

R.A. LONG COLL., GALE SERIES, BOX 1, FOLDER 3

ANTHONY GALE

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ANTHONY GALE (Subject)

(No confirmed ancestors)

Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Gale, Fourth Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, from 3 March 1819 to 16 October 1820, was originally a native of Ireland.¹

On 27 November 1801, he is believed to have become a citizen of the United States, a Petition being read and filed the same day in the U. S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The basis for citizenship was the Act of Congress of 29 January 1795, which declared that a petitioner must file three years at least before his admission, and that he should have resided in the United States for at least five years,² and for one year within the state or territory of the Court.

An affidavit ascertaining that this Anthony Gale had indeed been residing in the area for the past five years, and that he was of good moral character, was signed on the same date by one Thomas R. Delany.³

A search has been made of Philadelphia and its environs, of Philadelphia County, and the surrounding counties, for any trace of the residence of Anthony Gale and of Thomas R. Delany during the year 1800, to no avail.⁴

In an attempt to compute the date of Anthony Gale's birth and his arrival in the United States, it was necessary to refer to the Census of 1840, at which time he was living in Lincoln County, Kentucky. On that Census, his age was listed as 79,⁵ which would hypothetically place his year of birth as 1761.

[Note: If the latter date is correct, his age at the time of his naturalization would have been forty. He would also have been thirty-seven years of age at the time he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps, which was an advanced age for a Second Lieutenant even in that era.]

The actual date that Anthony Gale was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Marines is still in doubt, but on 11 July 1798 an Act of Congress authorized the organization of a Marine Corps. All better known histories of the Marine Corps state his commissioning date as 2 September 1798, but more recent research seems to indicate that it may have been on another date.

For instance, the documented and well-known Naval Documents Related to the United States Wars with the Barbary Powers, Volume VI, states that he was commissioned on 2 August 1798. Suprisingly, this portion is not documented.

Second, an original document in the Records of the House of Representatives, National Archives and Records Service, an account of all monies spent by the Marine Corps from its organization on 11 July 1798 to 31 December 1803, shows that Anthony Gale was paid from 26 July 1798 to 1 March 1799 a total of \$179.16. This may very well indicate that both of the above dates are wrong.

The conditions under which Gale received his commission are equally mysterious. It was customary during the first one hundred years of the existence of the Navy and the Marine Corps for a candidate for a commission to be recommended to the President, to a Congressman, or to the Secretary of the Navy for that commission by one or more persons who were well acquainted with the capabilities and character of the candidate. Thus far, no recommendations can be found for Anthony Gale.

Furthermore, it is indeed strange that Gale was evidently appointed a Second Lieutenant of Marines by President John Adams during the time that the Fifth Congress was in recess, from 19 July 1798 to 10 December 1798. There is so far no evidence that this appointment, together with several others, was ever confirmed by the Senate of the United States.

The first report of the duties of Second Lieutenant Anthony Gale is that of recruiting for enlisted Marines in and around the community of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in September and October 1798.⁸

Following this duty - and until at least 24 November 1798 - he, together with non-commissioned officers and a detachment of enlisted Marines, was engaged in the guarding of French prisoners of war in garrison at Newcastle, Delaware.⁹

The exact date that Gale began his first duty aboard a ship of war is unknown, but Marine Corps and Navy Archives indicate that he commanded the Marines of the USS Ganges, Captain Thomas Tingey, USN, commanding, during a portion of the year 1799. Ganges, a merchant vessel purchased in Philadelphia when the Quasi-War with France began, was the first of the fledgling Navy to put to sea, operating in the Caribbean.¹⁰

At about the time that he left this ship, an unusual event without precedent in the Marine Corps took place, and very little appears to have been written on the subject. On or about 18 November 1799, a Navy Lieutenant named Allen Mackenzie aboard the Ganges took the liberty of relieving a Marine from his duty and putting him in irons. When Gale, whose responsibility this act would have been, questioned his motives, Mackenzie called him a rascal and struck him. Shortly thereafter, they fought a duel ashore, and Mackenzie was killed.

Major Commandant William Ward Burrows, commenting on the incident in correspondence to Lieutenant Bartholomew Clinch, USMC, noted that ...

"Lt. Gale met the approbation of the Secr.

[Secretary of the Navy] myself and all ...

It is hoped that this may be a lesson to the Navy Officers to treat the Marines as well as their officers with some more Respect."¹¹

The question of whom Anthony Gale married, and when and where he married her, is another of the most difficult searches in the biography and genealogy of this man. After leaving Ganges, Gale probably reported to the Headquarters of the Marine Corps, which was still located in Philadelphia in 1799. It had perhaps been decided by the Secretary of the Navy or by some higher authority that the French prisoners of war would be more secure in an inland prison than in the one at Newcastle, Delaware, where the Marshall of the area was in charge of them.

Accordingly, the Commandant of the Marine Corps received word in December 1799 that the prisoners were ready to march at a moment's warning. Correspondence reveals ¹² that Captain James McKnight and First Lieutenant Anthony Gale commanded a detachment of Marines which escorted a large party of prisoners from Newcastle [or Philadelphia] overland through Lancaster, York, and Hanover, Pennsylvania, and Taneytown, Maryland into Frederick, Maryland, where they were turned over to a General Bailey, Acting Commissary there.

Captain McKnight wrote to the Commandant on 29 December 1799 from Hanover, noting that it was "108 Miles from Philadelphia," and that he had left two men at the "Infantry Barracks in York." Furthermore, he wrote that "Lt. Gale is very hearty & begs me to make his respect to you..."¹³

Writing on 1 January 1800 [Wednesday] from "Fredericktown, M." he noted that the prisoners had been delivered, that a heavy rain for two days had caused a general thaw and that they had marched for three days nearly up to their knees in mud. He stated his intention of leaving on the following day [2 January 1800] to return to Philadelphia.¹⁴

[Note: Here unconfirmed, but believed to be in the Historical Branch, Headquarters Marine Corps, is proof of the fact that McKnight was sitting on a Court Martial in Philadelphia on 10 January 1800.]

[Note: Forty-four years after this year - on 6 March 1844, to be exact - Catharine Gale, the widow of Anthony Gale, mentioned in an Affidavit to Congress that she had married Anthony Gale on 4 January 1800.]

In consideration of the dates that Captain McKnight is known to have been in Frederick, Maryland - 31 December 1799, and 1 and 2 January 1800 - it is presumed Gale would have accompanied him all the way. On the other hand, once the prisoners were delivered, perhaps Captain McKnight gave Lieutenant Gale a leave of absence for the express purpose of meeting his fiancée and marrying her.

[Note: Research by the writer in the Marriage Records of the Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland, on 18 July 1968, revealed no recorded marriage in the state of Maryland between Anthony Gale and a known woman, especially in the counties of Washington, Frederick (including its fledgling, Carroll), Harford, Prince Georges, Montgomery, Baltimore, or Kent.]

Gale was not mentioned again in correspondence records of the Marine Corps until 17 April 1801, when he was aboard USS Philadelphia, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, again under the command of Captain James McKnight.¹⁵

Subsequently, Gale served at Philadelphia and delivered Marines who had been recruited by him to Washington, and was promoted to Captain on 24 April 1804.

He served aboard the USS Constitution, the USS President, the USS John Adams, the U. S. Schooner Enterprize, and the USS Essex in the Mediterranean Sea during the War with the Barbary Powers.¹⁶

The exact date that Gale took command of the Marine Barracks, Philadelphia Navy Yard, Southwark, is unknown. He wrote a letter to Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Franklin Wharton in Washington, D. C., however, on 26 December 1806,

that he had purchased and forwarded the best collection of sacred music that could be found in the city, and the strings for the violincello, and that "fifty of the Elders of the different churches in Philadelphia were busy selecting a collection of the best hymns, anthems, etc., that can be found in the country..."¹⁷, for the use of the Marine Band.

It was only shortly before this that there was an indication that Gale was then married. The Commandant wrote to Gale on 16 August 1806 expressing his sympathy that "as a parent I must fell [sic] for the loss you have sustained in the death of your only child..."¹⁸

Gale commanded the Marines at the Philadelphia Navy Yard for several years. In 1811, he was identified - mistakenly - as a Captain in the U. S. Army, living on South Front Street, on the northeast corner of the Navy Yard.¹⁹ This error in service designation was corrected in 1814.²⁰ His primary duties were to recruit throughout Pennsylvania, and to maintain a steady supply of quartermaster clothing and accoutrements from the Navy Agents in Philadelphia to Marine Corps detachments throughout the world. By the Act of Congress of 14 April 1814, Gale was promoted to the honorary rank of Brevet Major of Marines, to rank from 24 April 1814. At this time there was no actual rank of Major in the Marine Corps.

From 1816 through 1819, Gale was subjected to three Courts of Inquiry concerning his conduct, called either by himself or by others, all charges of which he was acquitted.²¹

[Note: These three Courts of Inquiry, and the Court Martial which resulted in his being cashiered from the Marine Corps will be reviewed in full and their findings published by the Marine Corps Museum in the future.]

Anthony Gale was appointed by the President of the United States, by and with the consent of the Senate, on 5 March 1819, to be Lieutenant Colonel Commandant of the Marine Corps, with rank from 3 March 1819. This command was not to be a happy one for Gale for, even with a distinguished career behind him, he fell afoul of the politics of the era.

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By way of explanation, there was only one Lieutenant Colonel authorized in the Corps, and he was the Commandant. There were only two Majors. The remaining fifty or so officers ranked from Second Lieutenant to Captain. In this system, the only manner by which one could rise in rank was by virtue of the death of a superior officer, or by the removal of a higher officer by fair or foul means, an accepted practice of the era.

It is now very much evident that Gale was not a "strong" commandant. He became subject to the petty contrivances of his junior officers, and was further hindered by an indication that the Secretary of the Navy, Smith Thompson, evidently took a dislike to him. Gale was besieged by an old - and still prevalent - tactic: on several occasions his lawful orders to junior officers were countermanded by the Secretary of the Navy, the junior officers "going over his head and behind his back." On one occasion the Secretary called upon Gale for a lengthy explanation concerning his views "as to the authority and control of the President through the Secretary of the Navy." Gale's reply was both lucid and forthright, and ended with a statement which leaves no doubt that he was not born in this country:²²

"... the common errors of that Service to which I have devoted upwards of twenty years of my life, and to which I would cheerfully devote the remainder if in doing so I could, in any wise, promote the interest and honor, the welfare and happiness, of my adopted Country."

At only one time, from the correspondence available, does Gale himself indicate that he had male relatives in this country. On 6 January 1820, he wrote a letter to Secretary of the Army John Calhoun, relating the fact that his nephew, Sharp Gale, a minor, had enlisted in the Artillery at Fort Mifflin, Pennsylvania, and requested the nephew's discharge. ²³

The succession of events occurring from early August till the time of Gale's arrest for a Court Martial are still very unclear. One can depend only on the correspondence of the

principals in the files of the Navy and the Marine Corps. On 19 August 1820, Gale notified Major Samuel Miller, Commanding the Marines of the Washington Barracks, that he was going by stage to Baltimore to see Mrs. Gale and the children aboard a steamboat, and that he would be gone approximately eight to ten days.²⁴ Three days later he asked Secretary of the Navy Smith Thompson for three to four weeks' leave of absence "to care for important business in the interior of the State of Pennsylvania."²⁵

Also on the latter date, Gale is reputed to have been drunk during the ceremonies for the laying of the cornerstone of the new City Hall in Washington, D. C.²⁶

Major Samuel Miller, commanding the Marines on the Washington Station, appears to have been instrumental in bringing charges against Anthony Gale which resulted in his Court Martial. In fact, he even volunteered to the Secretary of the Navy to write the charges; he arrested Gale and placed him under arrest in Quarters. When Gale once left the Home of the Commandant without permission, he ordered a sentinel placed at the door. What is very extraordinary is the fact that, after having written the charges, Major Miller was appointed the Prosecuting Officer! Even more startling is the fact that Lieutenant Robert N. Desha, the Paymaster of the Corps, was one of the witnesses against his Commandant and, at the same time, was appointed a Supernumerary [or extra Member] of the Court Martial!

The details of the Court Martial need not be propounded here, but he was found guilty of certain of the specifications and was subsequently cashiered from the Marine Corps.

On 15 November 1820, Anthony Gale was admitted as a "pay patient" to Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia to be treated for insanity.²⁷ Catharine Gale, writing to Smith Thompson from No. 74 Catharine Street, Philadelphia, on 28 December 1820, noted that Gale's father had died of insanity and that several of his family had the same illness.²⁸ Affidavits were included from Physician John C. Otto, Surgeon Joseph Hartshorne, and Steward Samuel Mason, concerning the costs of the hospitalization.²⁹

Another document in the Archives of the Pennsylvania Hospital indicates that one Daniel Zeller, listed in the City Directory of Philadelphia in 1821 as a merchant at 14 Branch Street, paid the Hospital a total of \$60.00, which included thirteen weeks of board for Anthony Gale and for "Articles Destroyed." ³⁰

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Catharine Gale happened upon bad times during this period for, on 23 February 1821, she addressed a Memorial to the Managers of the Hospital, asking that her husband be transferred from the "pay" to the "poor" list. ³¹ This was subscribed to by the following persons:

Joseph Simons, listed in the City Directory of 1821 as Joseph Simons & Co., Linen and Woollen Drapers, Northeast corner of Cedar and Second Streets.

William Steel: 1 Pilot, 16 Catharine Street, and/OR
2 Merchant, 84 Lombard Street.

Samuel Humphreys, Shipbuilder of the U.S. Navy, 320 South Front Street.

Charles Penrose, Shipbuilder (also Master Warden of the Port of Philadelphia), 93 Penn, above Argyle.

Richard Renshaw, Justice of the Peace and Notary Public of Southwark, 304 South Second Street.

No action appears to have been taken on this Memorial, inasmuch as Zeller had already paid the expenses.

On 31 March 1821, Anthony Gale was discharged from Pennsylvania Hospital as "cured", and still as a "pay patient". ³²

For the next two years, Gale appealed to the Secretary of the Navy asking a new trial, which was denied; to settle his accounts with Colonel Freeman, the Fourth Auditor of the Treasury Department, seeking a profit of his accounts, and again failed; appealed to President James Monroe for a Civil Department position, and failed, and persistently attempted to hold a review of the Court Martial proceedings and to petition Congress, all to no avail.

The last trace of the Gale family in Philadelphia was the admission of Catharine to Pennsylvania Hospital on 14 July 1823 as a "poor patient" for the treatment of "enlarged tonsils", and she was discharged on 17 September 1823 as "cured".³³

After an intermission of three years, Anthony Gale possessed in 1826, 158 acres of unimproved land in Lincoln County, Kentucky, on the Dicks River, purchased at the price of \$2.00 per acre.³⁴

For the next twelve years, beginning in 1830, there was a voluminous exchange of correspondence between Anthony and Catharine Gale and officialdom in Washington, all concerning the matter of pension, compensation, or relief funds which he felt were due him. As a consequence, he received a compensation of \$15.00 per month in 1835, and a later increase to \$25.00 per month, based on his claim for duties as Quartermaster in Philadelphia from 1806 to 1817.

[Note: This correspondence is too voluminous to be cited here.]

Of particular importance to this era, however, is a document of 1834:³⁵

"Margaret Swope of the County of Lincoln and State of Kentucky, hath this day [3 September 1834] given as a gift, for the sole use and benefit of Catharine Gale my beloved sister of Garrad [sic] County and the state aforesaid a certain tract or parcel of land lying and being in the County of Garrad [sic] and on the Waters of Gilberts Creek formerly the property of Larkin Ramsey...", etc.

[Note: The acquisition of this land is not too important, for on the following day, Anthony Gale deeded it to Seymour Hopper and Joseph P. Letcher in payment of a debt. What is of importance, however, is that it appears to identify Catharine as to her maiden name. On the other hand, the matter is

further confused by the fact that there were in Lincoln and Garrard Counties no less than three women named Margaret Swope.

~~The three sons of Benedict Swope, Sr., the latter originally from Lebanon and York, Pennsylvania, and later Hagerstown and Baltimore, Maryland, all married women named Margaret. Benedict, Jr., a minister and farmer, married Margaret Keener of Baltimore; George, a farmer and surveyor, married a Margaret Hufflein, and Jacob, a farmer, married a Margaret Pope. All emigrated into Garrard and Lincoln Counties, Kentucky.]~~

Gale's fortunes appeared to have completely deteriorated by 1841, when a James Frazier of Lincoln County foreclosed on a debt of \$122.00, and took in payment all his household furniture and "200 pounds of Bacon..."³⁶

Until very recently, the date of the death of Anthony Gale could only be ascertained by a letter from William S. Campbell, Stanford, Kentucky, dated 4 July 1850:³⁷

"Anthony Gale Died in my Town about 7 years
Since... His widow survived him about four years..."

He also surmised that "Two Children now living in Ky may be entitled to probably 1/2 pay for five years:"³⁸
William S. Campbell did not inform the Commissioner of Pensions in this letter of a very important item. He neglected to mention that he was married to Emily K., the daughter of Anthony and Catharine Gale.

[Note: It was not until 25 June 1968 that the writer discovered in Senate Documents S28A-D9 and S28A-C11.2, 28th Congress, Records of the House of Representatives, a Petition of Catharine Gale, dated 6 March 1844, in which the date of Gale's death was ascertained as 12 December 1842.]

The known children of Anthony and Catharine Gale were:

- i. ^{AMELIA} Unnamed, died 1806.³⁹
- ii. Washington A. Gale.⁴⁰
- iii. Emily K. Gale.⁴¹

Footnotes

- 1 "Declaration of Intention of Anthony Gale to become a citizen of the United States," Records of the Clerk's Office, U. S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Ninth and Market Streets, Philadelphia, document dated 15 June 1798.
- 2 "Petition No. 371 of Anthony Gale: to become a Citizen of the U. S.," Records of the Clerk's Office, U. S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. dated 27 Nov 1801.
- 3 Ibid., Petition.
- 4 "Population Census Schedule, Philadelphia and Philadelphia County, 1800," NA&RS.
- 5 "Population Census Schedule, Sixth Census [1840] of Lincoln County, Kentucky," Vol. 1, p88, NA&RS.
- 6 "A Record of the Reports of the Secretary of the Navy of the United States," Record Group 233, "Records of the United States House of Representatives, 1789-1946," Vol. 1, #67616, L-3, NA&RS.
- 7 Research by the Staff of the Marine Corps Museum in Record Group 233, "Records of the United States House of Representatives, 1789-1946." Proof will be given upon demand.
- 8 Ltr, 2dLt Anthony Gale, Lancaster, Pa., dated 1 Oct 1798, to MajComdt William Ward Burrows, Philadelphia, Pa., in Entry 10, "Letters Received [by the Commandant], Aug 1798-Dec 1817," Record Group 127, "Records of the United States Marine Corps, 1798-1944," NA&RS.

- 9 Ltrs, 2dLt Anthony Gale, New Castle, [Delaware], dated 23 Oct 1798, 31 Oct 1798, and 24 Nov 1798, to Maj Comdt William Ward Burrows, Philadelphia, Pa., in Naval Documents Related to the Quasi-War Between the United States and France, Vols. 1 and 2, 1935. Further in Marine Corps Archives. Hereafter Quasi-War with France.
- 10 Ltrs, 2dLt Anthony Gale, USS Ganges, dated 22 Feb 1799, 25 Mar 1799, and 20 May 1799, to MajComdt William Ward Burrows, Philadelphia, Pa., in Quasi-War with France, Vols. 2 and 3, 1936. Further as Marine Corps Archives.
- 11 Ltr, MajComdt William Ward Burrows, Philadelphia, Pa., to Lieutenant Bartholomew Clinch, Philadelphia, Pa., Marine Corps Archives.
- 12 Ltrs, Captain James McKnight, Hanover, Pa. dated 29 Dec 1799, and Fredericktown, Md., dated 1 Jan 1800, to MajComdt William Ward Burrows, Philadelphia, Pa., Marine Corps Archives.
- 13 Ibid., Ltr of 29 Dec 1799.
- 14 Ibid., Ltr of 1 Jan 1800.
- 15 Ltr, Capt James McKnight, Philadelphia, Pa., dated 17 Apr 1801, to LtColComdt William Ward Burrows, Washington, D. C., "Letters Received [by the Commandant], Marine Corps Archives.
- 16 Marine Corps Archives. To be further identified.
- 17 Ibid., To be further identified.
- 18 Marine Corps Archives. To be further identified.

- 19 City Directory, Philadelphia, Pa., 1811, p 27.
- 20 City Directory, Philadelphia, Pa., 1814, N. P.
- 21 Marine Corps Archives. To be further identified.
- 22 Ltr, LtColComdt Anthony Gale, Headquarters of Marines, Washington, D.C., dated 8 Aug 1820, to Sec Nav Smith Thompson, Washington, D.C., in Entry 2, "Letters Sent [by the Commandant], Mar 1804-Feb 1884," Record Group 127, "Records of the United States Marine Corps, 1798-1944," NA&RS.
- 23 Record Group 94, "Records of the Adjutant General's Office, U. S. Army, Letters Received," NA&RS. To be further identified.
- 24 Ltr, LtColComdt Anthony Gale, Headquarters, Washington, D.C., dated 19 Aug 1820, to Maj Samuel Miller, Headquarters, in Entry 2, "Letters Sent [by the Commandant], Mar 1804-Feb 1884," Record Group 127, "Records of the United States Marine Corps, 1798-1944," NA&RS.
- 25 Ltr, LtColComdt Anthony Gale, Headquarters, Washington, D.C., dated 22 Aug 1820, to SecNav Smith Thompson, Washington, D. C., in Entry 2, "Letters Sent [by the Commandant], Mar 1804-Feb 1884," Record Group 127, "Records of the United States Marine Corps, 1798-1944," NA&RS.
- 26 Marine Corps Archives. To be further identified.
- 27 Item No. 177. "Patients. Alphabetical Listing Index to Admissions , ca. 1816-1826." Archives of the Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa.

- 28 Ltr, Catharine Gale, No. 74 Catharine Street, Philadelphia, Pa. dated 28 Dec 1820, to SecNav Smith Thompson, Washington, D. C., in Entry 21, "Miscellaneous Letters Received [by the Secretary of the Navy], Jan 1801-Dec 1884," Record Group 45, "Naval Records Collection of the Office of Naval Records and Library," NA&RS.
- 29 Ibid.
- 30 Item No. 90. "Steward's Cash Book, 1820-1825," Archives of the Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa.
- 31 Item No. 9. "Minutes of the Managers of the Pennsylvania Hospital, Transcribed from the Rough Minutes, 1804-1833," p344, Archives of the Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa.
- 32 Item No. 164. "Patients. Steward's Accounts of Admissions and Discharges, Jun 1816-Apr 1821," Archives of the Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa.
- 33 Item No. 177. "Patients. Alphabetical Listing [Index to Admissions], ca. 1816-1826." Archives of the Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa.
- 34 Tax Books of Lincoln County, Kentucky, 1826. Microfilm Reel No. 245, Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, Kentucky.
- 35 Deeds, Garrard County, Kentucky, Lancaster, Kentucky, recorded as #385, "Margaret Swope... To Deed... Catharine Gale... 1834... Sept 3d acknd... DB L, page 302."
- 36 Deed Book R, 1841-1843, p114, Lincoln County, Lancaster County, Kentucky.

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- 37 Ltr, W. S. Campbell, Stanford, Kentucky, dated 4 Jul 1850, to J. L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions, Washington, D. C.
- 38 Ibid.
- 39 Ltr, LtColComdt Franklin Wharton, Washington, D. C., dated 16 Aug 1806, to Capt Anthony Gale, Philadelphia, Pa., Marine Corps Archives. To be further identified.
- 40 Successive Population Census Schedules vary so drastically that it is nearly impossible to compute the birth date, but it is assumed to be circa 1810.
- 41 Ibid.