the family business of Cafferata and Company. William had started his career as an apprentice merchant before becoming a stock and share broker. His eldest two sons, James Waterworth and William Madden Cafferata both followed this route, becoming merchants themselves. Perhaps their paths had been set before William founded Cafferata and Company but it was Redmond who started working for his father after leaving school. The rest of William's sons pursued widely different careers. Henry Taylor became a priest, Adolphus Moubert a doctor, Nicholas Throckmorton a farmer in Kansas and Albert Stourton a solicitor but it is William's sixth son Joseph Waterworth Cafferata that this narrative concerns. William's only daughter Eliza Chamberlain Cafferata married Alexis Baillon, a Nottingham lace merchant.

Joseph Waterworth Cafferata was born on the 29th March 1856 in Liverpool, Lancashire and was baptised in St Oswald's Catholic Church on the 6th April. Joseph's godparents were Edward Waterworth and his wife Elizabeth which almost certainly accounts for the choice of middle name. Edward was the brother of Joseph's mother Elizabeth.⁽¹⁾

No. 212	Anno 1856 die 29 mensis Martii natus et anno 1856 die 6 mensis Aprilis baptizatus est
Cafferata	Josephus Waterworth Cafferata filius Gulielmi
	et Elizabethae Cafferatae (olim Waterworth) conjugum
	a me Thoma J. M. M. Sacerdote de Curia
Patrinus fuit Edwardus Waterworth	Matrina fuit Elizabetha Waterworth

Joseph's Baptism Record from 1856.

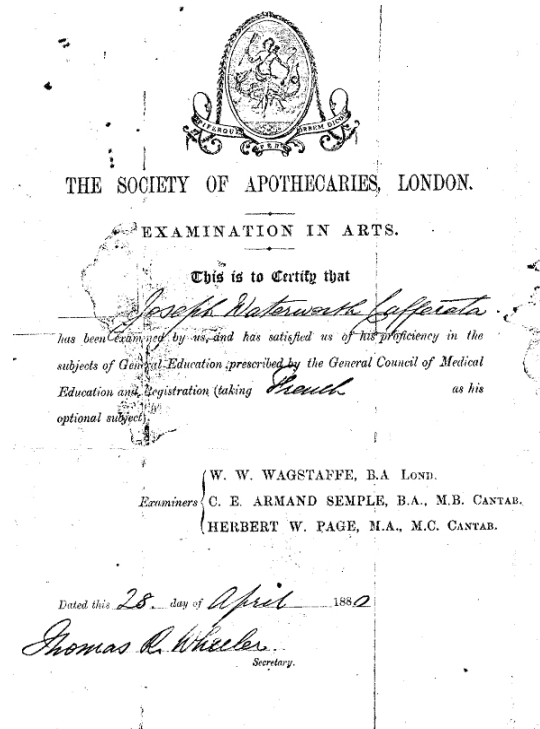
In 1861 William's large family were living in Mill Lane, Wavertree along with four servants including two nurses to help look after the children.⁽²⁾ The family were soon to move though, as in 1862 William bought a plaster making business in Newark, Nottinghamshire. Joseph's home moved to Millgate, Newark but, as with William's other children, Joseph was sent to boarding school. Whilst the family had lived in Liverpool, the children went to Stonyhurst but now they lived on the other side of the country it made more sense to choose a more convenient school. So Joseph, along with younger brother Nicholas went to Ampleforth College in 1870. Joseph's youngest brother Albert joined them the following year. Nicholas and Albert played a full part in school taking part in drama and sporting events but there is no record of Joseph participating in the same way. It was around the time that Joseph left school that his father died, on the 5th September 1874.

After leaving school, it becomes harder to track Joseph's life with certainty. A family note states that he entered university in Belgium before going on to Germany to study music,

playing organ, piano, clarinet and violin. He also was an accomplished linguist, speaking English, French, German, Dutch, Italian, Spanish and Latin.⁽³⁾

By 1880, Joseph was back in England studying medicine in London. In an examination on the 28th April the Society of Apothecaries said that Joseph *“satisfied us of his proficiency in the subjects of General Education prescribed by the General Council of Medical Education and Registration (taking French as his optional subject).”*⁽⁴⁾

Joseph then started two years of hospital practice at St George’s Hospital Medical School paying fees for the 1880-1881 and 1881-1882 sessions.⁽⁵⁾ It is possible that he borrowed the money for this from his mother. In 1881 Elizabeth Cafferata wrote a will dividing her estate equally amongst her children but with any money they had borrowed from her deducted from their share. The will stated that she had lent Joseph one hundred and twenty eight pounds, eighteen shillings and sixpence.⁽⁶⁾ The 1881 census shows Joseph as a medical student lodging at 64 Radnor Street, Chelsea.⁽⁷⁾



Joseph’s Medical Examination Certificate, 1880

We then encounter another period of time where it is difficult to track Joseph accurately. At any rate, it seems that he didn’t take his final exams. Peg Langtry, his granddaughter, wrote this account:

“It is said that he and his brothers were given a large sum of money and he travelled and made some bad investments. One story has it that he bought a ship and cargo which sank with no insurance. Another story is that he invested in worthless stocks while travelling in Europe.”⁽⁸⁾

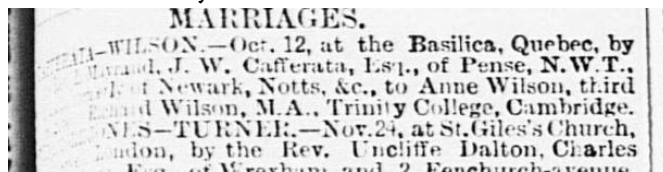
I haven’t been able to find any supporting evidence for Joseph receiving a large sum of money but, of course, that doesn’t mean that it isn’t true. In 1881 Elizabeth Cafferata sold Cafferata and Company to Redmond Parker Cafferata for £12,000 so could have given Joseph a lot of money. However, if that’s the case I’m sure she would have recorded it in her will. She had given another son, William Madden, more than six thousand pounds, which was duly noted.

At some point in the early 1880s, Joseph made the decision to emigrate to North America, his port of arrival being New York City. Joan Dolny takes up the story:

“He went to Iowa and paid a farmer \$500.00 to teach him farming. He remained with the farmer for a year. Then he emigrated to Canada and settled in the north West Territories (now Saskatchewan) in the city of Regina. There he established a music store on South Railway Street, He operated his business for one year, then he was bankrupt. Then he homesteaded”⁽⁹⁾

Census records completed by Joseph indicate his year of arrival in Canada was 1883⁽¹⁰⁾ and Homestead patents show that Joseph entered the homestead on the 29th September, building his house on the 5th October. The homestead was located to the north of Stony Beach and south of Rocky Lake. It was recorded as the Southeast Quarter of Section 24 of Township 18 in the Range 24 West of the Second Meridian.⁽¹¹⁾ Joseph called his new homestead “Beacon Hill”. I think that it is quite likely that Joseph named his new homestead after the Cafferata gypsum quarries in England which were to be found on Beacon Hill, Newark.

Things must have been busy for Joseph because the next major event in his life was his marriage to Anne Wilson. It seems a reasonable assumption that they met in England before Joseph left for Canada, with Joseph going ahead to establish himself and Anne joining him later. They were married in Notre Dame Basilica, Québec on October 12th 1885. (Only a



Announcement in the London Standard , 28th November 1885 regarding Joseph’s marriage

week after building his house in Moose Jaw!) In the marriage record Joseph’s address is given as Regina, whilst Anne was shown as living in Cambridge, England.⁽¹²⁾ This indicates she had only recently arrived in Canada.

The happy couple then returned to the North West Territories with Anne officially entering Joseph’s homestead on the 24th October 1883.

The homestead records show how Joseph’s farming progressed. By 1886 Joseph had broken ground on 40 acres and was cropping 30, as well as building a barn, shed, pig pens and sinking a well. His livestock also increased over the years:

1883: 2 ponies

1884: 2 horses 1 pony

1885: 2 horses, 1 cow, 1 calf, 18 pigs

1886: 2 horses, 1 cow, 1 yearling, 1 calf, 27 pigs, 30 or 40 fowls⁽¹¹⁾

Joseph applied for a homestead patent in 1886, shortly before the birth of his first daughter, Eleanor Tritner Cafferata, who was born on December 29th 1886.⁽¹³⁾ Eleanor was baptised the following spring at St Mary's Church, Regina on the 19th May 1887 as Eleanor Mary Cafferata.⁽¹⁴⁾ The Land grant was formalised on the 18th August 1887.⁽¹⁵⁾



L to R: Joseph Jr, Eleanor, Joseph Sr, Anne, Margaret.

Photo thanks to Michael Lowe

possession of was immediately to the north of his original homestead, being the Northeast Quarter. This was a move to increase the size of his farmlands – in his application for a land grant for the new homestead he stated that he had already broken 50 acres of land at the time of his entry. He didn't build a house on the new homestead, continuing to live on and maintain his original farm.⁽¹⁸⁾ The year continued positively – Anne was pregnant again and on the 1st July Joseph was appointed as a Justice of the Peace.⁽¹⁹⁾ In a time when settlements were still developing, Joseph had to hold his court in his house and this obviously proved a great entertainment with Peg Langtry writing *"The children would all be upstairs listening to the proceedings around the ceiling grate."*⁽⁸⁾

As well as being a farmer, jailer and magistrate, Joseph also used his medical training and knowledge when needed, including delivering all of his own children, including the new baby, Annie, who was born on the 14th August 1892.⁽²⁰⁾ This proved to be a difficult

The following years were busy for Joseph and his family. The birth of a son, Joseph Nicholas, followed near the start of 1889⁽¹⁶⁾ followed before the end of the same year by the birth of a second daughter, Margaret Wilson on the 28th December.⁽¹⁷⁾

As well as providing the information that Joseph and Anne now had a son, Joseph's occupation, as given on the 1891 census, is of interest: "Turnkey at Reg. Jail".⁽¹⁶⁾ A turnkey was a prison warder or jailer. In her notes, Peg Langtry wrote *"For a short time, grandfather guarded Louis Riel."*⁽⁸⁾ Louis Riel was executed in Regina in 1885 so it indicates that it was an occupation Joseph had held for at least six years, as well as his farming interests.

On the 24th February 1892 Joseph entered a new homestead. The land he took

birth with both mother and baby becoming very ill. On the 16th September, the Moose Jaw Times reported that “*Mrs Cafferata has been ailing for nearly a month and she was released from her sufferings*” on Saturday 10th September. She was then “*taken to the Roman Catholic Church on Monday morning when the beautiful and impressive services of the church were conducted by Father Caron of Regina.*”⁽²¹⁾ In his record of the burial, Father Caron recorded that Anne had died of “*Puerperal fever.*”⁽²²⁾ It can have been little cause for celebration that baby Annie was baptised by Father Caron on the same day. ⁽²³⁾ Sadly, Annie lived little more than a month longer than her mother, dying in October and being buried by Father Caron on the 22nd.⁽²⁴⁾



Annie's memorial in Moose Jaw Cemetery

It must have been difficult for Joseph to manage at this time not least due to the pressures of farming, as well as bringing up a young family on his own but he did have some family help he could call on. His nephew, William Baillon Cafferata was living in Moose Jaw as a farm labourer by June 1891.⁽²⁵⁾⁽²⁶⁾ He helped Joseph, but a more permanent arrangement was needed.

This came in the person of Elizabeth Mellor Webb. Elizabeth was born on the 7th January 1874 at Edial, Staffordshire, England, the younger twin sister of Helena Mellor Webb and one of 10 children of Thomas Webb and Mary Mellor. The Webb family were farmers in Staffordshire, with Thomas declaring on the 1881 census that he farmed 160 acres.⁽²⁷⁾ In 1891 the family were still in Staffordshire, although at a different farm. The next year though, they embarked on a new adventure as Thomas, Mary and eight of their children emigrated to Canada. They set sail on the S.S. Parisian on the 24th March leaving the port of Liverpool, bound for Halifax, Nova Scotia.⁽²⁸⁾ Eventually, they settled in Kronau, a small settlement about 20 miles southeast of Regina in the North West Territories.⁽⁹⁾ Elizabeth was just 18 at the time of her arrival in Canada.



Elizabeth Mellor Webb.
Photo thanks to Michael Lowe

The family had to quickly adjust to their new lives and Elizabeth did this by getting a job. She became housekeeper, governess and nurse to Joseph's three

children.⁽⁸⁾⁽⁹⁾ This gave Joseph the time he needed to make progress with his new homestead. In addition to the 50 acres he had broken before entry, in 1892 he broke another 10 acres and cultivated 50 of the 60 acres.

Over the next few years he cultivated between 60 and 70 acres and kept a small amount of livestock on the new homestead; 4 to 6 cattle, and equal numbers of horses and pigs.⁽¹⁸⁾

Joseph also had time to indulge in his passion for music, playing clarinet in the Stony Beach Brass Band along with five members of the Doan family amongst others. Notable occasions the band played at were Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 and on the occasion of Saskatchewan becoming a province of Canada in 1905.⁽²⁹⁾

Over the next few years, Joseph and Elizabeth became closer despite the 18 year age gap between them. *“By June 1895 Elizabeth and Joseph Cafferata had fallen in love and become engaged. At this time Elizabeth left Stony Beach and lived with her sister Mary Service in Regina until she was married.*



**The Stony Beach Brass Band with Joseph playing clarinet.
Photo thanks to Carole Wolfe**

Elizabeth and Joseph Cafferata were married in Regina, Saskatchewan on January 21, 1896,

followed by a small family reception at the home of Elizabeth's sister Mary.”⁽⁹⁾

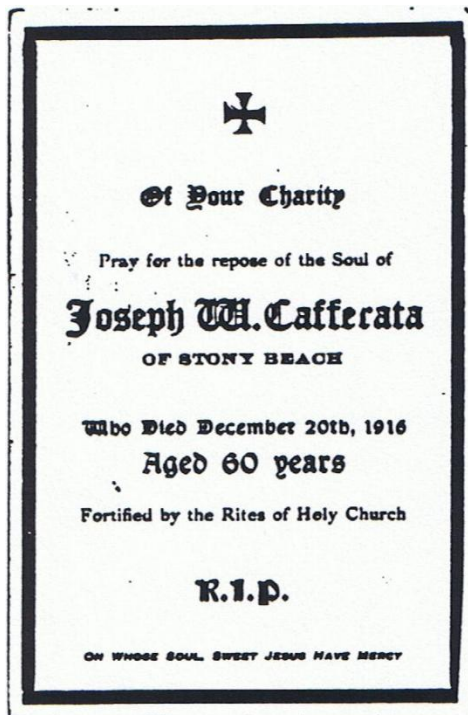
1896 was a mixed year for the Cafferatas. They were married and the year also saw the birth of their daughter, Mary Helena Mellor Cafferata on the 28th October⁽³⁰⁾ but it also saw the death of Elizabeth's mother Mary. Mary and Elizabeth's father had returned to England because of Mary's ill health and also due to the severe Canadian winters.⁽³¹⁾ 1896 also saw the arrival of another Cafferata, Joseph's nephew Humbert, who settled in Stony Beach, becoming a homestead farmer like his uncle.⁽³²⁾

More children followed over the next few years with the birth of Ethel Elizabeth (1898), Frances Beatrice (1900), Henry Baillon (1903), Elizabeth Marjorie (1905), Edward Joseph (1908), Florence (1910) and Marjorie Monica (1914). Unfortunately Joseph's son from his first marriage, Joseph Nicholas died on 2nd February 1907. Eleanor, Joseph's eldest daughter, married Harold Moubert on the 15th June 1904.⁽³³⁾ Harold was another recent

immigrant to Canada with connections to the Cafferata family. His grandparents were Adolphus Benedict Moubert and Mary-Anne Waterworth. Mary-Anne was the sister of Elizabeth Waterworth, Eleanor Cafferata's grandmother. Harold Moubert became a homestead farmer at Moose Jaw following his arrival in 1903. Eleanor and Harold presented Joseph with his first grandson, Harold who was born in 1906. By the time of the 1911 census Joseph's daughter Margaret was shown as a telephone operator and living with her sister and brother in law.⁽³⁴⁾

Joseph continued with his farming, applying for the land grant for his new homestead in 1900.⁽¹⁸⁾ An insight into Joseph and Elizabeth's domestic arrangements is given by Joan Dolny: *"Elizabeth and Joseph would take their children and travel by train to Battleford, Saskatchewan, twice a year to visit Elizabeth's sister Annie (Elizabeth) Johnson. Joseph would return to their homestead and attend to farm chores, then when Elizabeth was ready to return home, he would return to Battleford and help her with the children as they travelled home."*⁽⁹⁾

Joseph also continued with his work as a Justice of the Peace, being appointed to the position in the new province of Saskatchewan on the 14th March 1906.⁽¹⁹⁾



A prayer card for Joseph, 1916

In 1916 Joseph's family were still living on the farm but the strain of spending more than 30 years in such an unforgiving environment was by now taking its toll and Joseph was in frail health. He died of cancer on the 20th December and was buried in Moose Jaw cemetery on December the 22nd.⁽⁹⁾⁽³⁵⁾

Elizabeth continued living on the farm until 1924 when she sold it and moved into a house at 77 Ross Street, Moose Jaw. She stayed there until 1940 and from that point spent her time visiting and living with her children who were now spread across western Canada. She died on June 22nd 1949 and was buried next to Joseph in Moose Jaw cemetery.⁽⁹⁾ Joan Dolny provides a much more detailed account of Elizabeth's later years than outlined here.

Notes and References

- (1) Baptism Record St Oswald, Liverpool Baptisms 1856 #22 from Ancestry.co.uk:
Liverpool Catholic Baptisms 1802-1906
- (2) 1861 England Census Database online. Class: RG9; Piece: 2737; Folio: 49; Page: 12;
GSU roll: 543021.
- (3) Note from Peg Langtry's aunt, sent to me by Kristy Fallon.
- (4) Examination certificate, sent to me by Kristy Fallon
- (5) Receipt for medical fees, sent to me by Kristy Fallon
- (6) Elizabeth Cafferata's will, in my possession.
- (7) 1881 England Census Database online. Class: RG11; Piece: 77; Folio: 92; Page: 28; GSU
roll: 1341017
- (8) Note from Peg Langtry to me.
- (9) McCarthy Genealogy by Joan Dolny, sent to me by Patrick Denis. A tremendous
amount of work went into this account of family history.
- (10) Census of Canada Year: 1916; Census Place: Saskatchewan, Regina, 11; Roll:
T-21943; Page: 12; Family No: 115
- (11) Homestead Patent Page 2 (3) sent to me by Kristy Fallon.
- (12) Ancestry.com. Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin
Collection), 1621-1968 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations,
Inc., 2008.
- (13) Ancestry.com. Web: Saskatchewan, Birth Index, 1875-1908 [database on-line].
Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2013.
- (14) "Saskatchewan, Catholic Church Records, 1846-1957", database with images,
FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QK95-DGVP> : 15 March 2018),
Eleanor Mary Cafferata, 1887.
- (15) [https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/land/land-grants-western-canada-
1870-1930/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=101948&](https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/land/land-grants-western-canada-1870-1930/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=101948&)
- (16) Census of Canada Year: *1891*; Census Place: *Moose Jaw, Assiniboia West,
Territories, Canada*; Roll: *T-6426*; Family No: *513*
- (17) Ancestry.com. Web: *Saskatchewan, Birth Index, 1875-1908* [database on-line].
Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2013.
- (18) Homestead Patent Page 3 sent to me by Kristy Fallon.
- (19) JP appointment certificate, sent to me by Kristy Fallon.
- (20) Ancestry.com. Web: Saskatchewan, Birth Index, 1875-1908 [database on-line].
Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2013.
- (21) Moose Jaw Times, 16th September 1892.

- (22) "Saskatchewan, Catholic Church Records, 1846-1957", database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QK95-DPSM> : accessed 13 July 2015), Annie Wilson Cafferata, 1892.
- (23) DGS Roll: 005472550; FHL Roll: 001032949; Page Number: 120; Series Number: 12-0505; 2015-04-13 14:08:59; pinegarmm; Saskatchewan Catholic Church Records, 1846-1934 – FSI
- (24) DGS Roll: *005472550*; FHL Roll: *001032949*; Page Number: *122*; Series Number: *12-0505; 2015-04-13 14:08:59; pinegarmm; Saskatchewan Catholic Church Records, 1846-1934 – FSI*
- (25) Census of Canada Year: 1891; Census Place: Moose Jaw, Assiniboia West, Territories, Canada; Roll: T-6426; Family No: 289
- (26) In her family history, Joan Dolny says that it was “his neighbouring cousin Bert Cafferata” who helped Joseph look after the family following Anne’s death. As far as I have been able to track, Joseph didn’t have a Cousin Bert, but three of his brother William Madden Cafferata’s sons did make the journey to Canada. They were William Baillon, Humbert Adolph and Marmaduke Joseph. I assume it is Humbert who was the cousin Bert, but at the time of Anne’s death he was only 13.
- (27) 1881 England Census Database online: Class: *RG11*; Piece: *2774*; Folio: *47*; Page: *15*; GSU roll: *1341664*
- (28) Ancestry.com. *UK and Ireland, Outward Passenger Lists, 1890-1960* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012.
- (29) Band – notes by Harve Doan, sent to me by Carole Wolfe
- (30) <http://genealogy.ehealthsask.ca> Birth registration number 6372
- (31) Information from Michael Lowe
- (32) Census of Canada Year: *1916*; Census Place: *Saskatchewan, Regina, 11*; Roll: *T-21943*; Page: *12*; Family No: *115*
- (33) Saskatchewan, Catholic Church Records, 1846-1957", database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QK95-X8HV> : accessed 13 July 2015), Harold Moubert and Eleanoram Trubner Cafferata, 1904.
- (34) Census of Canada Year: *1911*; Census Place: *132 - Moosejaw, Moosejaw, Saskatchewan*; Page: *2*; Family No: *11*
- (35) <http://moosejawgenealogy.com/Cemeteries/Moose%20Jaw%20City/Pagec.htm>
- (36)