

A Yeo Family of Ireland - Addendum

An edit to the notes for Edith Cecilia Yeo born 1879, Ireland:

Rev 1, 31 August 2025

1879: The Irish records have the birth on 7 June 1879 and baptism on 3 August 1879 in Grangegorman of Edith Cecilia Yeo, daughter of Henry Vivian Yeo, barrister at law and his wife Emily Alice Davis. Her father's occupation was recorded as barrister and the family address listed as Kingston Lodge, Clonliffe Road, Drumcondra. We find no further record of Edith in her childhood, when she was presumably living with her parents and attending a local school. The records of the 1881 and 1891 Ireland censuses have not survived, so we have no source available there.

1901: In the 1901 Ireland census, Henry Vivian Yea was living at Shelbourne Road, Pembroke West, Dublin. Henry was stated to be a widower. His youngest daughter Emily Alice aged 16 was living with him – but not Edith. Initially, our research failed to find any other match for Edith in the 1901 Irish census nor the 1901 England and Wales census. But then we discovered an entry for Edith Cecilia aged 21 single, born Ireland living in Petty France in the parish of St Margarets, Westminster – her surname mis-transcribed as Wos on Ancestry and as Nes on Findmypast - but which we read as Yeo. Moreover the census return shows that Edith is living at the home of her older married sister Lillian Ida Greene aged 27, both women recorded as “living on own means”. As noted in Lillian's personal notes, she was married to William Greene, a surgeon who was apparently not at home on the night the census was taken.

1902: We don't know what prompted Edith's move from Ireland to London nor when she made it. But we find the record of her marriage to Sydney Owen Mannering in Rochford in 1902 Q2 (vol 4A page 827). The registration district of Rochford lies a few miles to the north of Southend-on-Sea, Essex. In the same location and in the same quarter, we find the birth record of their son Sydney Guy Mannering, mother maiden name Yeo (vol 4A p 709). Later records confirm he was born in Westcliffe-on-Sea.

We identified Edith's husband as Sydney Owen Mannering born in 1872 Q2 in Dover district (vol 2a, p 850), the son of Samuel Wood Mannering and his wife Frances Sarah nee Parish who were married there in 1856 Q4 (vol 2a p 1309). The 1881 census has Sydney living with his widowed mother (a ship's stewardess) and three sisters in Dover. The 1891 census has a probable match for Sydney aged 19 as a student in a training college in Dover, his middle initial transcribed on Ancestry as “A” instead of “O”.

Then in the 1901 census, we find Sydney aged 29 single born Dover Kent and occupation Actor, one of several people living in a boarding house in Somers Town, St Pancras, London. His surname is mis-transcribed on Ancestry as “Manning”

1904-1910: It appears that Sydney's profession in the theatrical sphere involved international travel. On the 30 April 1904, he is listed as Mr S Mannering, passenger on the Union Castle

Line vessel Dover Castle departing Southampton for Cape Town. Passengers' occupations were not given, but he was noted as married and travelling alone, consistent with his marriage in 1902. On 13 December 1907, we find a possible match for Sidney Mannering aged 34 (slightly off) departing London for Sydney, Australia, his status given as "gent".

1911: We find no match for Sydney Owen Mannering in the 1911 census – it seems possible he was out of the country when the census was taken in early April. Nor do we find a match for Edith in this census. However, we do find a probable match for her death, recorded as Edith C Mannering aged 31 in Droxford district, Hampshire (vol 2c p 95). We also find her burial record in the parish of Curdrige (part of Droxford registration district) on 6 January 1911. Edith's address was recorded as Botting's Hotel.

In the census taken 4 months later, we find their son Sydney Guy Mannering aged 9 born Westcliffe-on-Sea, Essex as a boarder with the family of Henry Williams, a retired Civil Engineer in Botley, Hampshire. The villages of Botley and Curdrige are just over one mile apart. We might speculate that Sydney's mother died while his father was travelling abroad, such that he was placed as a boarder with the Williams family.

1912: We find the record of the arrival in London on 7 July of Mr S Mannering aged 40, profession Actor, a passenger on the Orient Steam Navigation Co vessel Omrah, his port of embarkation stated as Sydney. We are unable to determine whether this is the return of Sydney after his departure to Australia in 1907, or whether he may have made an earlier return voyage following the death of his wife. We also find Sydney, aged 40 profession "Vocalist" on the passenger manifest for the P&O vessel Caledonia departing London 10 October 1912, with his destination listed as Colombo, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka).

1914-1922: Sydney took another long distance voyage aboard the New Zealand Shipping Co vessel Somerset, departing London on 30 October 1914 (ie shortly after the outbreak of WW1), destination Auckland. His age was given as 42 (a good match), and he was listed with five other passengers as "Theatrical", presumably a group of actors. The next trace we find for him is in the 1922 electoral roll for Brisbane, Australia where he is listed as a Theatrical Producer living at the Bellevue Hotel, George Street. We found no subsequent travel or death record for Sydney.

1921-1952: While Sydney Owen Mannering was apparently travelling extensively, his son Sydney Guy Mannering was presumably growing up without close parental supervision. We find a match for him in the 1921 England census aged 19 years 3 months, born Westcliff, and recorded as a visitor at the home of Mrs Emma Amelia Brown in Stafford Road, Waddon, part of Croydon in south London.

Sidney's occupation is given as Engineer and the address of his workplace as the Gnome and Le Rhone Engine Co in Cranley Road, Leyton, east London. As the name suggests, this organisation was formed by the merger of two French companies which manufactured rotary engines for aircraft. During WW1 many thousands of these engines were manufactured at its Paris production facility. Their technology was licenced in the United Kingdom to the Peter Hooker Company who also manufactured several thousand of these engines during WW1 at

its large production plant in Walthamstow. Walthamstow is also in east London lying immediately north of Leyton – the two locations probably refer to one and the same works. However, Waddon and Leyton are some 20 miles apart and on opposite sides of the Thames, so in those days quite an awkward daily commute for Sidney. At this time, there was an aerodrome in Waddon (which later became part of Croydon aerodrome) as well as a National Aircraft Factory, so Sidney may have been in Waddon temporarily in connection with the use of his company's engines on aircraft there. Whatever the explanation, it seems very likely that Sidney would have gained valuable skills in what at the time would have been regarded as "advanced technology".

Sydney Guy Mannering also left England for Australia, though we have no information whether this was at his father's encouragement or his own independent decision. On 1 November 1923, Sydney aged 21 left London on board the P&O vessel Ballarat with his destination stated as Melbourne. His home address was listed as 125 Shirley Avenue, Southampton, and his occupation as Engineer. We have found few records of his life in Australia. He married Dorothy Evelyn Percival in Sydney in 1936. From 1939-1948 he served with the army in the Second Australian Imperial Force with service number NX34718. This unit saw action in several theatres during WW2, though we have found no details of engagements in which Sydney may have been involved.

Sydney Guy Mannering was buried in Blackall Cemetery, Queensland on 28 July 1952 aged just 51. Blackall, in the Blackall-Tambo region, lies about 500km inland from Rockhampton City on the Queensland coast

DJY August 2025