

The Case for Sarah Jane Warren: a daughter of John and Elizabeth Warren of Fox Island¹

Human memory of personal details can be extremely accurate over long periods of time.

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Introduction

Some time ago, three generations of the Fox Island Warren family were presented as a part of a series of articles on the families of the South Coast.⁴ Those articles illustrated both the strengths and limitations of the documents available to genealogists. Many of these documents have now been extracted and indexed and are currently available online.⁵

Unfortunately, within the limitations of the available documents, there were other Warren family members who wouldn't fit into the family because there was insufficient evidence to conclusively show that they were actually part of the Fox Island group. One such individual is Sarah Jane Warren who was born in New Harbour in August of 1861.⁶ She married James Priddle on 22 August 1887 at New Harbour, where both were residents.⁷ Her age at that time was not given. She and James bore five known children and she survived at least to age 75.⁸ Her parents are never named explicitly.

Sarah married James Priddle the same day and place that Elizabeth Louisa Warren married John Parsons.⁹ It was the second marriage for both John and

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4 "Shaving with Occam's Razor: A Proposed Descendancy for Edward Warren of Fox Island, Newfoundland," William M. Litchman, *The Newfoundland Ancestor*, Part 1, Vol 17, #4, Fall 2001, pp 185-194; Part 2, Vol 18, #1, Winter, 2002, pp 35-44; Part 3, Vol 18, #2, Spring, 2002, pp 65-74.

5 *Newfoundland's Grand Banks*, <http://ngb.chebucto.org/>.

6 Household of George Priddle, *1921 Newfoundland Census*, New Harbour, page 21, dwelling 1, family 1, Canadian National Archives film M-8037.

7 *Hermitage Bay Anglican Marriages 1870-87*, <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Heritage/NGB/Parish/>.

8 Household of James and Elizabeth Durnford, *1935 Newfoundland Census*, Francois, page 412, dwelling 140, family 176, Canadian National Archives film M-8049.

9 *Hermitage Bay Anglican Marriages 1870-87*, <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Heritage/NGB/Parish/>.

Elizabeth but the first for James and Sarah. There is every likelihood that there is some blood or marriage relationship between these two women. No Elizabeth Louisa Warren has been found among the Warren family of Fox Island.

James Cornish was fortunate to interview the grand-daughter of Sarah Jane (Warren) Priddle, an elderly woman in Port aux Basques.¹⁰ She is now well over 90 years of age but with a sharp mind and memory. She has memories of her grandmother, knowing who she was and how she is related to her. The important part of her recollection is her knowledge of her grandmother's siblings.

She told of Sarah Jane being born in Fox Island; **James** Warren, Sarah's brother, who married Susanna; another brother, **John**, who, she said, remained single; another brother, **George**, who married Frances; a sister, **Frances**, and another sister, **Louise**. This information will help us to place Sarah Jane properly within the Fox Island Warren families.

Sarah Jane and the Warren family

Matching the information received from our elderly source to known Fox Island Warren families we find:

- John and Elizabeth Warren (twelve children born 1858-75). Children named Henry (who married Elizabeth **Louisa** Rose), Mary Jane, Emma, Susannah, **John**, **James**, Thomas, Ann, **Frances**, Barzillai, Mary Rebecca, and **George**.
- Bavillam and Susan (Hayman) Warren (six children born 1850-60). Children named Elizabeth, Sarah, Benjamin, Thomas, William, and Samuel.
- Henry and Elizabeth (Hayman) Warren (seven children born 1855-70). Children named Edward, Henry, Hannah, Benjamin, Jane, Susanna, and Elizabeth.
- Thomas (died 1862) and Sarah (two children born 1858 and 1861). Children named Albert and Isabella.
- Edward and Jane (Rose) Warren (five children born 1862-74). Children named Edward, Barzillia, Rebecca, Thomas, and Elizabeth.

¹⁰ Who, as she is still living and active, will remain un-named.

Based on the birth years and names of children, the only parents who qualify are John and Elizabeth with four out of five matching names. The first goal is to make sure that there is room within the birth range in this family for Sarah Jane. This requires substantiating, as well as we can, the actual birth dates and places for Sarah's proposed siblings. The second goal is to find some connection between Sarah Jane and Fox Island. While neither goal will prove that she was born in Fox Island to Warren parents, they will at least strengthen or diminish the case that she could have been so born.

Births for Sarah's siblings:

A thorough search for documents has been made which gives some indication of the birth dates and places for the children of John and Elizabeth Warren, including Sarah Jane.

Henry Warren, of Fox Island, married Elizabeth Louisa Rose, of Little River, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Wilcott) Rose, on 14 September 1882 in Fox Island.¹¹ He must have died soon since they had no known children and his widow, Elizabeth Louisa Warren, married John Parsons in New Harbour on 22 August 1887, the same day that Sarah Jane Warren married James Priddle. This is the Louise Warren spoken of by our source, the supposed sister of Sarah Jane. She is a close though not a blood relation (sister-in-law).

Mary Jane Warren married Ezekiel McDonald¹² but died before 1884.¹³ It is not stated where Mary Jane was born but she was said to be of Fox Island, like Henry, her brother. Ezekiel, widower, then married Mary Jane's next younger sister, Emma.¹⁴

Emma and the rest of the siblings have documentary evidence of their time of birth, See Table I.

11 Parish records of the Burgeo Parish, on-line edition, <http://www.chebucto.com/NGB/>.

12 *Burgeo marriages 1879-1896*, page [8c], # [16c].

13 Her widower husband remarried in that year.

14 Family History Library film 2,13,3919, item 8, page 149, line 5. Parish Record of Burgeo, Book V, page 33, # [55a].

Table I: Births for children of John and Elizabeth Warren

Henry and Mary Jane	No documentary evidence ¹⁵
Emma	February 1859 ¹⁶
Susannah	c1860 ¹⁷
John	June 1858, ¹⁸ c1860, ¹⁹ c1861 ²⁰
James	c1853, ²¹ c1856, ²² c1860, ²³ August 1861 ²⁴
Sarah Jane	c1860, ²⁵ March 1861 ²⁶
Thomas	June 1863 ²⁷
Ann	28 May 1864, ²⁸ September 1863, ²⁹ c1862 ³⁰
Frances	7 September 1865, ³¹ c1865, ³² April 1867 ³³
Barzillai	February 1864, ³⁴ baptised 21 October 1868 ³⁵
Mary Rebecca	baptised 21 October 1868 ³⁶
George	May 1875, ³⁷ c1875 ³⁸

15 The births of these two children are estimated to be 1858 and 1859, respectively.

16 Household of Ezekiel McDonald, *1921 Newfoundland Census*, Fox Island, page 56, dwelling 32, family 35, Canadian National Archives film M-8037.

17 *Burgeo marriages 1879-1896*, # 172.

18 Household of John Warren, *1921 Newfoundland Census*, Fox Island, page 52A, dwelling 2, family 2, Canadian National Archives film M-8037.

19 Household of George E. Warren, *1935 Newfoundland Census*, Dog Cove, page 428, dwelling 234 family 285, Canadian National Archives film M-8049. Family History Library film 2,168,733, Death Register Book No. 12, page 432, #23, age 76.

20 Family History Library film 2,168,994, Marriage Register Book No. 2, page 136, #8. Marriage, BKVp94#163.

21 Household of Samuel Edward Warren, *1935 Newfoundland Census*, Fox Island, page 431, dwelling 254, family 310, Canadian National Archives film M-8049.

22 *Burgeo marriages 1879-1896*, # 31.

23 Family History Library film 2,168,733, Death Book No. 13, page 432, #28, age 79.

24 Household of James Warren, *1921 Newfoundland Census*, Old Man's Bay - Tibbos, page 50, dwelling 2, family 3, Canadian National Archives film M-8037.

25 Household of James Samuel Durnford, *1935 Newfoundland Census*, Francois, page 412, dwelling 140, family 176, Canadian National Archives film M-8049.

26 Household of George Priddle, *1921 Newfoundland Census*, New Harbour, page 21, dwelling 1, family 1, Canadian National Archives film M-8037.

27 Household of Thomas Warren, *1921 Newfoundland Census*, Bay de Livre (or Hare Bay), page 12, dwelling 1, family 1, Canadian National Archives film M-8037.

28 *Fortune -- Belleoram, Church of England Baptisms 1846 -1866*, <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Heritage/NGB/Parish/>.

29 Household of William Vardy, *1921 Newfoundland Census*, Fox Island, page 54, dwelling 22, family 22, Canadian National Archives film M-8037.

30 *Burgeo marriages 1879-1896*, # 69.

31 *Fortune -- Belleoram, Church of England Baptisms 1846 -1866*, <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Heritage/NGB/Parish/>.

32 *Burgeo marriages 1879-1896*, page 66, marriage # 114. Family History Library film 2,168,731, Death Register Book No. 10, page 429, #31.

33 Household of Frank Lushman, *1921 Newfoundland Census*, Grey River, page 75, dwelling 22, family 22, Canadian National Archives film M-8037. Grand Banks index shows name as Henry Lushman, mother-in-law.

34 Household of Brazilla Warren, *1921 Newfoundland Census*, Old Man's Bay - Tibbos, page 50, dwelling 1, family 1, Canadian National Archives film M-8037.

35 *Burgeo Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, 1855-1872*, (Baptisms) page 23, #547.

36 *Burgeo Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, 1855-1872*, (Baptisms) page 23, #548.

37 Household of George Warren, *1921 Newfoundland Ccensus*, Fox Island, page 55, dwelling 23, family 23, Canadian National Archives film M-8037.

38 Household of George Warren, *1935 Newfoundland Census*, Fox Island, page 436, dwelling 39, family 39, Canadian National Archives film M-8049. Household of John Warren *1945 Newfoundland Census*, Fox Island, dwelling 6, family 6, page 17, Canadian National Archives film M-8075.

It is unfortunate that the birth dates of the first two children are unknown. With such uncertainty in birth dates overall, supposedly received directly from each person in question, the ordering of children in the family remains somewhat arbitrary. In early years, people generally didn't remember the year of their birth as there was no pressing reason to do so. It is feasible that there could be two or three sets of twins possibly involving Sarah herself. Three sets of twins, for example, would require 10 births over a period of 17 years or 11 births for two sets of twins.

Birth places for Sarah's children:

In the available documents, Sarah's birth place is stated to be New Harbour. Sarah and her husband, James Priddle, spent some time in New Harbour but also moved from place to place. By the time she was age 60, she had been in New Harbour for some years. It is not surprising that she (or someone) should claim New Harbour as her birth place with such a time of residence behind her.

The children of James and Sarah (Warren) Priddle are as follows:³⁹

- Catherine Priddle was born 21 July 1887, in New Harbour.⁴⁰
- James William Preddle [sic] was born 4 March 1890, baptised 1 April 1890, in Fox Island.⁴¹
- Berthina Elizabeth Priddle was born 19 May 1892, place unknown.⁴² In 1935, Berthina was in Francois, age 43, with her mother, age 75.⁴³
- John Priddle was born 6 December 1895. In 1921, he was in Francois, age 25, born December 1896, in Francois.⁴⁴ He was in Francois, age 39,⁴⁵ and still there

39 All are explicitly stated to be children of James and Sarah Jane Priddle in the records.

40 Household of James Cornish, *1921 Newfoundland Census*, Cul de Sac E., page 12-13, dwelling 6, family 6, Canadian National Archives film M-8037.

41 *Burgeo marriages 1879-1896*, page 75, # 596,

42 Household of James Dunford, *1921 Newfoundland Census*, Francois, page 28, dwelling 2, family 2, Canadian National Archives film M-8037.

43 Household of James Samuel Durnford, *1935 Newfoundland Census*, Francois, page 412, dwelling 140, family 176, Canadian National Archives film M-8049.

44 Household of John Priddle, *1921 Newfoundland Census*, Francois, page 34, dwelling 47, family 50, Canadian National Archives film M-8037.

45 Household of John Priddle, *1935 Newfoundland Census*, Francois, page 404, dwelling 90, family 113, Canadian National Archives film M-8049.

at age 49.⁴⁶

Fox Island as a birth place for James William Priddle is important. We can speculate about the reasons for Sarah being in Fox Island for the birth of her second child. Either James and Sarah lived in Fox Island as a routine part of his being a fisherman or they were there because her family was there. It suggests that Fox Island could be her birth place and that she simply returned to be near her family.

Conclusion:

The strongest evidence for supposing that Sarah Jane Warren is the daughter of John and Elizabeth Warren of Fox Island comes from the memory of her living granddaughter who was able to accurately list so many of her grandmother's siblings. Five siblings were named and four of them were found to be the children of John and Elizabeth Warren. The fifth one was Sarah's sister-in-law, the widow of their deceased eldest son, Henry. In addition, she successfully gave the names of two spouses. Combined with this evidence is the fact that Sarah Jane has Fox Island connections. The marriage of Henry's widow on the same day and place as Sarah's marriage is also strong corroborative evidence.

Memory is imperfect though it can be a substantial help in our work as genealogists. Even where memory fails, as in the case of her memory of John Warren being a single man, that does not negate the impressiveness of her other successes. She also remembered that Sarah was born in Fox Island when other documents consistently place her birth at New Harbour. In this latter memory, she may eventually be proven to be right!

The living memory of individuals can be a helpful tool in re-constructing the families which seem to be lost in time.

46 Household of John Priddle, *1945 Newfoundland Census*, Francois, page 32, dwelling 146, family 165, Canadian National Archives film M-8075.

A revised family of John and Elizabeth Warren⁴⁷:

John Warren (Edward) was born about 1819 in Fox Island.⁴⁸ John married first Frances Bonnell 9 September 1844, Fox Island.⁴⁹ Frances was born about 1827. She died 9 May 1849, Fox Island.⁵⁰ John and Frances had the following children:⁵¹

- i. Rebecca Warren was born 5 June 1845, Fox Island and was christened 5 September 1845, Fox Island.⁵²
- ii. Sarah Warren was born about 1849. She married Francis Clarke.⁵³

John married second Elizabeth (---). Elizabeth was born about 1836. She died 21 April 1899, Fox Island and was buried 24 April 1899, Fox Island.⁵⁴ Elizabeth Warren, widow of John, is found in Fox Island in 1898.⁵⁵ John and Elizabeth had the following children:

- iii. Henry Warren married Elizabeth Louisa Rose 14 September 1882, Burgeo.⁵⁶ He died before 22 August 1887 when widow Louise Warren married John Parsons at New Harbour.⁵⁷
- iv. Mary Jane Warren married Ezekiel McDonald 13 September 1880, Fox Island.⁵⁸ She died before 17 September 1884.
- v. Emma Warren was born February 1859⁵⁹ and married Ezekiel McDonald 17 September 1884, Fox Island.⁶⁰
- vi. Susannah Warren was born about 1860 and married John Bagg 5 January 1893, Dog Cove.⁶¹
- vii. John Warren was born about 1861. He married Sarah Bagg 13 September 1892, Fox Island.⁶²

47 "Shaving with Occam's Razor: A Proposed Descendancy for Edward Warren of Fox Island, Newfoundland," William M. Litchman, *The Newfoundland Ancestor*, Part 1, Vol 17, #4, Fall 2001, pp 185-194; Part 2, Vol 18, #1, Winter, 2002, pp 35-44; Part 3, Vol 18, #2, Spring, 2002, pp 65-74.

48 *Lovell's Canadian Dominion Newfoundland Directory for 1871*, vol 8 (Newfoundland), Montreal: John Lovell, 1871.

49 *Burgeo Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths, 1842-1855*, (Marriages) page 4, #16, witnesses Edward Warren and Kish Cains.

50 *Burgeo Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths, 1842-1855*, (Burial) page 18, #51.

51 See the original paper for arguments regarding the placement of children.

52 *Burgeo Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths, 1842-1855*, (Baptisms) page 12, #312, daughter of John and Frances Warren.

53 "Descendants of John Clarke and Susanna Lushman," William M. Litchman, *The Newfoundland Ancestor*, Vol 16, #1, Spring 2000, pp 22-28.

54 *Burials 1879-1912*, page 55 #435, widow, age 63 yrs. Vital Records of NF, Family History Library film #2168727, Death Bk No. 3, p374, #5.

55 *McAlpine's Newfoundland Directory for 1898*, entry for Fox Island.

56 *Parish records of the Burgeo Parish*, on-line edition, <http://www.chebucto.com/NGB/>.

57 *Hermitage Bay Anglican Marriages 1870-87*, <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Heritage/NGB/Parish/>.

58 *Burgeo marriages 1879-1896*, page [8c], # [16c].

59 Household of Ezekiel McDonald, *1921 Newfoundland Census*, Fox Island, page 56, dwelling 32, family 35, Canadian National Archives film M-8037.

60 *Burgeo marriages 1879-1896*, page 33, # [55a].

61 Family History Library film #2,168,994, Marriage Register Book No. 2, page 138, # 3.

62 Family History Library film #2,168,994, Marriage Register Book No. 2, page 136, # 8.

- viii. James Warren was born August 1861⁶³ and married Susan Warren 19 September 1881, Fox Island.⁶⁴
- ix. Sarah Jane Warren was born March 1861, New Harbour.⁶⁵ She married James Priddle 22 August 1887, New Harbour.⁶⁶
- x. Thomas Warren was born June 1863 at Little River. He married Elizabeth (---) before 1882.⁶⁷
- xi. Ann Warren was born 28 May 1864, Little River or Facheux Bay. She married William Vardy 6 March 1886, Burgeo.⁶⁸
- xii. Frances Warren was born 7 September 1865, Little River or Facheux Bay.⁶⁹ Frances married Francis Lushman 21 May 1889, Little River⁷⁰ as his second wife.⁷¹ Francis was born about 1859 in Little River.
- xiii. Barzillai Warren was christened 21 October 1868, Fox Island.⁷² He married Mary J. (---).⁷³
- xiv. Mary Rebecca Warren was christened 21 October 1868, Fox Island.⁷⁴ She married George Aaron Elford 30 December 1890, Fortune.⁷⁵
- xv. George Warren was born May 1875, Fox Island. He married Fanny Rose 13 July 1901, Little River.⁷⁶

63 Household of James Warren, *1921 Newfoundland Census*, Old Man's Bay - Tibbos, page 50, dwelling 2, family 3, Canadian National Archives film M-8037.

64 *Burgeo marriages 1879-1896*, page 16, # 31. Family History Library film 2,133,919, item 8, page 145, line 5.

65 Household of George Priddle, *1921 Newfoundland Census*, New Harbour, page 21, dwelling 1, family 1, Canadian National Archives film M-8037.

66 *Hermitage Bay Anglican Marriages 1870-87*, <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Heritage/NGB/Parish/> . The couple had five known children including Maseander who died young.

67 Date based on birth of first child.

68 *Burgeo marriages 1879-1896*, page 41, # 69.

69 *Fortune -- Belleoram, Church of England Baptisms 1846 -1866*, <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Heritage/NGB/Parish/> .

70 *Burgeo marriages 1879-1896*, page 66, #114, the daughter of John Warren.

71 *Burgeo marriages 1879-1896*, page 15, #30, the son of Thomas.

72 *Burgeo Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, 1855-1872*, (Baptisms) page 23, #547, the son of John and Elizabeth Warren.

73 Household of Brazilla Warren, *1921 Newfoundland Census*, Old Man's Bay - Tibbos, page 50, dwelling 1, family 1, Canadian National Archives film M-8037.

74 *Burgeo Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, 1855-1872*, (Baptisms) page 23, #548, the daughter of John and Elizabeth Warren.

75 Letter to William M Litchman from Margaret Mullins, Fortune, Newfoundland (25 November 2001).

76 *Burgeo marriages 1879-1896*, page 31 #60.