



THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGIST

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The Scottish Genealogy Society

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EDITORIAL

Contributions for possible publication are most welcome, but please remember the maximum word count of 1750, including references, and it is not possible to guarantee when they will appear in print!

We have been asked to point out that the previous Honorary Editor, Caroline Gerard, did in fact resign, rather than retired as stated in the March issue of the Journal.

Ellen Ellis

Editor

GENERAL INFORMATION

WHAT DO WE DO?

The Society is established to promote research into Scottish Family History and to undertake the collection, exchange and publication of information and material relating to Scottish genealogy. We assist members with modest enquiries but cannot carry out professional research.

MEETINGS

These are held from mid month September to April in the Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, at 7.30pm. The programme is advertised in the Syllabus and the regular Newsletters sent by email.

MEMBERSHIP

Single UK membership: £20; Family, Overseas and Institutional: £25. The Society has charitable status and members who pay UK income tax are encouraged to use the Gift Aid Scheme. Details of the scheme are available from the Membership Secretary.

Information about publications and back numbers of The Journal can be obtained from the Sales Secretary,

Email: sales@scotsgenealogy.com

Other correspondence should be addressed to:

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THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGIST

Articles (maximum 1750 words including references) are welcomed by the Hon Editor, using MS word via email. Illustrations should be in JPEG format. Members' queries are welcome for inclusion in the magazine, space permitting.

Email: editor@scotsgenealogy.com

SOCIETY WEBSITE

Can be accessed on www.scotsgenealogy.com.

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RURAL REMINISCENCES CONTINUED

Ken A. Nisbet

Written by John Wilson (tertius), for many years the Master of Glebe School, Greenock, son of John and Helen Wilson, Riccarton, Linlithgow¹

Continuing the fascinating "Rural Reminiscences" of John Wilson from the March issue, we resume around 1820...

At this time there was much talk about lifting the dead, called "the resurrectioning." In the year 1820 a great thing happened. Three corpses were found hidden in a dunghill on Gilston Farm at the east end of Polmont. Two men with a gig were seen about four-'o'clock in the afternoon by one of the servant men who sent word home to his master, Sandie Scott of Gilston. He got on his riding horse (and pursued them.) He came to the road but could not see them. He found the track of the gig and came up to them at the Cross at Linlithgow. When the people (who had gathered) saw the bodies they nearly killed the men and burned the gig. About the same time the daughter of David Robertson of Manuelrig Farm was lifted out of Muiravonside churchyard, Her body was found in Wilcoxholm Planting near the east end of Linlithgow, taken home and buried in the barn. After that Linlithgow Churchyard was watched for 20 years. The public gave Mr Scott (of Gilston) a present of a silver set, but I don't know what the set was. One thing was a "Toddy-bowl. It held three bottles of Whiskey made into toddy. Two men in Edinburgh, Burke and Hare, had a good deal to do with lifting of bodies. They kept a lodging-house in the West Port. Many people were missed - they had been "burked" as it was called. A Doctor (Knox) received the bodies. His house is known in Edinburgh to this day. At that time also there was a great stir about Highway Robbers. I have heard that cattle-dealers rode long distances to markets. Mr. Henderson of Bonhard Farm came to Linlithgow Bridge one night, he was told the robbers were out on the road. They wanted him to stay all night but he would go on, and looked if his pistols were all right. Soon after he went out they heard three shots. Henderson had been attacked by three men. One gripped his horse and he shot him. He heard the other two shots sough past him but he got clear off and said to have died soon after from the fright.

I remember my father going to Carron with a horse and cart to pay his iron and get more plough mounting, my brother Robert going with him. They went away early in the morning to get to Falkirk early for fear of robbers. I mind my brother putting the pound notes into my Father's stockings; for the Falkirk road was a haunted road, miles of plantations and not a house. There was one Jamieson, the leader of the gang who was tried in Edinburgh, sentenced

to be hanged at Linlithgow-bridge. He thought he would be rescued by the gang. He was brought from Edinburgh with a party of soldiers. The Sherriff ordered that if any riot took place the prisoner should be shot first, but no one appeared or attempted a rescue. The place is known as "The Gallows Hill" to this day.

In 1821-22 the Union Canal was being made, and during that time Linlithgow was a terrible place. There were no police . I heard a man saying he saw four pairs of Irishmen fighting at once. They just fought it out. The public houses were open Sunday and Saturday. It was a great day, the opening of the Canal in 1822. I was at the school at Kingscavel and we all got away to see the boat. Before the Canal was opened there was no conveyance for travellers.

The mail from Stirling to Edinburgh passed east in the morning and west at night and a two- horse coach from Carron in the morning and back at night. The mail brought the letters to the Post-Office. They were delivered in the towns but country letters lay till they were called for. I have known my father pay 3/- for a letter from Haddington and 1/6 from Dalkeith. The newspapers came once a week and one paper served four houses. We got it on Wednesday with the Edinburgh markets in it, 2/6d, a quarter for each family.

t the opening of the canal a good story used to be told about Dr. Dobbie, the parish Minister of Linlithgow. He thought he would take a sail to Muiravonside to see Mr. McCall the Minister there. When he was coming out of the boat he fell into the canal. When he reached the manse Mr McCall cried "Jennie, Jennie, bring whiskey and water for the Doctor!" "No! No!" cried the Doctor "just whiskey; I've got plenty of water already"

In the year 1822, George IV visited Edinburgh. He opened George IV Bridge. He also came up the Firth and visited Hopetoun House, 'The Earl of Hopetoun met him at the pier with his carriage and four. There was a regiment of cavalry in Linlithgow then farmers' and farmers' sons. They rode all good farm horses and looked fine, they met the King at the pier along with his Lordship and all went up to the House at a sharp trot. The King remained about two hours at Hopetoun, when they came down helter-skelter. The King and his Lordship walked along the pier and the crowd was below, though there were a "dainty Wheen" on the pier. The King spoke to the bodies who gave him cheers and cried "God save the King," I mind I sat on Bob Baxter's shoulders and my father's to keep me from getting trampled, (it was a very wet day).

It was said that Lord Castlereagh did not want the King to go to Scotland, but he said he would go if he should have to live on heather. Everybody had heather in their hats. I think it was Lord Castlereagh that hanged himself while the King was away.

A man went to the Pentland hills from Edinburgh and brought a "Cuddie-cart" full of heather for which he drew Five pounds. There has never been a day at Hopetoun like it since. It was the harvest time a wet morning, but there was no shearing. People came from all the ends of the earth. There were Scotch, English, Hielen' and Irish. Two carts came from Linlithgow Brewery with barrels and cranes in them. They were set round the front of the house but they were scarce of dishes to drink out of, but one man whose hat had been water-proof filled it. They drank out of it like a horse drinking out of a pail.

The Hopetouns were all good Landlords. The grandfather of the present Earl had the King as his guest. His father was very foolish and his uncles had to take charge of him,

This present Earl is rather an extra man. One of his tenants gave up his farm two years ago and the Earl gave him l5/- a week and a free house. It had been handed down from his grandfather, but he was not so well doing as some of the others.

The following winter was a very severe one. James Murray died at Riccarton and the roads were so much blocked up with snow that the men round about "cast" the roads, (cleared a track in the snow). They put two horses into a cart and took him down to Linlithgow but they had sore work to get home before the roads were full again. I think the roads were cast three times that winter.

It was a great day at Riccarton when my father got in his coals. They were driven by the farmers for nothing. I have seen 24 carts there. David West told of my father's wedding. It was a "Riding Wedding". and 24 couples on horseback came over Ochiltree Braes on the way home from Currie. David West was an apprentice (wright) with Andrew Slight at Gateside. Mr Wilson, the farmer there asked him if he was not going to the wedding. He said he hadn't a horse. "Go west the field" said Mr Wilson "and take the best you can get." He got hold of a three-year old colt and rode it to Currie bare-backed and not a shoe on its feet. There was no whiskey at weddings in those days.

About 1823 my father's brother Robert died at Dalkeith. To be at the funeral they went away from Riccarton at 10 o'clock: at night with a cadger's cart to get a hurt, bits, to Edinburgh. From there they walked to Dalkeith.

We were all brought up in what was called the "Easter House" at Linlithgow, now one of the UF churches, till we got married and spread through the country and went to whatever church was nearest. About 1824, my father was ordained as an elder. He carried the Bread at the communion for 50 years. I heard Mr Meikle say "Mony a rin he ran to keep the congregation the-gither". I was the first member Mr Miller took on after he came to Linlithgow, I was ordained an elder along with other two men, and I relieved him of a good deal of church

work, His successor, Mr Hutton's stipend was £100 with £10 for Sacrament expenses. When they had "tent-preaching" we had three ministers at the sacrament and we would be from 11 till 7 at night. At all the singing the line was read and when it was dark the church was lighted with candles. There were "tables" for the communicants who left by one door and came in by the other, while the precentor sang twelve lines of a psalm, I have seen twelve tables and as many sitting at one of these as are now seen for a whole congregation. It was looked forward to with more solemnity than it is now. A man would not sit down at the Lord's Table with a suit of grey clothes on and the women were always modestly dressed too.

I don't mind anything particular that happened in 1825, but about that time it was a great affair about making whiskey, it was called "Little-stilling," I knew of two on Broomiknowe hills and one in Riccarton Planting.

The Cadgers took barrels of whiskey to Edinburgh for them, These were all covered with milk, At a further back date there was a family of the name of White in Binnie Hill who did a big trade, They were found out and one of them was sent on board a man-of-war. I remember him coming home Very nearly blind, He lived a number of years blind but got no pension.

John Wilson's fascinating account concludes in the September issue.



DEADLINE DATE

Please remeber that the deadline for the September issue of The Scottsih Genealogy is:

20th August.

A reminder that articles, maximum word count 1750 including any notes (which should be indicated by numerical superscript), should be submitted in Word format and any photographs as jpeg.

Submit to: **editor@scotsgenealogy.com**

A Double Disinheritance

Robert Veitch

An ancestor with several Christian names will always interest a family historian. As often as not they'll concern a godparent, a close relative or even just a friend and our interest wanes. I was delighted to find the names of my Great Grandmother, Mary Hay Tweedie Murray (1846-1915) stretching back into medieval times and a pedigree that caused me to rethink some of my long held beliefs about the history of Scotland. To start with Mary, we find her, at the end her days living in what was unquestionably one of the poorer areas of Edinburgh, if not actually a slum. Her story was all the more pitiable in that it was essentially a tale of lost family inheritances.

Now while Lady Bracknell in 'The Importance of Being Earnest' considered the loss of one parent to be regarded as a misfortune, to lose both looked like carelessness. I discovered that my Great Grandmother lost not only her own parents but her husband's as well. To be fair, the loss was through no fault of hers and was indeed down to her misfortune.

When Mary married Robert Veitch in the kirk at Spittal, near Carlops, on the Eastern slopes of the Pentland Hills on 1 June 1866, it must have been seen as a propitious day for a match welcomed by both families, if not actually arranged by them.

Both families were successful farmers. Mary's father, Robert Murray, farmed 1,000 acres at Spittal, close by Nine Mile Burn while Robert Veitch's father



(also Robert Veitch) was tenant and land agent at Addieston Farm for Robert Dundas, of Arniston. The young couple very quickly got off to a good start when Robert set up as Corn Merchant in 1871 at the old Dairy and House at No. 1 West Crosscauseway, Edinburgh.

(The Information Board mentions that No 1 West Crosscauseway (Crosscausey) is currently the subject of preservation interest. In 1599 the street got its name because it was paved or 'causeyed' (Old French *caucie*, a beaten way) hence 'Crosscausey.' One of the oldest streets in the South Side, a 'map of 1745 shows The Causey when Bonnie Prince Charlie was in Edinburgh and when Robert Burns stayed here in 1786.)

The corn merchant business quickly ran into trouble and their marriage was clearly distressed as the couple shed children like the chaff from the proverbial thresher's flail. 3 of their daughters left home to live with relatives. Heart breaking, particularly as none were ever known to return to their parents.

Altogether, Mary had nine children; Annie 1866, Robert 1868, Andrew and Joanna Euphemia (Joan) 1872, John 1875, Eliza 1876, James 1879, Helen 1880 and Mary HT 1885. Of these the three who left were:

- Annie Tweedie, aged 4 in the 1871 census was no longer living with her parents in 1881; she was with her father's sister, her aunt Elizabeth, wife of the Rev Walter Duncan, Minister of the U.P Church at Junction Road, Leith (Newhaven).
- Eliza Brydon Duncan Veitch, born at Glen Street, Edinburgh on 6th November 1876 is age 14 in 1891, living with her Murray grandparents at 18 Lonsdale Terrace looking out on to the West Meadows.
- Joanna Euphemia, or Joan, in 1881, aged 8, living with her Veitch grandparents on their farm at Wester Melville (located just outside the Edinburgh Bypass).

I expected to find a scandal but found none. It was only when reading the Wills of their parents that the truth emerged - Robert was failing to repay his debts and had clearly become untrustworthy.

The revelation came in a codicil to Robert's own father's Will, dated 17 Nov 1890. Originally his estate (only as tenant at Wester Melville) had been split into seven equal shares but father had clearly lost patience with his eldest son and amended it to include the provision that:

...considering that for sometime past I have had to advance and am still advancing sums of money to my son Robert Veitch which sums of money to the extent of one half thereof I have received and am receiving from my sons John Veitch and Adam Veitch, therefore I do hereby revoke cancel and annul the legacy of one seventh share in favour of my own son the said Robert V'..

.. and that the said one seventh should go equally to the other beneficiaries.

Then on 31 March 1886, Father changes his Will again in what must have been a major blow to Robert's self esteem. The six shares were restored to seven, stipulating that:

...the remaining one share to my granddaughter Joan Veitch presently residing with me, daughter of my son Robert Veitch, whom I wish to treat as one of my own family, and that she shall get shilling about with them, seeing I have brought her up and educated her, and she is a comfort to me and my said spouse now when we are left alone. But declaring in regard to the said one seventh share falling to the said Joan Veitch that it shall be in the discretion of my said Trustees as to when the said share shall be paid over to her, and power is hereby given to either them to pay the same or any part thereof .

The love of grandparents for their granddaughter, Joan, was clearly a great consolation to them and delighted me when I read about it.

It was not too long before Mary's father, Robert Murray came to a similar conclusion about his son-in-law. In 1894 he stipulated in his Will that his daughter Mary was to share in full except for the danger of allowing any part of his estate to fall into the hands of her husband, Robert Veitch.

...But declaring that our Trustees if they think it proper or desirable, shall set aside invest or retain in their own hands the share of the foregoing estate which may fall or belong to our daughter Mrs Mary Hay Tweedie Murray or Veitch (but that only in the event that her present husband benique (?) life, at the period of division) and to hold the same for behoof of the said Mrs Mary Hay Tweedie Murray or Veitch in liferent, and for her lawful children, equally between them, in fee, Declaring however that our said Trustees shall pay over to the said Mrs Mary Hay Tweedie Murray or Veitch, not only the whole free annual income or revenue of the said share, during all the days of her life, but also whatever portion of the capital they may deem advisable and in the event of her present husband predeceasing her, they shall then pay over to her absolutely the whole share or balance though which would be payable to her under the said purpose...'

As with Robert Veitch's Will the love of grandparents for their granddaughter, Lizzie, shines through and again pleased me when I read in Robert Murray's Will.....*Direct our trustees... to pay to our granddaughter Miss Lizzie Bryden Duncan Veitch who has been brought up and at present resides with us the sum of Twenty pounds sterling as a small legacy and that free of legacy duty and all other deductions whatsoever and in addition to what she may be entitled to as one of the children of our daughter Mrs Mary Hay Tweedie Murray or Veitch.*

In the 1891 census Mary records her occupation as a 'charwoman' and she

must have been living in reduced circumstances. Her death certificate states that she died of apoplexy, a brain haemorrhage, on 20 May 1915 at home, 127 St Leonards Street, Edinburgh. The informant was her son, Andrew M. Veitch.

It isn't clear if Mary received an income on the death of her parents, or whether Lizzie inherited anything other than her legacy, because as she passed away in 1915 before her husband, Robert, who survived her until 1917, she could never have come into full enjoyment of the capital share of her Murray inheritance.

A detailed look at Mary's pedigree highlights Culloden, in India, in the Peninsular War, the West Indies, the murder of a royal favourite, a massacre and back to the very birth of the nation. An interesting story.....



CAITHNESS HORROR

David Macadam gave us this decidedly bloodthirsty story! He writes: One frequently finds strange or distressing causes of death but I suspect we genealogists become inured to accidents at work or suicide. It takes something to make one sit up in stunned shock. What follows below is a report from The John O'Groat Journal, a Caithness Newspaper from 1859.

“John O'Groat Journal of 1st December 1859

HORRIBLE OCCURRENCE AT WATTEN. An accident of a most distressing and painful description occurred in the parish of Watten on the afternoon of Saturday last, in the house at A child, about three months old was left by its mother in the cradle for a very short period, when on her return she found that the sow had pushed up the door, overturned the cradle, and attacked the infant, whose face, particularly about the right cheek, was fearfully lacerated. A piece of the upper jaw was torn away. The poor thing died from loss of blood after a few hours of great suffering. The agonised feelings of the mother may be more easily imagined than described. She fainted away at the horrid spectacle her child presented. A correspondent says “This melancholy accident ought to be a solemn warning to those who have swine about their houses to keep them in close custody, particularly where there are children, which is not attended to in too many localities.

The authorities proceeded on Wednesday (to) investigate into the circumstances. “

A Charge of Murder

Liz Watson

Members may remember an article we published in 2021 which transcribed the records of the trial of one William Liston, fisherman of Newhaven in 1834. In the middle of that trial, the proceedings were interrupted by the jury from the previous trial coming back into court to announce their verdict. I was curious to find out what happened to the defendant of that case. So, using our subscription to British newspaper archives, I found the following article from *The Scotsman* Newspaper of 23 July 1834.

“James Fraser, chimney-sweep, lately residing in a close or entry in the Cowgate, which has no particular name, was next put to the bar, accused of the murder of Maria Dalrymple, his wife, or reputed wife, on the 6th February last, by beating her with ropes or sticks, or some unknown implements, and with some hard substance or with his fist, inflicting on her head or neck, immediately behind the ear, a severe injury which caused her death. The prisoner pleaded not guilty.

From the evidence adduced, it appeared that the prisoner and the deceased, who were not married, had frequent brawls, and annoyed the neighbourhood when she was in liquor; that the night previous to the alleged murder the prisoner demanded money from her, and that on her telling him he had got all she had, he threatened to strike her, when she ran to the door, which the prisoner shut and kept her out. The deceased remained all night in the stair holding an altercation with the prisoner. The prisoner went out in the morning about seven o'clock, taking all his working implements, (ladder, ropes, brush, &c.,) with him. The deceased was seen going up to her house at ten o'clock in the morning, in good health; the prisoner returned about eleven o'clock, when another scuffle ensued, in which Dalrymple lost her life. He was seen beating her with a broom at one part of the scuffle – and the woman was heard praying him for pardon, and that he would not murder her outright. When questioned as to how she died, he said she took a nervous fit; that she turned three times round and then fell. The prisoner, at the suggestion of one of the witnesses, went and brought two medical gentlemen, who found the body quite dead. Another witness who had seen the prisoner beating the deceased, was told by the prisoner that she was dead, when she remarked that she hoped not, though she had got a severe beating, but if she was, he would not be long behind her; he said no, for he would be hanged, though the witness did not think him serious when he said so.

The medical evidence went to establish the fact that the poor woman had met her death by a violent blow behind the ear, which must have been inflicted by some blunt hard instrument. The contusion was of an oval form, three and

a half to four inches one way, and about three inches the other; and must have been a stunning knock-down blow, which could not have been occasioned by a fall, as it was not on a part exposed to injury in that manner. One of the medical gentlemen said such a blow might have been given by a fist, but the appearance exhibited did not indicate apoplexy. There was no instrument found in the house likely, by its application, to cause the injury.

Two witnesses were called in exculpation, one of them a shopkeeper in the neighbourhood, who said the deceased was in the habit of calling murder when no one was near her; she did so once standing at the close-head while the prisoner was in his shop-door; the other was the prisoner's half brother, and spoke to two instances of her calling "murder" when the prisoner was up stairs and she at the bottom of it.

Mr Shaw Stewart addressed the jury for the Crown, concluding by calling for a verdict of guilty.

Mr Crawford then addressed the jury at considerable length, and with great force for the prisoner, and contended, that even if the jury were satisfied that the deceased met her death, in consequence of injury received at the hands of the prisoner, it could only, in the special circumstances, amount to culpable homicide.

Lord Meadowbank (*the magistrate/judge?*) then charged the jury, going over and analysing the evidence with great care. His lordship intimated that it was the opinion of himself, and he believed, of his two learned brothers sitting along with him, that if, upon the whole, the jury were satisfied that the blow was inflicted by the prisoner and only by a weapon of some description or another which the Public Prosecutor had been unable to discover, but even by the double fist or foot of the prisoner, still it would amount to the crime of murder.

The jury, after deliberating for some time, returned a verdict finding by a majority the prisoner guilty of culpable homicide.

Lord Meadowbank then said, that although the Court had no right to ask the jury, still it would be a satisfaction to the Court if they would say whether it was to be understood that the minority of the jury were of opinion that the prisoner was guilty of murder.

The chancellor of the jury said, that only one of the Jury thought the prisoner guilty of the murder; the rest differed as to whether the culpable homicide was proved. Sentence of transportation for life was awarded. (We are obliged to postpone the remaining trials for want of room.)"

The Scotsman, 23 July 1834

I think I felt a bit sorry for James as, from the text above, it seemed he'd had a poor life so far and was hoping that maybe he'd gone to Australia and turned his life around and made something of himself. I then searched on the Australian website: www.convictrecords.com.au and found the following:

Community Contributions

New South Wales, Australia, Convict Indents

Indent No: 202

Name: James Fraser

Age: 44

Native Place: Leith

Trade or calling: Lath & Plasterer

Offence: MURDERING WIFE

Trial: Edinburgh – 21 July 1834, Life

Height: 5ft.6.3/4

Eyes: Grey

Hair: Brown to grey

Complexion: Ruddy and pock pitted

Remarks: Lost all front teeth

New South Wales, Australia, Liverpool St Luke

No: 640

Name: James Fraser

Abode: Liverpool Hospital

When buried: 1836, 17 Nov

Age: 46

Ship's Name: Westmoreland

Quality or profession: Prisoner

By Whom Ceremony was performed: Richard Taylor MA

So no happy ending for James; it seems he died within about two years of his trial.

VACANCY HONORARY SECRETARY

Do you have secretarial expertise - basic IT skills, admin knowledge, experience of minute taking - for example? The Society is looking for a volunteer, able to spare a few hours each week and interested in helping the Society function.

The Honorary Secretary is a vital role within the organisation, part of a committed but friendly team.

For more details contact:

chair@scotsgenealogy.com or enquiries@scotsgenealogy.com

ADAM BROWN, SHIPWRIGHT

Ellen Brown

I have been working on my family genealogy since 2011. Adam Brown was a ship wright who came to Bermuda in the 1700s from Aberlady, East Lothian, Scotland, one of the first shipwrights that set up two shipyards here. He was well known for his craftsmanship , even building a boat for a loyalist from Virginia settling in New England, namely Bridger Goodrich. He was responsible for the Old Armoury, in St. George's (Bermuda's original capital) which is a World Heritage Site.

"The Old Armoury was built in 1794 by shipwright Adam Brown. It was the first three-storey building in St. George's and was known as 'The Triple Decker'. The 60 foot long mansion took at least three years to build. It was sufficiently completed in September 1796 for John DuMont to open a dancing school in 'Mr. Brown's Long Room': presumably on the top floor. The hip roof building has two internal chimneys, one at each end. Brown decorated with ornamental quoins on the corners (but on the front only) and triple keystones over the symmetrically placed windows. In 1800, the building was worth 1,600 pounds sterling, making it one of the most valuable residences in St. Georges.

Adam Brown was regularly licensed to retail rum, strongly suggesting that he was running a tavern on one of the floors of his house. He gave the western portion of his lot to his Brother Samuel, who erected a blacksmith's shop on the corner of Water Street and Duke of York Street join, and thus Samuel Brown was the blacksmith for whom Blacksmith's Hill was named.

Upon his passing, the property was eventually purchased by Reverend Richard Tucker. In 1854, The Armoury was a hotel, operated by a Mrs. Tucker, probably the Reverend's wife. The house was sold a few times until it was purchased by Lewis Pugh and S.S. Spurling who in turn conveyed it to the Bermuda Volunteer Forces Association in 1922. For the next 51 years, the building was occupied by the Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Corps and acquired the name The Armoury."

Sadly the building is now empty. I wish I could buy it and restore it to its glory.



Keltie family from Culross

Robin Arnott

The Culross we know today, 17th Century houses with crow-stepped gables, pan-tiled roofs and a backdrop to films and TV series, such as *Outlander*, is a far cry from the days when it was a bustling sea-port on the River Forth. Exporting coal and salt, it was a prosperous royal burgh in its heyday. Now, wandering through its cobbled streets and walking up the hill to the remains of Culross Abbey, a former Cistercian monastery (the choir of which is now the parish church), one can only imagine what life would have been like for my ancestors.

Culross was, and in many ways still is, closely aligned to Torryburn, a nearby village, and had been part of Perthshire before being realigned with Fife. Searching for ancestors is less than straightforward. We know that a Margaret Keltie was born around 1669, and deducing from that that her parents, Adam Keltie and Janet Drysdale, would likely have been born between 1640 to 1650/55. Adam and Janet had further off-spring, John (1670) and then Adam (about 1679), Gilbert (1681) and Henry (1684). John married a Margaret Rolland in August 1702, Henry married Isobell Gibson in July 1714.

Adam married Christian Ronald on 2nd December 1709 in Culross. Christian's date of birth is unknown but she died before 1st January 1755. Adam moved from Culross to Clackmannan but it is not clear whether this was before or after his marriage. As all his children were born in Clackmannan it is reasonable to suggest he had gone there in search of work and met his wife-to-be. As off-spring, they had Catherine (1711), Agnes (1713), Adam (1715), John (bef. 1718), Isabell (1720), Alexander (1722), Gilbert (1725) and Robert (1727).

John Keltie was born before 1 January 1718. He married Jannet Bonnar, also from Clackmannan, who was born on 12 June 1720. The family comprised Betty, born in Culross on 23rd January 1749, Adam and Christian (presumed twins) born in Clackmannan in 1751, Catherine (21st February 1754), Margaret (14th June 1756), Janet (11th November 1757) – all born in Culross, James (28th March 1759), John (17th June 1764) – both born in Torryburn.

By all accounts, James was an educated and mild-mannered man. He moved to Dunfermline as a handloom weaver of linen damask and at some point was wealthy enough to have either bought or built a house in Bothwell Haugh, Dunfermline. He married a Margaret Philp from Shires Mill, near Culross, on 17th March 1786 in Dunfermline. The Philp family were mouterers at Shires Mill, i.e. millers who ground other people's grain for a fee. Her father John Philp was born about 1730 and came from a family widely regarded as 'difficult'.

Lord Sands in his book 'John Blaw of Castlehill' referred to a William Philp as being 'an officious and truculent person'. On 17th February 1699, David Philp was cited to appear before Culross Kirk Session, 'for grinding upon the Sabbath'. and on 21st February 1699 Thomas Philp was rebuked 'before the congregation after forenoon's service', after confessing his part in the misdemeanour.

James and Margaret had eleven children, the youngest of whom, Robert, born on 12th March 1809, married Janet Couper, daughter of Charles Cowper from Dunfermline. Charles' gravestone (1827) can be seen in Dunfermline Abbey kirkyard. Like his father, Robert was a handloom weaver of linen damask and owned three handlooms but with the introduction of power looms his business failed. They had ten children, my Gt Grandmother, Christina Keltie (b. 1844), being one of them. It was her brother, James, born about 1847, who had some excitement in life. On 16th September 1865, he sailed from Glasgow to New York, on board SS Britannia. He wrote a few letters home recording some of his encounters and the scenes he had witnessed during his travels in America: 'bull-whacking' on cattle drives through the Rocky mountains; seeing the after-math of a battle between US cavalry and Native Americans; losing his money to a fraudster in Nevada before working for a Railroad company in California. His intention was to raise the fare for a voyage to New Zealand, failing which Australia, but trace of him was lost in San Francisco and the search for a link 'down under' continues.

Another of my Gt Grandmother's brothers, Robert, had two children – Robert Keltie, born in 1884, and Fenwick White Keltie, born in 1887. Robert, was educated at Dunfermline High School and initially worked at Inglis & Company's Victoria Works, Dunfermline, a linen factory, where his father was a Foreman Cloth Lapper, before deciding to train for the ministry of the Church of Scotland. The First World War interrupted his studies and he was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the King's Own Scottish Borderers. He took part in the first Gallipoli landings on 25th April 1915, and was badly wounded in his right arm, to the extent he was invalided out of the forces, never regaining the use of his arm. He resumed his theological studies at St Andrews' University. After graduation he was admitted as a Church of Scotland minister at Tundergarth, Lockerbie in May 1919. He transferred to Kemnay, Aberdeenshire (1924) and finally to Humble, East Lothian in September 1931, where he died very suddenly in his garden, in 1936, at the age of 51. He had three children, Lucy (b. 1917), Robert (b. 1920) and Jean (b. 1925). Robert, known as Robin, followed in his father's footsteps and was minister in St Andrew's Church, Nairobi (1957 – 1966) before becoming minister in St Ninian's Church, Aberdeen. He died in 1985.

After leaving Dunfermline High School, Fenwick White Keltie also worked in the Inglis & Company's mill and with his artistic talent was responsible for designing damask tablecloths. A member of the Territorial Army, at the start of the First World War he was assigned to the Black Watch Highland Cyclist Battalion, with the rank of Sergeant. He served, first on Coastal Defence and was later commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant in the 10th Battalion, Black Watch in August 1918 seeing out the remaining months of the war in France. After demobilisation, he attended Glasgow Art School, gaining a Diploma in Art, Regarded as the best student of his time, he qualified as a teacher. His career took him to Paisley Grammar School before becoming Head of Art at Greenock High School. He married Elizabeth 'Bess' Ritchie, from Brooklyn, New York and they had one daughter. He retired to Edinburgh where he died in 1967.

Note:

Fenwick Keltie conducted initial research into the Keltie family in 1928 and his notes, along with a copy of James Keltie's American letters, were subsequently passed on, allowing further research to be carried out.



Crawford Prisoner of War Camp

Ken Nisbet

In addition to all my military and family history interests I am also a keen hill walker and whilst on part-time furlough during Covid restrictions I did a lot of walking. If you walk up the glen from Crawford in Lanarkshire you approach Camps reservoir.



The 3rd Statistical Account for Lanarkshire published in 1960 reported “*The hill streams in the parish help to provide water for the towns in large industrial belt of North Lanarkshire. At Camps there is Lanarkshire County Council’s extensive reservoir, built about forty years ago, at the construction of which German prisoners of war assisted ... in the burying ground at Kirkton there lies one of these German prisoners, his grave is marked by a German military cross, which was sent from his native land.*”

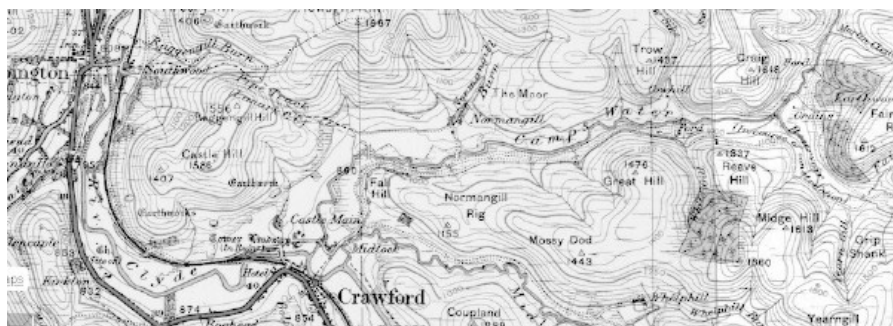
The Reservoir did not open till 1930 and it is more likley that any prisoners were involved in the construction of a three and half mile railway from Crawford to the site of the future reservoir whose construction commenced in 1915

Checking the death certificates for the parish of Crawford for the period 1914 – 1919 I found a death certificate of a German Prisoner

12	Karl Wachter, Soldier Prisoner of War 1915 Regiment 9 th Company, 2nd Batt.	1916, 11, 28 Golder, Scotland J. A. M. M. M. Normangill Crawford. Local Residence. Married. Wife deceased.	1916, 11, 28 14 days Uraemia. 1 day. Robert by J. D. Macdonald M. B. 4691	1916, 11, 28 2 weeks 3 days Murray House Hotel Crawford, Dunfermline.	October 1916 Crawford
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The 190th Regiment was one of three regiments within the 185th Brigade German Army which was part of the 185th Division

Looking at the OS Map for the period which shows the line of the railway we can see that Normangill was a farm between Crawford and the future site of the reservoir



In October 1917 National and Local newspapers reported that two prisoners had escaped from the camp

+The Fifeshire Advertiser of Saturday 20th October 1917

Escaped German Prisoners – Two German prisoners of war escaped from the camp at Cowgill, Crawford, Lanarkshire, on Tuesday evening. They are



described as (1) Arnold Prangen, private, age 25, complexion fair, hair dark brown, eyes light brown, build strong, height about 5 feet 7 inches dressed in brownish corduroy jacket and trousers, may have grey flannel trousers, military cap or soft cap; was a candlemaker and motordriver and won

the Iron Cross, (2) Karl Konrad, private, age 24, complexion fair, hair black, eyes brown, build slight, height 5 feet 5 inches; dressed in grey corduroy suit, and likely to be wearing civilian cap, jacket and trousers, may have circular blue patches; a mason to trade. Neither of the escaped men can speak English. They were probably in possession of about £3 in silver, enough food to last two or three days, two pocket knives, and a quantity of tobacco and matches.

The Evening Mail of 19th October 1917 reported that both prisoners had been recaptured by the Carlisle City Police, but also noted that 5 prisoners had escaped from Stobs camp near Hawick on the Wednesday night. The Carlisle and Lanark Gazette stated that the two escaped prisoners had been recaptured at 03.30 on the Thursday morning.

There is no precise information on the location of the camp and it may be it moved as the railway was constructed and also its precise opening and closing dates are not known. The Railway was a light railway of a 3ft gauge and operated from 1920-1927. Lanarkshire County Council had received permission to build in the line in 1917 but it would appear from the date of the Karl Wachter's death in October 1916 that the camp was existence by that date. Certainly the proposal to build the railway and reservoir was note in local newspapers in 1914.

On the lighter side

Many years ago Granny told the story that her uncle paid a genealogist £5 (a lot of money in 1900) to trace his ancestors. After learning the result he paid the gentleman £25 to keep it quiet! Years later, we discovered that Uncle William's mother, Grannies' Granny, was the product of an adulterous relationship.....John Ellis reveals hidden truths!

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

TITLE

AUTHOR

Cold hand of charity: tales from the Edinburgh City Poorhouse	MacDonald, Alastair
Monumental inscriptions: Kinlochluichart (Garve Burial Ground, Achanalt Upper & Lower Burial Ground, Kinlochluichart Churchyard & Strathconon Burial Ground) Parish of Contin, Ross-shire	
Cockburn Street [Edinburgh]: a history of a street	Pryce, Barclay
St Stephen Street [Edinburgh]: a history of a street	Pryce, Barclay
Albany Street [Edinburgh]: a history of a street	Pryce, Barclay
Broughton Street [Edinburgh]: a history of a street	Pryce, Barclay
Kirkyard of Maryculter	
Kirkyard of Old Deer [map in back pocket]	
Kirkyard of Premnay	
Kirkyard of Dyce United Free: Lair records and memorial inscriptions	
Kirkyard of Belhelvie New	
Little Donegal: the Irish in the Gorbals and Govanhill	Bryce, Colm
History of Education in Lasswade [e-file]	Murray, James, Prof.
Old Harthill	Hendrie William F.
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Discovering the River Forth	Hendrie William F.
Discovering the Firth of Forth	Hendrie William F.
Cromarty Poor Register 1878-1922 & Children's Register 1863-1919	Farrell, Stuart

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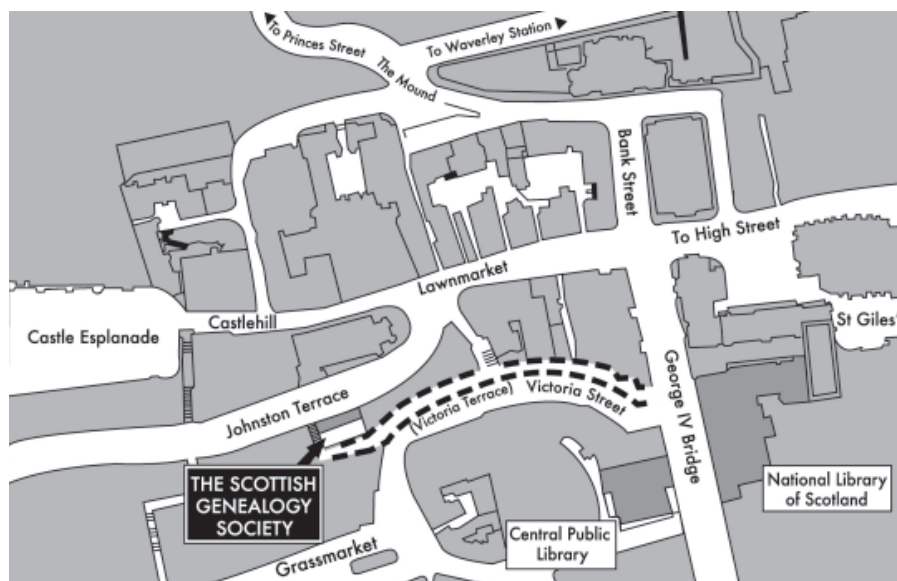
Ordinary meetings take place at 7.30 pm in the Augustine United Church,
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|--------------|--|
| 14 June | Visit Archers Hall, Buccleuch Street – with talk by Col. C.P. Wallace D.L., Royal Company of Archers. Booking required. Please contact the Library |
| 18 September | Bridgescapes – A journey through Scotland's Bridge Building Heritage <i>by L Bruce Keith</i> |
| 16 October | The Highland Peoples' Historian; John Dewar of Arrochar and his informants - <i>by Ronald Black; Author and former lecturer in Celtic in the University of Edinburgh</i> |
| 20 November | Life Below Stairs. Looking at our Servant Ancestors, by Margaret Fox, archivist. Note: The talk by Rosslyn Macphail has been postponed until 2024 |

Some talks may be presented in hybrid format. Please contact
Enquiries@scotsgenealogy.com

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