William Ball WALKER and BALL and CROFTON family

I first saw a picture of this miniature about six years ago, and it stayed with me. Had it not, I might not have found some of the glitches in my research on the Jacksons of Kirkby Lonsdale, and later of Coleraine. The bad news is that the women in the miniature isn’t who I had hoped and thought that she might be.

I first encountered a photograph of the miniature in Crofton Memoirs[[1]](#footnote-1) Four years before this book was published, Amy Oliver Lloyd née Jackson (1874-1962) had hired William Ball Wright (1844-1912), one of the authors, when she was as obsessed with family history as I am. Our life spans overlapped, but we never met. William Ball Walker did solid work as a published genealogist, for whatever reason, he met an unhappy end. \_\_\_

Another researcher working on Amelia’s family history in the early 1900s was Rev. William Ball Wright (1844-1912). He was not only related to Amelia as a cousin of the husband of Amelia’s Aunt Elizabeth Legge Parke (1824-1909), but he had also served as a missionary in Japan during the 1870s, when her family was living in Yokohama. A [photograph of him](http://www.19thcenturyphotos.com/Rev-W.B.-Wright-of-Tokyo-123334.htm), taken by Samuel A. Walker, shows him looking more like a gunslinger than a missionary. At the time of his correspondence with Amelia in 1907, he was the vicar of Osbaldwick in Yorkshire. A sketch from that time has him looking more like a vicar and less like a cowboy.

He was related to Amelia, and was a published genealogist and also the author of The Ussher Memoirs - Genealogical Memoirs of the Ussher Family in Ireland ,1889, as well as Genealogical Notes & Memoirs of the Smithson family.  He was born at Foulksrath Castle, Kilkenny, Ireland, a property that had first been leased in 1777 by his great-grandfather Thomas WRIGHT (whose grandfather – another Thomas WRIGHT - was a gentleman farmer from Leeds). See [Photo of him](http://www.19thcenturyphotos.com/Rev-W.B.-Wright-of-Tokyo-123334.htm). Reverend William Ball Wright was an Anglican missionary in Japan from 1873 to 1882. He was later the vicar of Osbaldwick in Yorkshire. He disappeared from his home on the evening of Saturday 26 October 1912. His coat and watch were found on a bank of the River Ouze. London Standard October 28, 1912 - Page 9 His widow was Emma WRIGHT

Sheffield Daily Telegraph April 30, 1913 His wife at the inquest said that he had been happy, but had been losing his memory and was worried about not getting money quickly enough to restore the church at Murton..

Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail April 29, 1913. His body was recovered April 28th.

Crofton Memoirs. John Crofton with assistance from William Ball Wright and Helen Augusta Crofton. 1911, Yorkshire Publishing.

INSERT PHOTO of William Ball Wright

1. [*Crofton Memoirs*](https://people.duke.edu/~charvey/Family/Crofton.pdf)*.* John Crofton with assistance from William Ball Wright and Helen Augusta Crofton. 1911, Yorkshire Publishing. NOTE: I had relied heavily on Wright’s *Ball Family Records* to do [a timeline of Balls relating to Jacksons](http://www.thesilverbowl.com/history/BALL-family-Timeline.html), and the few inaccuracies that I found were minor (less frequent than my errors). When he wrote to Amy Oliver LLOYD in 1907, he was still working on his book on the BALLs.See blog: <http://sharonoddiebrown.blogspot.com/2015/07/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)