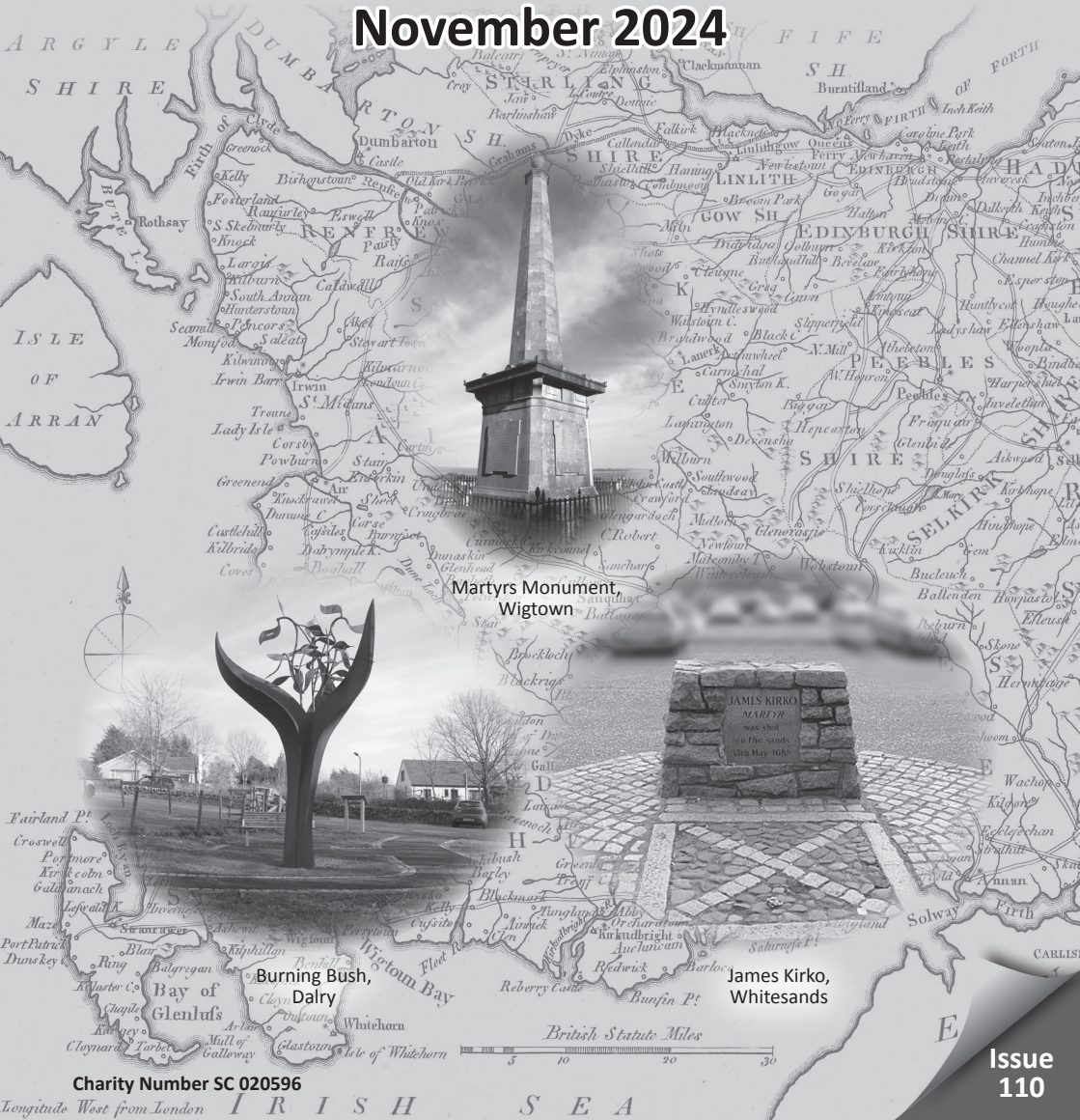
Dumfries and Galloway Family History Society Newsletter

November 2024



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LOOKING FOR A COVENANTER ANCESTOR

There have been various versions of a story handed down in my mother's family that we are descended from a Covenanter. I was very sceptical about this at first, because my mother's family all lived in the Orkney Islands in the far north of Scotland, at least as far as I could trace them back; while the main area of covenanting activity was Dumfries and Galloway. However, I knew that there had been Covenanters in most areas of Scotland, and that most family legends turn out to have a grain of truth in them. So, I decided to see if I could find out more about it.

Although not many people remember them nowadays, the Covenanters were very highly regarded in the 17th and 18th centuries, as martyrs, who were prepared to risk their lives in defending their faith. They wanted the church to be quite separate from state control, with no Head but God. The government wanted the church to be run by bishops with the King as its Head. In those days nearly everyone was a church member, and this debate affected the whole population. There was a church in every parish, under the rule of the King and his bishops, but the Covenanters refused to attend it. Instead they had services in secret places, often up in the hills. At first they were fined. But later they were imprisoned or executed or transported to the American colonies to be sold as slaves. The government regarded their refusal to recognise the King as Head of the church as treason.

The Covenanters had to have armed men keeping watch during their services to protect them from government soldiers. As time went on more and more of them took up arms, and sometimes there were small battles between the two sides. In 1679 there was one of the biggest battles at a place called Bothwell Brig in Lanarkshire. Some of the Covenanters there were from Dumfries and Galloway and many of them were taken to Edinburgh as prisoners. Some were pardoned, some were executed and some 257 were ordered to be sent to America and sold into slavery. They set sail in December 1679. As they were passing Orkney, a storm drove them onto the rocks near the shore at a place called Scarvytang or Scarva Taing in the parish of Deerness. The captain and crew scrambled ashore, but they nailed down the hatches so that the prisoners could not escape. It seems that this was done because the captain could claim compensation for those who drowned, but not for those who were allowed to escape. Nevertheless, one sailor stayed long enough to hack a big hole in the deck and about 47 of them did escape.

My mother's great grandfather, John Smith (1797-1872), lived near Scarvytang. He was a precentor in the Free Church in Deerness. My cousin, Helen Angus, had sent me an article about him from the 'Orkney Herald', written in 1925 by someone who remembered John in old age. It mentions that John had composed a lot of psalm tunes, one of which was named 'Scarvytang'. It also says that John's wife, Hannah Clark, was the great granddaughter of a Covenanter who had escaped from the wreck.

Many years later, I happened to discover that the ship in question was called 'The Crown of London.' I went straight to the laptop. And there was a surprising amount of detail there. There was even a list of the names of most of the prisoners on the ship, including the names of those who escaped. One of those was Andrew Clark from Lochrutton parish near Dumfries, where I have lived for many years! I tried to trace Hannah's family farther back, but could find no records earlier than her birth in 1801. Her parents were James Clark and Margaret Foubister. However, although

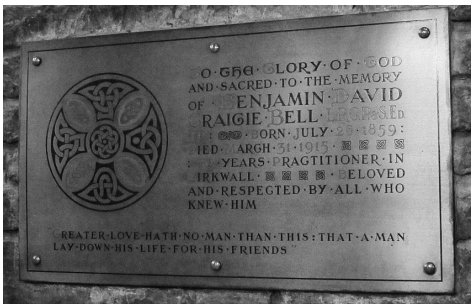
I cannot prove it, I think I have found my Covenanter ancestor.

By the way, if you think there is something vaguely familiar about this story, it is probably because Robert Louis Stevenson based part of the story of his book, 'Kidnapped' on the sad end of the 'Crown of London.'

Eva Adamson #16

A TRIP TO ORKNEY

On a recent visit to Orkney, the islands off the North coast of Scotland, some time was spent in St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall. John Bell asked me to keep an eye open for Benjamin Craigie Bell, known in Orkney as "the beloved physician". Although born in Lerwick, Shetland, Benjamin had connections to Dumfriesshire. His G.G.Grandfather was George Bell of Woodhouselees, in the parish of Canonbie. George is buried in Canonbie Kirkyard. Benjamin Craigie Bell's brass plaque was found quite near the cathedral high



altar. Reflections from the lights make it difficult to reproduce. The tower house of Blackethouse was in Bell ownership from at least 1404. William Bell of Blackethouse, also known as 'Redcloak; was recognized as chief of the Bells by the Privy Counsel. In his book "The Bell Family in Dumfriesshire" published in 1932. Mr. James Steuart mentions Redcloak's various exploits on the Border, and his name appears as a Border Reiver between 1578 and his death, which has been noted before the 24th July 1627.

John Bell writes: *Here is a short coverage of the descendants of William Bell, Redcloak. In 1631, His son, also William Bell, continued to hold the lands of Blackethouse and others from William, Viscount Drumlanrig. Redcloak's grandson, John Bell of Blackethouse, succeeded in his turn, and had among other sons, an eldest son called William. William's eldest son was called George Bell of Blackethouse. George was succeeded by another William Bell, who sold what remained of Blackethouse (including the Tower) to his cousin, *Benjamin Bell, the father of George Bell in Woodhouselees. There were disagreements between Benjamin and his son George, and the estate was left heritably in Liferent to Thomas Bell, eldest son to George Bell, Woodhouselees, with the Fee to the said George Bell's eldest son Benjamin. This Benjamin Bell was a distinguished Surgeon in Edinburgh. As a young man, on the 14th June, 1773, he was appointed a Member of His Majesty's Royal Company of Archers, His Majesty's First Regiment of Guards in Scotland. Although George Bell in Woodhouselees felt badly done by, he won a fine reputation as a skilled farmer, and is mentioned as such in the records.*

Benjamin Craigie Bell was married to Edith Campbell Christison, daughter of Sir Alexander Christison, retired surgeon-general of the Bengal Medical Service. The couple were married in Edinburgh on 30th August 1895.The marriage certificate for Edith Campbell Christison's father, Alexander, 2nd Bart, can be seen in the

records for the 22nd June, 1854 at the Holy Trinity Church, Birkenhead: 'Alexander Christison age 25, Assistant Surgeon in the Bengal Army, son to Robert Christison, Professor of Materia Medica in Edinburgh University, and Jemima Anne Browne, aged 24, of Richmond Villa, Oxton, Birkenhead, daughter to James Cowley Browne of the Hon. The East India Company's Civil Service.' James lived at Fort William, Calcutta, Bengal, and died there on the 15th January 1854.

Edith Campbell Christison's father, Alexander, had a distinguished career in India, where he remained until the death of his father Robert. He had been Surgeon General for the North West Provinces of India, with Oudi. He retired in 1882, settling in Edinburgh, and died there in 1918 at the age of 90.

Robert Christison, Alexander's father, was Physician to Queen Victoria in 1848, and was granted a Baronetcy in 1871. Our Benjamin's father-in-law, Alexander, succeeded his father as 2nd Baronet after his father Robert's death in Edinburgh on the 27th January, 1882, aged 84. Sir Robert was a distinguished Toxicologist and had studied in Paris under the distinguished Mathieu Orfila. Robert also held the important Chair of Jurisprudence at the University of Edinburgh.

Sir Robert Christison, with others, must have been of great help to Benjamin David Craigie Bell in his studies. Our Benjamin David Bell's wife's grandfather, also named Alexander Christison, had been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, in 1800, proposed by James Gregory. This James Gregory was a close friend of Benjamin Bell (1749-1806). Alexander Christison became Professor of Humanity at Edinburgh University, and died in Edinburgh on the 25th June, 1820. He was buried in the old Greyfriar's Kirkyard.

Benjamin, the subject of the plaque, was named after his Great-Grandfather,



Benjamin Bell, and his grandmother, Cecilia Craigie. Benjamin snr was born at Dumfries in 1749. He rose to prominence as a surgeon in Edinburgh. He sold Blackethouse in 1775, and used the money raised to educate himself and the younger members of his family. He is often described as the father of Scottish Surgery. His portrait was painted by Sir Henry Raeburn around 1780.

Joseph Bell, (1837-1911) another grandson of Benjamin snr was well known to Sir Arthur Connan Doyle and became the prototype for Sherlock Homes.

Still in St Magnus Cathedral, I spotted another wall plaque. This time in stone and so was much easier to photograph, James Watson, born 26th March 1770 at Dumfries and died in Orkney 22nd December 1808.

A simple check of the Old Parish Records show his baptism in Dumfries on 29th March 1770. His father, Andrew Watson was a Joiner. In those days, babies were baptized as soon as possible after birth. McDowall's Memorials of St Michaels tells the story of Andrew Watson. A native of Perth, Andrew was working in Edinburgh when he came to the notice of the Duke of Queensbury. The Duke engaged him to build Tinwald house, near Dumfries. This



resulted in him settling in Dumfries. He became a Burgess in 1763 and Deacon of the Squaremen (Wrights and Masons) at a later date. A large tabular gravestone in St Michael's graveyard commemorates the family. Including some thirteen children, plus James, it mentions, is buried in Orkney.

James, who died in Orkney, became factor to Lord Dundas. His two sons became plantation owners in Demerara, British Guiana, and there appears to be a Watson posterity still evident there.

Ian A McClumpha (#806)
with some assistance from John Bell

APPENDIX 3
REBELS FROM THE GLENKENS SOUGHT AFTER PENTLAND RISING

Edinburgh 8th Oct 1667
(Register of the Privy Council of Scotland, v.2 (1665/1669), p.345)

Offer of Pardon after Pentland Rising to all except following (from Glenkens):

McClellan of Barscob
Cannon of Mondroget, younger (Muirdrochwood)
Gordon in Garrery of Kells
Hendry Greir in Balmaclellan
Jon Gordon in Midtown of Dalry
William Gordon ther
Jon McNaught ther *(in Overtoun, Dalry)*
Robert and Gilbert Cannons ther *(Robert lived at Margree, Dalry parish)*
" Gordon of Holme, younger
" Dempster of Carridow (Corriedoo)
Cannon of Barnshalloch. younger
Cannon of Borley, younger (Barlay)

Proclamation for the arrest of rebels who have not accepted his Majesty's indemnity

Edinburgh 9th May 1668
(Register of the Privy Council of Scotland, v.2 (1665/1669), p.451-2)

Carsphairn parish

Nathaniell Cannon in Formartoun (Furmiston) - *mentioned in early 1667 on p.241 of Privy Council records as under arrest in Edinburgh*
James McMitchell in Knokinrioch (?Knockengorroch or Knockreoch, Kells parish)
John McMillan in Stronggashell (Stroangassel, Kells parish)
Robert McMillan in Kiltarsan (Kiltersan)
William McMillan in Bredinoch – *mentioned on 8th Apr 1669 as appealing for pardon, and receiving it*
James McIlnay in Polundow (Polmeadow)
Jon Logan in Locheid (Lochhead)
John Crawford in Drumjoan (Drumjohn)
Jon Cunyngham in Longfoord (Lamford)
McAdam in Watterheid (Waterhead)
Jon Hannay ther
George McAdam in Bow
Jon McMilan, younger in Brokloch (Brockloch)
George Ferguson in Woodhead
David Cubbison in Mosse (Moss)

James McAdam in Knockgray
Alexander McMillan in Bank
William Smith at Bridge of Geuch (Bridge of Deuch)
Jon Wylie in Smeiton (Smeaton)
Rodger Malcolme in Netherholm (Nether Holm of Dalquhairn)
Robert McColm in Netherglen

Dalry parish

David Cannon, brother to Morgrie (Robert Cannon of Margree?)
Edward Crichtoun in Knoksting (Knocksting)
James Ferguson in Trostan
Robert Crichtoun in Fingland – *set free on caution 11th July 1667*
Andro Crichtoun ther
Jon McHutcheon in Clachan of Dalry
Jon McCall in Cragincore (Craigencorr)
George Roan in Stronpatrik (Stroanpatrick)
James Neilson in Clachan of Dalry
John Gordon ther
Jon McMillan, younger of Ardindarroch (Arndarroch)
John McMillan in Clachan of Dalry
James McQuhannell in Kirkland of Dalry
Jon McQuhannell ther
William Millar in Auchinshinoch
Robert Wilson ther
Robert Cannon, younger of Blackmark

Kells parish

Jon Benoch in Strangfastat (Stranfasket)
Jon McLeive in Barskelloch (Barskeoch)
David McCall in Airy (Airie)
Adam McAdam in Newtoun (New Galloway)
William Hidlestoun ther
James McMillan ther
James Douglas ther
Jon McNaucht ther

Balmaclellan parish

Rodger Milliken in Fell
Thomas Gordon in Crogo
Jon Gordon ther
William Dempster in Hill
Jon Kersan in Killochy
Jon Raine in Cubboks (Cubbox)

There follow names from Kirkpatrick Durham parish, Urr parish, Kirkpatrick Irongray parish and Glencairn parish, but no mention of individuals from Crossmichael, Parton or Balmaghie parishes. They cannot have been part of the Pentland Rising.

APPENDIX 4
GLENKENS MEN CHARGED WITH BEING INVOLVED IN THE REBELLION LEADING UP TO THE BATTLE OF BOTHWELL BRIDGE

Edinburgh 8th October 1681
(The Register of the Privy Council of Scotland, v.7 (1681/1682), p.217

(Still at large)

Mr William and Alexander Gordon of Earlestoun (Dalry)
(William) Gordon of Dendeuch (Dundeugh) (Carsphairn)
(William) Gordon of Craigie (Craig) (Balmaclellan)
Neilson of Corsock
Robert McClellan of Barscobe
(Balmaclellan)
Samuel McClellan, his brother
(Robert) Gordon of Garrery (Kells)
(Alexander) Gordon of Knockgray (Carsphairn)
(William) Gordon of Holme (Balmaclellan)
John McColmb in Dalry

Edinburgh 9th November 1682
(The Register of the Privy Council of Scotland, v.7 (1681/1682), p.571

(Those charged with being accessory to the rebellion)

Mr Thomas Vernour, late minister at Balmaclellan
George Gordon, second son to the deceased Laird of Holme (Balmaclellan)
John McNaught, elder, of Overtoun (Dalry)
Alexander McNaught, younger thereof
Alexander Cairnes of Glenliemilne (Kells)
Kennedy of Knockraleine (Knocknalling) (Kells)
McKie of Drumbowie (Drumbuie) (Kells)
Martine, younger, of Dullargie (Dullarg) (Parton)
Alexander Livingstoun of Quinteinespie (Balmaghie)

Rev Dr David Bartholomew

This is part of an appendix for the Rev David Bartholomew's book which he published, the rest will follow in another issue.

STOP PRESS

In 2024 plans were put in place to honour the 750th anniversary of the birth of Robert The Bruce with a whole host of events, walks, talks and cultural activities planned to illustrate the part Dumfries and Galloway played in the history of Scotland. We have always taken pride in decorating the windows of our Family History shop and when the Bruce Trust suggested that we might take part in the 91st 'Guid Nychburris' (good neighbours) window display competition, whose theme was 'The Bruce' we decided to take part.

Word went out that we needed to beg or borrow items and paraphernalia with which to achieve our goal and before long we were accepting and stowing mail shirts, …Coifs and helmets, along with belts and buckles and a plethora of other items. We even had beautiful shields that were made for us to borrow by the inmates of HM Prison Dumfries. We had tabards and cloaks and shoes, and 'The Bruce' was resplendent with his lady decked out alongside him in her gown of green with necklace and veil and jewels.

We waited avid with anticipation as the day of the judging drew near. And so it was that when the judges at last came to see the windows they awarded us 1st prize. Sheer







delight, we kept our beautiful rosette and our written declaration in the window for another 8 weeks, that's how delighted we were.

Furthermore, some weeks later, we threw caution to the wind quite literally, by taking a stall at the Medieval Market held in Dumfries Town Square on the Saturday following the birthday of the 'The Bruce.' Our gazebo was on site right opposite the steps of the Midsteeple awaiting the arrival of the Bruce and his entourage later that afternoon. But the wind turned cruel, as the day wore on, to say the least. We struggled to hold onto our goods and chattels as King Robert, having processed down the High Street, took centre stage accompanied by his lady and attendant knights, to be greeted by a light drizzle which held off for quite a while before turning into more persistent rain.

Nothing daunted we kept going, desperately holding onto the flapping curtains of our gazebo and guarding our precious books and sundries like all the other stallholders, lots of whom were clad in long dresses and so on, in the manner of 14th century street venders. The rain did cease eventually and a watery sun came out but it was chilly and the day was drawing to an end. Folk were already beginning to pack up their wares ready for the journey home. We decided to do likewise, it had been a good day… everyone had played their part.. I think we can say truthfully though, we did Robert the Bruce proud. Rain or no rain we stayed steadfast to the end.

Marion Matthews #1198

WILLS & TESTAMENTS

Although many Scots did not leave a will, enough did to make a check worthwhile. An old adage amongst genealogists went "if they could afford a gravestone, they could afford a will". Since the popular Scotlandspeople website (www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk) now has wills from 1513-1925, a quick check of the index should tell us if there is a will or not. Or does it? Early wills were recorded in the Commissariat Court (originally a Church court) but changed to the Sheriff courts in the 1820s. An important point to remember is that Scottish wills prior to 1868 only dealt with 'moveable goods', land and property, known as immovable, were dealt with in another way.

Most people will be familiar with the word "probate" but that word does not feature in the Scottish courts. Instead, Scottish wills are confirmed in court and a "Confirmation" is issued. In Scotland, there were several types of will. Perhaps the most common is a 'Testament dative'. In this case, the deceased person did not actually leave a will, but he or she had assets, and the court was asked to decide who was to inherit. In this case, the deceased person is known as Intestate. In many cases, the spouse or eldest son will be the only person mentioned. Many of the very early wills arose because the deceased owed money and his or her creditors took the case to court in order to claim back what was owed. The court could confirm an 'Executor Qua Creditor' although provision was usually made for a spouse and children.

A Testament Testamentar is the type of will we hope to find. In that case, the deceased person made his wishes known when he was still alive. This person is known as Testate. Common to all wills is the inventory. This can, but not in every case, give a detailed list of the possessions owned by the deceased and their value. When a detailed list is given, it is a good way to understand the lifestyle our ancestor lived. For example, a list that includes books, silver plate and fine wines indicates a better standard of living than one that has few possessions of any value. An 'eik' is the Scottish word for a codicil. Some courts saved the inventory and any eiks in separate registers which is why it may be necessary to purchase more than one deed from the Scotlandspeople website.

Another method of disposing of one's belongings was a "Trust Disposition and Settlement (TDS)". This was a legal document setting up a Trust, naming Trustees (who had the right to decline) who were given instructions on how to dispose of the estate. This could include selling property and, in some cases, even buying property. Some Trustees were tasked with running the estate and providing an income for those left behind. Some trusts continued for many years until the remaining legatees finally died. It was quite common for a couple to set up a 'Mutual Disposition and Settlement' whereby everything was left to the remaining spouse and the details of the trust only came into effect on the death of the remaining spouse.

Whilst many of these deeds can be found in the Scotlandspeople website, many are not. These are usually to be found in the Register of Deeds for the County concerned. (held in the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh). A clue to the existence of a TDS can often be found in a sasine when a land sale will quote the details of the TDS and naming the date and place it was recorded. Private papers can also be useful. For example, the Stewarts of Shambellie papers held in the Ewart Library in Dumfries have all the minutes of the Trustees meetings over many years. Although land and property

could be included in a will after 1868, the practice of setting up a TDS continued much as it always did.

Major land-owners whose land was entailed, were registered in the Register of Tailzies, (the Scottish word for Entail). This was set up in 1685 and discontinued in 2004 with the abolition of the Feudal Tenure act. Property could be entailed, meaning that the ownership of land could be decided for many generations in advance. The register of Services of Heirs provide a wealth of information about those who inherited land. Until 1964, the law of Primogeniture applied. If someone died without leaving sons, but had daughters, they then inherited jointly and were known as Heirs Portioners. Often, an heir had to apply to the court to be recognized as such. The court would issue a "precept of clare constat", a document which proved the right to inherit. These were not recorded but occasionally one is found in a private collection.

Ian A McClumpha #806.

DIASPORA IN PATAGONIA

Quite a few surprising DNA matches have turned up with fellow members whilst building our family tree on myheritage.com over the years.

One of the most fascinating is a trail leading from Scotland through the Falkland Islands, Chile and Argentina and then to New Zealand, the home of two sisters with matching DNA. By comparing the sister's family tree with our own tree, the following story can be told.

It starts with Bridget Rae - a first cousin five times removed. Bridget was born in 1827 one of three children of a Lochmaben joiner John Rae and his wife Mary Grierson. In 1852 Bridget married William McCall a shepherd. He was the eldest son of a large family of McCalls from the Lowther Hills.



Living at first at Butterwhat near Dalton, they raised a family of four daughters Mary, Jane, Agnes and Annie born during the 1850's. Tragedy struck in 1861 when Bridget contracted typhoid fever and died at the young age of 34 leaving William and their four daughters aged 2 to 10. The young family moved to the village of Hightae with Bridget's widowed mother Mary Rae and lived there until Mary also passed away in 1869. With the girls now in their teens William took the bold decision to emigrate to the Falkland Islands. He obtained a contract with the Falkland Islands Company Ltd. to work as a shepherd in the growing sheep farming business, possibly persuaded by his younger brother Archie who had already migrated from Lochmaben in 1865.

The McCalls were by no means the first family from Scotland to move to the Falkland Islands. Since the 1820's several pioneers, many from Dumfriesshire, had found work there – some returned later to Scotland but many stayed on raising families, and many moved still further on to find other opportunities on the mainland in Patagonia. The Chilean and Argentinian governments were both keen to develop their sheep farming interests on the Patagonian plateau at this time on the the vast area of grassland between Punta Arenas in the Straights



of Magellan in southern Chile and the port of Rio Gallegos in southern Argentina, directly opposite the Falkland Islands.

The McCall family left Southampton on board the Full-Rigged sailing ship *The Boyne* in March 1873 for the 6 to 10 week voyage to the Falkland Islands.

Within the next four years, all of William's daughters had found husbands in the farming community there and they went on to build their own families on farms near Darwin in East Falkland.

Jane McCall [1855-1884] married in 1874 whilst still a minor to newly arrived John Cameron, a shepherd from Inverness. They went on to have four children before Jane died in 1884 aged 29 in Darwin. There is no trace of how the infants were brought up, but the three daughters later married local farmers and appeared to have moved to Puerto Natales in the Magallenas region of Patagonia where many more third generation children were born.

Agnes McCall [1858-1918] married in 1876 aged 18. Her husband was James Fell the son of William Fell, a Scottish shepherd from the Borders, who had already found work in the Falkland Islands some years earlier. Over the next 20 years, Agnes and James had 6 children one of whom died young in the Falklands. James Fell died in 1901 shortly after attending the funeral of his father-in-law William McCall in Punta Arenas, the main port in the Magellan Straight. The other children appeared to have later established a ranch (Estancia Brazo Norte) in the Magallenas. Agnes later returned to Britain and died in 1918 in Liverpool.

Mary McCall [1854-1917] was married in 1874 to William Halliday another shepherd already resident in the Falkland Islands, who had arrived originally from Durisdeer with brother Andrew. Like the others they lived and worked initially near Darwin and had seven children by 1884. In 1885, they moved lock, stock and barrel to Rio Gallegos in southern Argentina with father William and sister Ann and family as described below. They leased land up river from the port at a location simply known as Hill Station, built a ranch house and added another three children to the family in the 1890's. Some of the children briefly returned to Dumfries in the early 1900's but most returned to Patagonia and continued to live there, intermarrying with native Argentinians. James Halliday and Mary McCall died in the British Hospital in Buenes Aires, within days of each other 1917 and are buried in the family cemetery at the Hill Station ranch with several of their descendants.

Ann McCall [1860-1929] was the youngest sister but most prolific of the family. She married James Edward (Jack) Rudd, whose family was originally from Devon. Jack's father had arrived in the Falkland Islands some years before and had already built up a small business there. Ann and Jack had four children born in Darwin, before moving across the sea to the port of Rio Gallegos in southern Argentina in 1885 where another nine were born.

This move to Rio Gallegos was a large scale family affair because they were joined by sister Mary and her husband William Halliday and children as well her father William McCall, then in his 50's.

Jack Rudd's father and uncle William Rudd had already moved across the sea to Patagonia and established a hill farm by leasing land from the Argentinian government – part of a large scheme to develop a livestock industry in the region. Jack and Ann McCall established a ranch

near the coast called Cabo Buen Tiempo, near the Hill Station ranch built by William Halliday north of the Gallegos river.

The families grew wealthy from their substantial interests in the region. The doyen, William McCall eventually retired and moved to Punta Arenas in southern Chile where he died in 1901 aged 72.

Some of the Rudd family travelled back to Scotland and settled there in the 1920's. After Jack Rudd passed away in 1927, Ann McCall Rudd also moved back to Scotland where she died in 1929 in Edinburgh. Her body was returned to Argentina and buried in the family cemetery in Cabo Buen Tiempo.

It was Jack Rudd who had a memorial stone erected in Lochmaben Churchyard to the memory of his wife's parents William McCall and Bridget Rae and her grandmother Mary Grierson Rae.

As for the DNA link which began this story, it was through the family of Ann's eldest daughter Agnes Rudd that a descendant moved from Argentina to New Zealand and resulted in our matches with the sisters who are therefore the great great grandaughters of Ann McCall Rudd

Alastair Chisholm #6983

PHOTO MYSTERY REGARDING TODD / FERGUSON ANCESTOR FORMERLY OF AUCHLEACH, STONEYKIRK

After many years of researching I have all but "finished" gathering my family tree information and will soon be going to print with my write up. It begins with my great grandparents, John Todd Ferguson and Grace (nee Dunbar), who emigrated to South Australia with their two daughters in 1909.

I have traced their ancestors back to Stoneykirk, Kirkinner and Ayrshire and to a couple of other places in England.

Of course we genealogists are never truly "finished" as there are always gaps that keep drawing us back to make "one more attempt" to solve a mystery. One such mystery for me is in regard to my two-times great grandmother, Jessie Ferguson (nee Todd) who was born 1839 and died of typhoid in 1867.

Jessie was the daughter of John Todd (1808 – 1882) and Jessey McDowall (1815 -1887). The family lived at Auchleach, Stoneykirk. Jessie married James Murray Ferguson of Ayr in 1863.

The mystery that plagues me is that I have no photo of Jessie. Whilst for many researchers this is a common problem it strikes me as very odd given the number of labelled photos I have, in a beautifully bound album, of her husband, James Murray Ferguson and their sons, James (b 1863) and my great grandfather John Todd Ferguson (b 1865). The album was clearly much treasured as it was brought to Australia by John in 1909 and survived two generations before being handed to me.

The absence of a photo of Jesse could of course be simply attributed to her early death, that is, she died before photography became easily accessible. There are however three unlabelled photos, taken in Dumfries, included in album.

One of these mystery photos is of a group of six young women and another is of one of those women on her own, taken, I believe, on the same day. These two photos were





taken in Dumfries. The third photo is of that same woman, when she was younger (I think) but taken in Ayr.

I'm wondering, no, let's be honest, I am hoping that the group photo is of Jessie Ferguson (nee Todd) with her five Todd sisters and the singles are of her alone. If I am right the sisters' names, along with their married names, are: Agnes (m. George Cowan), Jane (m Thomas Dalrymple), Elizabeth, and Mary (m Alexander Robertson) and Grace. A sixth sister, Margaret, died at thirteen which could explain her not being in the photo.

I have already had contact with two Stranraer residents, one a distant Todd cousin the other a not-so-distant Ferguson cousin, but they weren't able to help me solve the mystery.

A glimmer of hope came recently from yet another Ferguson cousin who said that although he did not recognise the photos, he thinks that the one of the woman that I think (hope!) is of Jessie bears a strong similarity to his father, her son, William Fergson, b 1906.

If anyone from this group has any information to either help prove or disprove my optimistic speculation, please contact me at j.mackenziedunbar@gmail.com.

Jennifer Mackenzie #7296

DEAR EDITOR, A REQUEST

Robert RICHARDSON beadle and baxter of Dumfries, a request from A. Barnett

My 5x Great-grandfather Robert RICHARDSON died in 1813. Because he was the Beadle of the New Church at the time of his death, his demise was recorded in the Kirk Session and Presbytery Minutes (CH2/537/11 p159). Thus, we can match his name to his burial record in January 1813. (GROS 821/00 0070 0190). He was *about* 80. His CV is as follows:

Baxter (baker) 1760

Burgess 1762

Constable 1770

Beadle of the new Church 1789

Beadle of the old Church 1795

Buried 1813

Robert Married twice:

Firstly, to Margaret GOLDIE in 1760

Secondly to Catharine MILLAR in 1798

As he died aged *about* 80, we can only calculate his birth as being *about* 1733. Unfortunately, none of the reliable documents I have name his parents, place of baptism, or birth. Searching through ScotlandsPeople there is only one match that is the best fit from 30 others. This is for Robert Richardson baptised in Kirkpatrick-Juxta in August 1731. That would make Robert 81yrs 4mths old at his death, and the son of Thomas RICHARDSON younger c1694-1779 of Kellobank.

Thomas RICHARDSON of Kellobank was a farmer, and a church official: being an Elder, Treasurer and at one time Synod member. Thomas was also the grandfather of Gabriel RICHARDSON who was appointed Provost of Dumfries in 1802 Hence my 5x Great-grandfather Robert may have been Gabriel's uncle. Another fact of interest is that Robert's son Fraser and Deacon of the Fleshers, my 4x Great-grandfather, was the flesher (butcher) to Robert Burns. (Legacy 1799). They must have all known each other and been well-known in the locality.

As we know, very early 18th cent church records are few and far between, thus there could be somewhere else another unknown Robert. In Scottish law one must have two pieces of evidence to convict a felon. I have one piece of evidence for Robert's birth, I would like a second to make definitive proof that my 5x Great-grandfather Robert was baptised in 1731, the son of Thomas RICHARDSON as above.

If anyone can help and knows where else to look, it will be much appreciated.

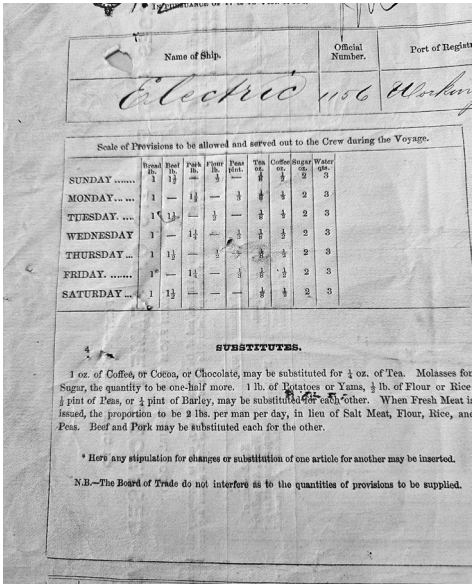
Alan Barnett #5763

MCLEAN'S VOYAGE

On the 30 May 1864 the sailing Barque Electric prepared to leave Liverpool with a Captain James McLellan aged 37 born in Newton Stewart and 1st Mate, James McLean aged 31 born in Dumfries. Prior to this they had served on different ships. A further 15 crew signed on included a 2nd Mate, Carpenter, and a Steward.

McLellan was one of nine children of James McLellan and Margaret Bell baptised 13 July 1827 in the parish of Penninghame. His Masters Certificate in the Merchant Service was issued in Liverpool on 14 September 1853. It gives his place of birth as Newton Stewart. James McLean also received his Mates Certificate in Liverpool, a few years later on 15 April 1857 after an 8 year apprenticeship. He was the son of George McLean and his wife Jessie McLachlan. His father and brother James were Stone Masons and Builders, with the family home, around the time of James's birth being Sunnybrae, Kirkmahoe. By 1851 McLean was lodging in Liverpool. On 4 Dumfries in 1863 he gave his address as Academy Street Dumfries when he married Jessie Mclachlan.

The Electric was a merchant vessel of 475 tonnage, registered in the port of Workington, Cumberland. The proposed voyage is outlined in the Crew Agreement along with a list of the crew and their daily food allowance.



Name of Ship.	Official Number.	Port of Regist
Electric	1156	Workin

Scale of Provisions to be allowed and served out to the Crew during the Voyage.

	Bread lb.	Beef lb.	Pork lb.	Flour lb.	Peas pint.	Tea oz.	Coffee oz.	Sugar oz.	Water gls.
SUNDAY	1	1½	—	½	—	⅜	⅜	2½	3
MONDAY.....	1	—	1½	—	½	⅜	⅜	2	3
TUESDAY.	1	1½	—	½	—	⅜	⅜	2	3
WEDNESDAY	1	—	1½	—	½	⅜	⅜	2	3
THURSDAY...	1	1½	—	½	—	⅜	⅜	2	3
FRIDAY.	1	—	1½	—	½	⅜	½	2	3
SATURDAY...	1	1½	—	—	—	⅜	⅜	2	3

SUBSTITUTES.

1 oz. of Coffee, or Cocoa, or Chocolate, may be substituted for ½ oz. of Tea. Molasses for Sugar, the quantity to be one-half more. 1 lb. of Potatoes or Yams, ½ lb. of Flour or Rice ½ pint of Peas, or ½ pint of Barley, may be substituted for each other. When Fresh Meat is issued, the proportion to be 2 lbs. per man per day, in lieu of Salt Meat, Flour, Rice, and Peas. Beef and Pork may be substituted each for the other.

* Here any stipulation for changes or substitution of one article for another may be inserted.

N.B.—The Board of Trade do not interfere as to the quantities of provisions to be supplied.



FOR SALE BY PRIVATE BARGAIN,

THE Fine Barque "ELECTRIC," of Workington, 497 Tons Register, now lying in the West Harbour, Greenock. She was built in Workington by Johnathan Fell, Esq., in 1849, and classed 13 years A 1, continued for 4 years in 1862.

Dimensions—118 6-10ths × 24 9-10ths × 19 4-10ths, is Copperfastened and was Sheathed with Yellow Metal over Felt in 1866. Carries a large Cargo and Sails well.

For Inventories and further particulars apply in Liverpool to Robinson & Foster, 29, Tower Buildings, West; in Greenock, to

WM. M'ARTHUR & CO.,
23. Cathcart Street.

Liverpool to Buena Ayres (sic) and any port or place in the Atlantic Pacific and Indian Ocean chance to a port for order and to the continent if required and back to a home port of discharge in the United Kingdom, the term not to exceed 2 years.

Being a sailor was a dangerous occupation and some of the original crew would not make it back to the port of Greenock where the vessel eventually returned to the United Kingdom.

The vessel's Log Book shows that the Electric had reached Buenos Aires by 11 August 1864 and shows some events after it had arrived;

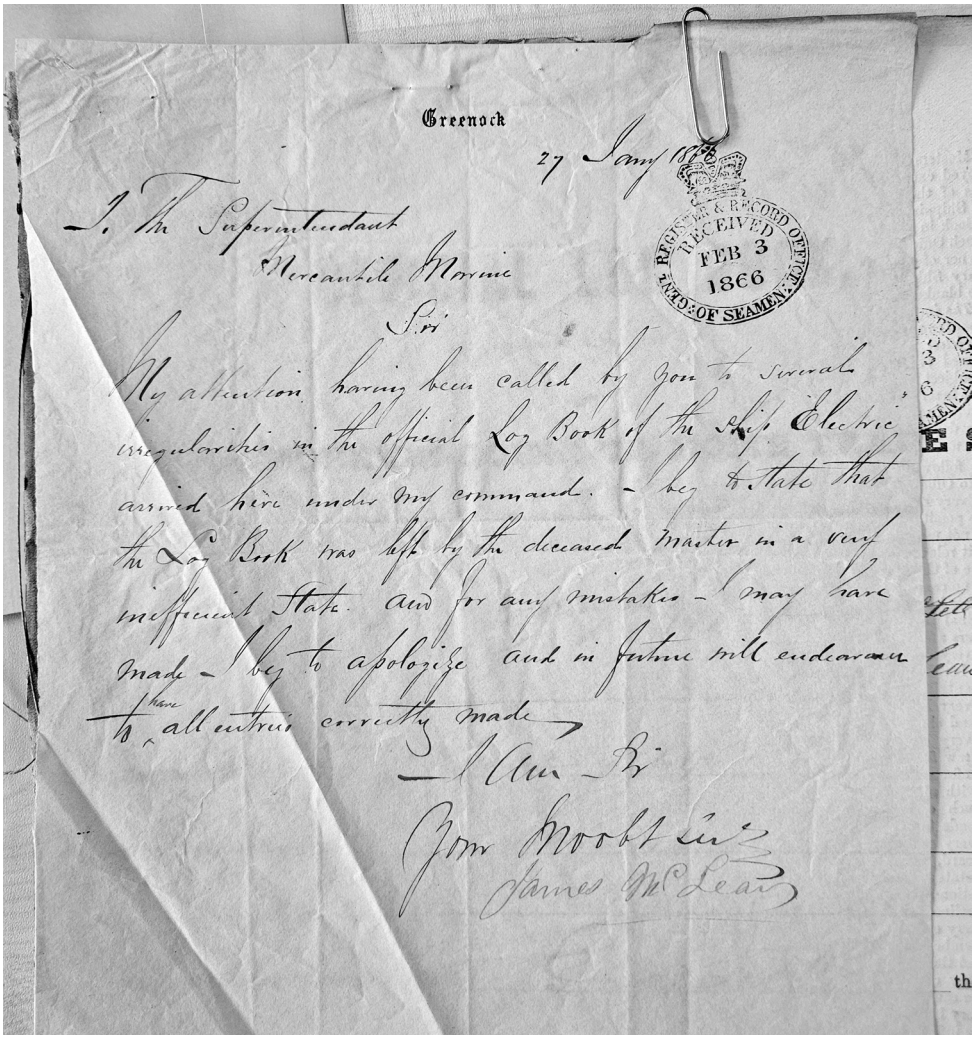
"John Man sent to the hospital with rheumatism"

22 August 1864

"William Tobin bad with Dysentery"

3 days later

"Cook complaining of being badly went to hospital"



19 September 1864

"William Tobin came back aboard after discharge from the hospital"

By the 23 September 1864 while still at Buenos Aires

"William Johnston, Charles Greggs and Robert Rigby on Friday night 11.30pm lowered a boat and deserted the forecastle taking their clothes"

Having set sail again before they reached Valparaiso (Chile) the Log Book records the fate of Captain McLellan

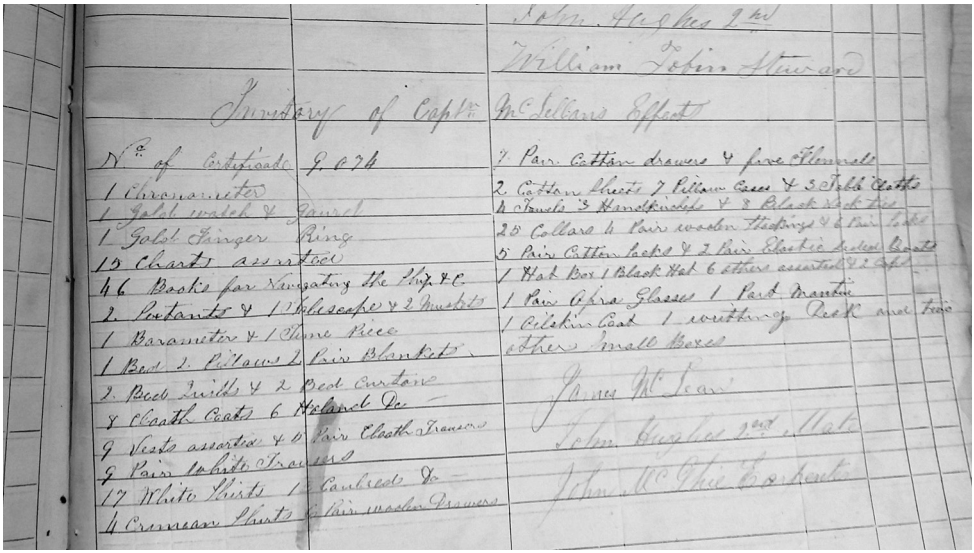
4 April 1864

"James McLellan Master taken very sick gave him every attention required"

5 April 1864

"Master getting rapidly worse at 4am Died with delirium tremors. At 9am buried his body, to the sea

James McLean, Mate. John Hughes 2nd. William Tobin, Steward"



The Log Book also mentions Callao (Peru) and Chincha Island (Peru) as ports where the Electric docked before Valparaiso. The desertions and sickness among the original crew along with the death of the Captain necessitated the recruitment of additional crew at Valparaiso. James McLean was considered competent enough to become the Master of the Vessel, while John Hughes became the Mate. More desertions, illness and discharges reduced the crew numbers. One John Smith returning to the ship in June 1865 drunk and disorderly sustained a broken arm in a disturbance with John Hughes, the Mate Needing to go to hospital he was eventually discharged before the shipping master at Port Louis (Mauritius) in September 1865

The Electric reached Greenock 5 January 1865 and James McLean wrote to the Superintendent, Mercantile Marine

"Sir, My attention having been called by you to several irregularities in the official Log Book of the ship Electric arrived here under my command I beg to state that the Log Book was left by the deceased Master in a very inefficient state and for any mistakes I may have made I beg to apologize and in future endeavour to have all entries correctly made."

McLean doesn't appear to have continued his working life at sea for much longer as in 1871 the census lists him as a Grocer now at 76 Queensberry Street, Dumfries with his wife Jessie and 4 young children. He later became a Club Master in Academy Street Dumfries.

McLean is memorialized on a large headstone in St Michael's Churchyard along with members of his wife's family.

James McLean Master Mariner who died 13 Nov'r 1902 aged 69 years

Source

Cumbria Archives (CASCAT) TRS/1/10 Electric Crew Lists and Agreement. Other vessels registered at Carlisle, Maryport and Workington also mention sailors born in Dumfriesshire amid other parts of the world.

www.findagrave St Michael's Churchyard, Dumfries

Margaret Dean #472

ALEXANDER ROB, A GALLOWAY PIRATE AND GENEALOGICAL PUZZLE

Towards the end of November 1724, pirates captured a snow (a large, two-masted ship), the *Sarah*, in the Bay of Biscay, off the Portuguese coast. The *Sarah* was carrying salmon, herrings logwood, and lead from Port Glasgow (Greenock) to the Mediterranean. The captain and owner was a Glasgow man, John Somerville, with a crew of eight or nine men.

The pirate ship, the *Revenge* commanded by John Gow, had been a merchant ship, the *George* that loaded a valuable cargo of beeswax in Santa Cruz in Morocco (modern Agadir) to take to Italy. Its crew of nineteen originated in Ireland, Scotland, Scandinavia and a few outlying parts of England. In early November, some of them mutinied off the Moroccan coast, killed all four officers and turned pirate. They forced the rest of the crew to agree. It was a very short piratical enterprise, only two months, and the *Sarah* was the second of the five ships they captured.

We know more about the crew of the *Revenge* than the *Sarah*'s, because in February of the following year after they were captured in Orkney and taken to London for trial. There, Admiralty lawyers, who at first suspected they were all pirates, interrogated them. One man, Alexander Rob (or Robb) said he came from 'Galway in Scotland' and that he was 19 years old. That would make his date of birth sometime in 1706, but the only baptism record of an Alexander Rob in Galloway around this time is for the son of Alexander and Mary of Pallmallat, Sorbie in Wigtownshire on 13 December 1703. This was probably the same man. The Rob the Admiralty lawyers questioned was illiterate - he signed his examination record with a signum mark. According to the Old Style (Julian) calendar then in use, he had been captured in February 1724 (1725 began at the end of March). Later, when he petitioned for a reprieve he said only that he was 'about nineteen years of age.' Rob had good reason to make himself seem younger: teenage felons certainly could be executed but it did not always happen, a crime committed at an early age 'may leave room for moderation and tenderness,' as a prominent mid-eighteenth-century judge put it.

The geographical facts fit too: in his last words from the scaffold before he was hanged, Rob repeated that he was born in Galloway 'of Honest Parents, his Father having been a Farmer and Fisherman but he not willing to follow his Fathers Employment was sent to Glasgow, and was bound Apprentice to a Master of a ship.' A father who was a part-time fisherman fits well with being born in Sorbie, where Palmallet Point juts out into Wigtown Bay. It's a tiny place now, though there is reportedly an 'idyllic cottage, full of country charm,' for short-stay self-catering holidays. Alexander Rob was certainly young when his apprenticeship started - according to a London newspaper that published another version of his last words, he was 14 or 15 years old when he went to sea (once again, that uncertainty over his exact age).

The pirates captured the *Sarah* about 2 in the afternoon and took Captain Somerville and most his crew aboard the *Revenge*. But two or three of *Sarah*'s crew stayed aboard with some of the pirates until 11 or 12 at night, forced to help them loot 'the snoes Saills & most of her Rigging with her provisions and about twenty or thirty Cask of salmond and herrings' Then the pirates made the carpenter of the *Sarah*, John Mings (or Menzies) sink her.

The pirates locked the entire crew of the *Sarah* in the great cabin of the *Revenge*." The next day they gave them their liberty on board, alongside men from an earlier capture, the *Batchellor*. After the pirates took a third ship, the *Revenge* was crowded, so they started giving newly captured ships to the crews of ships they had taken earlier. On 3 January (1724/5) they put Somerville and most of his crew aboard the pirates' fourth prize, a French ship from Brittany named the *Louis Phillipe*, and allowed them to leave. Only two of the Sarah's crew did not go with them. Gow, the pirate captain, would not let John Mings leave - a carpenter was much too valuable. And Alexander Rob chose to stay. He had, Somerville later told the admiralty court in Glasgow, 'taken on with the pyrat.'

Joining the pirates was marked by a regular rite of passage: a new crew member was allowed to help himself to the clothes from the captured ships. After months at sea, clothing was what men needed most. When questioned later, men who were clearly pirates, as well as those who were equally clearly under constraint, declared that Rob had been an enthusiastic recipient of clothes. They also had to join in piratical activities immediately. Numerous witnesses at the trial said Rob stood guard over Somerville and the others in the great cabin. Rob, of course, told a different story to the Admiralty judges: he claimed that John Williams, the lieutenant of the pirate ship, a man distinguished by his ferocity, had forced him to join the crew.

Rob also told the lawyers that he had wanted to leave with the rest of Somerville's crew on the *Louis Joseph*: 'he the Examte and the sd Carpenter [Mings] were very desirous to have gone, but the sd Pirates threatened to shoot them & force them to stay against their Wills & they wept because they could not go with their sd Master.' Other seamen said that he had willingly stayed with the pirates, though everyone agreed that the carpenter was a forced man.

Captain Somerville sailed the French ship home to Scotland, but to Stranraer rather than Port Glasgow. The *Louis Joseph* arrived on 5 February. Somerville couldn't make up his mind about Rob. In the Provost's court in Glasgow, he said 'Rob had taken on with the pyrat,' But he told the Customs Commissioners in Glasgow that both 'John Menzies Carpenter and Alexr Robb were pressed men,' forced to join the pirates.

After the *Louis Joseph*, the pirates captured one more ship, the *Triumvirate* from Bristol. Once again, they took what they felt they needed from the cargo and stores, and returned then returned the ship to its own crew along with the crew of the French ship. Then they abandoned piracy.

Gow persuaded his crew they needed to refit, and that Orkney was the place to do it. He had the name changed back to the *George* and posed as an ordinary merchant ship. In early January 1725, he arrived in Cairston harbour, near Stromness, where Gow had grown up. His sister and her family still lived there. But the *Revenge* did not melt in. As soon as possible, ten men (but not Rob) stole the ship's longboat and rowed across the Pentland Firth to the Sottish mainland, where some were arrested in Aberdeen, and others in Glasgow. Gow tried to replace them by abducting local men. A party of pirates raided the house of Robert Honeyman, the Sheriff Depute of Orkney and tried to steal his money. Rob, according to most accounts, was prominent among the raiding party. With Orkney raised against him, Gow sailed north through the archipelago and ran aground on the island of Eday, near the house of the local laird, James Fea VI of Clestrain. Rob said that after the ship ran aground, he and four other men - all of them active pirates, went ashore to try to lay hands on a boat to pull their ship free. But, Rob claimed, 'he was guilty of no ill Manners, or Rudeness on his part, altho' he met with some, who he thought were as great Pyrates as any of them, for they not only took their Money

out of their Pockets, but strip'd them to the Skin, and if they could have made Money of that, he believ'd they wou'd have taken it also.'

In all but the short run, Fea and his employees were unimportant. The Royal Navy came to Orkney, which was far beyond their usual area for patrolling, Captain Peter Solgard, in HMS *Greyhound*, arrived in Eday and loaded all the *Revenge*'s crew aboard his ship and took them (and the *Revenge* too) to London for trial.

In London, the Admiralty lawyers interrogated Rob. He tried to convince them that he was an unfortunate boy, forced into wickedness by Gow and his criminal crew. The lawyers were unconvinced, and they indicted Rob, tried him with the others on 26 May, found him guilty and sentenced him to death. He was to be hanged on 11 June. Then he was reprieved.

Rob's petition for mercy was addressed, as it had to be, to the King. It arrived in the hands of the Secretary of State on 2 June. Rob claimed that he was only 'about' nineteen years old, that he had never taken part in any piracies, and that only one of the seamen had borne witness against him, which was untrue. He was given a month's reprieve, 'which made him entertain strong Hopes of obtaining a full pardon.'

Those hopes were vain. On 30 June Rob was told the reprieve had run out and he was executed on 2 July. He was spared one indignity: he did receive a regular burial in a churchyard. Sometimes, notorious pirates were additionally sentenced to have their bodies covered in tar and exhibited on the banks of the Thames until they disintegrated. That happened to Captain Gow and James Williams, the pirates' lieutenant. What happened to the other hanged men? There was a brisk and growing demand for corpses in early eighteenth-century England. Anatomists wanted them for dissection and the 'loose and disorderly Persons' who gathered near the gallows supplied many of the cadavers. The 1752 Murder Act regularised the process - and ensured a regular supply of criminals' corpses - by prohibiting anyone from any 'attempt to rescue the body' from the surgeons. Until then, the relatives of executed criminals sometimes did rescue their bodies to bury them properly. But there is no record that anyone recovered the corpses of the men of the Revenge who were hanged on 11 June. They simply ceased to exist.

Rob was hanged separately from the other pirates and some powerful well-wishers did rescue his body. The Deputy Marshall of the Admiralty, who presided over the execution, stayed behind with the constables who had controlled the proceedings until the corpse was loaded into a carriage and taken to an undertaker's business in Jermyn Street in Westminster. From there, on 4 July it was carried to the burial ground of St James's Church and interred that evening. It was the last burial of the day, squeezed in at the bottom of the page. Behind these slightly surreptitious arrangements was a man named Robert Dalrymple, the first cousin of one of the most important men in Britain: James Dalrymple, the second Earl of Stair, once a general in Marlborough's army, and then the King's ambassador in Paris between 1715 and 1720. For most of the 1720s the Earl withdrew from mainstream politics and lived on his estates in Galloway, much of the time at Castle Kennedy. But he continued to meddle in state affairs; in 1727 he wrote to the Duke of Newcastle, the Secretary of State and a principal source of government patronage, to recommend for employment Robert Dalrymple. The field was immaterial, so he did not specify it. In the same memorial, he sought preferment for some parsons as well. Although we do not know the details, a clear chain of influence and patronage connected the son of a farmer and fisherman in Sorbie with some of the most powerful men in the land.

Richard Pennell #7355

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Anyone who has any further ideas or information please let me know?

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STONE, STEAM AND DYNAMITE *(PART 2)*

In a previous article for the DGFHS Newsletter (November 2020) I described the origins of the McKie family in Kirkinner, Wigtownshire. I say the origins but really it is the origins of my wife's family going back three generations to the middle of the 19th Century. Also, the McKie family was one of many McKie families. It was a popular name in Galloway, most probably with Irish connections.

John McKie, a master stonemason, born and brought up in Kirkinner, died at the early age of 31. He had drowned in the harbour at Port William, across the Machars from where he lived. He left a widow, Agnes and six children, one of whom John knew only for a year.

After John's death, Agnes had to approach the parish for help. She and her family were members of the parish church where all the McKie children had been baptised. They would all have been known in the village. Without an income and with six mouths to feed, Agnes had no other choice. Approaching the parish clerk, for assistance under the Poor Law was the only option. Her circumstances would have to be investigated, and an assessment made as to what amount of finance she would merit. The one certain thing about Poor Law assistance was that it would maintain her, but at the very minimum level.

The Poor Laws of all the UK countries were similar, the provision of workhouses for paupers and financial assistance for a young family that could continue to work and maintain themselves. In Scotland the Poor Law (Scotland) Act 1845 established parochial boards in parishes and towns, and a central Board of Supervision in Edinburgh. A system of poor rates was not universal but developed during the latter part of the 19th Century. There were frequent disputes amongst the parishes when they requested that the parish of origin of a claimant living in a different town, pay the money. In a big

city such as Glasgow, the only assistance was the fare back to their own parish, particularly in the case of Irish immigrants who were given their boat fare only.

The money raised for poor relief came from the wealthy patrons and landowners of the parish. This was not always through a sense of charity but perhaps concern that that they would not have a healthy stock of labourers' resident in their area to work for them when they grew up. There was also the concept of 'the deserving poor', godly and hardworking. The Minister of Kirkinner Parish Church had some interesting observations.

The Revd James Reid, author of the Kirkinner entry to the Statistical Accounts of Scotland 1791 – 1845, described the number of people on the poor's roll being 22 with the annual amount of relief costing about £3 each. He was very critical of the parish 'heritors' who were the landowners contributing to the poor relief fund.

"I fear the disposition among the poor to refrain from seeking parochial aid is daily becoming less, and I consider the voluntary contribution made by the heritors as a very great evil in that respect. Many, I am persuaded, now apply for relief, believing that, whatever they get, comes from the heritor's, and not from the poor's box; but it is much easier to prevent an evil than to remedy it."

The Minister wrote that in 1838. I am sure some of that attitude remained in the 1880's.

Agnes McKie was left with six children to feed and cloth and support at school. Her poor relief assessment from the parish would have considered any disability, the age of the children and their ability to eventually bring an income into the house. Agnes would be expected to employ herself in some activity to bring in an income and as each child left school the amount of parish assistance would be reduced.

The Census returns for the next two decades show how Agnes described herself as a dressmaker at home. Her children went into agricultural labour, gardening, or left to join the army or went into service, after they left school.

I wanted to see for myself what the Poor Law Register entry for Agnes might have told me about her circumstances. Most parish registers are maintained at county archives, other than three. Those for Wigtownshire are held at the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh. I applied for a reader's card which cost me the price of a photo and made an appointment to see the records. The NRS research room was busy on the day of my visit, but my booked desk gave me plenty of space. I made certain that I had only pencils to make my notes, ink is not allowed. I was told that photographs were permissible. I waited a short while for a porter to bring my records to my desk, they arrived in thick archive brown paper tied neatly with red legal tape. There was excitement as I carefully unwrapped the parcel and found the register. I had been expecting something like a ledger but instead I found a red covered notebook style book of printed pages, in the old imperial size, twice the size of the old foolscap. It was a register that was designed by the Board of Supervision in Edinburgh which enable all parishes in Scotland to record in a similar fashion. There was no index. Each page was devoted to a claimant.

I turned slowly and reading the headings to find the name of Agnes McKie. When I did find her, it was a surprise.

No name. Just the description. Widow of John McKie. I snapped away to get as much information on my camera and made notes. Here is the essence of her entry.

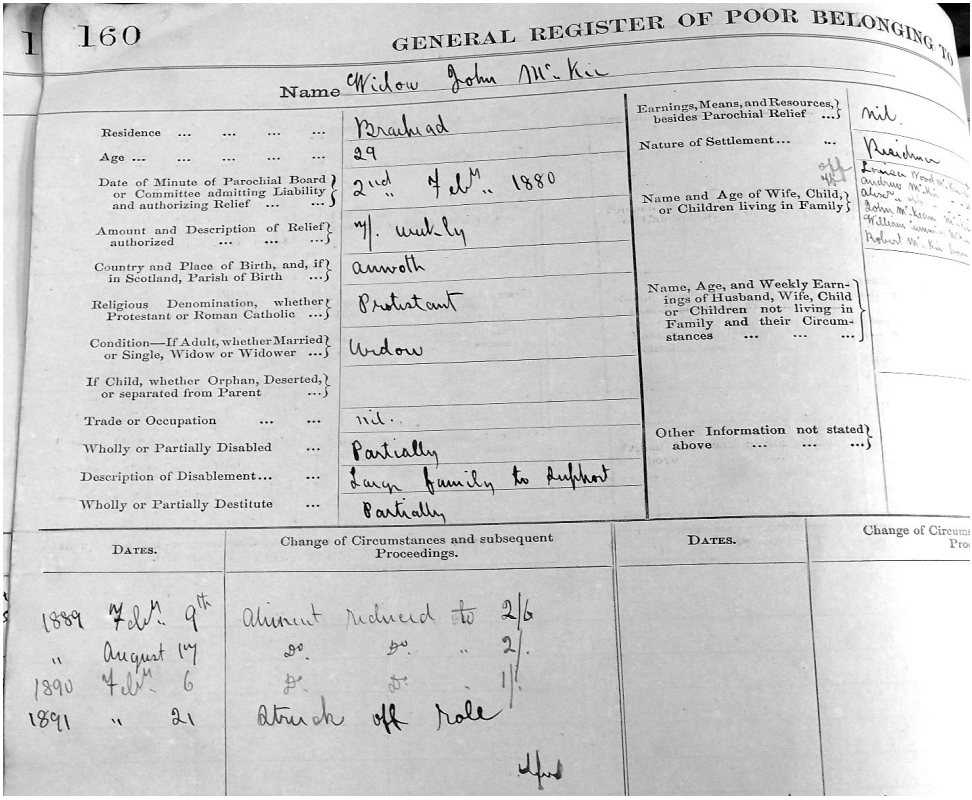
Agnes was aged 29. Her husband, John, had died two months before her claim which she made in February 1880. She had 'partial disablement' in that she had a large family to support. She was partially destitute.

She was born in Anworth, a hamlet near Gatehouse of Fleet. I wondered why there was no claim on that parish for assistance by Kirkinner. I have concluded that was the reason for calling her Widow of John McKie, because John had been born in the village, and the permanence of her residence.

The six children were then listed by name and age. Louisa Wood McKie, aged 9; Andrew McKie, aged 7; Alexander aged 6; John McKean McKie, aged 4; William Cumming McKie, aged 2; Robert aged 1.

Agnes was awarded 7 shillings per week. As each child left school and either left home or brought a wage into the house, the assistance level reduced. In 1889 it started reducing from 7 shillings to two shillings and sixpence, to one shilling. In 1891 Agnes was struck off the register.

Agnes and her family lived in the part of Kirkinner known as Braehead. The name Braehead did not appear on Ordnance Survey maps until after 1891. Before then it was an area known as Milldriggan on one side of the road and Newtown of Baldoon on the other. Agnes and her family lived in a small cottage, the first one on the left as you enter Braehead from Wigtown, called Newton Cottage. In some birth registrations I have researched, the address is either Newton Cottage or Newton o' Baldoon. On a recent trip to Galloway, when I discovered Newton Cottage, I spoke to the new owner who had only recently moved in. He said the selling point for him was the view over the bay beyond. Newton over the Baldoon Sands, a stretch of sands which is part of the Wigton Bay. All I could see was a narrow cottage that housed Agnes and her six small



160 GENERAL REGISTER OF POOR BELONGING TO

Name Widow John McKie

Residence	Braehead	Earnings, Means, and Resources, besides Parochial Relief ...	nil.
Age	29	Nature of Settlement	Residence
Date of Minute of Parochial Board or Committee admitting Liability and authorizing Relief	2nd " Feby. 1880	Name and Age of Wife, Child, or Children living in Family	off Louisa Wood McKie, Andrew McKie, Alexr. McKie, John McKean McKie, William Cumming McKie, Robert McKie
Amount and Description of Relief authorized	7/. weekly		
Country and Place of Birth, and, if in Scotland, Parish of Birth ...	Anworth		
Religious Denomination, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic ...	Protestant	Name, Age, and Weekly Earnings of Husband, Wife, Child or Children not living in Family and their Circumstances	
Condition—If Adult, whether Married or Single, Widow or Widower ...	Widow		
If Child, whether Orphan, Deserted, or separated from Parent ...			
Trade or Occupation	nil.	Other Information not stated above	
Wholly or Partially Disabled ...	Partially		
Description of Disablement	Large family to support		
Wholly or Partially Destitute ...	Partially		

Dates.	Change of Circumstances and subsequent Proceedings.	Dates.	Change of Circums Pro
1889 Feby. 9th	Aliment reduced to 2/6		
" August 17	Do. Do. " 2/.		
1890 Feby. 6	Do. Do. " 1/.		
1891 " 21	Struck off role		

children. One of those children was my wife's grandfather, Andrew.

The first child to leave home was Louisa. She left to become a domestic servant in a household in Bournemouth, Dorset. Andrew worked on the land before joining a railway company in Ardrossan, Ayrshire. Alexander became a gardener. John was a soldier in South Africa before returning to join the police force in Yorkshire, England. William became a joiner and died at the early age of 26. Robert became a barman in a pub in Irvine, Ayrshire.

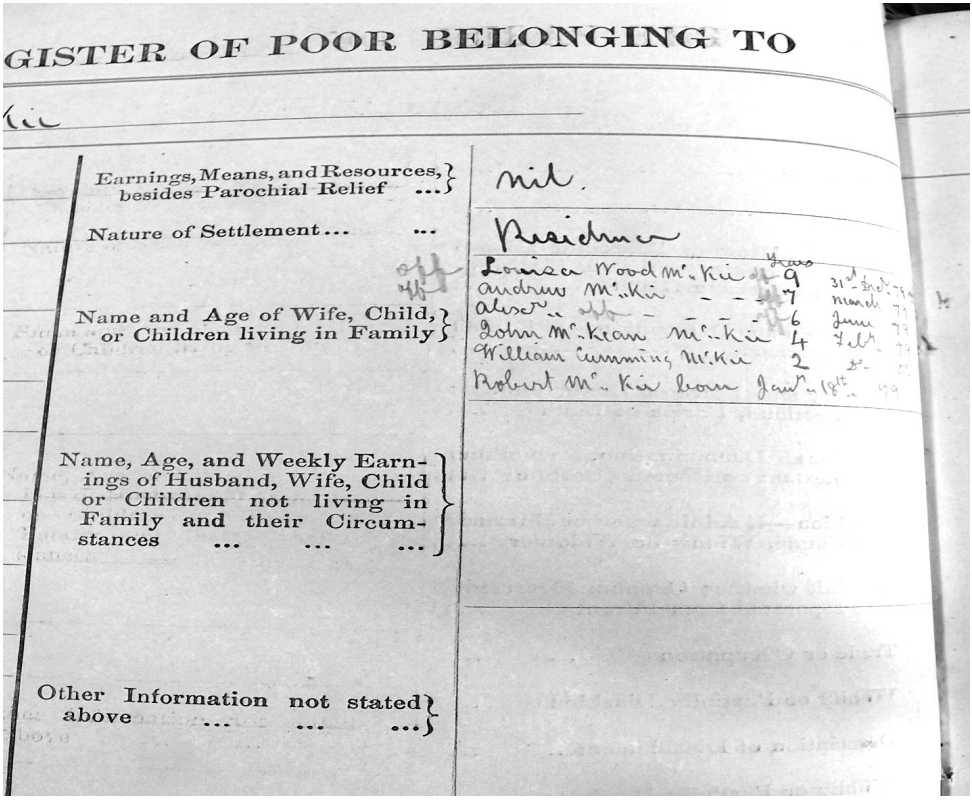
Agnes lived for a short time with her sister in Wigtown before joining her daughter Louisa who was living in Irvine. She died aged 77 in 1928.

In my next article I shall describe the coming of the railways and the impact on Andrew's life.

Poor Law register for Kirkinner 1880. (National Records of Scotland, Edinburgh. Ref C04/35/4

David Carver researches and archives the lives of the McKie's and other families on his blog which can be found at www.instantcousins.co.uk

David Carver #6212


GISTER OF POOR BELONGING TO

Earnings, Means, and Resources, besides Parochial Relief ... nil.

Nature of Settlement ... ... Residence

Name and Age of Wife, Child, or Children living in Family

Name, Age, and Weekly Earnings of Husband, Wife, Child or Children not living in Family and their Circumstances ... ...

Other Information not stated above ... ...

UK NEW MEMBERS INTERESTS

7246 Julia **Beevers**, *jbbeevers@icloud.com* Looking for information on **Stewart/Stuart/Steuart** families of Wigtown/Sorbie, also in & around Dumfries circa 1700 if anyone has the family in their tree, I would be grateful of any info. Thank you.

7247 Grace **Stickings**, *grace_stickings@hotmail.com* Wells

7250 Scot **Mathieson**, *scottishnatureboy@gmail.com* **Baillie John McKeand**, my many times gt grandfather; **Shaw**, master tailors in Newton Stewart.

7301 Margaret **Addison**, *Addison_whitburn@yahoo.co.uk* **Morton**, Dumfries & Canonbie; plus **Haughan**, **Carrick** & **Ferguson** families who came across from Ireland.

7303 Gordon **Mitchell**, *gordon.mitchell@uni-hamburg.de* **Mitchell**: Thornhill, Durisdeer, Closeburn, Penpont. Gt Grandparents: **Thomas Mitchell** & **Mary Farish**: m.13.03.1863. Children: **James**, b.16 .03.1863, Durisdeer; **Jane**, b.07.01.1865, Sanquhar; **John**, b.02.051866, Sanquhar; **Mary**, b.18.06.1867, Closeburn; **William**, b.17.06.1870, Closeburn; **Thomas** (my grandfather), b.23.02.1872, Stranraer, baptized in Closeburn 13.03.1873; **Johnann**, b.26.08.1868; **May Janet**, b.31.081873. Family moved to S. Africa C.1880.

7304 David **Lang**, *davidlang0601@gmail.com* My maternal grandmother, **Maria Kirkpatrick**, b.1874 in Dumfries & her ancestors. Names include **Kirkpatrick**, **Boyd**, **Heron, Brodie** & others around Dumfries including Torthorwald, Ruthwell, Tundergarth & Lochmaben.

7306 Lee **Richardson**, *richardsonlr@gmail.com* Ancestry of **William Wyatt**, 1798-1845 of Leswalt & Stranraer, Wigtownshire.

7307 Andrew **Marshall**, *andrewinwithy@gmail.com* Bell, McClure & Porteous - Glasserton/Garlieston/Sorbie areas; Coid - Mochrum/Elrig/Whithorn.

7308 Lesley **Mitchell**, *calamityjane70@talktalk.net* **Gilbert Hay** & **Janet Walker**, parents to **Gilbert Jnr** & **John Hay**, late 1600s. Links to Dumfries, Scotland & Virginia, USA but no definite dates for birth or death.

7309 Martyn **Hinds**, *martynhinds@hotmail.co.uk* **Samuel Alexander McLean** b:C1863, Dumfries; d.08.01.1922, Widnes. Married **Annie Lyons** 03.03.1892, Widnes. 1901 Census Samuel, chemist & family living in Widnes, 2 sons & 2 dau. His father **Hugh John Frederick McLean**, occupation Chemist.

7310 Max **Stone**, *Max.Stone@mcands.co.uk* **Clukie**, **Clukies**, **Cluckies** or **Clugash**, **Porter** & **Kissock**: Girthon; **McConnel** or **Connel**: Borgue; **McKean**: Kirkmabreck.

7314 Finnian **Brigham**, *finnianbrigham@gmail.com* **Douglas** Family, 1700s from Kirkcudbright area: Upper Senwick Farm, Overlaw Farm, Little Sypland Farm.

7315 Karen **Vaughan**, *foxykaz5@yahoo.co.uk* **Mann**, **Kerr** & **Spence**, Moffat area 1895-1950.

7319 Ann **Hilton**, *annieeliza@virginmedia.com* **Anthony Babe**, 1775?-1846 (aka Babes & Bale); his wife **Janet Locke**, both born Armagh, Ireland. Dau. **Elizabeth** b.1824 in Ireland, married **Alexander Gourlay** 1823. Their son, **Joseph** 1828-1902, born Kirkcudbright, married **Helen Johnstone** 1831-1879 in Kirkpatrick.

Grateful for any information.

7321 Mary **Marshall**, *mary.thorpe@btinternet.com* **Carruthers**: Brocklehurst, Mouswald & Canonbie; **Irving**: Brocklehurst, Mouswald; **Cowan**: Kirkmahoe; **Bell**: Keir.

7322 Lindsay **Voss**, *lindsayglencross@gmail.com* **Glencross /Glencorse**, Dumfries & Dalbeattie; **Fisher**, Urr Parish.

7323 Kirstie **Hackett**, *kirstiebell3271@hotmail.com* **McKie**, **Stitt**: Kirkcudbright; **Park**: links to Egremont & Aspatria, Cumbria.

7324 Christopher **Starr**, *kanonium@hotmail.co.uk* **Anderson** of Stroquhan House, near Milton, Dunscore.

7325 Linda **Ni'Man**, *lindaniman@hotmail.co.uk* Searching parents & grandparents of **James Dickson** or **Dixon**, married **Mary Earsman** (& variations) 20.02.1786, Canonbie. Can't find definite date: birth or death for **James**. **Mary** b.23.02.1758 to **James Haresman** & **Jean Wilson**; can't find her death date. Parents of **John Bell**, wool stapler, d.26.07.1853, married **Jean/Jane Dickson**.

7327 Jim **Milligan**, *captain_tense@hotmail.co.uk* **Milligan**, & **Sturgeon**: New Abbey; Irongray; Kirkconnel House, New Abbey.

NEW OVERSEAS MEMBERS

7275 Amendment to email - Barbara **Harrison**, USA, *Barb_harrison@hotmail.com*, Mary **Bramhall** & James M **Jack**, John **Bramhall** & Mary **Howden**, Robert **Jack** & Margaret **Mitchell**, William **Burnett**, Elspelte **Burnett**

7279 Barbara **Neil**, CAN, *kgbb@shaw.ca*, **Bell** Families, 1600 - 1800 (tenant farmers) Annan, Applegarth, Canonbie, Dumfries, Dryfesdale, Lochmaben, Middlebie

7280 David **Sharpe**, AUS, *sharpy4.ds@gmail.com*, **Allan** – Fountainbleu, Dfs until the 1860s.

7281 Robert **Hice**, USA, *robert.hice@gmail.com*, **Harkness** family – Dalgarnoc parish, Thornhill area

7282 Marcus **Thompson**, NZ, *marcus.mjt@gmail.com*, **Thomson** – Annan

7283 Ellen **Beattie**, USA, *ebeattieco@yahoo.com*, **Beattie**, **Grieve**, **Little**, **Paisley** - Westerkirk, Bentpath, Hutton & Corrie, Langholm, Eskdale, Moffat

7286 Donna **Hanson Dresp**, USA, *ddresp46@gmail.com*, **Gibson**, **Galloway** – Wigtown

7287 Jenny **Campbell**, AUS, *jennycampbell19@gmail.com*, **Campbell**, **Carlyle**, **Irving**, **Rae**, **Crockett**, **Barton** - Dalton

7288 Elizabeth **Nance**, USA, *mattsoldlady@hushmail.com*, **Graham**, **Beattie/Beatty**, **Corrie/Curry/Corry** - Hutton and Corrie

7289 Karen **Berry**, NZ, *karenb107@gmail.com*, **Irvine Scott** – Eskdalemuir, Annan

7291 Anna **Sabourin**, CAN, *ClanAnna0305@gmail.com*, **Scott**, **Dalzeil**, **Kirk**

7292 Cathy **Miller**, USA, *geneacathy@gmail.com*, **Laidley/ Laidlaw** from Kirkconnel , Sanquhar and Broadfoot/ Braidfute from Sanquhar. David Laidlaw and his wife Isabel Broadfoot were living in the south mains location in the parish of Sanquhar. Children

in order of birth in south mains: James 1793, George 1795, William 1798, Robert 1800, Agnes 1802, Isabella 1802, Margaret 1804, Alexander 1807 in Auchentaggart, David 1809 in Auchentaggart, the following were baptized in Dalrymple, Ayrshire, John Hewitt 1812,Alexander 1815, Sarah 1817, Thomas 1820.

7293 Kaye **Griffiths**, AUS, *kayegriff56@gmail.com*, Particularly interested in the **Walker** family – Robert Kaye **Walker** was my great-grandfather, who married Elizabeth **Maxwell Graham** from Dunscore village (although she was born in Holywood). Other surnames are **Maxwell** & **Graham**.

7294 Maria **Young**, USA, *maria.a.young@outlook.com*, James **McMillan** (b. 1815), possibly in Ulster Ireland, he may have met his wife, Helen(Ellen) **McQueen** in Galloway, she was born in Balmaclellan in 1817 . They married in 1835 in the Gorbals Parish Church, Glasgow. He left Glasgow in1840 to work in Fall River, Massachusetts

7295 Louise **Patterson**, CAN, *louise_korea@yahoo.ca*, John **Paterson**/**Patterson** born around 1808, father possibly William. John married Isabella **Reive** in 1829 and his residence was Terregles. John's son William, born in August 1830, baptised in Kirkmichael, also named his eldest son John. Note: My great-grandfather was named Thomas Reive **Patterson**

7296 Jennifer **MacKenzie**, AUS, *macwest55@gmail.com*, **Todd** - Stoneykirk , **Dunbar** -Kirkinner

7297 Maryanne **Dwyer**, AUS, *mdwyer8@outlook.com*, **Ireland** - Tongland, **Syme** - Annan, **Bell** -Annan, **Kerr** - Sanquhar, **Davidson** - Castle Douglas

7298 Susan **Smith**, CAN, *info@suesmith.ca*, **Ferguson**, **Ronald** – Kirkconnell

7299 Donald **Jardine**, CAN, *jardinedon@gmail.com*, **Jardine** – Hoddam, Hutton and Corrie

7300 Heather **Robibaro**, USA, *heatherromarobibaro@gmail.com*, interested in the **McCulloch** family primarily for surnames but also **Lettom**/**Letham**, **McHensh**, and any other associated family names. My grandmother's family name was **McCullough** and I am trying to sort the history. The spelling may imply Ulster, not certain, they came to the US in the mid-1700s. Interested in Whithorn, Glasserton and Wigtown as well as the overall history of the entire region.

7351 Dennis **Marshall**, USA, *dmarshall428@gmail.com*, Torthorwald, Lochrutton, Kirkgunzeon, Glencaple, Carlaverock Parishes - **Little**, **McCubbing**, **Moffat**, **Drummond**, **Swan**, **McKinnell**, **Hope**, **Leckie**. Kirkbean Parish - **Sturgeon**, **Turnbull**, **Smith**, **Marshall**

7352 Eugenia(Genie)**Coates**, CAN, *gcoates@nbnet.nb.ca*, **Johnstone**, **Main**, **Jeffery**, **Little**, **Burnett**, **Renwick**, **Park**, **Stroyan**, **Anderson** - surnames Dumfriesshire, Kirkcudbright, Old Kirkmabreck Cemetery

7353 Cindy **Dodson**, USA, *cindy@mservinc.com*, **McCormick**

7354 Nancy **Scott**, CAN, *jscott@vaxxine.com*, **McNairn**

CORRECTIONS:

7275 Amendment to email - Barbara **Harrison**, USA, *Barb_harrison@hotmail.com*, Mary **Bramhall** & James M **Jack**, John **Bramhall** & Mary **Howden**, Robert **Jack** & Margaret **Mitchell**, William **Burnett**, Elspelte **Burnett**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
FOR ALL UK & OS MEMBERS

Many of the records we hold for you have not been updated/checked for several years. It would help enormously when you return your renewal form to include your **full postal address, email address and telephone number**.

NB: Your personal details are NOT shared with any other company; these details are exclusively for the use of D&GFHS. It is every member's responsibility to ensure the details we hold for you are correct.

- It is especially important for those of you in the **UK** who pay by Bank Transfer.
- **UK** Members who have confirmed they pay by Standing Order will receive a separate form to return to us.

Our year runs from January to December. It would help if you could renew early in the year as this helps us to order sufficient paper copies of the March & July newsletters.

Payment of Membership Fees for UK Members Only

If you live in the UK and pay your membership fees by PayPal, we would like to respectfully suggest you pay by bank transfer quoting your name and membership number. PayPal charge a % of the fee which reduces the amount received by DGFHS by as much as 35p. This is not a lot on its own, but when multiplied by the number who use the facility, it can add up.

Membership fees can still be paid by cheque. If you have any queries, please feel free to contact me.

Many thanks,

Beverley
DGFHS UK Membership Secretary
Email: mbrs-sec-uk@dgfhs.org.uk
#5543

'THANK YOU'

Terry Brown has indicated he wishes to pull out of all his DGFHS activities for health reasons. We were sorry to hear this news. Members of Council and the volunteers would like to express their thanks to Terry for his sterling services to the society. Terry a Doonhamer has been a member of the society for a considerable number of years. When he retired and moved up from Bradford, he expressed an interest to become involved with volunteering. He arrived at the right moment when we were in the process of updating our website! Terry's expertise was of tremendous value.

Terry initiated many projects, he encouraged us to the start an Online Shop, which was the salvation of the society during lock-down. Our sales of publications increased immensely and continue. Zoom has proved very popular for meetings and our monthly talks.

He has produced several new publications as well as updating others. The photographic and photographic transcription is his latest project.

There are other tasks we may not be aware of. Terry is always willing to help where he can and offer advice.

Thank you so much Terry.

From
Council, Volunteers and Members.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

We were overwhelmed with the response from our appeal to members requesting articles for the newsletter. We had so many we are unable to fit them all in to this issue, but they have given us a wonderful start for the March newsletter. Please keep them coming.



Wishing all our members a Merry Christmas and all good wishes for 2025.



DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
OFFICE BEARERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS
2024 / 2025

OFFICE BEARERS

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Vice Chair	Ian McClumpha
Treasurer	Lilly Stevenson
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Membership Secretary (UK)	Beverley Thom
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Pedigree Charts Co-ordinator	Betty MacKenzie
Mailing Officer	Elizabeth Hogg
Zoom Talks Co-ordinator	Ian McClumpha

General Enquiries

Please contact the Secretary: **secretary@dgfhs.org.uk**

Publications

If you have a query about any publications, then contact our Mail Order Secretary: **mailorder@dgfhs.org.uk**

Editor

editor@dgfhs.org.uk

Membership and Membership queries

If you live in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, or USA, contact our Overseas Membership Secretary: **mbrs-sec-os@dgfhs.org.uk**
All other members, please contact the UK membership Secretary: **mbrs-sec-uk@dgfhs.org.uk**
Any queries for Online Shop please contact **onlineshop@dgfhs.org.uk**

DUMFRIES and GALLOWAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Dumfries and Galloway Family History Society Research Centre
9 Glasgow Street, Dumfries, Scotland, UK, DG2 9AF
Telephone: 01387 248093
Email: researchcentre@dgfhs.org.uk

Opening times for the Research Centre.
Tuesday 10.00am – 4.00pm. Thursday 10.00am – 4.00pm depending on availability of volunteers. If you plan to visit please telephone in advance to check if we are open.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The membership year runs from January to December and subscriptions may be sent to the Membership Secretary, Dumfries and Galloway Family History Society, 9 Glasgow Street, Dumfries, DG2 9AF.

UK members have the option to pay by standing order. Gift Aid can be arranged.

Could all members who pay by standing order please note they need to inform their bank the new subscription rate is £11 for a hard copy of the newsletter and £7.50 for an e-journal.

Subscription Rates	Standard	E-journals
UK Ordinary membership	£11	£7.50
Overseas membership	£14	£7.50
Australia	$27	$15
New Zealand	$28	$15
USA	$19	$10

Note: Changes in banking regulations mean subscriptions can no longer be paid in CAN$, payment can be made in sterling using PayPal or GBP cheque. We can only accept $ cheques for USA, details from our agents in those countries or the Overseas Membership Secretary.

You can also join or renew online using PayPal at https://dgfhs.org.uk/online-membership/

Newsletter:

Newsletters are sent to all our members (Airmail abroad to be posted on by our agents), in March, July and November. Members may submit short queries free of charge. The deadline for queries and articles of interest to other members is the first day of the month preceding publication date. Occasionally, space restrictions may result in some items being held over.