

# How a Toronto Bookbindery Girl Named Lizzie Wyllie Became a National News Headline in 1892

*Richard Deuel*

**Richard Anthony Deuel** is a researcher who uses genealogy to sort historical fact from legend. He believes the ancestral record holds the keys to solving some of history's greatest mysteries, both real and imagined, if one is willing to fully immerse himself there. He has been intensively exploring enigmas of the past, including his own Deuel line, from his home in San Diego, California. He has a wife and one son.

Keywords: Surnames: Allen, Anderson, Bernard, Cook, Donaldson, Edwards, Elliot, Farmer, Langlois, Longfield, Morgan, Wyllie, Wyllie.. Placenames: Bowmanville, Ontario; Centerville, Ontario; Cleveland, Ohio; Coronado, California; Detroit, Michigan; Fruitport, Michigan; Galt, Ontario; Grand Rapids, Michigan; Hamburg, Iowa; Highland Park, Michigan; Los Angeles, California; Montrose, Forfashire, Scotland; Oakland, California; Orange, California; Portland, Oregon; San Diego, California; Toronto, Ontario; Windsor, Ontario.

On that October day in 1892, as Lizzie left her house to go on an errand, Mrs. Elizabeth Wyllie of Detroit had no way of knowing that her daughter was soon to become the focal point of a national news story set thousands of miles away in Coronado, California.

Lizzie and her sister, May, lived with their widowed mother and brother at 102 National Avenue. Financially strapped and relying on her son for support, Mrs. Wyllie would take the news that Lizzie and May were laid off in September from Winn & Hammond bookbindery as a further hardship. To make matters worse, there were rumours that they were discharged due to Lizzie's indiscretions with the foreman there, a married man named John G. Longfield who had two children, and was always considered a family friend.

Lizzie insisted that she would not remain in Detroit doing nothing, and thus decided to travel as far as California to seek employment. Perhaps to clear her head or to seek out advice from her married sister, she took a long visit to the Anderson home in Grand Rapids.

Several days after Lizzie returned home from visiting her sister, John G. Longfield—who had also been let go from his job—visited the Wyllie home to say goodbye. He explained that he was travelling south and would most likely reach southern California before he returned. He told them, "I will be picking roses in California while your feet are freezing in Detroit." At the time, nothing seemed out of the ordinary, and little was discussed on the matter after he left.

It was not until Monday, when Lizzie had not returned from her errand, that Mrs. Wyllie discovered Lizzie's ward-

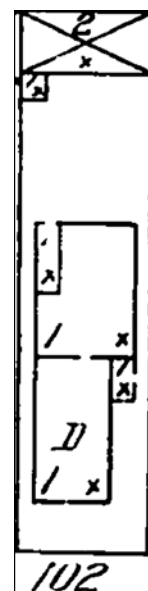
robe was gone. She had begged her not to leave Detroit to look for work. At least at home she had food. Lizzie had not a penny to her name.

Days turned into weeks without any word from her. The realization that she had run off with Mr. Longfield became obvious when it was learned that he had left about the same time. Mrs. Wyllie was soon met with the worst possible news from a far-away destination.

## 102 National Avenue

102 National Avenue (today 2532 Cochrane) was located in Corktown, an old Irish neighborhood west of downtown Detroit. Where the Wyllie home once stood is now the entrance to a pedestrian bridge that was used by Detroit Tiger fans crossing over the I-75 to get to the stadium, which was demolished in 2008/09. According to an 1897 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, the home was a one-storey wood house with a barn in the back against the alley.

102 National Avenue. Credit: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Detroit, Michigan, 1897, Vol.2, Sheet 27. Sanborn Map Company.



## A Young Woman's Suicide in Coronado, California

Newspapers from around the country were reporting on the suicide of a mysterious young woman who had been a guest at the Hotel del Coronado in Coronado, California. She had checked in alone on Thanksgiving Day, 24 November 1892 under the name Lottie A. Bernard from Detroit. She arrived carrying only a single valise.

Throughout her stay, she complained of varying illnesses and appeared to be suffering a great deal. Groaning and pale of face, she mostly kept to her room, and slept throughout the day. Declining offers to see the house physician, she made constant inquiries regarding her physician brother, a Dr. Anderson, whom she claimed she had become separated from in Orange, California. He had inadvertently taken with him the claim tickets for their baggage, which was now checked in at San Diego.

As her condition worsened—and after she accidentally fell into the bath—she told the hotel clerk, Mr. Gomer, that she



In this 1892 photo of the Hotel del Coronado, two entrances can be seen beneath peaked wooden archways. Since Lottie A. Bernard checked in alone, she would have most likely used the more discreet "ladies' entrance" on the left, a common feature of Victorian hotels for lone women travelers. Photo Courtesy San Diego History Center.

had cancer of the stomach, and that her case was hopeless. Mr. Gomer asked if there was anyone else whom she could telegraph for funds. She supplied him with the name of the man in charge of her finances, a G.L. Allen of Hamburg, Iowa, to whom he sent a telegram.

On Monday 28 November, she told one of the hotel staff that she was going to personally identify her trunks. Despite her condition and an onset of inclement weather, she made a dreadful decision instead and made her way slowly to Chick's Gun Shop, located in downtown San Diego. She explained to Mr. Chick that she wanted to buy a gun as a Christmas present for a friend. He presented her with a .44 calibre American Bulldog revolver, which she purchased along with two bits' worth of cartridges. After she left, two individuals in the store commented they felt that she intended to hurt herself with that pistol.

Overnight, an intense winter storm battered the coast. The following Tuesday morning, the young woman was found dead on an exterior staircase leading to the beach. David Cone, the hotel electrician who had discovered the body, reported at the coroner's inquest that the body "...was lying on the steps, with its feet towards the ocean, head on the steps, almost on the top step." The body seemed to have been lying there quite a while. He stated that there was a large pistol lying at the right side of the body, and blood on the right side of the steps.

B.F. Mertzman, the surgeon who examined the remains at Johnson & Company undertakers, reported that he found a gunshot wound in the right temple region. He determined the cause of death was probably an internal hemorrhage.

Among some of the papers in her room were envelopes addressed to herself as "Lottie Anderson Bernard," "Mrs. Lottie Bernard," and "Lottie Anderson Bernard, Detroit." There were also embroidered linen handkerchiefs with the name Louisa Anderson.

A telegram was received from a bank in Hamburg, Iowa, extending a \$25 credit to Lottie A. Bernard. Mr. Allen

claimed that he sent the funds simply out of charity, believing to have once been a schoolmate of Bernard's husband. Newspaper reports found this explanation lacking, and sensed a ruse.

The speculations that she had shot herself over a love affair quickly took root. The physician who had examined the body suggested that she may have attempted a miscarriage through the consumption of violent medicine, and that there were signs that she had already borne a child. Newspapers around the country were wildly reporting and speculating as to the identity of this beautiful stranger, as she was dubbed.

## "My Lizzie; It's My Lizzie, What Will Become of Me?"

Almost immediately, May Wyllie sent a telegram to the San Diego chief of police, asking for a full description of the body, and providing a description of Lizzie: "Telegraph full description lady's body found on beach. Had short hair, black corset, large black hat, gold buckle. MISS MAY WYLLIE." Deputy Coroner Stetson sent a reply that she did wear a black corset and a large hat, but that her hair was of medium length and that there was no gold buckle on her hat.

A dispatch was received by Mrs. Wyllie from Undertaker Johnson of San Diego:

Height, 5 feet 6 inches; complexion, fair, but sallow; medium length black hair, two small moles on left cheek, broad features, high cheekbones, brown eyes, weight 150 pounds; age, about 26; good teeth, plain gold ring on third finger of left hand; ring of pure gold, with four pearls and blue stone in center; black corset.

The confirmation by the undertaker of the two small moles on the left cheek greatly affected the already distraught mother to no end. Dropping the telegram to the floor, she began to

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**IDENTIFIED.**

**Mrs. Lottie A. Bernard Was Lizzie Wyllie of Detroit.**

In the City of Her Home She Was a Book-Bindery Girl.

Leaving There Five Weeks Ago in Company With a Married Man.

He Who Caused Her to Err Was John Longfield, and He Was Probably Her Deserter at Orange.

Special to THE UNION.  
 DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 3, 1892.—The identity of Mrs. Lottie Anderson Bernard, who committed suicide on Tuesday night at San Diego, Cal., is now established from the description given. She is Miss Lizzie Wyllie, of 102 National avenue, this city. Mrs. Elizabeth Wyllie, who lives at the above number, has received a dispatch from relatives in San Diego which identifies the dead girl as her daughter. The description of her clothes tallies with those worn by Lizzie Wyllie when she left here some five or six weeks ago. The suicide has two moles on her left cheek, a ring on a finger of the left hand and another ring was found in one of her pockets. Mrs. Wyllie says her daughter was made as stated in the dispatch, and had the rings spoken of. The Detroit police were asked for a description of Lizzie Wyllie and the description furnished tallies in almost every detail with that of the dead woman.

Three separate newspapers in San Diego were reporting on this story, including coverage up the West Coast of California in Los Angeles and San Francisco. The story ran nationally with articles in Kate Morgan's hometown of Hamburg, Iowa and in Lizzie's hometown of Detroit, Michigan. Coverage of the story ran almost daily from November 29th to December 17th. Credit: The San Diego Union, December 4, 1892, Vol. XXXVII, No. 8755, Page 1

sob and said, “My Lizzie; it’s my Lizzie, what will become of me?”

At this point, Mrs. Wyllie was making arrangements via telegraph with relatives in Pasadena who knew Lizzie well, to take care of her remains.

Although she was not familiar with the people mentioned living in Hamburg, Iowa, Mrs. Wyllie clung onto every other item that seemed to line up as a positive identification of her daughter. The suicide had said she was 24 years of age and from Detroit - the same age and residence as Lizzie. The newspapers were describing her as “attractive,” “beautiful,” and “prepossessing.” There was no doubt her Lizzie was pretty, and Lizzie HAD said she would go as far as California to find work.

To erase all doubt, undertaker Johnson sent a photograph of the deceased and also pointed out that the girl’s ears were not pierced for earrings, whereas Lizzie’s were. In the time it would take the photo to arrive in Detroit, new developments would take the name Lizzie Wyllie off the front pages and now put the focus on another, a Mrs. Kate Morgan.

Mrs. Longfield confirmed her husband was away for five weeks, but insisted he had been at work in Cleveland, Ohio. She received a telegram from him in which he stated that he received a letter from Lizzie and that he would send it at once as proof she was still alive and also not with him (as some had surmised). By 6 December, Lizzie’s forwarded letter, postmarked Toronto, was received by Mrs. Longfield. In it, she stated that she would not be returning home, as she had a great many friends there, and had returned to a bookbindery store at which she had worked several years before.

## The Beautiful Stranger Identified

Mrs. Kate Morgan, using the alias Katie Logan, had been working as a domestic in Los Angeles at 917 South Hill Street in the employ of L.A. Grant, who considered her the best servant he had ever had. She did not speak of her past, and only relayed that she was unhappily married to a gambler and that she was not aware what became of him. Before leaving for San Diego on 23 November, she had promised to return in time to cook Thanksgiving dinner. When she did not return as promised, Mr. Grant informed the police, who proceeded to investigate her disappearance.

In her trunk—still at Grant’s residence—investigators found a marriage certificate showing a Miss Katie K. Farmer marrying a Thomas E. Morgan in Hamburg, Iowa on 30 December 1885. Hamburg was also the same town she had telegraphed G.L. Allen for funds. A tin box and the suicide’s handkerchiefs were both marked with the name Louisa Anderson.

It is not hard to imagine what great relief and mixed emotions must have met Mrs. Wyllie when she gazed upon the photograph of the Coronado suicide, elated that it was not her Lizzie after all, but overwhelmed by great sadness for the loss of a young woman her daughter’s age.

On the morning of 13 December 1892, Kate Morgan was lowered into her grave at Mount Hope Cemetery. After weeks of being displayed and stared at by the curious and concerned, she could finally be laid to rest. So could the speculation that she was Lizzie Wyllie of Detroit. This would remain so for nearly 100 years until the early 1980s, and more recently by author John T. Cullen, who continues to insist it was Lizzie Wyllie who died there.

## Kate and Lizzie in Legend and Lore

This tragic story may have left the news headlines of that place and time, but it lives on through the haunting of The Del, with this story, or a variation of it, as the catalyst for the ghostly goings-on there. An October 1983 story by historian Richard Carrico, in the “Heritage” section of the *San Diego Home & Garden*,<sup>1</sup> introduced the legend, and helped solidify the notion that Kate Morgan, before taking her own life, was abandoned by her card shark, vagabond husband.

The late Alan M. May, a trial attorney from San Francisco, was convinced that Kate Morgan was murdered by her husband, Tom Morgan. Spurred on by Carrico’s 1983 article, he obsessively investigated the legend himself and claimed multiple encounters with Kate’s ghost, which he believed was beckoning him to tell the real story of what happened to her.

In a 1989 *Los Angeles Times* article,<sup>2</sup> May defends his position that Kate was murdered by her husband; the murder, he says, occurred after a discovered pregnancy that would have jeopardized their son. The oft-repeated legend, hardened in May’s 1990 book, *The Legend of Kate Morgan: The Hunt for the Haunt of the Hotel del Coronado*,<sup>3</sup> is that Kate was riding the rails with her husband, swindling men of their cash. They would pose as brother and sister, using Kate as bait to draw them in. In this same *Los Angeles Times* article, Richard Carrico offers up a new theory after four years of research: that he believes it is Lizzie Wyllie who is buried at Mount Hope Cemetery in San Diego. He told the paper that somewhere between Los Angeles and San Diego, the two women decided to switch identities. Each was on the run from something, and this switch would be mutually beneficial. In his 1991 book, *San Diego Spirits, Ghosts and Hauntings in America’s Southwest Corner*,<sup>4</sup> Carrico again suggests it is Lizzie in Kate’s grave.

In 2001, a well-researched book by Terry Girardot was published, titled *The Ghost of the Hotel del Coronado: The True Story of Kate Morgan*.<sup>5</sup> Not only did Mr. Girardot obtain a photo of Kate Morgan, but he also found a 1961 note written by Tom Morgan’s daughter Mildred (from his wife, Jennie Devor), who writes that Kate Morgan ran away with a step-son of Emily Hope Allen Morgan (her father’s step-mother). She goes on to say, “Thomas Edwin Morgan rec’d a telegram about a yr. after Kate left with Mr. Allen, from authorities at Long Beach, Calif. saying identification showed woman who committed suicide...on beach there [was his wife] & what should they do with body - seems said Mr. Allen deserted her - Dad wired back she left of her own accord

and he wasn't claiming the body. Kate's folks lived at Hamburg but I don't think body was ever ret'd to Hamburg." It is believed the Allen referred to in the letter, is an Albert C. Allen, brother of George L. Allen, the same G.L. Allen who had honoured Lottie A. Bernard's (Kate Morgan's alias) request for funds from The Del.

John T. Cullen, who had worked at the hotel for a few years, wrote two books on the subject: *Dead Move - Kate Morgan and the Haunting Mystery of Coronado* in 2007<sup>6</sup> and *Lethal Journey* in 2009.<sup>7</sup> In his books and on his website, he resurrects historian Richard Carrico's theory that it was Lizzie Wyllie who died there, not Kate Morgan. Mr. Cullen weaves a fantastical conspiracy theory laced around a myriad of historical facts, much of which is pure conjecture. If Lizzie were to be found alive and well in Canada or elsewhere after 1892, then his theory would not stand. Just as Mr. Girardot cleared Tom Morgan's name, I set out to clear Lizzie's.

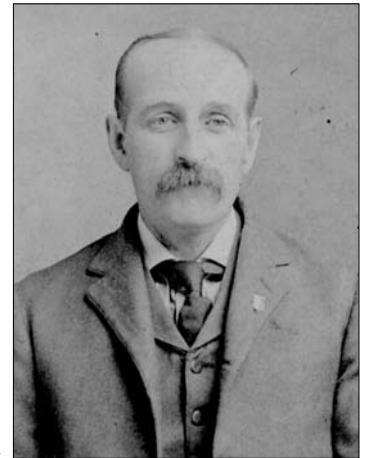
Of the tantalizing clues that researchers have used to connect Lizzie to the Coronado suicide, the ones that had the most merit have to do with the name Louisa Anderson found on the handkerchiefs in the hotel room at The Del and on the tin box in the trunk in Los Angeles. The self-addressed envelopes in the room had on them "Lottie Anderson Bernard, Detroit." Newspapers were quick to point out that Lizzie's sister's married name was Anderson. Another paper said it was her aunt, but the actual given name of this relative was never revealed. Were the names Louisa Anderson and Lottie Anderson Bernard more of Kate Morgan's aliases, or did they have a deep connection to Lizzie Wyllie or her relatives? It became obvious that in order to find Lizzie and finally solve this, one would have to find her sister first.

## Finding Lizzie Wyllie Alive after 1892

Since Lizzie Wyllie was said to have gone to Toronto, Canada, the initial investigation was conducted on records from there, searching on the names Anderson and Wyllie together. The first promising lead after many searches was a transcribed 1885 Toronto marriage record between a Roland Anderson and a Jane Anne Wyllie of Bowmanville, Ontario, daughter of James and Elizabeth.<sup>8</sup> One of the witnesses to the marriage was an Elizabeth H. Wyllie of Toronto. I soon discovered that Jane Ann Wyllie's husband's first name was Jesse, and that they had two boys born in Toronto, Jesse Norman Anderson in 1886, and Frederick Rowland Anderson in 1888. They were in the 1894 Michigan State Census for Grand Rapids, with three daughters all under the age of five—Maud, Myrtle, and May. Could this be Lizzie's married sister from Grand Rapids? Clearly, if this was the case, she was named Jane, not Louisa, and thus had no connection to the items found in California.

Confident this was the right family, attention now went back to Canada. Could I find a James and Elizabeth H. Wyllie, with three daughters named Jane Ann, Lizzie, and May? The 1881 Canadian census yielded the desired results.<sup>9</sup> In

the record, the family name was spelled Wylie, with one "l," but it was definitely them. In the province of Ontario, in the District of Durham West and in the Subdistrict of Bowmanville, I found 14-year-old Lizzie living with her family. Both James & Elizabeth were born in Scotland, and their seven children were all born in Ontario: two older brothers, George (21), Arthur (19), and two younger brothers, Brougham F. (6), and Edszell N. (3). The girls were in the middle, and Lizzie was the second of the three: Jane A. (17), Elizabeth H. (14), and Mary A. (9) (Both the names Mary and May were used by her in later records). The family recorded their religion as Canadian Presbyterian. Both Lizzie's father, James, and her brother, George, were bakers.



George William Wyllie (March 7, 1859 - March 16, 1925) - Lizzie Wyllie's brother, circa 1910s. Courtesy: Lance L. Landon (Landon-Wyllie-Edwards Archives)

Bowmanville was host to a large Scottish-Presbyterian community. Further research would reveal that James & Elizabeth Wyllie were natives of Montrose, Forfarshire, Scotland. There was also a third older brother named James Wyllie Jr., who was born in 1857, and worked as a telegraph operator.

At this point, with the floodgates fully open, I quickly mapped out many of Lizzie's siblings' family lines. Sadly, her sister, May—who was the one to send the telegram asking for a description of the Coronado suicide victim—was herself



The Wyllies were proud confectioners, bakers, and grocers. George Wyllie carried on the family tradition beyond his humble origins in Bowmanville, where he must have learned the trade in his father's shop on King Street: a baker in Toronto; a grocer and confectioner in Portland, Oregon; a candy maker in Oakland, California. This photo from January 1906 is of George Wyllie standing in the interior of his bake shop in Los Angeles, California. Courtesy: Lance L. Landon (Landon-Wyllie-Edwards Archives)


twice widowed, and married three times. In 1910, she was still living in Detroit with her mother and her three children: Warren Elliot (7), Robert Elliot (5), and Eddie Langlois (10). Ironically, in the 1940s, her son, Warren Russell Elliot, ended up settling in San Diego, four miles from where Kate Morgan was laid to rest.

I located the maiden name of Lizzie's mother in the birth record for Edzell Norman Wyllie, who was born on 27 August 1877 to Elizabeth Donaldson and Jas. (James) Wyllie. There was even a 1925 US patent 1545870 for a new and improved automobile and furniture polish by Edzell N. Wyllie of Detroit, Michigan. Edzell's inventiveness may have been passed down to him by his father, James Wyllie, for there is an 1878 Canadian patent by a James Wyllie of Bowmanville for what he called "Wyllie's Steam Baked Bread."

He ran numerous ads over many years in the *Bowmanville Canadian Statesman*, a pictured rooster declaring, "I Crow For Wyllie Alone! He always Toes the Mark!" in which he poetically croons to the gourmand to "Call upon the Poet" at the "Poet's Corner." He would be remembered years after his passing for his "Choke Dog" pie, the name of which was reported to be a corruption of the words "Chuck Dough". It was described as a toothsome conglomerate mixture, which he would sell at the fair and at his bakery in a small building that was located in the yard of the Farmer's Exchange Hotel, also known as Maynard's Hotel. By 1871, he owned a 1/4 acre lot, a dwelling or house, a shop, a barn or stable, a carriage or sleigh, a horse over 3 years old, 1 milk cow, and 2 swine. His later store was located across the street at the northwest corner of King and Silver Streets, where one could buy candy, fruit, fish, cake, cheese and, of course, his "Patent Steam Bread," which "cuts as smooth as cheese." It is easy to imagine a young Lizzie, working her way through the candy aisle, under the watchful eye of her father.

Fifty-three-year-old James Wyllie worked and provided for his family in Bowmanville for nearly three decades, but by 1882, the family decided to relocate to Toronto City. They first lived at 67 Strachan, and then at 106 Teraulay. In 1883, he bought out a confectionary store at 532 Yonge, and

**I Crow for Wyllie Alone!**



**He always Toes the Mark!**

And toe the mark he will;  
Wyllie's is the place, sirs,  
Where you can eat your fill,  
And never say a grace, sirs.

Stacks of Lollypops,  
Pyramids of Candy—  
Of all the Sweetie Shops,  
Wyllie's is the dandy.

Oysters rare and rich;  
Everything that's dainty;  
Game, and Fruit, and Fish,  
Wyllie has in plenty.

Gourmands make a note—  
Call upon the Poet;  
If he can't you suit,  
Only let him know it.

Cakes, and Bread, and Cheese,  
Marmalade and honey,  
Anything you please,  
Not for love, but money.

He is still on hand  
To sinner, saint or scornor,  
Awaiting their command,  
At the "Poet's Corner."

**THIS IS THE AGE OF STEAM**  
and Steam Bread is the latest novelty

**WYLLIE**

is now manufacturing daily,

**"Patent Steam Bread!"**

an article far superior to any bread ever  
manufactured in this Town, for sweetness,  
color and richness of flavor, it stands ahead  
of all others and cuts as smooth as cheese.

Only one trial is requested. All the  
delicacies in their season. A full supply  
constantly on hand.

**JAMES WYLLIE,**  
Corner King & Silver Streets,  
Bowmanville.

*The Canadian Statesman, January 21, 1869, Page 3. Credit: Clarington Digital Newspaper Collection*



*Photo of Bowmanville, Ontario taken sometime between 1894 and 1903. View: King Street looking east towards the northwest corner of King and Silver, where James Wyllie had his bakery at 18 King. In his newspaper advertisements, he charmingly referred to this spot as "The Poet's Corner". The wooden structures that once stood at that corner are no longer there and were replaced by a building (which can be seen in this photo off in the distance, directly in front of the cow in the road) in the year 1884. James Wyllie was assessed for this and another Bowmanville property throughout the 1870s. Lizzie Wyllie, who was born in 1869, would have grown up knowing this street and possibly even resided over her father's bakery for a time. Courtesy of Garth Gilpin Collection, Clarington Museums.*

on the 8th of March, despite recent bouts of pain on his left side, he proceeded to move in. He was walking down Yonge to meet his daughter when he fell on the sidewalk and died. The doctors said that heart disease, coupled with the exertion of the move, was the cause of his sudden death. Perhaps he was going to meet Lizzie. She, along with her seven siblings, would now be without their father. The loss of support from this large family's main provider most likely set the stage for the financial worry that would play out between Elizabeth and her daughter Lizzie once they settled in Detroit. The newly-widowed Elizabeth Wyllie remains with her family in Toronto City into the year 1888, living at various addresses: 39 Alice, 92 Richmond West, and 9 Bear. It is also during this time that Lizzie would have made friends in this city, and would have been employed at a Toronto bookbindery.

On 7 June 2012, I could barely contain my excitement by what I discovered in an Ontario, Canada marriage record: 25-year-old Lizzie Wylie of Detroit married 25-year-old Wallace Cook, a butcher from Detroit, born in Centerville, Ontario, son of John Cook and Jane Murray, on 21 December 1894.<sup>10</sup> Her parents are recorded as James Wylie and Elizabeth Donaldson. I was thrilled to finally prove that Lizzie did not die at the Hotel del Coronado.

For the doubters and conspiracy theorists out there that would suggest this is Kate Morgan posing as Lizzie, all one has to do is look at who stood witness to Lizzie's marriage: May Wyllie of Detroit. Surely her sister would recognize her own flesh and blood. It was also in December, two years prior,

that papers were reporting that Mrs. Elizabeth Wyllie of Detroit admitted "it was her daughter Lizzie who was found dead with a bullet wound in her head, inflicted by her own hand..." In the true version of events, Lizzie gave her hand in marriage, not in death.

Wallace and Elizabeth Cook (Lizzie Wyllie) are found in both the 1900 (414 Baker) and 1910 (36 Tillman Ave.) census records for Detroit, Michigan. There are no children recorded to this marriage, and his occupation is recorded as a fish peddler. In city directories for this same period, along with peddler, his occupation was a huckster, which was someone who sold small wares.

The last address Lizzie would call home was 22 Norman Avenue. After a little over 17 years of marriage, on 23 May 1912 at two in the morning, Lizzie Wyllie sadly succumbed to heart disease. She was 42 years, 4 months and 23 days old, having been born on 31 December 1869. On 25 May 1912, housewife Elizabeth S. Cook was buried at Woodmere Cemetery in Detroit in Section E, Block 23, Grave #122. This time, Lizzie's mom lost her for real. Perhaps this time, the loss of her Lizzie was too painful, for only four months later on 26 September 1912, she would join her daughter at Woodmere. Elizabeth Wyllie died on 24 September 1912 when her heart failed after a battle with bronchial pneumonia.



Section E, Block 23 marker stone, Woodmere Cemetery, Detroit Michigan. This marker stone, indicating Block 23 is near Elizabeth Cook's (Lizzie Wyllie's) gravesite. Lizzie's grave #122 is not marked with a headstone. Photo courtesy of Sherlock Photography, [www.sherlockphoto.com](http://www.sherlockphoto.com).

Cook residence at 2203 Central in Detroit when 54-year-old Wallace died after a fall down the stairs. He was buried at Woodmere on 31 January 1924 in Section 6, Block 4, Grave #97.

NAME	Wallace Cook
Age	25
Residence when married	Detroit
Place of Birth	Centerville, Ont.
Signature or Witness (M. or W.)	B
Rank or Profession	Butcher
Name of Parents	John Cook Jane Murray
Her Name	Lizzie Wyllie
Age	25
Residence when married	Detroit
Place of Birth	Bourmanville, Ont.
Signature or Witness (M. or W.)	S
Name of Parents	James Wyllie Elizabeth Donaldson
Name and Residence of Witnesses	W. Frank Langlois Windsor May Wyllie Detroit
Date and place of Marriage	Dec. 21, 1894 Windsor
Religion of Bridegroom	Baptist
Religion of Bride	Presbyterian

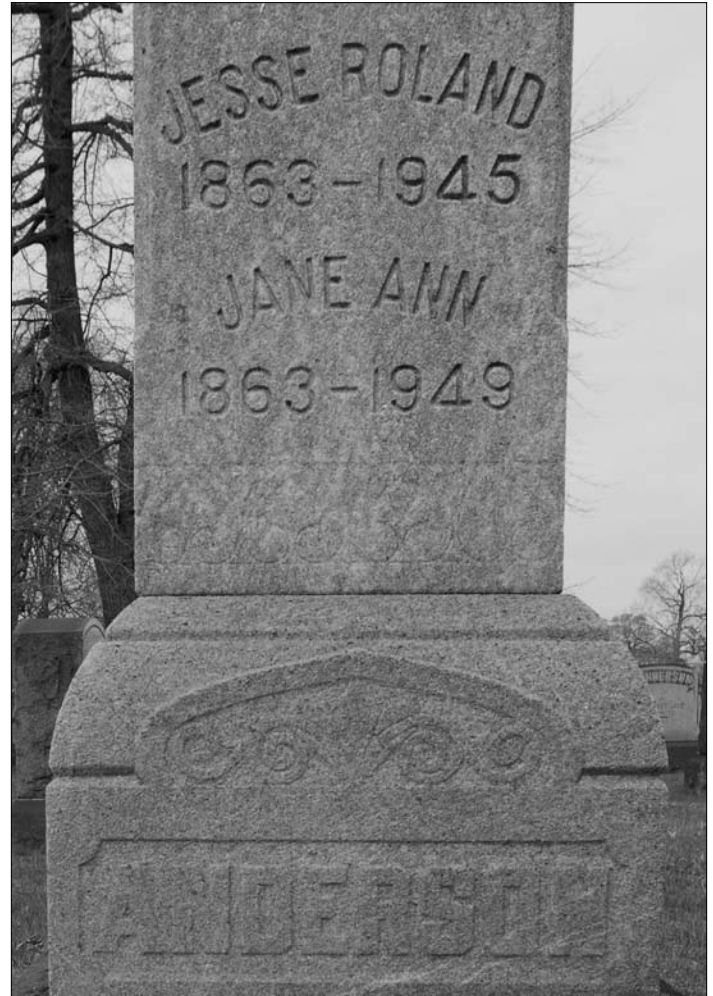
Lizzie Wyllie was married on December 21, 1894. Credit: Ontario marriage registration 039623 (1894); microfilm MS 932, reel 81, A0

For Wallace Cook, there was life after Lizzie. On 14 September 1917, he married for a second time to 49-year-old Mary Blackford Lawrence from England. On 28 January 1924, tragedy struck the

Anderson family monument, Section 801A-5, Woodmere Cemetery, Detroit, Michigan. Lizzie's married sister from Grand Rapids was named Jane Ann Anderson. She sometimes even used the name Jennie, but nowhere in the records do we see the name Louisa. The name Louisa Anderson and Lottie Anderson Bernard, were some of the many aliases of Kate Morgan, who for some reason chose the Anderson name to hide behind. The Anderson family monument, weathered with age but still showing the name Jane Ann, should put the matter to rest. Photo courtesy of Sherlock Photography, [www.sherlockphoto.com](http://www.sherlockphoto.com).

Cook residence at 2203 Central in Detroit when 54-year-old Wallace died after a fall down the stairs. He was buried at Woodmere on 31 January 1924 in Section 6, Block 4, Grave #97.

Jane Ann Anderson (she also used the name Jennie), Lizzie's married sister from Grand Rapids, can be found in census records for Detroit (1900/1910), Highland Park (1920), and Fruitport (1930). Her name is clearly etched into a tall stone monument at Woodmere Cemetery, a further testament to her name not being Louisa. She was buried there in 1949 with her husband, Jesse Roland, their sons, Jesse Norman and Freddie Roland, and her mother-in-law, Philina Cecilia Anderson. Her mother is also buried in this same Section A5, Lot 801.



Anderson family monument, Section 801A-5, Woodmere Cemetery, Detroit, Michigan. Lizzie's married sister from Grand Rapids was named Jane Ann Anderson. She sometimes even used the name Jennie, but nowhere in the records do we see the name Louisa. The name Louisa Anderson and Lottie Anderson Bernard, were some of the many aliases of Kate Morgan, who for some reason chose the Anderson name to hide behind. The Anderson family monument, weathered with age but still showing the name Jane Ann, should put the matter to rest. Photo courtesy of Sherlock Photography, [www.sherlockphoto.com](http://www.sherlockphoto.com).

I should note that Lizzie's family did have a tragedy that played out in California, one that involved lost love and where the name "Lottie" figures predominantly. In 1887, Lizzie's brother, George, a confectioner like his father, married a Canadian, Lottie Edwards, in Detroit. Some of their children were born in Galt, Waterloo, Ontario: Mina, Arthur, and Ruth Ella. Two more children were born in



Oregon: Lois Willamette and George Walter. At the age of 9, Mina Lottie Wyllie's life was cut short by the croup in October of 1899. Arthur died less than a year later, several months short of his third birthday, suffering sunstroke after a visit to Mina's grave with a distraught Lottie. But it was an incident in 1909 that still reverberates with George Wyllie's descendants to this day.

On September 19th, George and Lottie Wyllie's sixteen-year-old daughter, Lois Willamette Wyllie, was boating out on Echo Park Lake in Los Angeles, when she went to change her position, causing the boat to capsize, whereupon she drowned. These events made the front page of *The Los Angeles Herald* on September 20, 1909 in an article titled "Girl Drowned in Park Lake". It relates that it was a sixteen-year-old friend, Charles W. Riley, who was in the boat with Lois when it capsized. His frantic cries for help went unanswered by the bystanders as he struggled to swim her to shore. Losing his strength, he was forced to let her go. It would be easy to see how this real tragedy that happened to Lizzie Wyllie's niece might overshadow the events that happened to Lizzie Wyllie in the minds of the Wyllie descendants.



Lois Willamette Wyllie (December 4, 1892 - September 19, 1909). Lizzie Wyllie's niece circa 1903 - Drowned in Echo Park Lake, Los Angeles, California. Courtesy: Lance L. Landon (Landon-Wyllie-Edwards Archives)

Lois was born in Oregon the same day newspapers were reporting that Mrs. Lottie A. Bernard was Lizzie Wyllie of Detroit. At the time of Lois' death, she had been employed by the large Los Angeles department store *Ville de Paris*, which was located in the annex to the Homer Laughlin Building, Laughlin Annex/Lyon Building, at 317 South Broadway. The tragic drowning of their daughter, Lois, in 1909 would be their third child to die within the last ten years.

Although Lizzie Wyllie never crossed paths with Kate Morgan, her name has become inextricably linked with this tragic event for the last 122 years. Lizzie's mother, desperate to locate her missing daughter, sealed Lizzie's involvement into this story. These two dramas played out in a similar fashion, but the endings of each were worlds apart. Both were pretty runaways of the same age who left their homes in pursuit of a different and perhaps better life, very likely stirred on by the pursuit of a man. Both would end up in unmarked graves, the sensational newsprint of 1892 the only recordings of their lives. Not much is known about Kate Morgan's affair with Allen, or if there was any truth that Lizzie ran off with Longfield for a time. What is known is that Longfield continued in the bookbinding business in Detroit, and was married with children. Perhaps Lizzie came to her senses before getting in too deep with him. In the end, Lizzie Wyllie found

what perhaps Kate Morgan was looking for. Somehow, this poor bookbinding Detroit runaway found true love and marriage in Toronto. Let us remember her for that.

## Lizzie's Final Resting Place

I requested a rose to be left at Lizzie's gravesite, which was placed there on Mother's Day 2014. For some reason, Lizzie did not get buried in the same location at Woodmere Cemetery (Detroit, MI 48209) as her mother and sister, whose grave is clearly marked by the Anderson monument. Lizzie's grave remains unmarked, and is even separated from her husband by a road passing through the cemetery. 102 years after her burial, this may be the first time someone has paid her a visit. Perhaps in the spiritual realm, these worldly disconnects simply evaporate, and we are all left in the warm embrace of our mother's love. I do hope that Lizzie has found her way back into her mother's arms.



Lizzie's unmarked grave, Mother's Day 2014. Photo courtesy of Sherlock Photography [www.sherlockphoto.com](http://www.sherlockphoto.com).

1. Richard Carrico, "A Ghost Story," *San Diego Home/Garden*, Heritage Section, October 1983.
2. Jonathan Gaw, "Ghost Story: Solving a Hotel Del Legend Becomes an Obsession," *Los Angeles Times*, 17 December, 1989.
3. Alan M. May, *The Legend of Kate Morgan: The Hunt for the Haunt of the Hotel del Coronado* (Elk Publishing, 1990).
4. Richard Carrico, *San Diego Spirits, Ghosts and Hauntings in America's Southwest Corner* (Susan Carrico, 1991).
5. Terry Girardot, *The Ghost of the Hotel del Coronado: The True Story of Kate Morgan* (DME Creative Services, 2001).
6. John T. Cullen, *Dead Move - Kate Morgan and the Haunting Mystery of Coronado* (Clocktower Books, 2007).
7. John T. Cullen, *Lethal Journey* (Clocktower Books, 2009).
8. Roland Anderson-Jane Ann Wyllie, Ontario marriage registration 013984 (1885); microfilm MS 932, reel 52, Archives of Ontario (AO), Toronto.
9. James Wylie family, 1881 census of Canada, Ontario, Durham West, Bowmanville, p. 9, family 44; LAC microfilm C-13242.
10. Wallace Cook-Lizzie Wyllie, Ontario marriage registration 039623 (1894); microfilm MS 932, reel 81, AO.