

## THE CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

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### RESEARCH PROBLEM

Looking for information about

JAMES MATCHETTE

- Born in Warren, Idaho in 1902
- Died in 1948 en route from Bishop, California to Los Angeles
- Do not know about his childhood or his parents

### WHAT WE KNOW

James moved alot and left Idaho shortly after his father died

There is a family connection in Spokane, Washington

Idaho Bureau of Vital Records: No death certificate for Franklin Matchette

Searched the Warren Newspapers for obituary for Franklin and James' mother from 1902

- 1912 - Did not find anything

### WRITE A RESEARCH PLAN, THEN USE THE PLAN

1. Find the county for Warren, Idaho

Gazetteer - Boone, Lalia. *Idaho Place Names: A Geographic Dictionary*,  
p. 392

**Finding:** Warren (**Idaho County**)

2. 1910 Census Search

Locate James in 1910 to find where and with whom he was living

3. 1900 Census Search

Locate Franklin (father) in the 1900 Census either as a single or married

### SEARCH

1. 1910 Census Index

**Finding:** MATCHETTE, Franklin; Wardner Ward 2, Shoshone County

James was born about 1902 according to the 1910 Census

2. All 1900 indexes for Franklin Matchette

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Ancestry.com

1900 soundex index

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Searched the towns of Wardner and Kellogg, microfilm page by page

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**Finding:** No entry

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### EVALUATE then develop a NEW RESEARCH PLAN

1910 Census (**Finding**)

Franklin and James are living in Wardner, Shoshone County

### NEW RESEARCH PLAN

1. Look for Death Certificate (after April 1910)

**Finding:** None

2. Look for cemetery records in Shoshone County

### SEARCH

*1911-1951 Idaho Death Index* - M surname; submitted by Vicki Barker

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/copyright.htm>

**Finding -**

MATCHETT, BLANCHE PECK POCATELLO

CT: 117519 Born:05/31/1910, Died: 01/28/1940

MATCHETTE, E.J. WALLACE CT:004203; Born: 03/10/1882

Died: 02/12/1913

**SEARCH**

CEMETERY RECORDS – Shoshone Co.

**Finding:** – Kellogg Cemetery

MATCHETTE, Franklin P., b. 1844, d. 7 July 1911

OBITUARY - “*The Wardner News*”

**Finding:**

Franklin Matchette Article & Obituary

Died 6 July 1911

Born 4 July 1864 in Anderson, Indiana

When 17 years old, he crossed the plains with his parents and settled in Spokane

In 1884, his family moved to Eugene, Oregon where he graduated from college,

Went to St. Louis to the American Medical College

In 1890 he came to the Couer d’Alenes and practiced medicine for 20 years

Survivors include his wife, son, married daughter, 2 brothers and 3 sisters

**Other articles reveal –**

Mrs. Goldie McDonald of Spokane, daughter

Mrs. Minnie Storer of Burke, a sister

She had two daughters and one son

Mr. Lee Matchette of Rockford, Washington, a brother

**RESEARCH PLAN**

1. Because he was a prominent person in Shoshone County, we should check for a biography in a County History

*An Illustrated History Of North Idaho : Embracing Nez Perces [Sic], Idaho, Latah, Kootenai And Shoshone Counties State Of Idaho.* ([S.I.] : Western Historical Publishing, 1903)

**FOIUND – BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Born in Anderson, Indiana, 4 July 1864

Son of James & Sophia (Hilligoss) Matchette, natives of Ohio & Indiana; now living in Wallowa, Oregon

Raised in Bates, Butler County, Missouri until eight years old

Came West with his family in 1881, along with 40 other families

Settled in Spokane; three years later they moved to Eugene, Oregon

Graduated from the University in Eugene; went to St. Louis where he graduated from the American Medical College in 1890

Practiced one year with Dr. Herrington in Wallace; mostly among miners; then moved to Wardner

He has two brothers and three sisters

Brother - George H. Matchette, a prominent physician in McPherson, Kansas

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Brother - Lee Matchette, a stockman in Wallowa, Oregon

Sisters - Mrs. Minnie Storer; Mrs. Emma Betty; Mrs. Sarah Daniel

Married twice before

America Borum of Missouri; divorced; one child Goldie

Willetta Zimerlee, whose father lives in Phoenix, Oregon; mother deceased; one child James M.

Willetta Matchette was burned to death on 2 May 1902 in her home in Wardner

### **NEW RESEARCH PLAN - NEXT STEPS**

1. Wardner News – Obituary of Willetta Matchette

### **EVALUATE INFORMATION**

1. 1910 Franklin Matchette and son James were living in Wardner, Shoshone County rather than Warren, Idaho County
2. James was born about 1902
3. Cemetery records for Kellogg Cemetery: Franklin Matchette's death as 6 July 1911
4. There was not death certificate for Franklin, but an obituary and other articles in the Wardner newspaper identified
  - An older daughter, Goldie McDonald of Spokane
  - A brother, Lee Matchette, of Wallowa, Oregon
  - A sister, Minnie Storer, of Burke

### **WHAT WE FOUND**

Shoshone County History biographical sketch added the following:

Birth date and place  
Parents names, including mother's maiden name  
Education information  
Places he lived during his life  
Additional sibling's names  
Names of first two wives including James' mother, Willetta  
Her death date and cause  
Circumstances of her death

### **WHAT'S NEXT?**

New Research Plan

Continue Research

### **TYPES OF RECORDS**

All sources used in this case study are classified as Original and Derivative

The Census is an Original, although it is Secondary as to the content of information

Newspaper articles, biographies and cemetery extracts are Derivative and Secondary

All sources used were Direct or Indirect in content

**DRAWING A CONCLUSION:** *From the sources used, we have determined that the information we found is credible enough to continue research into "Original Records" and obtain "Proof" that the facts gathered are true and real*

NOTES: