



# Kidd antecedents

Compiled by David Byers, December 2022

This short genealogical listing explores the family of Ianthe Dalway's husband, Cecil Dowker Kidd.

Cecil's grandfather, Abraham Kidd, was an important physician/surgeon in Co. Antrim at a fast-developing period for medicine.

Before Dr Abraham there's some uncertainty about the Kidd lineage. The most likely scenario seems to be that Abraham's own grandfather was also an Abraham Kidd (died c.1813), of Corrylongford, parish of Aghalurcher, Co. Fermanagh.

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For further information on earlier and later Kidd generations it is well worth exploring Ross Beattie's KIDD lineage webpage at <http://rnbt.id.au/families/kidd.html>.

Ross Beattie writes: 'The Kidd family appears to have had its traced roots in Ireland. John Kidd, born c1803, joined the Royal Navy and became a surgeon; a nephew, Abraham Kidd, was a doctor in Ballymena in the 1850s. John, his wife and their children emigrated to Victoria, Australia, in the early 1850s; he died shortly afterwards. One grandson has been traced through Tasmania to New South Wales where descendants still live.'

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One likely family tree scenario could begin with the fact that the will of Abraham and Elizabeth Kidd (née Artor) was proved in 1745. They were of the Parish of Aghalurcher in Co. Fermanagh, and Abraham was buried at Clogher Cathedral.

Tim Taylor, via Ross Beattie's webpage, suggests that Abraham and Elizabeth may have had a son – Anthony Kidd.

In turn, that Anthony Kidd was the father of an Abraham Kidd. So we've reached firmer ground:

**Abraham Kidd (died c.1813), of Corrylongford, and his wife Margaret Kidd (possibly née Neill).**

Their eldest son was Anthony Kidd (c.1791-1867). Another of their several (possibly four) sons was John Kidd (c.1802-1852). This was 'our' Dr Abraham's uncle.

John was a surgeon in the Royal Navy. He and his family emigrated to Melbourne, Australia, in 1851, where he was appointed quarantine medical officer for the port. He died just six weeks after his arrival, leaving a wife and five children.

### **Anthony Kidd (c.1791-1867) married (i) Unknown – and (ii) Isabella**

It's believed that Dr Abraham Kidd of Ballymena was the fourth child of Anthony's first marriage.

Interestingly, given the predilection for medicine in this family, another son of Anthony, this time from his later marriage to Isabella and called John (c.1829-1901), was, in turn, father to a Naval surgeon son, Anthony (1859-1921). When the retired former Fleet-Surgeon and principal medical officer at Pembroke Dock, Anthony Kidd, died at Bath, the probate of his will was granted to the Rev. John Dowker Rowan Kidd of the Rectory, Castlewellan, Co. Down. More about the Rector on page 5.

Returning now to Abraham Kidd (1817-1891) himself, he was born in Corralongford in the parish of Aghalurcher, Co. Fermanagh.

And he worked hard at acquiring his medical qualifications. He became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, England, in 1843. In July 1850, having been 'previously examined on the different branches of medical science and found duly qualified,' the degree of M.D. was conferred on him by the University and King's College, Aberdeen.

He'd already been gainfully employed in the Glenarm Dispensary in the mid-1840s and was clearly much respected.

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*Dublin Medical Press* - Wednesday 23 August 1848, p.16

#### APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

Appointment — Dr. Abraham Kidd has resigned his situation of Surgeon to the Glenarm Dispensary, and has been appointed Medical Attendant to the Workhouse and Fever Hospital, Ballymena.

*Banner of Ulster* - Tuesday 09 January 1849, p.3

Presentation to Dr. A. Kidd.—A few days ago, Dr. A. Kidd, who lately resigned his situation of medical attendant at the Glenarm Dispensary, was waited upon in Ballymena, by a deputation from Glenarm, and presented with a very handsome silver claret jug, bearing the following inscription:— 'Presented to Abraham Kidd, Esq., surgeon, by his friends in Glenarm, and neighbourhood, in testimony of the esteem in which he was held, for his zeal and talent as their medical attendant, and for his unremitting attention to the arduous duties of the Glenarm Dispensary.' The cup bore the respected gentleman's crest and motto.

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He continued to accumulate qualifications over the years: 1857 - Lic. K. Q Coll. Phys. Ireland; 1859 - Lic. Midwif., K. Q Coll. Phys. Ireland; 1865 - F.R.C.S. Edinburgh; 1882 - F.R.C.S. Ireland.

This is from the *Irish Medical Directory, 1873*, Dublin & London, 1873:

Kidd, Abraham, *Ballymena* — M.D. U.K.C. Aber. 1850; L. and L.M. K. and Q.C.P. 1859; F.R.C.S. Edin. 1865; M.R.C.S. Eng. 1843; formerly Phys. Fev. Hosp. and Workhouse, Ballymena; Certif. Surg. Ballymena District; late Surg. Glenarm Disp.; Surg. Enrolled Pensioners; Med. Ref. Scot. Widows' Fund, Standard, and other Insur. Cos.; First Prizeman in Anat. and Phys. Richmond Hosp. *Contrib.* "Iliac Aneurism; successfully operated on by him." *Med. Press.*

On 23 July 1849, Abraham Kidd joined the Ballymena Lodge, No.431, of the Freemasons of Ireland. He was also a Member of the Royal Irish Academy with an interest in archaeology and antiquities.

He was a churchwarden in St. Patrick's Church, Ballymena in 1865. Earlier, in 1853, one of the churchwardens in Ballymena's old church (the new St Patrick's opened on 5 August 1855) was Thomas Kidd, a boot and shoemaker, perhaps a relative. (Source: *Ballymena Observer*, Saturday, 19 April 1873).

As the *Irish Medical Directory* stated, Abraham Kidd was a medical referee for insurance companies:

*Banner of Ulster*, Thursday, 11 January 1855

EXPENSE OF LIFE ASSURANCE. — Every one who joins a Life Assurance Institution imposes on himself the burden, during life, of paying an annual sum, in name of 'premium.' It is, therefore, of importance that the amount of this payment be as small as is consistent with security. THE LIFE ASSOCIATION OF SCOTLAND has been eminently successful in attaining for its Policy holders this most desirable object. — (See Prospectus.)

... AGENTS.

[The list included:] *Armagh* ..... Mr. Abraham Kidd, Belfast Bank.

Mr. Duffin Sayers, Solicitor.

*Ballymena* ....

Medical Officer. — Abraham Kidd, M.D.

Dr Abraham Kidd was also a landowner. On page 2 of the *Ballymoney Free Press and Northern Counties Advertiser* for Thursday, 22 November 1883, a report deals with a meeting of the Land Commission's sub-commissioners in Ballymena to confirm new judicial rents, mostly lower than the old rents being charged. Abraham Kidd, M.D. landlord was one of those listed. He had 8 tenants and one of those, with 11 acres, had his case adjourned.

Nor was Abraham shy about his achievements:

*Ballymena Observer*, Saturday, 20 May 1882, p.4

#### BALLYMENA COTTAGE HOSPITAL.

Mortication of the right fore-arm and hand, by Abraham Kidd, M.D., member K. & Q. Coll. Phys. Irel.; M.R.I.A., &c.

[Then follows a lengthy description of a case involving sudden numbness in a hand followed by the onset of gangrene and an operation to amputate the arm at the elbow. — Cutting edge surgery at the time!]

And presumably product endorsements brought benefits.

*Irish Times*, Monday, 22 September 1890, p.1

“HEALTH” COCOA.

WHAT THE DOCTORS SAY.

Dr. Abraham Kidd, of Ballymena, M.D, F.R.C.S. I and E\*, ex-Pres. B.M. Associations, says:— ‘I consider the quality excellent, and I have not any hesitation in recommending it.’

\* I and E is an abbreviation for Ireland and Edinburgh.

Marriage arrived somewhat late in the day – at the age of 53 or thereabouts.

*Belfast News-Letter*, Thursday, 30 June 1870, p.1

Abraham Kidd, M.D., m. Ann Dowker Woodall on 23 June 1870 at the Parish Church, Ahoghill, near Ballymena, Co.Antrim, by the Rev. Dr. A.T. Lee, Rector of the parish, assisted by the Rev. Dr. J.W. Murray, Vicar of Ballymena. Abraham Kidd Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S., etc., to Anne Dowker, only daughter of the late Thomas Dowker Woodall, Esq., of Scarborough, Yorkshire.

Abraham’s marriage certificate confirms his father as Anthony Kidd.

Yorkshire lass Ann Dowker Woodall was 32, born in 1838 (baptised on 02 February). Her father was Thomas Dowker Woodall (1806-1838) and her mother was Sarah Pitt Nind (b.1805). Ann had four elder brothers.

#### **Abraham Kidd (1817-1891) m. Ann Dowker Woodall (1838-1890)**

Abraham’s wife, Ann Dowker Kidd, died on 20 October 1890, and Abraham signed his last will and testament on 08 December 1891. The beneficiary, once he reached 21 years of age, was his only son, John Dowker Kidd. Abraham died at his residence, Cooleen, Ballymena, on Saturday 12 March 1892.

*Belfast News-Letter*, Monday, 14 March 1892, p.6

DEATH OF DR. KIDD, BALLYMENA —The many friends of Dr. Kidd, medical officer of the Ballymena Union, will regret to learn of his demise, which sad event took place at his residence, Coolleen (sic), Ballymena, on Saturday evening last, after but a very brief illness. Dr. Kidd, whilst attending a patient in the Ballymena Workhouse Hospital lately, caught typhus fever, which has been the cause of his death. He was a kind, generous-hearted gentleman, and one whose memory will long be associated with Ballymena and its inhabitants. His death is very widely regretted. As is well known, Dr. Kidd was considered an excellent surgeon.

*Belfast News-Letter*, Wednesday 16 March 1892, p.3

FUNERAL OF DOCTOR KIDD, BALLYMENA — The remains of the late Dr. Kidd, who died at his residence, Coolleen (sic), Ballymena, on Saturday last, were removed for interment to the family burying ground, New Cemetery, yesterday morning, at ten o’clock, and were followed to their last resting place by a large number of friends. Doctor Kidd was one of the best known men in Ballymena, not alone as a medical gentleman of first-class professional experience, but a warm-hearted and kind friend. He was especially highly regarded by the poor of the community, to whom he was ever a generous benefactor. The chief mourners were Mr. John Kidd (son), and

Lieutenant Woodall (nephew). The services at the grave were conducted by the Very Rev. the Dean of Connor.

At a meeting of the Ballymena Board of Guardians on Saturday 19 March, amongst other tributes to Dr Kidd was one from Colonel Rowan, JP, who described himself 'as an old personal friend of Dr. Kidd'. This would be Lieutenant-Colonel John Joshua Rowan JP, DL,(1838-1921) of Mount Davys, Cullybackey, Ballymena, and likely the 'Rowan' connection with Abraham Kidd's son, born in Ballymena, Co. Antrim, on 24 January 1876.

### **John Dowker Rowan Kidd (1876-1941) m. Olive Marion Grandison (1875-1964)**

*Northern Constitution*, Saturday, 04 September 1897, p.8

KIDD AND GRANDISON – At St Stephen's Church, Dublin, on the 31st ult., by the Very Rev. the Dean of Cashel and the Rev. Henry Taylor, M.A., uncle of the bride, John Dowker Rowan Kidd, of Cooleen, Ballymena, Co. Antrim, and Rockfield, Dundrum, Co. Dublin, only son of the late Abraham Kidd, M.D., F.R.C.S.I., to Olive Marion Ogilvie, third daughter of Charles Ogilvie Grandison, 9, Northumberland Road, Dublin [and his wife Sarah Chapman Taylor].

*Dublin Daily Nation*, Wednesday, 08 September 1897, p.6

#### Events in Dublin Society / Perisopic Pencillings / By Puck

Now to touch lightly upon other matters. Our respected fellow citizen, Mr Charles Grandison, gave his daughter, Olive, in marriage to Mr J D Rowan Kidd, since my last pencillings were published. The wedding was a very quiet one and took place at Mount Street church on Tuesday last week, the Very Rev the Dean of Cashel officiating, assisted by the Rev Henry Taylor, who is an uncle of the bride. A family party assembled for subsequent dejeuner at 9 Northumberland road, and the young couple left in the afternoon for London, en route for the English Lakes, with a prospective trip to Scotland looming pleasantly ahead.

More on John Dowker Rowan Kidd shortly. But first an important digression on his wife's family, i.e. Cecil Kidd's maternal inheritance – and musical inheritance.

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### **Who was Charles Ogilvie Grandison?**

He it was who provided the musical thread which culminated in the birth of the notable trumpet player Cecil Kidd to John Dowker Rowan Kidd and his wife Olive Marion Grandison.

The next couple of pages deal with that Grandison backdrop, before returning to the Kidd family on page 7.

This was Charles's marriage:

*Belfast News-Letter*, Thursday, 07 June 1866, p.2

Grandison and Taylor – June 5, at St Stephen's Church, Dublin, by the Rev. Edmund Childs, A.M., Charles Ogilvie, second son of Henry Grandison, Esq., to Sarah Sophia, eldest daughter of Thomas Taylor, Esq., both of Dublin.

Olive Marion Ogilvie Grandison was the third of their daughters. There were also:

Madoline Grandison b. 15 August 1880, m. Alfred Charles Bewley (1879-1922) in April 1910 in Rathdown, Dublin. He was an accountant. Madoline Bewley, widow, who died at 107 Victoria Road, Holywood, Co. Down on 8 February 1960. Their only child was a daughter, Phyllis Madoline Bewley, born 1915.

Edith Sophia Grandison b. 03 August 1868 (at Holles Street, Dublin), m. Captain John Richard Blake (1866-1904) on 9 July 1898 in Booterstown, Dublin. In the 1911 Census, Edith, a teacher of music, was staying with her sister Madoline. See below for their 1914 appearance as pianists.

Perhaps other children? *Belfast News-Letter*, 13 January 1874, lists the birth of a son to the wife of Charles O. Grandison at 23 Holles Street, Dublin, on 9 January.

There follows a selection of newspaper ‘cuttings’ which help to create a picture of Charles Grandison’s musical life – including that of his daughters.

*Freemason’s Chronicle – a weekly record of Masonic intelligence*, Saturday, 6 May 1876, p.2

In our issue of the 1st ult., we announced that the Annual Festival of this excellent Masonic Charity [the Female Orphan School, Dublin] would be held on the 28th April, in the Exhibition Palace, under the immediate auspices of His Grace the Duke of Abercorn, M.W.G.M. Ireland, who would preside on the occasion, while his daughter, the Lady Georgina Hamilton, had graciously undertaken to present the prizes to the successful pupils.

... On no previous occasion has there been so much interest exhibited on behalf of this School. The doors of the Great Concert Hall were thrown open at half-past seven p.m. In half an hour afterwards every available space was occupied, and even then there remained to be accommodated as many more visitors, who were enabled, however, to promenade in the great Glass Building and Leinster Hall, listening to the strains of the splendid band of the 17th Lancers, under their able conductor, Bro. A. Hartmann, while those in the Concert room had the great pleasure of listening to a series of recitals on the organ, by Bro. C. O. Grandison, G.O. [= Grand Organist]. All present were in evening dress, and the scene was one of unexampled brilliancy ...

Note: Charles O. Grandison had been registered as a Mason in January 1866.

Charles Ogilvie Grandison is listed in the online, *A Directory of Composers for Organ*, though without further information, apart from:

Charles Ogilvie Grandison: b.1838, Dublin; d. 16th Jan. 1911, Dublin

For the first performance of the *Tercentenary Ode*, 1892, (for Trinity College, Dublin) by Sir Robert Prescott Stewart (1825-1894) the orchestra included amongst its first violins Charles Grandison\* and Olive Grandison (the future Mrs John Dowker Kidd). (Source: Lisa Parker’s PhD Thesis on *Robert Prescott Stewart*, Maynooth University, Kildare, April 2009).

\* Charles Grandison was one of the earliest violin pupils of Dublin’s Academy of Music, taking part in an examination concert in June 1855. He became one of prominent music teachers in Dublin and was professionally associated with the Royal

Irish Academy of Music. (Source: *To Talent Alone: The Royal Irish Academy of Music 1848–1998*, edited by Richard Pine and Charles Acton, Dublin, 1998.)

In March 1878, ‘Mr Grandison’ was one of the three piano teachers at Alexandra College ‘for the Higher Education of Ladies’

Page 2 of the *Dublin Daily Express* on Monday, 08 June 1885, reports on *The Masonic Fete*, mentioning the concert ‘of a most agreeable character’ conducted by ‘Brother C. O. Grandison, Past Grand Organist’. Later, ‘Br Grandison gave a pianoforte solo in brilliant style, and earned warm plaudits.’

Page 21 of the *Irish Society (Dublin)*, Saturday, 31 December 1892, carries a report from Kingstown in a feature on *The Suburbs and Seaside Resorts around Dublin*:

On Monday night in the Town Hall a most interesting concert took place, which was followed by a dance, in connection with the distribution of prizes to the children who attend the Kingstown School. ... The concert was admirably arranged, and a first-class programme was contributed to by Mrs Murray, Miss Olive Grandison, Mrs Harte, ... Mr C. O. Grandison conducted.

Page 4 of the *Dublin Daily Express* on Monday, 23 April 1894, carries an advertisement for A Dramatic Recital and Concert in the Antient Concert Rooms with two conductors – Mr C. O. Grandison and Dr Collisson.

Page 5 of the *Dublin Daily Express* on Saturday, 21 March 1914, carried a report on the Commemoration Day celebrations of the Church of Ireland Training College in Kildare Place, Dublin.

... The College song, ‘God’s Work is Ours’ followed, and was appropriately accompanied by Mrs. Blake and Mrs. Bewlev, daughters of the writer of the music, the late Mr. C. O. Grandison, for many years Professor of Instrumental Music at the College. ...

*The Social Review* (Dublin), Saturday, 08 June 1895, p.616

In a report on a First Benefit Concert for pianist Miss Hope Lang (‘a niece of the late Canon Lang of Christ Church’) on Friday evening at the Blackrock Town Hall, ‘Miss Olive Grandison’s violin playing was as usual a welcome and refined item, and Mr Charles Grandison accompanied and conducted.’

Charles Ogilvie Grandison died on 16 January 1911 at Kenmare College, North Great George’s Street, Dublin. He was ‘late of 24 Mount Merrion Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin’ and probate was granted to Edith S. Blake, ‘married woman’.

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Charles’s daughter Olive was a pianist and a violinist. She married John Dowker Rowan Kidd on 31 August 1897 in St Stephen’s Church, Dublin. He was, or was about to be, a Divinity student at Trinity College, Dublin, having already been awarded his B.A. in 1896.

At the end of the 1900 Trinity Term (the third and final term of the academic year), there were 27 successful students for the final Divinity examination, each having completed six Divinity Terms.

They all received special Testimoniums, though 18 were 'Unclassed', five were 'First Class' and four 'Second Class'. Those latter two were also placed according to their order of merit. JDRK was placed fourth in the Second Class.

He was awarded his M.A. in 1901. Between 1900 and 1903 he was a Curate of Down, Downpatrick; then Chancellor's Vicar in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, 1903-1906.

Page 7 of the *Irish Times*, Tuesday, 26 December 1905, reports that Rev. J.D. Kidd, Chancellor's Vicar, took part in the Christmas Day morning service in St Patrick's Cathedral.

From 1906, JDRK was Rector of St Paul's, Church of Ireland, in Castlewellan, remaining there until his death on 11 March 1941.



I believe the above photograph of JDRK is from St Paul's Church, Castlewellan. I found this copy on a public posting on the Facebook page of *History of Newcastle, Co. Down*. The



original date of posting was on 03 November 2016. If the person who took this particular pic would like due acknowledgement, please contact me.

John Dowker Rowan Kidd and Olive had three children, though as revealed by the 1911 Census, only two survived. I've not identified the birth date or gender of the elusive third child.

The first born of those two was Charles Ernest Basil Dowker Kidd (1905-1965).

Charles Ernest Basil Dowker Kidd married Phyllis Marion Swan (1907-1987) in 1935 in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. (My thanks once again for information to Ross Beattie's online KIDD Lineage Page.) CEBDK was a schoolteacher. Lickey Hill School, Rednal Wolverhampton Road, Kidderminster

The other brother was **Cecil Dowker Kidd** (1908-1968)

He was born on 15 September 1908 and his birth registered in Downpatrick.

He married Ianthe Beatrice Dalway Turnbull (1908-1968) in July 1930.

For more information, please return to the webpage.