

**A Fork in the Road:  
Events that changed  
my family history!**

Shawlands Cross, Glasgow

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### Featured in this edition



Did Uncle Bill marry Napoleon Bonaparte's daughter?  
page 28



Trooper John Eason of the Natal Mounted Police  
page 22

**THIS CONCERNS EVERYONE**  
engaged in the  
**MOVEMENT OF VEHICLES**  
(Shunters, Porters, Guards, Carriage and Wagon Staff, &c.).

**IS IT SAFE**

**TO** move vehicles or shunt them against others, without warning men engaged in, about, or between them, and giving the men reasonable time to get clear before you start work!



Moving Wagons in Sidings without giving Warning leads to many Accidents to Lorrymen and others.

**TO** move or shunt vehicles until you are satisfied that no carts or other road vehicles are foul of any of the lines on which you are going to work!

Your Glaswegian railway ancestor's accident  
page 25



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# Welcome to Journal 124

The theme for this edition of the Journal is *A Fork in the Road: Events that changed my family history!*

At the time of writing the country is gearing itself up to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM The Queen. An amazing milestone which came about because of a significant 'fork in the road' for both the country and the Royal Family, when King Edward VIII abdicated the throne in favour of his brother, stating in his abdication speech that: *'I have found it impossible to carry the heavy burden of responsibility and to discharge my duties as King as I would wish to do without the help and support of the woman I love.'*

Edward signed the instruments of abdication on 10 December 1936, and this was documented shortly after in *The Gazette* as follows:

*His former Majesty King Edward the Eighth did declare His irrevocable Determination to renounce the Throne for Himself and His Descendants.*

Articles in this edition related to the theme, including someone whose circumstances stopped him sailing on the Titanic, railway accidents, and a failed job application, are perhaps not quite so dramatic as the abdication and they didn't cause a constitutional crisis, although I'm sure each had as significant an impact for the families and individuals involved.

**Karen Hunter, Editor**

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# Notes from the Chair

If you managed to attend the AGM then you will have seen that we have a new Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary as well as some new Council members, and you had the opportunity to hear from each of the Council members. The previous office bearers had been in position for many years and we thank them for their long support of the Society, and of course our able Treasurer who continues to serve.

With new faces we will bring in some new ideas. If we can break down tasks and document them more clearly it may be easier to get volunteers to take over parts and stand-in to cover for key members who do lots of work in the background for the benefit of all.

The past two years have been difficult for everyone with limited chance for any of us to meet in person. We have been lucky that James, our IT Support, has been able to host meetings over Zoom. This has also allowed us to welcome members who live further afield, including those overseas, who previously had little or no opportunity to join meetings. It is a bonus to have recordings of most meetings available for members to view, particularly those in other time zones. Over the last few Zooms we have managed to expand the presentation into more of a 'Meeting' by extending to a general chat after the Speaker's Q&A. One of our new ideas is to continue our syllabus through the summer with a couple of open Zoom sessions for members to 'meet', perhaps opening with a couple of short topic 'talks' to open discussion and questions on any relevant topic. Sharing ideas and

problems is useful for us all. Look out for details of this in the next meeting reminder e-mail and in e-News.

Over the last few years many will have noticed the great additions to the website with interesting articles and front-page news. Many of our publications have been rebranded and introduced to the shop as downloadable PDFs which are convenient to use as the display can be enlarged and the content easily searched. The number of datasets uploaded, allowing far away members to get access, is growing. Remember that all the work you see is the work of volunteers, and we can share more if we can find more of our members or other interested family historians willing to contribute to checking and transcribing items we have stored away in the Research Centre. In particular we are looking for members with some software expertise who can contribute to capturing the information we have stored on CDs, as these are now too old to work with modern computers.

Even if you are not able to volunteer please feel free to share questions and ideas with the Journal Editor on what subjects would be of interest. Remember that Family History is not just collecting dates; it is also finding out about how your ancestors lived and the history around them.

**Scott Fairie, Chair, 30**

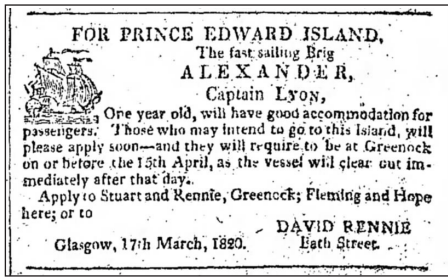




# “The next fertile valley, a better home, a richer life”

On 25 April 1820 a small news item in the Edinburgh Advertiser reported, “...the *Alexander*, from Greenock, with emigrants for Prince Edward’s Island got under weigh with a fine breeze. This vessel sailed with 85 passengers on board, of which 17 were children. They were chiefly of the agricultural class; but among them were some weavers.”

A month earlier, an advertisement had appeared weekly in the Glasgow Herald offering passage on the *Alexander* (as below).



**FOR PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND,**  
The fast sailing Brig  
**ALEXANDER,**  
Captain Lyon,  
One year old, will have good accommodation for passengers. Those who may intend to go to this Island, will please apply soon—and they will require to be at Greenock on or before the 15th April, as the vessel will clear out immediately after that day.  
Apply to Stuart and Rennie, Greenock; Fleming and Hope here; or to  
**DAVID RENNIE**  
Lath Street.  
Glasgow, 17th March, 1820.

The advertisement didn’t tell the full story – the owner planned to transport settlers to the Island on the outbound journey, and collect a shipload of timber before returning to Scotland. An earlier item had advertised “To farmers or others who may be inclined to settle on Prince Edward Island... this will be a very favourable opportunity, at the best season of the year, and the owner having a large tract of good land near the capital of the Island to SELL or LET on large leases, will give good encouragement to farmers of experience and capital who may wish to emigrate.”

The man behind the scheme, David RENNIE, was a merchant in Glasgow and co-proprietor of Stuart and Rennie, running an import business between the Newfoundland colony and Scotland. The company had been in existence since at least 1785, based in Greenock, one of the busiest ports in western Scotland. Rennie owned, or had shares in, several ships to transport his goods and cargos, and the *Alexander* was one of them.

Rennie had bought Lot 23 in Prince Edward Island (PEI) in 1810, several hundred acres on the north shore, and he decided to settle and clear his land and collect tenant rent. It is not yet known what the financial arrangement was between the emigrants and Rennie. The 1841 Census of PEI enumerated the number of people in each household who repaid their passage money to the Proprietors or their Agents; and all of the people known to be on the *Alexander* reported having done so. Just how Rennie negotiated their land leases is, as yet, unclear.

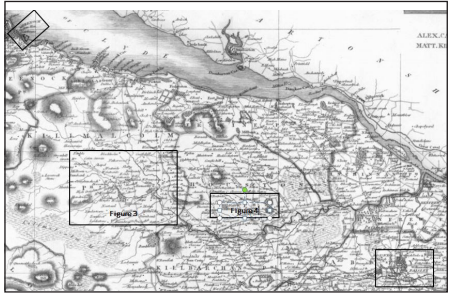


Figure 2: Greenock (upper left), Kilmacolm and Houston parishes, and Paisley (lower right). Excerpt from John Thomson’s Map of Renfrewshire, 1826.  
Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.

About half of the people who took up Rennie’s 1820 offer were families from

Kilmacolm and Houston and Killellan parishes in Renfrewshire, as well as Paisley. [Figure 2] Who were they and what compelled them to go?

## Emigrants from Kilmacolm

Kilmacolm in the 1790s was not a wealthy parish: land was poor and farms were small. Houses in town, and throughout the parish, were generally one storey and primitive. In 1792 there were about 900 living there, with only 126 living in the village of Kilmacolm. There were eight weavers in the village and not one, but two, clockmakers. People met to transact business in one of the six alehouses, much to the chagrin of the parish minister.

Most of the parishioners were farmers, who were observed to be resisting new approaches to farming, clinging to traditional customs. There were very few horses, with people pulling carts themselves.

The STEVENSON family farmed at Wardwell Park. Though small (only seven acres), it supported the nine people in the household, supplemented with money which father Charles, and his son William, earned as shoemakers. In 1797, they were doing well enough to own a horse, one of 53 households in the parish to do so (an additional 42 owned more than one). This was truly a measure of wealth – many Scots were poor tenant farmers or agricultural labourers without the resources to purchase such a luxury. William took over the tack (leasehold tenure) on Wardwell Park in 1817. With the transfer of the tack, William's rent more than doubled.

There was a reason for this steep escalation of rent. Alexander Porterfield,

the landowner of Duchall estate, on which the Stevensons and their neighbours had been tenant farmers for generations, died childless in 1815. There were no clear heirs to the estate, and it took the court a few years to determine who would succeed him. Detailed surveys were produced, as well as accounts of farms, farmers, crops and rents paid.

During this time, the two claimants to the estate, Sir Michael Shaw Stewart and James Corbett Porterfield, began to consolidate the farms into larger pastures for raising sheep – it was more lucrative than chasing after their tenant farmers for rent. Letters between them and the factor tell of efforts to evict one or another tenant. Some farmers tried to stand their ground, with little success.

Tenant farmers were asked to make an offer on the rent they would pay. In 1816, William Stevenson offered to almost double (£12) what his father had been paying (£7) but it was deemed too low. They settled on £19/12/5 per year for 19 years and by “crop 1818” (how they termed the rental year) he was already £9 in arrears. Many Stevenson neighbours fell deeper into debt, and were forced to leave their farms.

Some of those turned out of their homes were listed in a letter written by William's mother Margaret (Anderson) Stevenson in 1823. The ellipses in Figure 3 locate the farms she identifies as vacated, near the Duchall estate house. Life on little Wardwell Park farm (marked with a rectangle) must have been very lonely after the exodus of her neighbours.

Some of the people she mentions in her letter were passengers on the *Alexander*:

- James HOUSTON, wife Janet MILLAR, children James (16), Elizabeth Jane (14), Margaret (10), Grizel (9), John (5) and Jane (2) from Woodend farm;
- Alexander LAIRD and wife, Agnes Laird with sons John (24) and Alexander (10) from Burnbank farm (in 1818 he owed £28 pounds in rent arrears);
- James Laird and daughter Margaret (25) from Nutton farm;
- James SEMPLE, wife Mary INGLIS and children James (4) and Jean (2) from Mount Blow farm.

These four families comprised 18 of the 85 people on board.

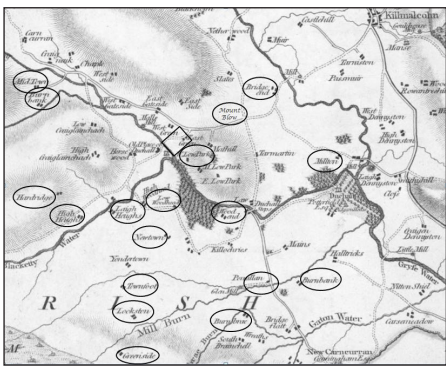


Figure 3: Vacated farms in Kilmacolm parish (ellipses), surrounding Wardwell Park farm (rectangle). Excerpt from the Map of the County of Renfrew by John Ainslie, London, 1800. Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.

### The Paisley emigrants

John Stevenson, William’s next youngest brother, had moved to Paisley in the 1790s and worked there as a weaver. He found life difficult for a different reason than the Kilmacolm folk: fluctuation in prices for woven cloth meant that John’s earnings for his weaving was always tenuous; the cost of living had increased;

and the increasing mechanization of the weaving process was starting to force home weavers out of work. Growing unrest among the Paisley weavers led to the riots in the streets of Paisley in 1819.

Perhaps John saw Rennie’s advertisement, or heard about it from his former Kilmacolm neighbours. Perhaps the “community emigration” of people he had known growing up spurred John and wife Margaret to go. Perhaps the strife in Paisley suggested the time was right to leave. Whatever their reasons, they decided to take their family to PEI. Margaret’s brother George NISBET, a shoemaker, and his wife and family opted to accompany the Stevensons. All told, the Paisley contingent comprised of:

- John Stevenson, wife Margaret Nisbet and children, Charles (18), Catherine (16), John (15), Andrew (13), William James (10), Margaret (8), George (5), Jane (4), and Janet (1);
- George Nisbet, wife Martha HART and children Andrew Nisbet (16), William Nisbet (14), Martha Nisbet (9), George Nisbet (6), and Catherine Nisbet (3);
- Katherine (Guild) Nisbet, George and Margaret’s mother.

In 1817, Katherine GUILD had been appointed executrix for her wealthy brother Robert Guild’s estate in Tranent, near Edinburgh. The timing of her efforts to settle the estate in 1819 suggests that money from her inheritance might have paid some of the emigration and land settlement costs.

Katherine was 67 when she left Scotland, one of the oldest on the ship, and she had already “travelled” a great distance – spending about 20 years in each of

Tranent parish, Edinburgh, and Paisley town, outliving two husbands and four children. She had resided in cities for 47 years; her next move was to the middle of the PEI wilderness.

Altogether, these three Paisley families comprised 19 of the 85 people on board.

## The Houston emigrants

Houston, Renfrewshire was a happening place in the 1780s and 1790s. The estate owner, James MACRAE had razed an old castle in 1780 and used the stones to create the new town of Jamestown (just west and north of the old village of Houston and since incorporated into Houston town), with 35 new houses, some two storey. About a third of the parish population lived there.

In 1791, there were about 1000 people in the parish of Houston and Killellan. About 15% of the population worked as servants, and there were a few carpenters, tailors, shoemakers, and a clockmaker. There were very few poor or indigent people. Many of the young women and girls in the village sported silk dresses and cloaks of the latest fashion. Men were dressed in English cloth and good linens.

Houston was a hub of textile production. Like elsewhere in the parishes around Paisley, many families had looms and produced cotton, muslin, lawns and fine silk gauze.

And there was bleaching. This century-old practice involved spreading yards of linen (and later cotton) fabric or thread on the fields and pouring on solutions of bleach to hasten the sun's ability to whiten them. As fabric and thread production increased in Paisley and Glasgow, the

goods were shipped to the countryside where there was space and available clean water to process them. Thomas and James CARLILE established a large bleachfield west of Jamestown in the 1780s, to process the cloth shipped from their father's mills in Paisley. Cotton mills soon followed. As the bleaching industry became more industrialized, the Carlile brothers built the Houston Bleachworks near the bleachfields, sometimes referred to as the Ravenshaugh (or Ravenshaw) Bleachworks.

By 1811 the population in Houston and Killellan parish grew to 2044, of which 524 lived in Houston town. The number of people involved with agriculture in the parish decreased from over two thirds in 1791 to only 20% in 1831. Instead, most people were occupied in the cotton trade - commerce, manufactures or handcrafts. Prosperity would continue; by 1845 in a parish with almost 3000 people, only 28 people were on poor relief.

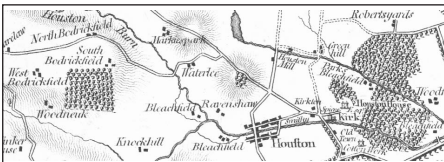
In the midst of this growth and expansion these young people took up Rennie's offer:

- John ARTHUR, single (25) and son of a bleacher in Houston;
- James Arthur, John's brother (30) and wife Mary Barr from Hurton farm;
- James DICKIESON, single (22) whose family lived at Ravenshaugh farm until at least 1816;
- William FYFE (26), his wife Jean Arthur (23) and their two children Robert (4) and Elizabeth (3);
- Alexander LANG (25) from Bodrickfield farm and his brand new bride Marion WILSON (23).

All were born in the parish, the three Arthurs were siblings, and given their similar ages it is possible they all were long-time friends. As a measure of prosperity, other than James Dickieson, all their fathers had paid tax on at least one farm horse in 1797.

All told, these folks from Houston comprised 10 of the 85 people on board.

In the midst of the economic boom in Houston, what was it that enticed them to leave their homes and their families for Prince Edward Island? Alexander Lang's father had been prosperous enough to own two horses on Bodrickfield Farm in 1797, but agriculture was on the wane in Houston by 1820. The Arthurs' father, William, had been a bleacher in Houston in the 1790s when they were born. James Dickieson, a joiner by trade, grew up on Ravenshaugh farm, surrounded by bleachfields, about a mile from Houston town. Perhaps they saw little appeal in that industry.



*Houston town, Ravenshaugh farm with surrounding bleachfields, and Bodrickfield farm to the left. Excerpt from the Map of the County of Renfrew by John Ainslie, London, 1800. Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland*

Young, and with their lives ahead of them, it's possible they took stock of their options, and set off together in search of new opportunities.

And so it was for all the 85 people who crossed the Atlantic, arriving on Prince Edward Island on May 22, 1820. Each had their own impetus for emigrating,

all of them in search of "the next fertile valley, a better home, a richer life".

### Dianne Brydon

*Dianne Brydon resides in Ottawa, Canada. She is a member of the Ontario Genealogical Society as well as the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa.*

*Editor: On our website you can find a transcription of the letter mentioned in the article, sent in 1823 by Margaret Stevenson from her home in Kilmalcolm, Renfrewshire to her son, Robert who lived in New Brunswick, Canada.*

### Did you know?

Another Royal 'Fork in the Road'!

Queen Victoria, the longest reigning British monarch until our present Queen, never expected to inherit the throne. She was born at Kensington Palace, London, on 24 May 1819; the only daughter of Edward, Duke of Kent, fourth son of George III.

Her father died shortly after her birth and she became heir to the throne because the three uncles who were ahead of her in the succession - George IV, Frederick Duke of York, and William IV - had no legitimate children who survived.





## Dr Hugh McLaren

In August 2001, a cousin from Australia, Margaret Isobel Gordon and her husband David Wass visited Glasgow. Margaret wanted to see the former homes of her grandparents Dr Hugh MCLAREN and his wife Isabella McGill WOTHERSPOON.

Hugh McLaren was born on 30 Sep 1870 at 5 Lilybank Street, Tradeston, Glasgow, first child and only son of Thomas McLaren, a commercial traveller in the tobacco trade, and his wife Agnes Clark Hunter. Tragedies struck this young family. His father died in March 1876. His four-year-old sister, Janet Clark McLaren, died in June 1877 of measles. In November that year, his mother remarried; her new husband was newly widowed Alexander Lucas Wright, a master clothier. Alexander's first wife, Mary Stark Millar and their daughter Janet Lucas Wright had both died of smallpox a few months previously. The blended family moved from Glasgow to Uddingston.

The young Hugh aspired to a career in medicine. Although his step-father had a good trade qualification, a University education was beyond the means of most working class families. Students had to pay high fees and there were no maintenance grants. Hugh took employment as a clerk to help to fund his studies. I don't know if Hugh won a scholarship or a bursary, but even if he did, it would not have paid the full cost. In 1895, Hugh graduated from the University of Glasgow, M.B., C.M.

Dr Hugh needed to work in hospitals to gain experience and to establish his

reputation in his profession. He spent four years as a Resident in Hospitals and seven years at Pathological and Clinical work and in the teaching of students. He did research too and between 1900 and 1906 he published 14 academic papers, as joint or principal author, in medical journals.

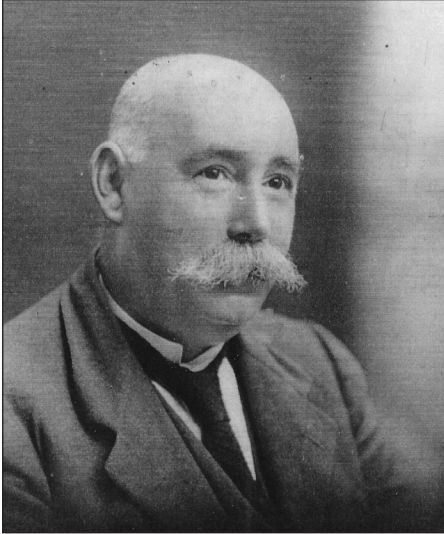
Dr Hugh aspired to the post of Physician to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary. His efforts to equip himself for the post of Physician to the Infirmary led him into different areas of Medicine. They included experience in Obstetrics, Pathology, Mental Asylums, a Fever Hospital, and he had terms as House Surgeon and House Physician at different hospitals. He was writing and researching as well as lecturing, teaching and working in hospitals. In 1906 he was elected a Fellow of the Faculty [now College] of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.



*Isabella McGill Wotherspoon, 1875-1948*

In July 1904, Dr Hugh married Isabella McGill Wotherspoon, a nurse at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, in the Alexandra

Hotel, Glasgow. Isabella was a daughter of William Waddell Wotherspoon, a blacksmith in Coatbridge, Lanarkshire and his wife Jeanie Arthur Knox. Isabella had to resign her position at the G.R.I. as soon as her engagement was announced. Their first child, Alexander Wright McLaren was born in October 1905.



Hugh McLaren 1870-1935

*"Dr McLaren held a series of part-time posts in the Dispensary [=Outpatients Department] between 1898 and 1907. He also held the part-time post of Assistant Pathologist from 1900 to 1905. In 1907 he sought appointment as a Physician to the Infirmary. This would have given him charge of wards within the hospital and was a highly prestigious appointment. It was also a key step in building up a private practice (the bulk of any hospital doctor's income in those days). He was not successful in his application, reported to the managers on 3 Jan 1907, and on 4 Feb he resigned his position as Dispensary Physician" - Alistair Tough.*

No one will ever know why his application was unsuccessful, or why he uprooted his wife and young son to migrate to Australia on a cargo ship as the Surgeon. Perhaps Glasgow became too small for the unsuccessful candidate for the top Physicians job in the hospital. Maybe he was burnt out after constant striving to get on. Was it because of Isabella's health? Did he think the climate in Australia better for her health? Did he have a sense of adventure and a pioneering spirit? Or did he want to escape from the terrible climate and the materialistic rat-race? It has been suggested by his daughter Jean that he left Glasgow owing money (which he paid back) and that he was *'in with a wealthy crowd of friends and couldn't keep up'*. We think he arrived in Sydney during 1907. The minutes of the New South Wales (NSW) Medical Board record at their meeting 12th June 1907, *'Hugh M'Laren M.B. Master of Surgery, Glasgow 1895, to be registered and gazetted'*.

He could have set up in Macquarie Street, Sydney when he came to Australia with the experience and training he had in Glasgow; instead he searched for six months, travelling with an AMP sales representative in rural NSW, and went as far as Brisbane, before deciding that Cowra, NSW was the country town where he would practice medicine and bring up his family.

Isabella and their young son Alexander arrived in Sydney in December 1908 on the P&O ship *Morewa*. They lodged at Mosman, an upmarket harbour side suburb of Sydney, with a family they had met on the ship. That would have been a very different experience to staying in

a multiple occupancy “land” in industrial Coatbridge!

Dr Hugh practised as a general practitioner in Cowra for 25 years. Two of his sons, Alexander and William, also qualified in medicine and practiced in Cowra; Alexander married another medical practitioner, Kathleen Enid ANDERSON. A grandson also practiced medicine in Cowra. I was honoured to meet Dr William when I visited Cowra in 2000. He was a medical officer of Z Force, Australian Army and he served in the Kokoda campaign behind Japanese enemy lines. A story for another day.

Back to the visit by Margaret and David Wass to Glasgow in 2001. Margaret knew that the house over-looked Kelvingrove Park, that it had two street doors (one for the house and one for the surgery), and that it was now part of a hotel. Dr Alexander remembered that the McLarens had a key to gain access to the park.

We discounted a couple of hotels that I thought may have been the house, and we selected a slightly unkempt house which was now part of a pub. Margaret and David photographed the house and the ‘bowling green’ opposite, with a view over the River Kelvin to the University above on the hill.

Next, we visited the Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery, where there was an exhibition of photographs taken in 1901, when the Kelvingrove Museum was built for the 1901 Glasgow Exhibition. Unfortunately, one of the photograph captions stated that in 1901 the part of Sauchiehall Street where we found the house was called Sandyford Street. Also, there was a large hall opposite the house

we selected, built for the exhibition, and so there would have been little view of Kelvingrove Park. Hmm.

On return to my flat, I found that I have a copy of the Certificate of Proclamation of Banns for the marriage of Hugh and Isabella - his address is stated as 901 Sauchiehall Street. The current house at number 901 is three blocks east from the house we photographed.



901 Sauchiehall Street

I found that Alexander's birth certificate also gives the address as 901 Sauchiehall Street. I visited the Mitchell Library and inspected the Post Office Directories for the period. The directories for 1900-01, 1901-02 and 1902-03 list Dr Hugh McLaren at number 44 Kelvingrove Street. The directories for 1903-04, 1904-05, 1905-06 and 1906-07 list him at 901 Sauchiehall Street. Many Post Office Directories for Glasgow are now available on FindMyPast in their *Scotland, Post Office Directories* record set, but not those for the years that I consulted in the Mitchell Library.

The Post Office Directories come with maps and from that I could locate the house at 901 - the street number is the same today as it was in 1901. I went

back to that end of Sauchiehall Street. The house was still standing. It was then part of the Kelvin Park Lorne Hotel. Most of this hotel was built in the 1970s, but it seems that they extended it into the house at number 901. The two street doors are there - but no longer in use. The house has a view down Kelvingrove Street to gates into Kelvingrove Park. [It seems that the Kelvin Park Lorne Hotel did not survive the pandemic; today it is closed and on offer for sale.]



44 Kelvingrove Street - street door

So, what of the story of the keys to the park? Kelvingrove Park is a public park so Hugh and Isabella would not have had keys to it. However, opposite Hugh's previous home at 44 Kelvingrove Street there is a small park, Kelvingrove Square; it would have been private in 1901. The keys would have been for this small park. The railings around the square were removed during WWII. Today, volunteers maintain it and it is open to all.

Dr Hugh McLaren practiced at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary when the Robert Adam building of 1794 and the Lister Surgical Block of 1861 were still

in use. The James Miller reconstruction began a few years before Dr Hugh left Glasgow but it was not completed until 1933. Margaret, a registered nurse, was pleased to see the plaque to Joseph Lister on Castle Street. See [friendsofgr.org/history/building/](http://friendsofgr.org/history/building/)

If Dr Hugh McLaren's application for the position of Physician at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary had been accepted, he would have stayed in Scotland. Perhaps he would have emigrated later, but his family would have been larger, his career more established and he would have been older. Cowra would have missed out on the 180+ years of medical service provided by Dr Hugh and his descendants.

### Murray Archer, 4316

*In memory of Margaret and David Wass*

*All images are from the author's own collection.*

*Acknowledgements:*

*Clare Harrison, Library and Heritage Manager, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow*

*Alistair G Tough, Senior Research Fellow in University of Glasgow; Archivist and Records Manager, NHS Greater Glasgow*



*Kelvingrove Square*



## Hunting for Hamiltons

A published, first-hand account of ordinary ancestors is a rare discovery.

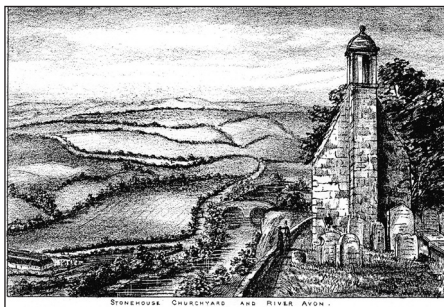
My paternal grandfather's forename was HAMILTON, which came from his grandmother Janet Hamilton. When I started to research her family, I discovered she had an uncle who was a minister of the Established Church of Scotland and the entry for Rev. Dr. William Hamilton of Strathblane, Stirlingshire, in *'Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae'* - biographies of ministers since the Reformation - noted he had published his autobiography. His parents were James Hamilton and Mary, also Hamilton, whose families lived for generations in Stonehouse, Lanarkshire. The Hamiltons in or of Milnholm, were a very junior branch of the ducal house, which can be traced back to about 1300.

As well as Old Parish Registers (OPR) and sasines, or land transactions, I used other sources. *'A History of the House of Hamilton'* was compiled by Lt. Col. George Hamilton and published in 1933 (HHH), though it's not entirely accurate. Another useful book was Naismith's *'Stonehouse, historical and traditional'*, published in 1885. Early sasines were written in Secretary script, which is difficult to read, so I used the printed indexes to Lanarkshire sasines, which give cross-references to wives and parents. By the late 1600s, Stonehouse OPR made research easier - where there weren't any gaps. All of these were available in the Mitchell Library, Glasgow, but I had to visit the British Library in London for the autobiography.

Of the Milnholm Hamiltons, HHH states:

*'One of the oldest tombstones in the kirkyard of Stonehouse placed at the north-east corner of the ruined church - the position for families of note - bears an inscription in memory of James Hamilton, who died in 1661, and Andrew Hamilton, who died in 1663, sons of James Hamilton and Elizabeth Williamson his spouse.'*

My husband and I visited St Ninian's kirkyard in the early 1980s and recorded this and other Hamilton memorials.



Stonehouse Churchyard and River Avon

As there are several James Hamiltons in my ancestry, I followed the American fashion and numbered them, though they can sometimes be identified by where they lived. In Scottish records, the prepositions used with respect to residence were very specific: 'of' denoted a landowner; 'in' a tenant; 'at' or none, a cottar or farm labourer - and these Hamiltons were mostly 'in'. The Rev. William stated, *'My paternal ancestors were descended from the Hamiltons of Raploch'*. This is not the suburb of Stirling, but now part of Larkhall, Lanarkshire.

According to Hamilton OPR of 1672, John Hamilton in Milnholm married Helen ALSTON, *'in this parish'*. A contemporary sasine describes him as the legitimate son of Elizabeth Williamson - and therefore



of James I. Stonehouse OPRs start in 1696 with a list of the inhabitants of the parish, by property. Family relationships are not given, but wives are recorded by their maiden surnames. Crofthead of Kittyuir, just to the north of Milnholm, starts with John Hamilton and Helen Alston.

Owing to his Calvinistic beliefs, in 1683 John fell foul of the authorities in Edinburgh and was imprisoned in the cellars of Dunottar Castle, Aberdeenshire. He was released two years later after swearing allegiance to the episcopalian Crown and paying a heavy fine, the alternative being deportation overseas.

John's will indicated he died in February 1701 and by 1 July 1701, a sasine notes '*James (II) and John Hamilton lawful sons to the deceased John Hamilton in Crofthead of Kittimure*'. The following year, James II married Agnes MUTTER. OPR for Stonehouse at this period are patchy and only lists some of their family, but James III was born in Crofthead in 1706. Research was not helped with two children being baptised in the neighbouring parish of Glassford, with the family still in Crofthead. By 1717 they had moved to Milnholm, the last child's mother noted as Anne, a variation of Agnes. '*Fasti*' provides the answer to the family's apparent defection: their local minister died in 1710 and was not replaced until 1713.

There are no Stonehouse OPR for the second quarter of the 1700s, but the Rev. William, plus family gravestones next to the Hamilton-Williamson one, fill in the gaps and more importantly, are broadly in agreement with each other and available records. He wrote, '*My paternal*

*grandmother was Anne Mutter of Tofts. She died before her husband*'. A stone commemorates: James (III) Hamilton in Millholm who died 10th September 1749 aged 44 years; Anna Mutter his wife who died 16th December 1740 aged 25 years.

William states his father was the second of five children. If Anne Mutter had married in her late teens, she would have had time to have five children before - not altogether surprisingly - dying at 25. '*My paternal grandfather (James III) who was a pious, ingenious man, was cut off in the 42nd year of his age, leaving his children all very young...*'. History does not relate who brought up the orphans. The will of James III was not proved until nearly ten years after his death, and his eldest son, James IV, was one of the executors. In October 1761 he married Mary Hamilton, probably not a close relation as it was a common name locally. She was one of the Hamiltons of Colinhill in the adjoining parish of Avondale, who have been traced back to the middle 1600s.

The earliest known Hamilton on the Colinhill line was Mary's great-grandfather John, who probably died c1707, but available records don't name his wife. Her paternal grandparents were John Hamilton and Janet LEIPER, from the adjoining parish of (East) Kilbride. Janet's last and eighth child came in 1716, when she would have been in her middle forties, so she was probably born in the early 1670s.

Glassford seems to have been popular with the residents of the surrounding parishes as many of the baptisms and marriages of the 1690s were for non-residents and again, '*Fasti*' provides the answer.

In Avondale the minister '*deserted from fear*' at the time of the overthrow of King James VII & II in 1689. His replacement didn't arrive until 1694, but only stayed for eleven months and for the next four years the parish was again without a minister. Stonehouse didn't fare much better. In 1684 the incumbent was removed for five years because he refused to read the proclamation regarding the deliverance of Charles II and his brother, the future James VII & II, from the Rye House Plot. There was an interim minister, who moved on to Edinburgh and was subsequently in trouble for celebrating '*irregular marriages*', where the banns weren't called. His predecessor only came back for a year, then there was a gap until 1696.

Andrew, my ancestor, was born in 1706 and up to this time, his father was described as '*John Hamilton ygr. of Colinhill*' inferring that Andrew's grandfather was still alive. From 1708 onwards, the '*younger*' was dropped. In June 1739 Andrew, '*in Colinhill*', married in East Kilbride, Janet, daughter of Andrew CRAIG and Mary WILSON. The following year they had Mary, my ancestor, but it was not until his daughter Helen was born in May 1746 that he became '*of Colinhill*'.

The Rev. William wrote,

*'My mother used to speak with great intent of the piety of her father and the passionate tenderness which her mother (Janet Craig) felt for her children. To preserve his cattle and moveables from the rebels in 1745, my maternal grandfather was obliged to carry them to the bleak and dreary muirs in Avondale. By watching them there in rainy weather*

*he contracted a cold, followed by asthma, which confined him to the house for the remainder of his life.'*

The story of Andrew and the cattle was handed down the family and I'd heard it from an uncle. These ancestors evidently weren't Jacobites. Despite his poor health, the parish mortcloth records indicate Andrew survived until July 1773 and Janet died in 1778. A mortcloth was a pall which went over a coffin, hired for funerals and the price varied according to the size. Some parishes also had '*best*' and '*second best*'. Both Andrew and Janet had the use of the former at 6/8d, as against the two shilling one. Neither left wills.

Returning to the Stonehouse Hamiltons: The Rev. William wrote of James IV,

*'...for many years my father was buoyed up with the prospect of being a country gentleman who could live on his rents and neglect every useful occupation... He was in his youth passionately fond of field sports and other juvenile amusements... His uncle (John, the elder brother of James III) ...in his old age married and left an heiress to his lands. My father was obliged to abandon his amusements and betake himself to the care of the corn mill at Milnholm'.*

James IV and Mary did not stay at Milnholm for long. The first three of their ten children were born there, including my ancestor Andrew in January 1765, but by September 1769 the family had moved east across town to the farm of Upper Longridge/High Langrigg and the family gravestones indicates the Hamiltons farmed here for several generations. James is described both '*of*' and '*in*' the property and in the

*'Directory of Landownership in Scotland'* c.1770 he was listed at 'Upperlandriggs' Stonehouse, with a valuation of £68.

William received his initial teaching from his mother. He continued at school a year or two, did not care for the study of Latin 'then as a preparation for becoming with my 2nd brother (Andrew) a Glasgow merchant, commenced weaver'. Then he 'quitted the weaving shop.... joined my oldest and 3rd brothers in their labours in the farm'. In November 1794 he left farming to return to school. He received much encouragement in his studies from his brother James. He wrote of Langrig/Longridge: *'The house commands a most extensive prospect'* and a modern contour map shows it still exists on the top of a hill.

Andrew's wife was Betty SMELLIE, also recorded as Elizabeth, Bessie or Bethea. Her family was originally from Carstairs, but she was a resident of the parish at the time of the marriage proclamation in April 1791 and according to parish accounts, Andrew was a weaver. Betty evidently was fertile with a robust constitution as she had seventeen children between July 1792 and October 1816, the first four arriving in less than four years. Two appear to have died young as her parents' names of Archibald and Grizel were used twice. Mortcloth records note Archie I died in April 1801, *'two shillings paid by Mr Andrew Hamilton'* and the son born the following month was given his name. OPR baptisms at this time note only one father named Andrew Hamilton in the parish and the addition of 'Mr' indicates his social standing.

At the baptisms of his first five children, Andrew was *'weaver in Stonehouse'*,

but from then on, he was *'farmer in Langrig'* and William provides the reason for the change. There were outbreaks of smallpox in the parish and at the beginning of March 1796 *'...I was seized. The disease was in its most virulent form and it was nearly 4 months before I could resume my studies. ...The smallpox rendered me blind for 16-17 days...'* An even more devastating attack occurred in May 1797: *'On Sat the 20th he (eldest brother James) was seized with an inflammatory form and on the 30th he breathed his last'*. - aged 34.

With the death of his brother, Andrew was now the oldest surviving son of James IV and Mary. He evidently gave up his trade as a weaver to become the tenant of the family farm as his father was nearly sixty. James IV died in 1822, aged 84, having outlived his wife by eight years. Andrew died less than five years after his father and Betty survived him by twenty years. She is listed on the 1841 census at High Longrig, of independent means, aged '60' - which was economical with the truth, even when ages on this census were rounded down to the nearest five years: she was born in 1771 and died in 1846.

Betty's daughter took after her as Janet's ages in the census were always wildly inaccurate until the end of her life. From all accounts, she was not an easy person: her grandson (my grandfather) referred to her as *'fierce, bad grandmama'* and four of her children left Scotland to set up in business in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. At the time of her marriage in June 1830 to James MEIKLE in Little Kype, Avondale, by the standards of the time she was, at thirty, well past her 'sell-by date'. In view of the following, one wonders just how

she got her man: 'Strathaven Church, 5 December 1830: Compeared (appeared) James Meikle and Janet Hamilton guilty of the sin of antenuptual fornication and were rebuked and absolved from the scandal and restored to Church privileges'.

Their first child had arrived in October, so who did the seducing? No doubt Uncle William would have had plenty to say about an 'expected premature birth' in the family, but perhaps Janet felt it was worth putting up with a sermon for the sake of the ring on her finger!

Susan Miller, 477



Disused Slate Quarry at Cullipool  
(see article on page 19)  
M J Richardson: CC BY-SA 2.0  
[www.geograph.org.uk/photo/6168207](http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/6168207)

## St Ninian's Kirkyard, Stonehouse, Lanarkshire

Table stone next to Hamilton/Williamson one  
as transcribed by Susan and her husband when they visited the kirkyard

<p><i>In memory of</i> James Hamilton in Millholm who died 10th September 1749 aged 44 years Anna Mutter his wife who died 16th December 1740 aged 25 years their son James Hamilton of Longridge who died 16th January 1822 aged 84 years Mary Hamilton his wife who died 22 July 1814 aged 72 years Their son James Hamilton who died 30 April 1797 aged 35 years also their son Andrew Hamilton of Longridge who died 4th August 1826 aged 61 years Elizabeth Smellie his wife who died 7th May 1846 aged 74 years</p>	<p><i>their son</i> Thomas Hamilton who died 14th January 1835 aged 26 years their son George Hamilton who died 11th November 1864 aged 53 years also in memory of their son James Hamilton of Longridge who died there 3rd March 1869 aged 75 years Janet Hamilton his wife who died 25 Feb 1879 aged 65 years also of their son Andrew Hamilton born 6th October 1831 died 18th October 1892 aged 61 years also of his wife Marion Millar who died at Crofthead Farm Avondale 27th March 1904 in her 76th year</p>
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## Knowing who our family was reveals part of who we are

This compulsive hobby of ours means we spend hours trying to track down our ancestors and building our Family Trees. Usually our next step is to try to discover how these ancestors lived and worked.

I've traced my paternal side back to the late eighteenth century in the Ballachulish area in Argyllshire, where they worked as Slate Quarrymen, whereas I was born in Gourrock in Renfrewshire. That started me wondering what had happened to some of my ancestors to make them leave Ballachulish, and how did they end up in Gourrock almost 100 miles away?

Donald Stewart WILSON, my Great Grandfather, was a Slate Quarrier who was born in Appin, Argyllshire in 1843, the third son of George and Charlotte Wilson. His father was also a Slate Quarrier. Donald moved to Kilchattan in the district of Cullipool somewhere around 1870 - approximately 35 miles from Ballachulish - where he started work as a slate quarryman in the Cullipool Quarry.

I then discovered another Argyllshire family, Thomas and Mary SANDERSON and their daughter Helen (b1855), were already living in Kilchatton. Within a year my Great Grandfather had married Helen. Perhaps that explains the move from Ballachulish.

Towards the end of the 19th century a 'very violent storm' hit the Cullipool area which, according to reports, was so fierce

that cattle and sheep were blown off the hills, numerous boats were wrecked, the slater's houses lost their roofs and the Cullipool Quarry flooded, resulting in most of their equipment and tools being lost. The slate business couldn't continue and many of the men were laid off.

And that was the reason for the next move by this branch of the Wilson family, - a journey of c100 miles, this time to Aberfoyle where the local Slate Quarry was recruiting and evidently had a strong preference for Ballachulish quarrymen.

In the early 20th century their landowner seems to have been concerned that the quarry could not support all of the next generation throughout their lifetime. So, through some political contacts, he obtained twenty engineering apprenticeships with the new Royal Naval Torpedo Factory which was being built in Greenock.

We don't know how the selection process worked however my Grandfather, Duncan Wilson (b1892 in Aberfoyle) and three of his brothers, were fortunate to obtain apprenticeship places and the family moved again, this time 40 miles to Gourrock. Donald obtained work in the Gourrock Stone Quarry where he worked until retirement and his sons started work in the Royal Naval Torpedo Factory.

My Grandfather married a Gourrock girl. My father was born there and later met and married my mother.

That's how I came to be born in Gourrock.

Puzzle solved!

[Hunter Wilson, 6500](#)



# A Twist of Fate

My Great Grandfather, William IRVINE was born on 31 August 1864 in Maryton, Kirriemuir, Forfar, Scotland. William IRVINE married Betsy Smith LAWSON (born 24 June 1870) on 3 June 1892 in 27 Victoria Street, St Andrew, Dundee. They had four daughters, Mary Ann Irvine [1893 -1911], Lizzie Grant Irvine [1894 - 1985 my grandmother], Isabella Lawson Irvine and Georgina Irvine [1897 -1965, twins].

While growing up my Aunt Gladys, my Mum's sister, was very keen to learn from her grandmother about her family history. Gladys always asked her grandmother Betsy to tell her about the family's life in Scotland. Both Gladys' father, David FAIRLIE and her grandfather William Irvine died in 1931 in Montreal, Quebec. Now here is where the family lore comes into play. Gladys was born in Canada, and not having had the immigration experience, she would ask her grandmother why they came to Canada. Betsy told her that it was due to the death of their eldest daughter. It was said that this broke William's heart and therefore he decided to leave Scotland for Canada. One can only dare say how devastated they must have been when forced to contend with the loss of their daughter Mary Ann at the tender age of 17 years old. As genealogists, often we may be under the impression that our ancestors usually emigrated for economic reasons and opportunities to better their life. In this case, it was not the sole cause for my family, it was heartbreak, and further research unfolded that it was an overwhelming one for William. So the story continues.

in 1911 William is ready to hand over his lease as a publican and make preparations to sail to Canada with one of his daughters, Georgina.

Ready and underway with my sources, I researched the records available to me online, given I was on this side of the pond in Canada. In the later years I searched the 1911 Census Scotland verifying the address with the family living together. It also supported William's occupation, Spirit Merchant. This corresponded with the information in the 1901 Census.

1892. MARRIAGES in the District of St Andrew in the Parish of Dundee.									
No.	Place Where and Date Celebrated.	Name of Bride.	Name of Groom.	Age of Bride.	Age of Groom.	Place of Birth of Bride.	Place of Birth of Groom.	Signature of Minister of the Gospel.	Signature of Witnesses.
182	St Andrew	Mary Ann	William Irvine	22	21	St Andrew	St Andrew	James Smith	James Irvine
183	St Andrew	Lizzie Grant	William Irvine	24	21	St Andrew	St Andrew	James Smith	James Irvine
184	St Andrew	Isabella Lawson	William Irvine	22	21	St Andrew	St Andrew	James Smith	James Irvine
185	St Andrew	Georgina	William Irvine	22	21	St Andrew	St Andrew	James Smith	James Irvine

Marriage of William and Betsy: 1892  
Statutory Marriages [282/4 18] ©National Records of Scotland

Upon obtaining the Statutory Marriage Record for William and Betsy, it revealed that William was a widower at the time of the union (something we weren't aware of). A well-known fact in family history is to leave no stone unturned, so I dug deeper into the records to learn that William had first married in December 1887. His first wife was Mary McGregor GRIMMOND but very sadly she died on 8 February 1888, followed by his twin daughters, [Mary and unknown] on 29 February 1888. Chills ran through my body as I could only imagine how devastated my great grandfather must have felt with such grief and the sorrow in his heart. My quest to learn more had increased two-fold.

Moving forward, in 2002 plans for travel to Scotland were underway. My Aunt Gladys and I were embarking on a fact-

finding mission with the hope of being able to confirm the inside stories she had been told by her grandmother over the years. Airline tickets were purchased and reservations were booked, with plans to spend time in Dundee. I also emailed the Dundee City Archives to book appointments to enable us to review the records locating the address of the Public House and any other pertinent particulars we may extract. Meanwhile, I contacted the Balgay Cemetery in Dundee to plan a visit to the gravesite of Mary Ann Irvine. My Aunt had always yearned to locate and visit her grandfather's pub and Aunt Mary Ann's gravesite. My desire to seek out these details were equally shared. My mission was underway and there was no disappointing my Aunt. With all the information sailing in my head, I was eager to start my quest. However, this is where my curiosity really started to build. Aunt Gladys had also told me that her sister, Betsy, had alleged that William was required to stay on longer than initially intended after the new owner of the Public House requested that William stay on until his son returned from India. When we visited the Dundee Archives you can imagine how thrilled we were when shown the entry which provided evidence that there was indeed an altering of the transfer of the lease between William Irvine and James Jones, Spirit dealers for the Public House located at 144 High Street, Lochee, Dundee. Staff at the Archives, on the day of our visit, remarked that in light of this change it was quite likely that William had needed to alter his plans for his passage to Canada.

This new development significantly altered the plans he had set in motion

for a new life, filled with hope for his wife Betsy and their three daughters. He had come this far and would hold on to the one silver thread to achieve his goal. I can only imagine his strength and determination when he had this 'Twist of Fate', and as this story concludes, I discovered that William Irvine changed his plans from passage on the *RMS Titanic*, to travel from Glasgow to Montreal in June 1912 on the *SS Scandinavian*.

Passenger list of SS Scandinavian, departing Glasgow on 29 June 1912 ©The National Archives, London

Often, as genealogists, we are put to the question as to why we do family history. Greater than the sum of these fragments, here is one of my responses. On the train ride leaving Dundee, while crossing the Tay Bridge, Aunt Gladys turned, looked at me and in a surreal tone she expressed her thoughts: 'what would my grandparents and my mother think to know that I was there and sat in the family's Public House, the same bricks and mortar, and visited the Balgay Cemetery gravesite of my Aunt that I had never met'. This squeezed my heart knowing that I had fulfilled a dream of the person who has always been my soul mate and inspiration in life and genealogy, my dearest Aunt Gladys.

[Susan Gingras Calcagni, 5625](#)

# Trooper John Eason of the Natal Mounted Police

Trooper John Eason of the Natal Mounted Police (NMP) (Service No 170) was killed at the Battle of Isandlwana on 22 January 1879, aged 20. He was buried on the battlefield and commemorated on the family lair in the Old Burying Ground of Glasgow High Kirk (on the stone it states erroneously, 22 February).



*Stone on the Family Lair, Old Burying Ground, Glasgow High Kirk ©Colin Campbell*

John EASON was born at 390 Duke Street, Glasgow on 4 February 1859 to John Eason snr, a cotton warper, and Elizabeth RANKINE. He had an older sister Margaret. By 1871 the family had moved to 464 Duke Street and young John had left school and was working as a message boy. The family had now swelled to seven with the addition of another daughter and son, as well as Mrs Eason's 80 years old mother-in-law, Margaret Rankine.

John snr changed jobs and became a house factor. The family moved to 109 Parson Street, Townhead and it was there that Elizabeth died of heart failure on 6 January 1879, a few days before John was killed at Isandlwana on 22 January.

We will never know exactly why John Eason was attracted to join the NMP but probably the lure of adventure, sunny climes, tales of derring-do and Empire had not a little to do with it. Certainly, it must have looked better than life as a message boy in Glasgow in the 1870s and in a crowded tenement flat in Duke Street. Nor will we know whether he was recruited in Glasgow or read about it in newspapers. Did he work his passage in a steamship out to the blossoming port of Durban in the then British colony of Natal, intending to go to the gold and diamond fields but joined the NMP instead?

The Natal Mounted Police was formed in 1874 by a retired British Army officer, Major Sir John Dartnell as a para-military force and the first line of defence in the Colony of Natal. The Zulu War of 1879 was their first taste of action, where one detachment went in search of the Zulu army while a second stayed and fought in the Battle of Rorke's Drift. In 1894 the Natal Mounted Police was amalgamated with other of the Colony's law-enforcement agencies to form the Natal Police, by which name it was known until it was disbanded in 1913.

Isandlwana was the great defeat of the British Army under Lord Chelmsford at the hands of the soldiers of the Zulu Kingdom of King Cetshwayo. This invasion of the Zulu Kingdom by British Imperial forces had been badly conceived and poorly commanded. Although the Zulus won this battle, ultimately they were not strong enough to withstand a second invasion that year by a Great Britain intent on revenge. They were heavily defeated at the Battle of Ulundi on

4 July 1879 by Chelmsford determined on restoring his battered reputation. The Zulu Kingdom was effectively destroyed as a united entity that day.



View of the Battlefield Burial Ground and Memorial ©Tim Needham

In his history of the NMP, *The Mounted Police of Natal* by H.P. Holt (1913), the author wrote:

*Much has been written about the ghastly massacre at Isandhlwana in which Cetshwayo's overwhelming army of about 20,000 men killed 689 officers and men of the Imperial troops and 133 officers and men of colonial volunteers, the Natal Mounted Police, and Native Contingents; and scarcely any one has denied that the colossal tragedy was due to blundering.* (p58).

*Fighting like demons, a party of the 24th Regiment, the Natal Mounted Police, and Colonial Volunteers rallied round Colonel Durnford and held their ground gallantly, attacked on all sides by a shrieking mass of Zulus, until their last cartridge was fired. Then they were stabbed to death. Twenty-five of the police were amongst the victims, and of these, a score was afterwards found lying round the body of Colonel Durnford. They had fallen where they fought and died fighting. Practically nothing is known of what happened in that awful few minutes at the finish, for*

*the Zulus were not very communicative on the subject for many years afterwards.* (p60).

*The members of the force who were killed at Isandhlwana were: Corporal Lally, Lance-Corporal Campbell, and Troopers Banger, Berry, Blakeman, Capps, J. Clarke, Daniells, Dorey, Eason, Fletcher, Lloyd, McRae, Meares, Niel, Pearse, Parsons, Pollard, Pleydell, F. Secretan, Siddall, Stimson, Thicke, C. White, and Winkle. The men who escaped were: Lance-Corporal Eaton, Trumpeter Stevens, and Troopers Collier, Doig, Dorehill, W. Hayes (died of fever at Helpmakaar), Kincade, Shannon, and Sparks.* (p61).



Plaque in St Peter's Church, Pietermaritzburg commemorating the fallen from the Natal Mounted Police during the Zulu War ©Tim Needham

*In the numerous descriptions of the battlefield very little mention is made of the fact that the Police shared with an equal number of Volunteers the honour of having made the last stand on the nek of the hill. At the crest where the dead men were lying thick, a large proportion of them were in the uniform of the Natal Mounted Police. In a patch of long grass, near the right flank of the camp, lay Colonel Durnford's body, a central figure*



of a knot of brave men who had fought it out around their chief to the bitter end.

Around him lay 14 Carbineers and 21 of the Police. Clearly, they had rallied round the Colonel in a last despairing attempt to cover the flank of the camp and had stood fast from choice when they might have essayed to fly for their horses, which were close by at the picket line. (p64).

All the men were awarded the South Africa medal (1877-1879) with the 1879 clasp. Most were buried in the "Colonial Cemetery" on the battlefield itself.



The battlefield memorial: ©Tim Needham

The Memorial also remembers those of the Natal Mounted Police killed at Rorke's Drift (12 miles away) on the same day. Rorke's Drift was immortalised in the 1964 film, *Zulu*, and *Isandlwana* in the 1979 film, *Zulu Dawn*.

## Colin Campbell, 10103

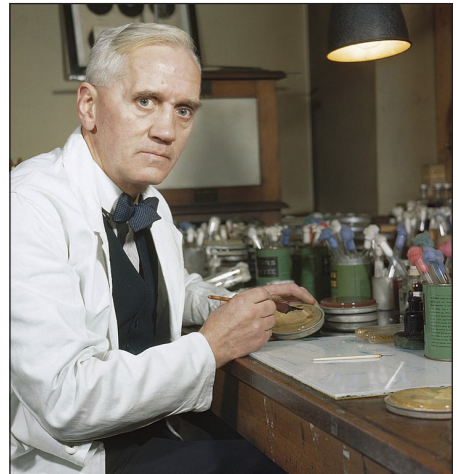
Acknowledgements: H.P. Holt (1913); Internet Archive, ScotlandsPeople, Tim Needham (Battlefield pictures), [www.1879zuluwar.com/](http://www.1879zuluwar.com/)

# An accident with benefits for us all!

## A local lad and a drug which has saved millions of lives

**S**ir Alexander Fleming was born near Darvel, Ayrshire on 6 August 1881 and went to school in Darvel and Kilmarnock before moving to London. He died on 11 March 1955 and is buried in St Paul's Cathedral.

in 1928, he first discovered the mould *Penicillium Notatum*, realising that it had great anti-bacterial properties. An uncovered Petri dish near an open window became contaminated with mould and he realised that the bacteria near the mould were dying. This led to the discovery of penicillin, a drug that has gone on to save millions of lives. In 1945 he, with fellow scientists Howard Florey and Ernst Chain received the Nobel Prize for Medicine for discovering and developing penicillin.



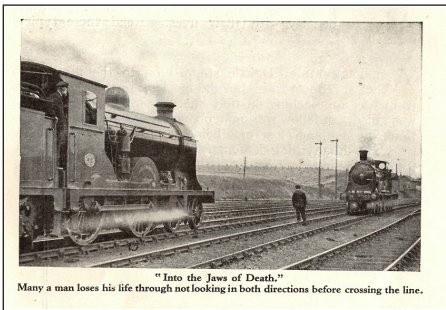
Professor Alexander Fleming in his laboratory at St Mary's Hospital in London, 1943.

[www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/20518877](http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/20518877)



# Your Glaswegian railway ancestor's accident

On 19 August 1902, Archibald Ferguson and Kenneth Chisholm were working as part of a gang in College goods yard in Glasgow, on the Glasgow and South Western Railway. They were loading a wagon with scrap material, when a colleague allowed more wagons to be moved on the line they were working on. As a result, Ferguson and Chisholm were crushed between two wagons. Fortunately for them, they were 'only' injured: frequently this kind of crush accident resulted in death.



*Posed accident prevention image warning about some of the dangers of working on the trains; taken from the North British Railway's c.1914 'Safety Movement' booklet.*

They were two of nearly 3,900 Scottish casualties on the railway network between 1900 and 1939 who are recorded in the database being compiled by the 'Railway Work, Life & Death' project. The project is making information about accidents to British and Irish railway staff more easily accessible, by transcribing or summarising accident reports produced by the railway industry and making them freely available via the project website ([www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk](http://www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk)).

The project is a collaboration between the University of Portsmouth, the National Railway Museum and the Modern Records Centre at the University of Warwick, working with the support of The National Archives of the UK. At each institution, small volunteer teams are transcribing and researching the accidents and the people involved. Without those volunteers and their work, the project would not be possible, so our thanks are very much due to them.

So what does the database tell us? It helps us understand working life on the railways before 1939, showing the pressures under which staff had to work and the dangers to which they were exposed. We can find out where bottle boys, nippers and wagon greasers worked - and, indeed, what their jobs entailed. And of course, the database tells us about the individuals involved, allowing us to find out more about particular staff members as well as to see the people behind the statistics.

## YOUNG LAD KILLED AT GLASGOW STATION

George Kerridge (15), employed by the Caledonian Railway Company as a dining car attendant, was last evening killed by a hoist accident in the Central Station, Glasgow.

He had been descending the hoist with some parcels, and it is supposed that these had got entangled with the lever which works the hoist, and that in trying to release the entanglement the lad got himself caught.

Deceased belonged to London, and the body was first taken to the mortuary of Messers Wylie & Lockhead, undertakers, Glasgow, and subsequently was sent to his home.

This might be people like dining saloon page George Kerridge. Employed by the

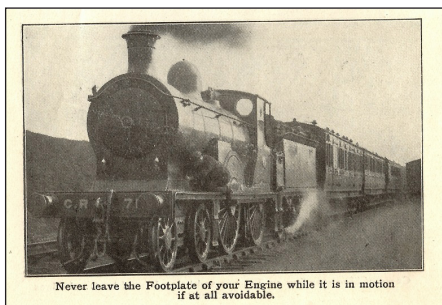
London and North Western Railway, on 22 August 1910 he had worked the 10am departure from London Euston. Upon arrival at Glasgow Central Station, he started removing provisions from the train, using a barrow to ferry items to the station hotel. He had been on duty nearly ten hours by this point. Tragically in using the hydraulic lifts he got into difficulty and was fatally injured. He was only 15. [As described in the transcription of the report of the fatal accident in the *Dundee Courier*, 23 August 1910.]

Whilst the vast majority of accidents recorded were suffered by men, plenty of women worked on the railways – some of whom had accidents. That included carriage cleaner Mary Watson, 38, who was injured on 30 September 1922 at Queen St Station in Glasgow. She fell from a carriage doorway when it was being moved whilst she was cleaning it; sadly her arm was run over by the coach and had to be amputated.

These are just two of the approximately 500 Glaswegian accidents found in the project data at the moment. Yet even this figure underestimates the true numbers of railway staff who had accidents at work. The database is currently drawing only from accident investigations undertaken by state-appointed inspectors. They only managed to report on around three per cent of all accidents, so the true casualty figures are much higher. Sadly that means that a great many of the individuals affected will never be known to us, as they didn't make it into the official record.

It's also worth noting that whilst the majority of people featured in the database are railway employees, there are non-railway staff too. These were

people who had some reason to be on or around the railway – merchants collecting goods from yards, for example, or post office staff. This included William Sproul, a 36-year-old employee of the Clyde Shipping Company. On 25 July 1913 he was loading a railway wagon with cement bags at Plantation Quay. A warning was given that the wagon was about to be moved and so the men at work had to leave the wagon. As he was leaving, he stopped to secure a bag – but at that moment the wagon was moved, and he fell, injuring his head and neck.



*Posed image cautioning against footplate crew moving around the outside of the engine whilst it was moving – though note the 'if at all avoidable' rather than an outright ban. Caledonian Railway 'Vigilance Booklet', 1921.*

One of the things the *Railway Work, Life & Death* project has been keen to do is to work with family historians and organisations. We've learnt an enormous amount in doing so, and the project has benefitted. We've been delighted by how willing family historians have been to share their family stories – meaning that we've gained a much richer picture of the people involved in the accidents, and the impacts that accidents had on their families and communities. We warmly welcome this, including guest blog posts for our website which bring out those wider and more personal connections.

Whilst our database now numbers around 21,000 individuals, we're continuing to expand. We expect to add around 40,000 further cases in the coming years, creating a huge total for our volunteer teams to have produced. We're also acutely aware that there are Scottish railway accident records we've yet to bring into the project, something we're wanting to improve on for the future.

What we do have already, though, is a fantastic resource. If you have railway ancestors, there's a chance they might have had an accident, including one you weren't aware of – in which case, they might appear in our database. Even if they aren't in the database and didn't have an accident, the type of job your ancestor did probably does appear in the database, so you can still get a better understanding of what it was your ancestor was doing from day-to-day. Best of all, the database and everything on the website is free – do please make use of it, spread the word, and let us know what you think!

### Dr Mike Esbester

Mike is Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Portsmouth and co-leads the 'Railway Work, Life & Death' project [www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk](http://www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk); @RWLDproject

*Editor: I had a look at the website and found a blog that Mike had written in 2020 entitled 'Dying for a wee' ([www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk/dying-for-a-wee-1/](http://www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk/dying-for-a-wee-1/)) which included a reference to another Glasgow based railway accident.*

*...a similar case, also at Glasgow Queen Street station, occurred on 29 April 1914. It resulted in the death of North British Railway porter John Burke, 22. He operated a hydrant set between two lines whilst another porter filled the lavatory tanks on coaches, but was found dead, apparently crushed between two sets of coaches. No-one saw what happened, but according to Inspector JJ Hornby's report Burke had no need to be between the coaches, rather pointing the responsibility at Burke (1914 Quarter 2, Appendix C)*

**THIS CONCERNS EVERYONE**  
engaged in the  
**MOVEMENT OF VEHICLES**  
(Shunters, Porters, Guards, Carriage and Wagon Staff, &c.).

**IS IT SAFE**

**TO** move vehicles or shunt them against others, without warning men engaged in, about, or between them, and giving the men reasonable time to get clear before you start work ?



Moving Wagons in Sidings without giving Warning leads to many Accidents to Lorrymen and others.

**TO** move or shunt vehicles until you are satisfied that no carts or other road vehicles are foul of any of the lines on which you are going to work ?

**REMEMBER! "Prevention is better than Cure."**

*London, Midland and Scottish Railway posed image, c. 1924, aimed at those involved in un/loading goods wagons.*

## Did Uncle Bill marry Napoleon Bonaparte's daughter?

This is not the article I set out to write when I was convinced that Uncle Bill did marry Napoleon's daughter. It has now been greatly amended and should serve as a cautionary tale that one should not necessarily accept certain evidence as correct, while ignoring that which is inconvenient. My research on this branch of my family encountered a number of instances in which things were not as they first seemed.

I well remember my grandfather's brother, William CARSON, known as Uncle Bill, when he made his annual New Year visit to Scotland with his wife Ada from their home in Birmingham. The details of his life story, while of interest to the family, are not particularly remarkable, so I will only give a brief outline here, concentrating instead on one short period.

Bill was born in Stevenston, Ayrshire, in 1892, the third child of William Carson and Elizabeth Beveridge SMITH. [I have written previously about Elizabeth in Newsletters 92 (Oct 2011) and 95 (Oct 2012)]. After leaving school Bill worked in the family retail and wholesale confectionery business in the town. He then served on the Western Front during the war, where he is reputed to have spent several years pulling ammunition to the front line by horse and cart.

It was fairly recently, while browsing Findmypast's old newspaper collection,

that I came across a notice in "The Scotsman" of 28 June 1920 relating to a divorce action by William Carson, 94 Boglemart Street, Stevenston, against Mary Steel GRAY or Carson. It was a great surprise to discover that Bill had had a previous wife before he married Ada. His bride was Mary S Gray, aged 20, spinster, whom he married in Glasgow by declaration, an irregular though legal form of marriage. On the marriage certificate her father is given as John Gray, gardener, and her mother as Mary Gray, MS Steel. Mary's address was Perceton Offices by Irvine, Ayrshire. The attached Register of Corrected Entries document confirmed that Bill had been granted a divorce from Mary. I thought that the date of the wedding on 12 August 1914, just eight days after the declaration of war on Germany by Great Britain, may have indicated his intention to join the forces.

In order to find out more about the divorce, I visited the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh to view the relevant legal documents. The gist of these was that a divorce action by William Carson, 94 Boglemart St, Stevenston, against Mary Steel Gray or Carson, 21 Rowallan Terr, John St, Irvine, was heard before Lord Sands. The action was brought on the grounds of infidelity and was undefended. The papers also revealed that Mary had given birth to a female child on 27 June 1916, and in registering the child's birth had named the father as her husband William Carson. William gave evidence, however, that as he was in France from 20 June 1915 to 24 May 1916, he could not have been the father. Adultery was therefore proved and a divorce granted on 26 June 1920.



*William Carson, from the author's own collection*

This is where I started to go down the wrong track. Looking for more information on Mary I discovered that on 13 October 1916 in Linlithgow, West Lothian, a Mary Steele Gray, aged 22, spinster, domestic servant, of 264 High St, Linlithgow, married William MCLEAN, aged 20, boiler fireman, of Joppa, Coylton, Ayrshire. If this was the same Mary she had committed bigamy. This marriage had taken place just over three months after the birth of Mary's child. It all seemed to make sense. Mary had decided to marry her child's biological father while Bill was fighting in France, and move well away from Stevenston. The only slight problem with the theory

was that on the marriage certificate she gave her father as Napoleon Bonaparte Gray, shale miner. There was therefore a discrepancy between the two certificates in respect of Mary's father. Was John Gray, gardener, really Napoleon Bonaparte Gray, shale miner? Or were there two different Mary Steel Grays? In both marriage certificates, the mother's details were identical. The ScotlandsPeople index lists only one Mary Steel Gray born in the relevant time period, in 1893 at Linlithgow, so I came to the provisional conclusion that it was the same Mary who married both William Carson and William McLean within little over two years, and did indeed commit bigamy. When Mary McLean MS Gray eventually died in 1962 in Coylton, her death certificate gave her parents as Napoleon Bonaparte Gray, shale miner, and her mother as Mary Gray, MS Steel.

I then did some research into Napoleon Bonaparte Gray, being intrigued by his unusual name. He was born in 1865, his father also Napoleon Bonaparte Gray and his mother Jane PEDAN. I found him in the 1871, 1881, 1891 and 1901 censuses. In the 1871 census, however, he was not called Napoleon, but John. This was the evidence I was looking for that Napoleon and John could have been the same person. There was also the fact that William McLean was an Ayrshire man, albeit not living particularly close to Stevenston or Irvine. A persistent niggle still remained however about Napoleon/John's occupation.

My next move was to look for Mary's daughter's birth in the records. and I duly located it. Mary had indeed registered the birth of her daughter, called Elizabeth, with William Carson named as the father.



The birth took place at 21 Rowallan Terrace, John Street, Irvine. Some valuable additional information supplied was that he was a dynamite worker presently serving in the 3rd Battalion of the Gordon Highlanders. The reference to Bill being a dynamite worker suggests that between his marriage in August 1914, when he was a confectioner, and enlisting in the army he had worked at Nobel's Ardeer explosives factory in Stevenston.

Now knowing that Mary's daughter was called Elizabeth enabled me to search the ScotlandsPeople index for her death. This was recorded in 1998 in Irvine, aged 81, under the surname Carson, mother's maiden surname Gray, confirming this to be the correct person. She was also listed with the additional surnames Guyer and Watson. Although the death was too recent for me to obtain the certificate online from ScotlandsPeople, I assumed that she had been married twice and searched then for marriages. There was only one Carson/Guyer marriage in the index, but this was a Mary S Carson to Edward GUYER in 1920 at Blythswood, Glasgow. Obtaining the marriage certificate revealed that this was Uncle Bill's ex-wife, her marriage to Edward taking place about three months after her divorce. My theory about her marrying William McLean was therefore now looking shaky. Mary's daughter Elizabeth had in fact only been married once, to Archibald Jamieson Watson in 1948 at Irvine. Presumably she had used her stepfather's surname following her mother's remarriage, and this is the reason for the surname Guyer in the deaths index. Of course, it is possible

that Edward Guyer was in fact Elizabeth's biological father.

With her husband's unusual surname I was then able to search for the record of Mary's death. This occurred in Irvine in 1936 at the age of 42, she having succumbed to influenzal pneumonia. I then quickly discovered that after their marriage she had had seven children with Edward. Mary's death certificate revealed one surprising fact. It gave her middle name as Sophia, not Steel, leading to further unravelling of my theory about her parentage. In fact the only actual reference to Steel as her middle name was on the divorce papers. At her marriages to William Carson and Edward Guyer, she signed herself Mary S Gray and Mary S Carson respectively. It is hardly surprising that the confusion over Mary's middle name sent me on a wild goose chase. Her parents were given as John Gray, gardener, and Mary Sophia Gray, MS Steel (deceased).

A further twist to the tale then emerged. Mary had given birth to a child before Elizabeth, there being little doubt this time that Bill was the father. Just three months after Bill and Mary's wedding, Mary Brown Carson was born on 30 November 1914 at Old Perceton, Dreghorn parish, near Irvine, which I now know was the home of her parents, Bill's address being recorded as Windmill Street, Saltcoats. It seems likely therefore that the date of their marriage had nothing to do with the declaration of war, but more to do with Mary's advanced pregnancy. I now had a new cousin once removed to research. Mary junior married Robert Pert in Irvine in 1957, but unfortunately they seem to have had no children. Robert died in 1996 and Mary in 2012, both in Irvine.



Having finally identified the correct Mary Gray, I could now try to fill in the details of her earlier life. I initially failed to find her on the 1901 census or the ScotlandsPeople births index, so I decided to search for her parents' marriage, but again had no success. Eventually I located her mother's death in 1930 in Irvine, aged 65. The death certificate, however, named her as Mary Brown Gray, married to John Gray, labourer, i.e. Sophia was not her middle name as given on her daughter's death certificate. No father was given; her mother was shown as Sophia Anderson, agricultural worker, afterwards married to James Steel, ploughman. I then found that Mary's mother had been born as Mary Brown Anderson at Ayton in Berwickshire in 1865, and that she had married John Gray, a cattleman, in Langton, Berwickshire in 1889. Obviously Bill and Mary's daughter, Mary Brown Carson, had been named after her grandmother. Knowing now where to look for Mary's birth, I found this recorded as Mary Sophia Gray at Blanerne, Bunkle & Preston parish, Berwickshire on 28 May 1894. I eventually found the family in the 1901 census, living at Cranshaws in Berwickshire.

By 1911 John Gray and family were living in the gardener's house at Perceton estate, having moved a great distance from their previous home in Berwickshire. Their son John was employed as a gardener, whereas John senior was a garden labourer. No occupation is given for Mary junior. The reason for the move is not known.

Bill's war service, which he appears to have survived unscathed, is believed to have continued after the war as his unit

formed part of the occupation army in the Rhineland. Having no trade in civilian life to return to other than his participation in the family business, Bill must have decided to see a bit more of the world by taking a working holiday. In August 1923 he sailed to Canada in order to do harvesting work at Cheadle, Alberta, returning in November of the same year. This would have been arranged through the Harvester Scheme, which was sponsored by the British Government.

Three years later, in March 1926, Bill decided to return to Canada, again to do farm work, this time at Acton, Ontario. His motive on this occasion is fairly clear, as a few months later a child was born whom he had fathered as a result of a brief relationship. It is not known when Bill returned from Canada, but by 1929 he had moved to England. His motivation is unknown, but he may have been trying to find work, the 1920s being a time of high unemployment in Scotland. Alternatively he may have wished to flee from his responsibilities to his two children and make a fresh start. In any event it was in 1929 that he married Ada Wingfield in Birmingham, and the couple then lived in that city until Bill's death in 1961, aged 69. He had been employed as a commercial traveller and latterly as a salesman for a scientific instrument company. Ada died in Sandwell near Birmingham in 1977, aged 77. The couple had no children.

### **Robert Carson, 1587**

*Editor: A lesson to us all that, when reviewing evidence, we should be careful to avoid making assumptions or jumping to conclusions that appear obvious on initial review.*

# Tour the Old Burying Ground of Glasgow Cathedral

**D**ating back to early Christian times, the Old Burying Ground of Glasgow Cathedral (Hie Kirk), is one of the oldest in the City. This is a two hour illustrated tour exploring the lives of those interred and showing how they reflect the contact (and influence) Glasgow had with Scottish, British and World history. The advent of Christianity, the Treaty of Perpetual peace, the Reformation, the Union of the Crowns, the War of the Three Kingdoms, the Darien Expedition, the Act of Union, the '45 Jacobite Rebellion, the abolition of Slavery and much more are all reflected by those interred here.

This tour is offered free of charge but donations will be welcome.

Dates: **9 July and 16 July 2022**. Time 11:00-13:00 (please specify your date).

This is open to members only so please quote your membership number when responding. Numbers are limited to the first 20 to apply.

Applications to: [colin.campbell@gwsfhs.org.uk](mailto:colin.campbell@gwsfhs.org.uk)

**Colin Campbell, 10103**



# Research Centre opening

**A**s mentioned in the last Journal, in line with the latest Government advice, the Society is pleased to welcome members and visitors back to the Research Centre.



The Centre is home to books, maps, CDs, fiches, and publications from other societies. It offers free access to family history websites, and expert volunteers are on hand if you need any help or advice using the equipment and the resources.

It is open twice a week, on Thursdays and Saturdays from 2-4pm.

Advance booking is not required unless you wish to book a computer for the session.

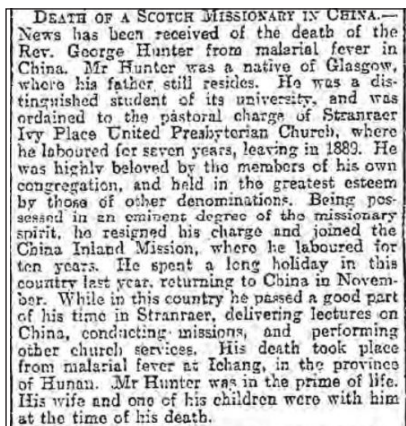
We look forward to your visits.

**Sheila Cuthbertson, 4187**



## Read all about it!

Among my family history documents and memorabilia is a selection of items from various newspapers, carefully collected over the years by our ancestors and me. Some are full editions – including four copies of the Glasgow Herald saved by my father-in-law with the announcements of birth of his children – while others are carefully cut-out snippets without any identification of where they were taken from or when and, in some cases giving little clue as to whom they relate to, making the puzzle ever more complicated! At least one dates back more than 100 years, slightly tatty, but a full page so I can identify which newspaper and when it was published, with the following ‘notice of death’ of my husband’s great-grandfather from the Glasgow Herald, 24 April 1900.



DEATH OF A SCOTCH MISSIONARY IN CHINA.— News has been received of the death of the Rev. George Hunter from malarial fever in China. Mr Hunter was a native of Glasgow, where his father still resides. He was a distinguished student of its university, and was ordained to the pastoral charge of Stranraer Ivy Place United Presbyterian Church, where he laboured for seven years, leaving in 1889. He was highly beloved by the members of his own congregation, and held in the greatest esteem by those of other denominations. Being possessed in an eminent degree of the missionary spirit, he resigned his charge and joined the China Inland Mission, where he laboured for ten years. He spent a long holiday in this country last year, returning to China in November. While in this country he passed a good part of his time in Stranraer, delivering lectures on China, conducting missions, and performing other church services. His death took place from malarial fever at Ichang, in the province of Hunan. Mr Hunter was in the prime of life. His wife and one of his children were with him at the time of his death.

I expect many of our members have a similar selection of newspaper clippings, but I wonder how many delve into old editions more broadly, either to find out more about individuals in the family or to discover more about the times in which our ancestors lived and worked.

Newspapers are a very rich source of information about our ancestors and the times they lived through, enabling us to tell richer stories about them and perhaps even helping to break down brick walls. I have certainly used them to check information or to follow up family stories to see if there is any truth in them. They have also provided me with new information about some of my relatives which no-one had mentioned before although given they were linked to bankruptcy, suicide and contributing to the death of an elderly gentleman perhaps it is not that surprising.

## Exploring Newspapers

As you would expect, newspapers can provide information on many things including the more obvious elements such as Family Notices (births, marriages, deaths, funerals or ‘Hatches, Matches and Dispatches’); Obituaries; Personal notices; Photographs and Court reports (criminal cases, fatal accident inquiries, inquests, etc). Alongside these it is possible to find information on Civil and Army promotions; Advertisements; Debtors; Public meetings; For Sale and To Let notices; Contents auctions; Employment notices (could give clues to where ancestors might have moved to for work, including jobs abroad, as mentioned in the article *The next fertile valley, a better home, a richer life on page 5*); and general news stories, all of which can help give context to the world our ancestors lived in.

In some cases, the information retrieved may not be critical to your research but can be personally very important. I heard the other day of someone being delighted to discover a report on their

grandparent's wedding which even gave details of the colours of the bridesmaids' dresses - until then they had only ever seen black and white images so had no idea.

It is recommended not to restrict yourself to papers 'local' to the event or where your family were living, and to search around the date as reporting wasn't always as immediate as it is in our digital age. You can often find the same story repeated in publications published far and wide, which can on occasion provide a different perspective and sometimes different levels of detail. However, as is still the case today, do not assume everything you read in a newspaper is true - variable reporting, and reporter/newspaper bias can easily have an impact on the slant given to the article in question.

Beware also that in the past, details included were rather more graphic than they are now, (for example, inquests reported 'word for word') so be prepared to find information that can sometimes be uncomfortable/difficult and which today would probably come with a warning along the lines of 'this report contains some details/images that some people may find upsetting'.

When searching be aware that newspapers and other printed resources are usually digitised using OCR (optical character recognition) technology rather than being transcribed and therefore your search parameters will likely need to be more specific than you might employ on genealogy sites such as Ancestry and Findmypast and does not always allow for the use of wildcards and other similar techniques.

Those newspapers which have been digitised can be accessed through a number of websites, although some of them are subscription only if you want to read the full article.

The British Newspaper Archive (BNA) - a partnership between the British Library and Findmypast (FMP) to digitise the British Library's vast collection of newspapers - provides access to newspapers covering the UK, Ireland and beyond, dating from 1699, including newspapers for every historic county in Scotland. In April this year they reached the landmark of 50 million pages now being available to search/view and they are adding new pages every week. Although it is essentially a subscription site they now have at least one million pages available to view for free. It is impossible to do justice to this resource here but if you have access to the Internet you can read all about what is on offer on their site.

[[www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/)]. There is even a small blog about Scottish Genealogy research through newspapers which can be accessed at [blog.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/2018/03/22/scottish-genealogy-research/](http://blog.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/2018/03/22/scottish-genealogy-research/)

The partnership between the BNA and Findmypast, allows those with a subscription to FMP to access the records on the BNA site, through the FMP pages. However, I have seen and heard a number of people recommend, if you are in this position, that you conduct your searches on the BNA site as their search engine is better [free to search] and then access the article/s through your FMP subscription.

An alternative for Irish newspapers is the Irish Newspaper Archive [[www.irishnewsarchive.com/](http://www.irishnewsarchive.com/)], a subscription site which claims to be the world's largest and oldest online database of Irish newspapers, consisting of over six million pages of content covering titles north and south of the Irish border. For those with Irish ancestors it offers the opportunity to search obituaries and birth, marriage and death records from over 279 years' worth of Irish publications. However, from my experience you have to select a specific newspaper to search within, which could be limiting if you don't know where your ancestors were living.

Google has digitised many newspapers which can be accessed for free, although they have since ceased making any further additions [[news.google.com/newspapers/](http://news.google.com/newspapers/)]. This includes *The Glasgow Herald* archive but it is only searchable by date, so it is not possible to search for an individual or a specific event unless you know the likely timeframe and even then it may be necessary to go through each edition/page to find what you might be searching for. [news.google.com/newspapers?nid=GGgVawPscysC](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=GGgVawPscysC).

For access to newspapers from across the world the following sites provide some options:

As referenced in the last edition, Trove in Australia is an excellent and free to view online research portal which has access to many newspapers and periodicals: [trove.nla.gov.au/help/categories/newspapers-and-gazettes-category](http://trove.nla.gov.au/help/categories/newspapers-and-gazettes-category)

NewspaperArchive is an American subscription site (with their archives containing almost 16,000 different titles from every US state and twenty-

eight other countries around the world. Every newspaper in the archive is fully searchable by keyword, date, place, and title. It can be accessed here: [newspaperarchive.com/](http://newspaperarchive.com/) and Ancestry also has basic access to this site through their 'All Access' subscription.

## Official Papers

If you have ancestors who were, for example, awarded an honour or award, declared bankrupt, or promoted in the Armed Forces *The Gazette* is well worth exploring and they claim:



*The Gazette has been recording national and international events since November 1665...From England's Glorious Revolution to despatches from the front, and honours and awards for gallantry or meritorious service - as well as officer commissions, appointments and promotions, and casualties - it's a key resource for the researcher. Genealogists can sketch out a soldier's career, and insolvency notices can help track an individual or company's financial history.*

It can be searched here: [www.thegazette.co.uk/](http://www.thegazette.co.uk/), and is effectively a combination of The London Gazette, The Belfast Gazette and The Edinburgh Gazette. These publications are essentially an

official public record and consist mainly of statutory notices – i.e. there is some legal requirement for the notice placer to advertise an event or proposal in The Gazette. If you have an hour or two to spare (!) their site also includes a timeline of history as recorded in their publication from their first edition on 7 November 1665, [www.thegazette.co.uk/history/350-years](http://www.thegazette.co.uk/history/350-years)

And, if you have any ancestors who served as a Member of Parliament, a Member of the Scottish Parliament, or sat in the House of Lords, you should be able to read of their contributions in either Hansard [[hansard.parliament.uk/](http://hansard.parliament.uk/)], the official report of all Parliamentary debates, or the Official Record of the Scottish Parliament, a written record of public meetings of the Parliament and committees, which can (at the time of writing) be found at the following link: [archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/ormain.aspx](http://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/ormain.aspx) as the Official Report section of the new website [[www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/what-was-said-in-parliament](http://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/what-was-said-in-parliament)] is still going through final testing. The full authoritative text remains available on the old website.

Finally, although we are becoming more reliant on digitised records being available through our computers, not all newspapers and periodicals have been digitised and there may be a need to go along to a local library or archive to search some of them. A happy day or two can be spent doing this – but be prepared to be taken down various rabbit holes away from your initial purpose, unless you can keep yourself very focused!

**Karen Hunter, 10206**

## Did you know

The *Glasgow Herald* on 30 April 2013 recorded the following:

*Weary of struggling with financial and personal problems at home, in 1786 Robert Burns accepted the post of book-keeper on a Jamaican plantation. Just weeks before sailing, news came through of the run-away success of his book "Poems Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect", causing Rabbie to change his mind and remain in Scotland.*

Dr Thomas Blacklock, another Scottish poet of the time, also reports the following from Rabbie Burns:

*I had taken the last farewell of my few friends, my chest was on the road to Greenock; I had composed the last song I should ever measure in Scotland – 'The Gloomy night is gathering fast' – when a letter from Dr Blacklock to a friend of mine overthrew all my schemes, by opening new prospects to my poetic ambition. The Doctor belonged to a set of critics for whose applause I had not dared to hope. His opinion that I would meet with encouragement in Edinburgh for a second edition, fired me so much, that away I posted for that city, without a single acquaintance, or a single letter of introduction.*

[www.electricscotland.com/history/other/blacklock\\_thomas.htm](http://www.electricscotland.com/history/other/blacklock_thomas.htm)

*Editor: Another example of a 'fork in the road'! Just imagine how different things might have been if Rabbie Burns had gone over to Jamaica.*



# Passenger Lists for Emigrants to New Zealand

You might have family members whom you know or suspect migrated to New Zealand. In Journal 123 we described principal sources of information about Scottish migrants to New Zealand but we did not have space to mention passenger lists.

## Archives New Zealand, Passenger Lists, 1839-1973

Archives New Zealand hold several collections of lists of passengers who disembarked in NZ

- New Zealand Company: 1838-53. These include arrivals to Wellington, Nelson, and New Plymouth. These lists contain the names of the labourers who were recruited to support the development of the settlement. They do not usually include the New Zealand Company shareholders.
- Assisted Immigration to Canterbury 1855-70. During this period, assisted immigration was managed by the provincial governments. Only those from Canterbury have survived.
- Assisted immigration to the whole country 1870-88.
- Commercial passenger lists and some crew lists, collected by customs: 1883-1973. These are inconsistent until around 1910 when they were more systematically collected. The inbound passenger lists also include arrivals by air in Auckland beginning in 1939 and continuing through 1965.

See: [www.archives.govt.nz/research-guidance/research-guides/citizenship-and-migration/searching-passenger-lists](http://www.archives.govt.nz/research-guidance/research-guides/citizenship-and-migration/searching-passenger-lists)

All of these lists have been scanned but the project to build a nominal index is on-going. You may search the index and view the images for free at FamilySearch, see [www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1609792?collection](http://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1609792?collection)

If you cannot find your relative in the index, but you think you know the port of disembarkation and the year, you can browse the images of the surviving lists.

For example, the Emigration of my great grandfather Elias Archer on the ship Lady Jocelyn in 1874-75:

He described himself as a Shepherd, aged 19, from Wiltshire. The total cost of his passage was £14 10/-, none of which was payable by Elias, and so the Canterbury Provincial Government paid the whole cost.

These details are consistent with his entry in the 1871 Census for England which described him as a 16-year-old farm servant resident in Bishopstone, near Swindon, Wiltshire.



*Lady Jocelyn, 1888: Wikipedia Commons*

*continued overleaf...*

## National Archives BT27: Passengers who left the UK between 1890 and 1960

These Board of Trade records are available at Ancestry and Findmypast

[search.ancestry.co.uk/search/  
db.aspx?dbid=1518](https://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=1518)

[search.findmypast.co.uk/search-  
world-records/passenger-lists-leaving-  
uk-1890-1960](https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/passenger-lists-leaving-uk-1890-1960)

Findmypast Passenger Lists Leaving UK 1890-1960 record set is described as:

*The passenger lists in BT27 include long-haul voyages to destinations outside Britain and Europe. While countries such as Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, South Africa and USA feature strongly, all continents are covered and you will find passengers on ships sailing to all parts of Asia, the Caribbean, South America and West Africa, even to remotest oceanic islands such as South Georgia Island.*

*These voyages often called en route at additional ports, including those in Europe, and any passengers disembarking at these stops are included. Voyages from all British (English, Welsh and Scottish) ports, and from all Irish ports before partition in 1921 and all Northern Irish ports after partition, are covered in BT27.*

Findmypast transcribed more attributes of the records than the Ancestry transcription. For example, the emigration of my mother Edith Irvine Anderson from London on the ship R.M.S. *Rangitata* on 17 June 1948:

NAME	AGE	SEX	STATUS	SHIP	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL
CLARK, MRS	35	F	WIFE	ST. PAUL	17 JUN 1948	17 JUN 1948

*Extract from: National Archives BT27  
Passengers who left the UK between 1890  
and 1960, with permission from The National  
Archives*

The address confirmed that I found the correct record: Mrs Clark was my maternal grandmother, Beatrice Anderson, who married Alexander Elrick Clark in Aberdeen in 1930.



*Edith and friends on the ship to New Zealand,  
from the author's own collection*

## Other Sources

Your relative might have migrated via Australia. Emigrants and native born people moved freely between Australia and New Zealand. The economies of the individual Australasian colonies grew or stagnated separately and so some emigrants moved over the Tasman Sea, in both directions, seeking more opportunities. In the 1890s New Zealand chose not to join the Commonwealth of Australia, which was formed in 1901, largely because they thought that Australia would be a burden on the New Zealand economy.

There were major migrations during the 'gold rushes': California, USA (1848-55); Victoria, Australia (1851-67); Otago, New Zealand (1861-65); West Coast, New Zealand (1865-67); Coromandel, New Zealand (1867). The Otago Province

and its capital Dunedin, a colony originally promoted by the Free Church of Scotland, grew exponentially during the Otago gold rush, often in ways that displeased its founders.

Many P&O passengers for New Zealand sailed from Britain to Australia and then went forward on another ship to their final destination. They might appear on a passenger list as emigrants to Australia and they might not appear on a trans-Tasman passenger list at all.

Unfortunately, there are fewer passenger lists for ships that sailed between the Australian colonies and New Zealand.

*Passenger Lists - Victoria, Australia Outwards to New Zealand 1852-1923*, a transcription of passenger lists of the ships leaving Victoria, Australia for New Zealand ports, as contained in VPRS 948 Outward Passenger Lists 1852-1923. The index contains a total of 368,481 passenger records and 5,040 ship records covering the years 1852-1923. It is searchable by Passenger, Ship and Port of Arrival. Published by the NZ Society of Genealogists; see [genealogy.org.nz/Shop/10928/](http://genealogy.org.nz/Shop/10928/)

*Discharged in New Zealand: Soldiers of the Imperial Foot Regiments who took their discharge in New Zealand 1840-1870*, a CD published by the NZSG in 2011 and still available to buy. Soldiers don't appear in the passenger lists but many districts in New Zealand were settled by discharged soldiers who had the skills to defend their settlements if the disaffected and dispossessed Maori tribes rose against them.

**Murray Archer, 4316**

## Further Reading

**CLEMENT, Christine** *Migration to New Zealand: A Guide for Family History Researchers (2nd. Ed.)*, Unlock the Past, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia  
Gould Genealogy and History, www.gould.com.au 2016  
ISBN 978-1-9253-2342-9

**MURRAY, J & Marion** *Emigrants to the Antipodes 1840 from Paisley the Highlands and England*  
Barrhead, M & J Murray, 1997  
ISBN: 0-95298-883-6 [Held in our library]

**HEWITSON, Jim** *Far Off In Sunlit Places: Stories of the Scots in Australia and New Zealand*  
Edinburgh, Canongate, 1998  
ISBN: 0-86241-775-9

**KAY, Billy** *The Scottish World: A Journey into the Scottish Diaspora (2nd Edition)*  
Edinburgh, Mainstream Publishing Company (Edinburgh) Limited, 2008  
ISBN: 978-1-84596-317-0

**OFFWOOD, Donald** *Oatcakes to Otago: A Chronicle of Dunedin's Scottish Heritage (2nd Edition)*  
Christchurch, The Caxton Press, 200  
ISBN: 0-473-09241-7

**ROBINSON, Neil** *To the Ends of the Earth: Norman McLeod and the Highlanders' migration to Nova Scotia and New Zealand*  
Auckland, HarperCollins, 1997  
ISBN: 0-908877-94-3

**SIMPSON, Tony** *The Immigrants: The Great Migration from Britain to New Zealand, 1830-1890*  
Auckland, Godwit Publishing Ltd, 1997  
ISBN: 0-908877-94-3

## GWSFHS Library

A fork in the road can take many forms including accidents and disasters which would have had a major impact on the lives of our ancestors. The Library has a little gem of a collection of eight booklets written and published by William Cross from 1995 to 2006. Each booklet features up to 100 disasters, a brief narrative of each accident, contemporary newspaper reports, names of victims and survivors where known, personal commentaries, sources used and further references. Four titles are now out of print (marked with an \*) but could possibly be tracked down using online second-hand booksellers. There are a few copies of the other titles on Amazon. The Library has a complete set that you can find at: S/-/CRO.

If you would like to find out more about these disasters William Cross has a website ([scottishdisasters.yolasite.com/](http://scottishdisasters.yolasite.com/)) where you will find references to the sources used for a talk given by William Cross and Monty Dart to GWSFHS at Glasgow University on 17 November 2008. A detailed review of the talk was published in the Society Journal of March 2009, available on the website.

*Hurried into eternity: some accidents and disasters from Scotland in the 19th century.* 1995

ISBN: 0952857502 \*

Covers the years 1800-1854: 70 incidents and over 750 names.

*Forgot and gone: some accidents and disasters from Scotland in the 19th century.* 1995

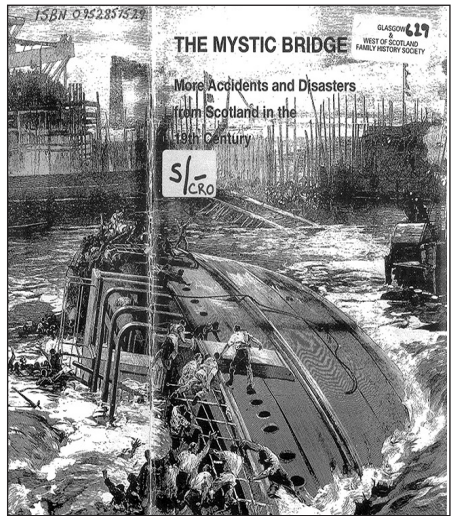
ISBN: 0952857510 \*

Covers the years 1800-1854, mainly but not exclusively at sea and drownings: 40 incidents and 150 victims.

*The Mystic bridge: more accidents and disasters from Scotland in the 19th century.* 1996

ISBN: 0952547529 \*

Covers the years 1855-1899, more than 60 incidents: 777 names and a surnames index.



*That dark inn: other accidents and disasters from Scotland in the 19th century.* 1997

ISBN: 0952857537

Covers the years 1800-1854, over 100 accidents and disasters: 500 names of victims and over 80 survivors.

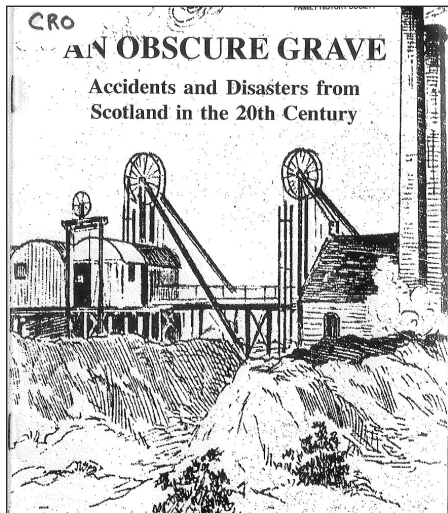
*The awful shadow: some other accidents and disasters from Scotland in the 19th century.* 1999

ISBN: 095285757553

Includes over 30 separate incidents, around 1000 victims and survivors and covers the Eyemouth fishing disaster of 1881.

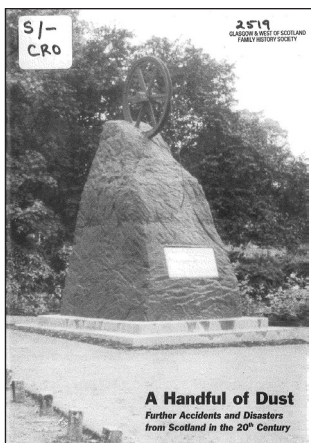
*An obscure grave: accidents and disasters from Scotland in the 20th century.* 2000.  
ISBN: 0952857553

Covers the years 1900-1915, focusing on coal mining explosions and the railways. There is also a chronological listing of accidents, 1800-1899



*A handful of dust: further accidents and disasters from Scotland in the 20th century.* 2005  
ISBN: 0952857561 \*

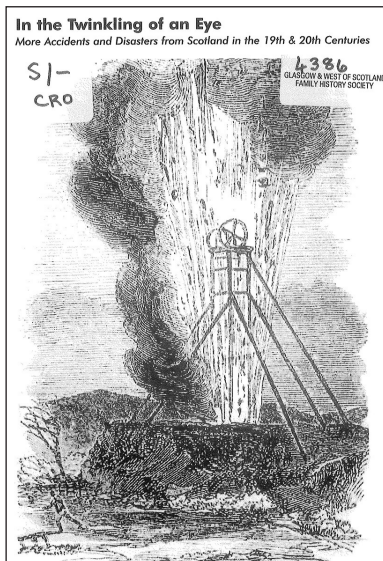
Covers the years 1913-1930, over 20 incidents and close to 500 victims.



*In the twinkling of an eye: more accidents and disasters from Scotland in the 19th and 20th centuries.* 2006

ISBN: 0952857596

Over 20 incidents and 650 victims.



Also written and published by William Cross is *Death in a lodging house: the story of the Watson Street fire in Glasgow, Sunday 19 November 1905.* 2005  
ISBN: 0952857588

Library location: S/GLA/CRO

There is an accompanying website at <https://watson-street-fire-1905.yolasite.com/>

Linda Emery, Librarian

## Correction

Please note there was a typing error in the formatting of the Income and Expenses Account to 31/12/21 on page 47 of Journal 123 (March 2022). The two totals at the bottom of the page for 2021 should be £34,886.



## Letters and Queries

The Editor welcomes letters and queries from members for inclusion in the Journal. They can be emailed to [editor@gwsfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@gwsfhs.org.uk) or sent by post to the address on the back page.

### Alexander McIntyre 1829-1884

*In response to the query about Alexander, Ian Brown contacted me for a copy of the Pedigree Chart with the thought that he and Ordella may have some ancestors in common. Although further research, including accessing Alexander Sr's death certificate, showed that wasn't the case Ian has shared some information about him, as follows.*

Alexander's death certificate is very incomplete. Though described as a widower no wife's name is given nor were the names of his parents included. However it did provide the information that Alexander died in the Govan Poorhouse on 16 August 1869 and that he had been resident there for 12 years.

Ian assumed that these McIntyres were not Church of Scotland, and suggests they could be:

- a) Dissenting Presbyterian
- b) Episcopalian
- c) Roman Catholic

Given this he has provided the following information:

There is one set of dissenting Presbyterian burial records around Anderston, being Anderston Relief ref: CH3/591/10.

There are three Episcopal church burial records in the Glasgow area, Christ Church ref: TD1378/2/22, St Andrew's by the Green ref: TD423/2+4+5 and St Jude's ref: TD66/1/3.

There are no Roman Catholic burial records.

All of these records cited are held in the Glasgow City Archive (in Mitchell Library).

The monumental inscriptions of two burial grounds were surveyed and recorded by Rogers in 1857. They are Anderston Cross and North Street. The surveys are held at the Society of Genealogists in London. Unfortunately they are presently in the process of moving and are thus not open for searches or for research by or on behalf of members. The Mitchell holds some records for North Street burial ground covering 1830-1854.

**Ian F Brown, 526**

### Broadwood Pianos – A Likely Family Connection

Dear Editor

With the recent release of the 1921 census (here in England) I just wanted to update members in relation to my article 'Broadwood Pianos – A Likely Family Connection' which your predecessor was kind enough to publish in Gallus 119.

Firstly, a minor correction to same: bottom of page 28 reference is made to the address of my 3x Great Grandfather's first London home being in Brook Street, St. Georges Hanover Square. This should read 'Brook Street, St. Pancras' (a typo error on my part).

Of more relevance is the detail of the 1921 census. In the previous article I make mention of Alexander Neilson Paterson, one of my Great, Great Grand Uncles, a lifelong Piano Tuner by trade. His employer, namely John Broadwood and Sons Ltd is confirmed on the 1921 census entry, which adds further weight to my belief his brothers and father were also employees of Broadwood and Sons.

I hope this might be of interest to all, and also a reason that in one's research one should never give up hope of finding that elusive detail to prove a connection.

Best wishes,

**Alan Paterson, 6968**

*Editor: Alan provided a copy of the relevant 1921 census entry but for copyright reasons it is not reproduced here.*

## Journal Format/Style

Dear Editor

I don't usually complain to bodies of which I am a member since most of us are volunteers, but I am not a fan of the style of the revised gwsfhs Journal. My 20/20 full-colour vision is not adequate for reading it comfortably; and most of your membership is like me over 60, probably with worse eyesight.

My main complaints are:

- the font is far too thin (the text fades after a few minutes of reading);
- the use of thin text on a pale blue background is doubly difficult; and
- the over-printing of images makes the message sometimes illegible.

Please can you reconsider the Journal house style. The old Times font on a white background worked so well for many years.

If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

**Ian Jones, 5458**

*The editorial team have considered the points Ian makes and have made some adjustments to this edition which we hope go some way to addressing the points raised.*

## Scotslot

I was saddened to hear of the death of Elizabeth Von Lottum whose obituary was in the latest journal.

I was a long term member of her "outpost" in Hertfordshire called Scotslot where we met firstly in her house and then later in a church hall. This was before the beginning of the internet and it was great to be able to meet with others researching Scottish ancestors. Some of us were Scottish exiles or at least half Scottish. Liz always gave us great encouragement and advice. Some members regularly visited the archives in Edinburgh then brought back news from there. We also exchanged ideas for research and the recording of our family trees. I would never have kept going with my own research without those little group meetings. Our numbers dwindled through illness etc, but I have many fond memories of our meetings.

**Jane Gibbs, 2515**

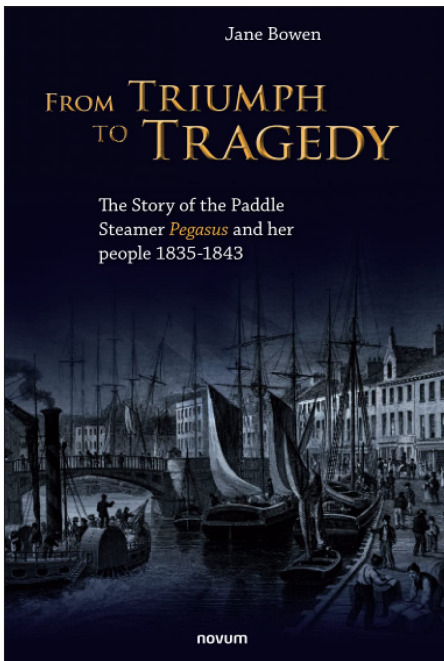
## Book Reviews

**Jane Bowen** *From Triumph to Tragedy: The story of the Paddle Steamer Pegasus and her people 1835-1843*

novum publishing, 2021

ISBN 978-3-99107-708-4

This is the story of the Pegasus, a coastal paddle steamer built in 1835 to provide a weekly service between Leith and Hull. It was the first boat of the newly created Hull & Leith Shipping Company. Her cargoes ranged from the exotic - menagerie animals, mail coaches and race horses - to the everyday - whale oil, fabric, soap and butter. The passengers were drawn from all social classes, berthed in accommodation from ornately decorated staterooms to steerage quarters below deck.



Jane Bowen has researched in meticulous detail the history of the Pegasus from its launch in 1835 to its sinking in 1843. She sets the story in the wider context of a class of ships which were key to the industrial development of Scotland prior to the expansion of the railway network. These vessels also played an important role in the defence of the country by facilitating troop movement between garrisons.

**Diana Burns, 7039**

**Rosemary Steer** *Children in Care 1834-1929 The Lives of Destitute, Orphaned and Deserted Children*

Pen & Sword History 2020

ISBN 978 1 52672 801 2

Rosemary Steer's book follows the history of care provision in Britain for destitute, orphaned and deserted children. Starting with the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act (1834) which set up poor law unions to administer relief she covers the period up to the Local Government Act (1929) which abolished poor law unions and transferred responsibility for relief to county councils and county boroughs.

The book starts with the story of a charity for workhouse, destitute and orphaned children set up in the Norfolk village of Dickleburgh by the Rector's wife, and follows its development through the documented lives of over 300 children, until the closure of the charity in 1912. The author draws on a wide range of sources to describe those children's lives, their experiences in the Dickleburgh homes and how, as adults, the former inmates often maintained links with the staff who had cared for them.

The author goes on to explore the wider topic of how destitute and orphaned children survived, in both urban and rural environments, the circumstances which had led to their situations and what life in a Victorian institution was like. She explores the provision made by a number of charitable organisations, including ragged schools which gave free education to destitute children in urban areas. One such reformer was the Reverend Thomas Guthrie who established the ragged school system in Scotland with the aim of feeding, educating and imparting basic Christian teaching to the poorest children.

Differences between the Scottish and English systems are highlighted, with particular reference to the fostering (or 'boarding-out') alternative to institutional care. Already a traditional practice in Scotland for pauper children, this was a key feature of the Poor Law (Scotland) Act of 1845. Foster parents were paid a weekly allowance for each child and the scheme extended to urban areas as being cheaper and more beneficial than the local poorhouse.

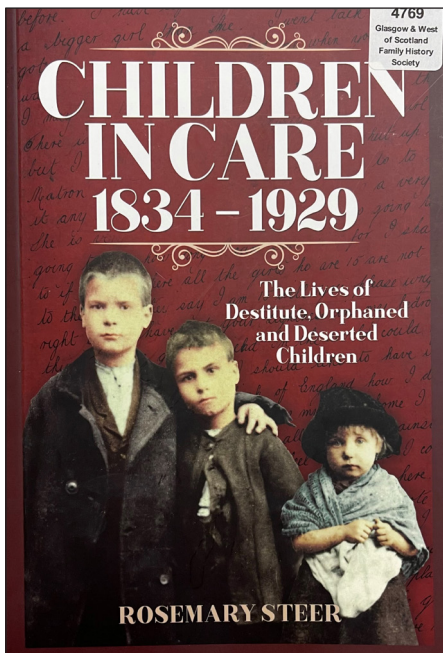
Interest in the Scottish system of boarding out pauper children led to an investigation by the English Poor Law Board in 1869. The author quotes extensively on the findings of the report, which resulted in amendments to the English system to incorporate provisions for boarding-out.

The chapter on child migration deals with the contentious subject of sending pauper children to countries in the British Empire. Rosemary Steer draws on a variety of sources to give a selection of positive as well as negative impressions, conceding that there are no easy answers

as to the wisdom of treating the problem this way. Her final chapter is about life after care and how a childhood spent in institutions, foster homes or households overseas colours the adulthood of those who passed through the system.

The author has researched the subject of children in care in great depth, drawing upon an impressive range of sources and conveying a sense of how desperate and precarious the lives of destitute children in the nineteenth century must have been. Although the book draws mainly upon English experiences, much of it relates to the country-wide plight of impoverished and abandoned youngsters, of whom most of us have examples in our family history.

**Diana Burns, 7039**



## From the Editor

As the impact of the pandemic starts to reduce and we begin to venture out a bit more I wonder what you might be planning with regard to your family history research?

Do you perhaps have plans to visit any of the archives and research centres which are re-opening? I was able to visit the GWSFHS Research Centre for the first time the other week when in Scotland (I live in Worcestershire) and was amazed at the wide range of resources available. I now need to arrange another visit to be able to tie in the resources with my own research.

It would appear that Michael Rosen, the well-known author, might be interested in family history as he posed this question on Twitter the other day:

*How far back can you go where you can see today a dwelling where one of your ancestors lived?*

So how far back can you get? The furthest we have got so far is to the home of my husband's great great grandfather, who lived in Rothesay from at least 1861 until his death in 1901 when he was living in 15 Castle Street, which we photographed back in 2018 [as below]. I'm quite sure there will be a number of you who can go back a lot further than that!



## Publication dates

The eagle-eyed among you may have noticed a slight change to the publishing date for this Journal. However, we will be returning to the usual schedule going forward, of March, June and October.

## Future themes

The themes for the next three editions are listed below.

October 2022: ***Who doesn't love a good story? - Unlocking our family history through storytelling: ideas and examples.*** Please submit your articles for this edition by 1 August.

March 2023: ***Using DNA as a tool for researching your Family History.*** Perhaps you have experiences to share of using DNA to track down unknown or long-lost ancestors or relatives, or have some more general suggestions of how best to make use of these tools to advance your research. If so, please send in your articles by 9 January 2023.

June 2023: ***Exploring our family links to Ireland.*** As previously indicated, here is your chance to share your information, experiences and stories of exploring family links between Scotland and Ireland. Please submit them by 3 April 2023.

However, if you have a different story to tell please remember all contributions are welcome, as well as suggestions for future themes or topics that you would like to see covered.

**Karen Hunter, Editor**



## Session 2022-2023

Programme of Meetings		
19 September	<b><i>Commonwealth War Graves Commission Archives</i></b>	Sehar Sardar
Sehar will be talking about using the records of CWGC Archives for research.		
17 October	<b><i>Overcoming Brick Walls</i></b>	Emma Maxwell
Emma runs the website <i>Scottish Indexes</i> with her husband, Graham. She will talk about how to use Indexes for more effective family history research.		
21 November	<b><i>Glasgow Museums' Ship Model Collection - An Introduction with a Family History Connection</i></b>	Emily Malcolm
Find out more about Glasgow Museums' superb ship model collection and how genealogical resources have been used to research the making and use of models in Glasgow.		
12 December	<b><i>Going Down to the Farm - Researching your Farming Ancestry</i></b>	Ken Nisbet
16 January 2023	<b><i>Genetics, Succession and Family Law - The Baronetcy of Stichill</i></b>	Prof. Gillian Black
20 February	<b><i>Jewish Roots in Scotland and Where to Find Them</i></b>	Harvey Kaplan
20 March	<b><i>The Scottish Printing Industry and its Workers</i></b>	Dr Helen Williams
17 April	<b><i>Creating an Ancestor's Life Story Book</i></b>	Christine Woodcock
15 May	<b><i>The Paddle Steamer Pegasus and her People 1835-1843</i></b>	Jane Bowen

Annette McGarill has done a great job in drawing together this programme of meetings for the forthcoming session which offers a wide range of topics and speakers to interest our members. These meetings will all be held in the evening, (7.30pm) via Zoom. Further details about the later presentations will be included in subsequent editions of the Journal and will also be published on the website, alongside the links to register for each session.

Please remember that, if you miss one when it is first 'broadcast', we provide a link to the recordings through our website, providing the presenters give us permission.

As Scott has mentioned in his article, we are 'extending' the monthly meetings for a while after the presentation/Q&A session to give people a chance for more of an informal conversation and we look forward to some of our members joining us.

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## e-News – monthly newsletter

The Society sends out an email newsletter open to both members and non-members. To receive it, you have to sign up because the software operates with extra security and permits people to unsubscribe. The sign-up is in the footer of each page on the website.

Previous issues can be seen at: [gwsfhs.org.uk/services/e-news-archive/](http://gwsfhs.org.uk/services/e-news-archive/)

The e-News editor welcomes contributions which can be sent via the email above.

## Editorial Team

Karen Hunter	10206	Murray Archer	4316
Diana Burns	7039	Scott Fairie	30
Jean Mackenzie	6966	James Oakes	7179
Christine Woodcock	10008		

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