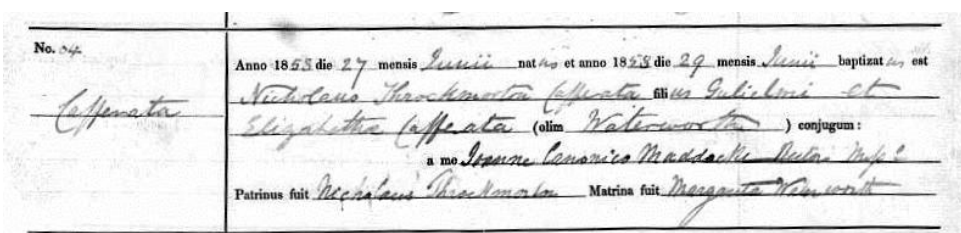


Nicholas Throckmorton Cafferata

William Cafferata was the son of an emigrant Italian quack doctor, who travelled across England offering miraculous remedies and pulling teeth. However, William displayed none of his father's idiosyncrasies. Instead, he was a typical example of a successful Victorian trader, dealing in stocks and shares and building his business through the 1840s and 1850s. At the same time, he raised a large family with his wife, Elizabeth, bringing up nine children in increasing comfort and wealth, moving from house to house as he became more prosperous.

The eighth of William's children, and his seventh son, was born in Wavertree, Liverpool on the 27th June 1858 and was baptised two days later at St Oswald's Roman Catholic Church by Canon John Maddocks. It is interesting to note that the new arrival was named after his Godfather, Nicholas Throckmorton, becoming Nicholas Throckmorton Cafferata. Young Nicholas's Godmother was his mother's sister, Margaret Waterworth⁽¹⁾. The reason for the unusual naming choice can only be speculated, but at least two of William's other sons were also named after their Godfathers. Perhaps it was a way of honouring close friends or business associates.

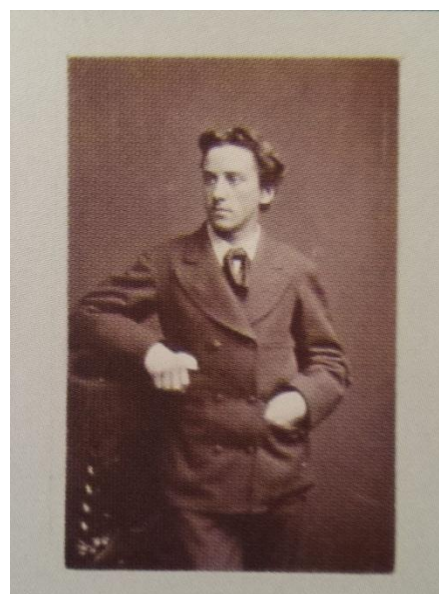


Nicholas's Baptism Record from 1858.

Two and a half years later, at the time of the 1861 census, the family was living in Mill House, Mill Lane, Wavertree. By this time, another son had been born, and with the wide spread of ages, some of William's sons were now old enough to be working, whilst others were away at school. The family was prosperous enough to employ 4 servants – a housemaid, cook and two nurses to look after the children⁽²⁾.

In the year following the census, the family moved to Newark, in Nottinghamshire, where William had bought the engineering, plaster and brick making business that would make the family's name. Nicholas moved with them but in 1870 he too was sent away to school, along with his elder brother, Joseph. When the family was based in Liverpool, Stonyhurst was the school where William sent his sons but now they were based in the East Midlands, Ampleforth College became the family choice for a Catholic education. William's youngest son, Albert joined his brothers at Ampleforth the following year.

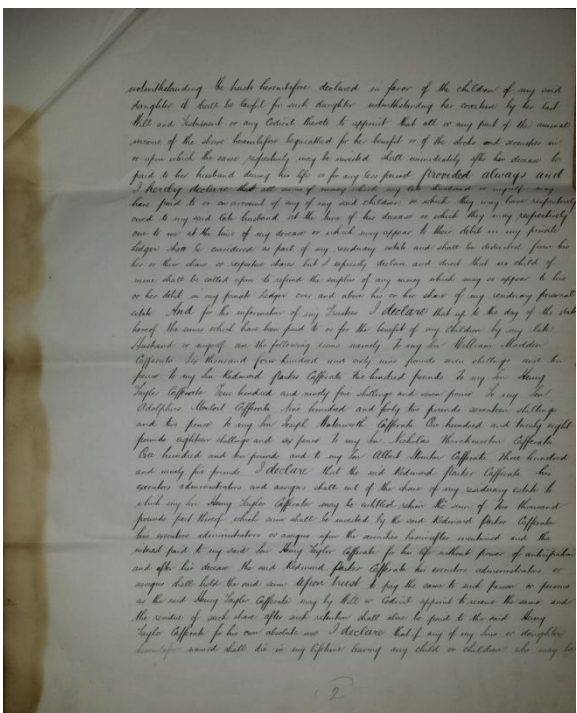
Unfortunately, whilst Nicholas was a student at Ampleforth, his father died in 1874 but Nicholas continued his studies, leaving in 1877. He had a successful career at Ampleforth, being



School Photo from Ampleforth, 1876

awarded a prize in English in 1875⁽³⁾. Whilst at Ampleforth, Nicholas took part in a range of activities, including drama, where he played the Governor of Tilbury Fort in *The Critic* by Sheridan in 1875⁽⁴⁾. He also played the leading role of Macbeth in the Christmas performance in January 1877. Nicholas was one of the students who remained at Ampleforth over the Christmas holidays to prepare and perform the play⁽⁵⁾. He also represented the school at Cricket, where he was an opening batsman in a loss to Mount St Mary's College in May 1877⁽⁶⁾. At Ampleforth's prize giving ceremony on the 11th July 1877 Nicholas was awarded First Prize in drawing and it was announced that he, along with two others, had gained places at London University⁽⁷⁾.

On William's death his business was run by his widow Elizabeth and Nicholas's elder brother Redmond, so Nicholas had to choose a different career path. Two of his brothers, Joseph and Adolphus, had decided to become doctors, and Nicholas followed in their footsteps, studying



A page of Elizabeth Cafferata's Will

medicine. On the night of the 1881 census, Nicholas was shown as a medical student, staying in Newark with his Aunt. The same year, Nicholas's mother drew up her will which showed that at the time she had lent her children varying sums of money. She had given Nicholas one hundred and ten pounds. Her will stipulated that, at the time of her death, whatever her children owed was to be deducted from their share of her estate⁽⁸⁾. We don't know what Nicholas had needed the money for, perhaps to assist with the costs of his medical studies.

Adolphus completed his medical studies and became a doctor, moving to Belgium, but Joseph never took his final exams. He emigrated even further, eventually ending up in Saskatchewan, Canada. As well as echoing his brothers in a career choice, Nicholas also

followed them in travelling, and in the 1880s, he emigrated to the United States, finally settling in Clay

County, Kansas at some point before December 1884. We don't know what made Nicholas choose Kansas, but it must have been a very different place from the England where he grew up, being sparsely populated and only recently settled. Perhaps it was the farming opportunities – Kansas was seen as a fertile land, with opportunities for people to establish homesteads. However Nicholas hadn't married and having the support of a wife and family was something that made the hard farming life easier to manage. He may have considered homesteading; whilst he was in Kansas he bought some land, paying \$375 for a land transfer in 1893⁽⁹⁾ and in 1901 he was one of many Clay County inhabitants who went to Oklahoma to take part in the El Reno Land Lottery, with the Topeka Daily Capital Newspaper reporting he had been successful in his claim. Although Nicholas went to Oklahoma in October 1901 to settle in the town of Ryan, he was back in Wakefield by the summer of 1903⁽¹⁰⁾. Presumably the farming life wasn't for him.

In the **Kansas Territory Census** of March 1885, Nicholas is listed as a resident of the small town of Wakefield, with his profession listed as Doctor. He certainly didn't carry on practising as a doctor as by the 1890s he was working at Mr E. C. Healy's drug and furnishing goods store. He was obviously a good employee, being presented with a gold watch by Mr and Mrs Healy in 1891⁽¹¹⁾. By the time of the 1895 Kansas census he was listed as a "Druggist" and throughout the remainder of his life he worked in various drug stores, as well as carrying out other occupations such as clerking⁽¹²⁾.

He also enjoyed **outdoor sports** of hunting, shooting and fishing. Various newspaper reports of the time cover his exploits, which were often sociable activities with friends. For example in 1885 Nicholas, alongside Mr Richards, was reported to have shot a dozen mallard and a goose on one shooting trip. He also, at one point in the 1890s, bred hunting dogs offering "Siberian Bloodhounds" for sale. The range of Nicholas's hunting activities as reported in the newspaper included Rocky Mountain hunting trips for deer and fishing trips for black bass⁽¹³⁾.

At some point following the **1885 census**, Nicholas decided that he wasn't so keen on his given name and he began going by the name of James, or Jim, using Nicholas Throckmorton as his middle names. A newspaper report in 1890 refers to him by the name of Jim rather than Nicholas. He settled well into American life, becoming a naturalised American in the late 1880s. His mother Elizabeth died in September 1891, and Nicholas – or rather James, as he was now going by that name – may have forgotten he was due a bequest from her will. Certainly The Times reported it as "a surprise" when Mr J. N. T. Cafferata received a draft for \$10,000⁽¹⁴⁾, being his share of Elizabeth Cafferata's estate. There are no indications as to what he did with his money.

Politically he was an active Democrat and he was elected as a Councilman in the township of Morganville in 1891, with the Clay Center times reporting "Mr Cafferata is a good businessman, and as an alderman he will doubtless watch over Morganville's interests in a manner satisfactory to the people and with honor to himself."⁽¹⁵⁾ He also stood for various other public offices throughout his lifetime being elected as Councilman again as late as 1921⁽¹⁶⁾.

James was still working in various drug stores, but by the time of the 1930 Federal Census he was described as "retired" – this was not a surprise as he was by then over 70. When James finally died on September 13 1930 he was the last surviving child of William and Elizabeth Cafferata. He was buried in the Highland Cemetery in Wakefield, thousands of miles from where he had been born, but in the town and country he had made his home for nearly 50 years⁽¹⁷⁾.



Nicholas / James Cafferata's Grave in Wakefield

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